

The CEA Voice

We Have Earned More “A” Grades This Year

CCS Superintendent Dan Good brought us great news. The second half of the 2014–15 Local School Report Card shows that Columbus City Schools has earned an “A” in Progress for all students in math and reading for Grades 4 through 8. Last year, our grade was “F.” Clearly, you are adding tremendous value in helping our students grow.

The report card also shows:

- 50 of the 94 elementary and middle schools subject to the state’s “Value-Added” metrics have earned an “A” or a “B”—which means students are demonstrating, on average, more than one year’s worth in math and reading each year.
- “A’s” and “B’s” in helping students who need extra attention: our gifted students, those scoring in the bottom twenty percent of achievement and students with disabilities.

Good stated, “This score highlights the commitment of our academic teams—from the teachers and instructional assistants in the classroom to the principals and administrators in the offices—to providing valuable curriculum and instruction that helps all students to grow academically every year.”

We do still face challenges. For example, 104 of our 109 schools received a “D” or “F” in meeting key performance indicators. But this year’s report shows we can help our students. We can continue to use the data to tailor instruction for every child every day. We can continue to work together to meet our children’s and their families’ needs. We can continue to raise expectations, because every child can succeed.

In the *Spirit of Success*, take a moment to pat yourself on the back. You have earned it.

Women Who Made History

Until the 1980s, women were virtually excluded from history textbooks. Their many accomplishments in politics, science, the arts and other areas remained relatively obscure.

But in 1981, after a series of week-long celebrations, Women’s History Month began. During March, we have a unique opportunity to teach our students about the achievements of women throughout American history. This year we honor the women who have worked to benefit our country through public service. Here are a few of them:

- **Mary Madonna Ashton**, CSJ served as President and CEO of St. Mary’s Hospital in Minneapolis, State Commissioner of Health under



Governor Perpich, and founded St. Mary’s Health Clinics.

➤ **Daisy Gatson Bates** was a journalist and Civil Rights activist who facilitated the 1957 integration of public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. Growing up in southern Arkansas during the early 20th century, Bates experienced firsthand the poor conditions and discrimination of the segregated school system. She spent her entire adult life standing up to physical threats and other forms of intimidation in order to champion causes of racial equality.



➤ **Sonia Pressman Fuentes** is a lawyer, author, speaker and pioneering feminist leader who fought for women’s equality in the work force and helped initiate the Second Wave of the Women’s Rights Movement. Fuentes moved to the United States with her family in 1934, fleeing the Holocaust, and graduated first in her class at the University of Miami School of Law.

➤ **Karen Narasaki** is a Civil Rights lawyer, lobbyist, and leader who has dedicated her career to issues of Asian American equality. Her work has focused on voting rights, affirmative action, family immigration, media representation and hate crimes prevention. Narasaki is a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Each of these public leaders succeeded against great odds. The diversity of their experiences demonstrates both the challenges and the opportunities women in public service have faced. Their ability to use the art of collaboration to create inclusive solutions and non-partisan policies, as well as their skill and determination, serve to inspire future generations. The tenacity of each honoree underlines the fact that women from all cultural backgrounds in all levels of public service and government are essential in continuing the work of forming a more perfect union.

Learn more at <http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/2016-theme/>.

A Community In Crisis

Did you know that Columbus City Schools has lost eleven students to some form of violence just this school year alone? Four of those students are from just one of our high schools. We are a community in crisis and no one

seems to be talking about this issue. The CEA Social and Economic Justice Committee (SEJC) wants to bring this issue to the forefront.

SEJC will be sponsoring a Community in Crisis Summit on Wednesday, Mar. 23 from 6–8 p.m. at East HS, 1500 East Broad Street. We will discuss the issue of violence and its impact on our schools, as well as the potential causes of violence such as: mental health, poverty and lack of opportunity. We will also discuss recommendations for how we can improve our communities.

Please plan to join us in this very important conversation. Our students and families deserve someone who will stand up and be a voice for them.

