

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

October 16, 2017

CEA Endorsed Candidates

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You Can Vote Now

You can vote early if you can't make it to the polls on November 7. Registered voters in Franklin County began marking their ballots on October 11. Here is the rest of the schedule for the Franklin County Board of Elections:
October 11-27—Early in-person weekday voting, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
October 30- November 3—**Early in-person weekday voting**, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
November 4—**Saturday in-person voting**, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
November 5—**Sunday in-person voting**, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
November 7—**General Election Day**: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is noon on November 4. Download an absentee ballot request form at <http://bit.ly/2yUH7o6> and submit it to your county board of elections. Franklin County residents can go to <http://bit.ly/2kDE3KP> to download a sample ballot. Follow the return instructions carefully and mail your completed ballot back to your county board of elections as early as possible.

Thank You for Giving

The "People-Centered" investment process is United Way's philosophy. This process involves looking at causes and effects, and try to solve problems where they begin. Together we can find solutions to our communities' most pressing problems and make life better for each other. When you give to United Way of Central Ohio, your contribution goes a long way. Your gift helps United Way with its holistic approach to solving problems where they begin. With your dollars, United Way's member agencies help individuals across Franklin County. Some of the outcomes these agencies help communities achieve are:

- Children are prepared for school
- Students succeed
- Parents are engaged in student success
- People get jobs
- People stay healthy
- People have improved financial stability and capability
- People avoid crisis situations

If you haven't given your completed pledge form to your SrFR, make sure you do so. Remember, by donating to the United Way of Central Ohio, you create positive changes for now and for the future of many Central Ohio families.

Changes to OTES Coming

The Ohio Educator Standards Board (ESB) is appointed by the State Board of Education. The ESB's 18 appointed members include teachers, administrators, higher education employees, a local school board member and a PTA/PTO representative. The work of the ESB is to promote and improve educator quality, professionalism and public accountability on behalf of the students and citizens of Ohio.

At the request of State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, the ESB began reviewing the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) in the fall of 2016. The ESB sought to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of OTES, address the complexities of teaching and learning and focus on educator accountability. The

ESB held a series of public meetings in late 2016 and released a report in January of 2017, containing six recommendations for state legislators to make changes to OTES in state law. The recommendations call for legislators to:

1. Update OTES Rubric
2. Embed Student Growth into the Revised OTES Rubric
3. Remove Shared Attribution
4. Embed the Alternative Framework Components as Sources of Evidence in the Revised OTES Rubric
5. Structure and Timing of Observations Tailored to Meet the Needs of Teachers in Order to Focus on Improvement and Growth
6. Provide a Professional Growth Process for Teachers Rated Accomplished and Skilled

Despite the State Board of Education's approval in April, state legislators failed to include any of the ESB's recommendations in the recent state budget. During the General Assembly's summer recess, ESB members have been working on creating a new OTES rubric. Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who serves as the chair of the Senate Education Committee, has confirmed that she has drafted a bill based on the changes suggested by the ESB. Lehner expects to introduce the bill soon. Keep reading The CEA Voice for updates and opportunities to get involved.

Bargaining 101

Are you interested in learning about bargaining? CEA has an opportunity for you. On Thurs., November 2 at 4:30 p.m., at the Columbus Downtown HS, CEA will be hosting the first of a four-part series focused on bargaining. The November session focuses on bargaining basics. You do not have to be on the bargaining team to attend this session. Check your email for the link to RSVP or call the CEA office at: (614) 253-4731. CEUs will be granted for attending.

Know Your Contract: Class Size

The CCS administration has to make a concerted effort to complete initial class size adjustments within the first 18 student attendance days of the school year. October 1 is the deadline to reorganize classrooms that exceed the class size guidelines prescribed in Article 301 of our CEA Master Agreement. Here are the size limits:

- K-3: no more than 29 students each
- 4-5: no more than 30 students each
- Middle school: no more 35 students per class and 150 students per day
- High school: no more than 36 students per class and 150 students per day
- High school or middle school nonacademic classes must not exceed the number of pupil stations. For instance, assigning 35 students to a computer class with 30 computers would be a violation of the contract.

If at any time class sizes exceed contractual limits, reorganization must take place. If you have any questions about class size, call CEA.

Reminders:

☒ **Open Enrollment** for your medical benefits will begin **Oct. 10 and end Oct. 31**. Everyone must reenroll even if you are not making any changes. Look for emails and information mailed to your home from the CCS Employee Benefits Office. Also, see the October 2 Voice for information on how to enroll.

☒ **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, October 20**. Go to www.ceao.org to download an application. Call Kathy Wilkes at (614) 253-4731, if you have