

The CEA Voice

Volume XLVII, No. 6 Columbus Education Association September 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has issued its State Report Card and for Columbus City Schools, the report was not good. Regardless of what that convoluted mess of a report card said, just know, you are not a failure. Our students, our families, our schools and our school district are not failures. We work hard each and every day to meet the needs of all our children no matter the obstacles. With more demands being placed on us than ever before, we get up each day and give our students a quality public education.



Here is the real story....Our Third-Grade Reading Guarantee scores rose from 42 percent to 91 percent. We have an overall value-added rating of "A" and we have become a model for data accountability after being under a dark cloud for years because of the data scandal. Our students have generated more than \$57 million dollars in scholarship funding. These are great achievements, not the marks of failures!

So no matter what ODE says, we know the effort we put in to help our students succeed. The work done in each and every classroom, office, school and our district is commendable. I am proud and grateful to represent the best educators in the nation. You are appreciated and you are truly Rock Stars! Be encouraged and keep doing the hard work of educating all children no matter what zip code in which they reside.

In Solidarity,

Tracey D. Johnson
CEA President

Have Your Voice Heard

The CEA Bargaining team had the opportunity to participate in an OEA led negotiations training. This training gave team members an overview of bargaining, communication, and member engagement.

We are offering members an opportunity to have their voice heard. The first of two town hall meetings will be held this Wednesday, September 28, at The Boat House, 679 W. Spring Street, beginning at 4:30. Members can come, meet the bargaining team, get an overview of the bargaining process and share ideas/concerns that they would like to be considered for the negotiations survey. Please contact Teri Mullins at the CEA office 614-253-4731 or tmullins@ceaohio.org to RSVP.

Making Strides

Sign up to join CEA's Dream Team and participate in the Making Strides Walk at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 23. The walk begins at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Free registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Create your own team or join ours. Go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus to register. List Columbus Education Association as your team company. Be one of the first 30 people to register and get a free T-shirt from Ezetta. You can reach Ezetta at (614) 253-4731.



Issue 57: Our Members, Our Students

The Columbus City School District has a levy issue on the ballot for the upcoming November Election. It is Issue 57, a 6.92 mills Bond Issue and Tax Levy. Issue 57 will generate 5.58 mills for Operating and Staffing, 84 mills for Deferred Maintenance and .5 mills for Permanent Improvement (this was incorrectly printed in *The CEA Voice* on September 19).

Issue 57 is about preparing, protecting and providing for our students. Issue 57 will place more nurse practitioners and behavior health specialists in our buildings to assist us in meeting the social, emotional and mental needs of our students. It will transform career-tech by increasing the amount of career-tech courses offered to juniors and seniors. All seventh grade students will be able to take advanced computer engineering courses. Issue 57 will expand early childhood education, support for special education students, reduce the adult-to-student ratio and enhance student safety. In order for all of these things and more to become our reality, we need your help. Everyone must do their part to ensure Issue 57 passes. We can do the following:

- Make sure we are registered to vote and go to the polls and vote.
- Make sure family and friends are registered and encourage them to vote.
- Share our positive stories. There are so many great things happening in CCS and who better to tell our story than us.
- Volunteer to canvas, phone bank and do lit drops.
- Donate to the Successful Schools Committee.

We are asking that every CEA member donate \$20 to the Successful Schools Committee. In the past we have asked members to donate a lot more but the CEA Officers and Governors decided to be more realistic. You can always give more if you choose. President Tracey D. Johnson is leading the way and has already donated \$200. If all 4,100 CEA members donate just \$20, we can generate \$82,000 to assist with mailings and print and television ads. Our giving can assist us in a successful campaign for our students. You can give in two ways:

1. Donate via PayPal to the Successful Schools Committee by going to: <http://yesforcolumbusschools.com/donate> Federal Law states you must enter your employer. So on the front page please list Columbus City Schools (CEA) in the employer box.

2. You can write a check made payable to: "Successful Schools Committee" and mail to Successful Schools Committee, 191 West Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43215. **Write Columbus City Schools (CEA) in the memo line.**

Those that give will be acknowledged by having their name (not the amount) printed in future issues of *The CEA Voice*. Those who participate in helping with the campaign will also be listed. We appreciate any support you can give.

Say YES to Issue 57 and give!

Open Enrollment - It’s Required

During Open Enrollment (Oct. 6–30), all benefit-eligible bargaining unit members *must* do one of the following:

- 1. Reconfirm any current benefit elections.
- 2. Elect or make changes to benefits (add or delete dependents, update beneficiary information, etc.).
- 3. Waive coverage.

Employee Self Service (ESS) will be used for the 2017 enrollment process. Make sure you are able to log on to ESS PRIOR to the start of Open Enrollment. Benefit choices made during Open Enrollment will be effective Jan. 1, 2017.