Social Workers are Heroes

Children today are increasingly victims of many social forces that negatively affect their role as students. Many families are in a state of change and until it becomes stabilized, in whatever form, children's unmet physical and emotional needs will continue to interfere with their ability to learn and adjust in school. That is why we cherish our school social workers. This week, during National School Social Work Week, we honor their contributions.

You may not be aware that school social workers are trained mental health professionals who can assist with mental health concerns; behavioral concerns; positive behavioral support; academic and classroom support; consultation with teachers, parents and administrators; as well as provide individual and group counseling/therapy. They are specially trained to work in school districts across the country on crisis intervention; mental health assessment; counseling and linking; and referring students and families to community agencies. School social workers collaborate with school staff and community agencies to reduce or minimize barriers to student achievement and attendance. When you see one of our district social workers, take a moment to say, "Thank you for all you do for our students."



Your Law Firm Among the Best

Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn was recently honored by *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Law Firms." The Cloppert firm was one of just a handful of firms in the entire state of Ohio that received the highest ranking—Tier 1—for their practice of the union side of labor law.

The staff of Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter & Washburn law firm have worked hand-in-hand with the Columbus Education Association to diligently protect the rights and ensure the fair treatment of our members. Your Association congratulates the firm on their hard work and their well-earned award.

Many CEA members have taken advantage of the firm's OEA/NEA Attorney referral program, which features reduced rates for personal matters requiring a lawyer, such as developing estate plans, resolving domestic matters and dealing with traffic violations. For more information, contact the firm at (614) 461-4455.

Performance Advancement System Update

The 2014–2015 school year was the last opportunity for bargaining unit members to participate in the Performance Advancement System (PAS). Despite the late release of the 2014–2015 PARCC assessment results by the Ohio Depart-

ment of Education, the PAS evaluation process has begun. CCS has provided the external evaluator with the data files necessary to evaluate the PAS projects. Keep reading *The CEA Voice* for more information regarding timelines for notifications of PAS awards. The appeal process will be communicated to all PAS participants.

Help Your Fellow CEA Members

Would you like to do more for your Association? Consider applying for the Columbus Education Association's staff consultant position. Staff Consultants assist with the delivery of the Association's programs and services to our members.

The person selected will provide assistance to members in professional issues, bargaining, securing legal rights, local operations, political action, program development, written communications, public relations, workshops, trainings and technical support.

Interested members should submit a cover letter, a résumé and an article suitable for publication in *The CEA Voice* (600 words or less) on an issue that impacts the CEA membership. Application materials should be sent to CEA Vice President Phil Hayes at the CEA office, 929 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205. A job description can be found on the CEA website. The application period closes Wednesday, Mar. 16. Selective interviews will be conducted during the weeks of Mar. 21–24 and Apr. 18–22.

Funds To Help With College

Every year CEA awards college scholarships to eligible high school seniors or current undergraduates with cumulative grade-point averages of at least 2.5. This year, the deadline for CEA Scholarship Applications is Apr. 22, at 5 p.m. Eligible applicants must be children or grandchildren of CEA or CEA-R members and full-time students if enrolled in college. Awards include the \$3,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship; the \$2,500 CEA General Scholarship. Both of these awards are the total amount spread over four years. The John E. Grossman Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a South HS senior; and a one-year scholarship is awarded by CEA-R and the Rhonda Johnson Scholarship Fund.

Along with each application, applicants must provide:

- A statement of his/her personal philosophy and goals.
- A personal reference from someone other than a family member.
- An academic reference.
- A verification of GPA by official transcript.
- Include a copy of the Student Aid Report from FAFSA.
- Indicate all financial aid (other than student loans) they expect to receive.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1mYfb3I> to download an application, or call the CEA office.

Special Notes

- ❑ CEA candidates are campaigning until Mar. 14 for President, NEA Local Delegates and High-School Governor-At-Large. Members will vote from Mar. 1–14, with votes tabulated on Mar. 15. For questions, contact CEA Elections Committee Chair Neil Moore at (614) 264-2188. View a candidate list at www.ceaohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Voice160222-25.pdf.
- ❑ The CEA Social and Economic Justice Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 22, at 4:30 p.m. at the OEA Headquarters, 225 East Broad Street. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.