To participate in Open Enrollment, benefits-eligible bargaining unit members can:

- 1. Meet in person with a Benefits Counselor. See your supervisor for more information as these are still being scheduled. The final schedule will be available on the Open Enrollment website after Oct. 1. Please be advised that counselors will not be available to meet with every employee at every work location.
- 2. Meet in person with a Benefits Counselor at the Kingswood Data Center. To register for an appointment, go to <http://bit.ly/ccsbenefits2017> and use your CCS email username and password to sign in. This link is only accessible from a district computer. The following dates/times are available: Oct. 12, 14, 17, 25 and 27 from 3–6 p.m.
- 3. Meet online with a Benefits Counselor in a CoBrowsing session. To schedule your call center enrollment meeting ahead of time, visit *iSelectSchedule.com* to sign up. Enter Enrollment Number 61436, and follow the instructions on screen. Scheduled Call Center appointments will be available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. You must be able to access ESS and join the Benefits Counselor on a computer with the ability to print your confirmation statement. You will be responsible for entering your information into ESS with Counselor assistance.
- 4. Use ESS to confirm, change or waive your benefit elections. No meeting with a Benefits Counselor is required if you do not wish to elect new or change current Voluntary Benefits.

CCS must report health care coverage information for its employees and their dependents to the federal government. Please verify that the Social Security numbers entered into ESS for you and your dependents are correct. You must meet with a Benefits Counselor in person or online to make or change elections for your Voluntary Benefits which include: Life Insurance with Long Term Care Benefits, Short Term Disability, Critical Illness Insurance, Accident Insurance and Pet Insurance.

If you wish to terminate any of your Voluntary Benefits, you must:

- 1. Complete a Supplemental Insurance Termination form (included in the Benefits Open Enrollment Guide materials).
- 2. Submit the completed form to the Benefits Department. Your Association recommends hand-delivering the form and getting a time-stamped copy as your receipt.
- 3. Contact your Voluntary Benefits provider to notify them of your cancellation.

If you have questions regarding the Open Enrollment Process, contact CCS Benefits Department at (614) 365-6475.

2016 Teacher Contribution Rates for Medical Benefits

21 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	45.91	53.72
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)*	91.57	107.11
Employee plus one (Including Spouse)	256.35	271.90
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)*	135.11	158.06
Family (Including Spouse)	378.22	401.17

Medical		
26 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	37.08	43.39
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)*	73.96	86.52
Employee plus one (Including Spouse)	207.05	219.61
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)*	109.13	127.66
Family (Including Spouse)	305.49	324.02

Dental		
	21 Pay Plan	26 Pay Plan
Employee only	4.10	3.31
Family	4.10	3.31

Supplemental Life Insurance (\$50,000)	
21 Pay Plan	2.94
26 Pay Plan	2.38

Eligible Tutors

Medical		
21 Pay Plan		
Tutors (15-25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	211.19	219.00
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	421.13	436.68
Family (Child or Spouse)	621.34	644.29
Tutors (Over 25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	120.29	128.10
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	239.86	255.41
Family (Child or Spouse)	353.90	376.85

26 Pay Plan		
Tutors (15-25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	170.58	176.88
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	340.14	352.70
Family (Child or Spouse)	501.85	520.38
Tutors (Over 25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	97.16	103.46
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	193.74	206.29
Family (Child or Spouse)	285.84	304.38

Extended Dependent Coverage is no longer offered effective 1/1/2016.

Dental		
	21 Pay Plan	26 Pay Plan
Employee Only (15-25 hours)	20.49	16.55
Family (15-25 hours)	20.49	16.55
Employee Only (over 25 hours)	11.47	9.27
Family (over 25 hours)	11.47	9.27


CEA Office: Involvement from Within

One of the best ways to support CEA is by running for Association office. When you serve the Association in this way, you become part of the process. You bring forward your peers’ concerns and you help find solutions. You have a voice in union affairs. You also help improve the teaching profession. When you hold an office, you have the opportunity to attend briefings, vote on important issues and represent CEA on the state and national levels.

A special 2016 Fall Election will be held to fill the following two positions: Middle School Governor At-Large #1 (to complete the unexpired term ending in 2017) and Middle School Governor At-Large #2 (full three-year term).

Members may declare their candidacy from Oct. 10 to Oct. 21. Campaigning begins Oct. 10 and ends Nov. 15. Voting begins Nov. 1 and ends Nov. 15. Votes will be tallied Nov. 16. In the event of a fall run-off election, campaigning will begin Nov. 17 and end Dec. 13. Voting begins Nov. 29 and ends Dec. 13; votes will be tallied Dec. 14.

Special Note

-  Have a college senior? Scholarships are available from the CEA Member Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship provides \$1,250 in tuition assistance per awardee. Eligible CEA members must have taught in CCS for the past four years. Your student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to apply. The deadline to receive the application is 4:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21. Go to www.ceaohio.org to download an application. Call Kathy Wilkes at (614) 253-4731, if you have questions.