

CEA members fight EdChoice Voucher Program

The Ohio Legislature convened a conference committee for the purpose of reconciling differences between HB 9 and SB 9. Both bills propose to fix the expansion of the EdChoice Voucher



Pictured: Joe Decker, Ben Alexander, Kevin Daberkow, and CEA Vice President Phil Hayes

Program. The Ohio Education Association and the Columbus Education Association strongly support SB 89 as passed by the Ohio House.

SB 89 would change EdChoice voucher eligibility criteria from a performance-based award based on a school's score on the flawed state report card to an income-based system. The program would be directly funded by the state instead of deductions from school districts. SB 89 would dissolve academic distress commissions in Lorain, Youngstown, and East Cleveland. The bill would also establish a study committee to look at state testing and report cards and perform cost studies related to school funding.

The Conference Committee held a total of ten hearings beginning Feb. 11 and concluding on Thursday, Feb. 20. Multiple CEA members testified in person in support of SB 89 or provided written testimony. Even more CEA members attended the hearings in support of the members who were testifying. Here are excerpts of their testimony:

"How could we create a report card for our legislators? Would legislators who were the primary sponsor of bills that became a law get a higher score than a legislator who was a cosponsor? If a legislator writes more bills than another one, would one legislator be graded higher than another? Would we look at the legislative achievement gap between Democrats and Republicans and attempt to address it? Would we take resources from an over-performing party or chamber and give it to an under-performing party or chamber? –Phil Hayes (CEA Office)

"To say that we need to fund alternatives to public schools because they are failing is like telling a parent that they should give up custody of their child because their child has a medical condition. The situation deserves more resources and care, not more punishment. A 'stick' does not scare away situations that require systemic changes." –Sean Powers (School Counselors)

"Teaching is one of my greatest joys in life. I love coming to school every day and seeing the bright faces of my students. That's why it breaks my heart that my kids come to school and try to learn in a building in disrepair. The walls of our school are disintegrating. And the heartbreaking thing is that my kids are aware of it." –Ben Alexander (Eastmoor Academy HS)

"Vouchers disproportionately go to students that do not have special needs. These general education students then attend schools that have a significantly lower rate of students with special needs than do their traditional public school contemporaries. The transfer of students as directed by their families is a God-given right. The transfer of funds, however, requires the traditional public school to do more with less." –Kevin Daberkow (Southwood ES)

"\$28,800,00 was taken from my students in one year. My students are losing tens of millions every year to schools where children are falling further behind. I've watched students from those schools transfer to Mifflin MS, staggered at the expectations I hold for my students. Correcting the missteps takes time and money, resources that SB 89 will allow us to keep. So let us

do what is best for our students." –Joe Decker (Mifflin MS)

"The state report card from my school does not accurately share the narrative of my students and it is being used as an excuse to take needed funds away from Columbus City Schools. Public schools deserve adequate funding to ensure the utmost success for those who fill their classrooms each day. I urge you to move away from paying for some students' private school tuition by deducting that money from state funding to my district and other districts across Ohio." –Chris Williams (Colerain ES)

"Public schools educate all students. Sometimes a student comes to our school right before the test, and it is counted on our state report card, then leaves again right after the test. This is the same state report card that determines whether the students in our neighborhood qualify for a voucher. If you spent all the money that you have been giving to vouchers and charter schools and gave it back to the public schools, we could fix a lot of the problems that we have." –Larry Carey (Trevitt ES)

Support UNCF

Please consider making a contribution. UNCF touches many lives in our school system with scholarships and other forms of support. The organization has provided more than 500,000 young people across the country with college support. Many attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). A significant portion of your donations remains here in Columbus. We have so many deserving young people who seek a future of opportunity.



Scholarships go to many deserving students:

- UNCF's member HBCUs admit students without reference to race or ethnicity
- UNCF is the nation's largest private scholarship provider to minority group members.
- UNCF annually awards more than 10,000 scholarships worth more than \$100 million and through more than 400 programs.
- A 70 percent graduation rate for UNCF scholarship recipients is nine percentage points higher than the national average for all students at four-year colleges.

Your faculty representative has the donation forms. If you need additional information, call CEA. The UNCF Campaign will end on Friday, Feb. 28.

Article 211 Update

On Thursday, Feb. 13, the administration released an updated Article 211 calendar. Note that on Thursday, Mar. 5, there will be no interviews conducted. All FRs are required to attend the CEA Legislative Assembly at Columbus Downtown HS at 4:30 p.m. The pertinent Article 211 dates are below:

FEBRUARY		
Wednesday	26	Round 1 Postings OPEN [All known openings] by 3 p.m.
MARCH		
Monday	2	Round 1 Postings CLOSE Applications no longer accepted after 5 p.m.
Tuesday	3	Round 1 Interviews OPEN Schools and Departments [All known openings]
Monday	9	Round 1 Interviews CLOSE Schools and Departments Selection Agreement Forms and Rosters sent by HR to Principals by 5 p.m.
Thursday	12	All Round 1 School and Department Selection Agreement Forms due to Human Resources by 5 p.m.

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The CEA Master Agreement is set to expire in fewer than 905 days.

Grievance Update

Your Association works hard to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise bargaining unit members to work out problems at the building level first, we know this isn't always possible. We will regularly inform you of the grievances on which CEA is working.

Building/Unit/Administrator	Statement of Grievance	Relief Requested	Disposition
South HS Edmund Baker	The CEA/Board Agreement was violated, misinterpreted and/or misapplied when the principal of South HS, Edmund Baker, failed to adjust classroom numbers so that the class sizes/student load for teacher(s) at South HS meet contractual requirements.	That the principal immediately adjust numbers to make all classes and student loads for teacher(s) in the building compliant with the numbers required in the contract; and that no reprisals be taken against any member of the bargaining unit because of the filing of this grievance and that NO reprisals be taken against the grievant because of filing of this grievance.	Step II Grievance denied. Board of Governors voted to send to Arbitration.
Starling K-8 Angela Moore-Tyler	The CEA/Board Agreement was violated, misinterpreted and/or misapplied when the principal of Starling K-8, failed to provide appropriate administrative support to the grievants in the discipline of their students.	That the principal provide appropriate administrative support to the affected bargaining unit members and that NO REPRISALS be taken against the grievants or any other bargaining unit member due to the filing of this grievance.	Step I hearing held. Results pending.
South HS Edmund Baker	South High School Principal Edmund Baker, in his capacity as agent of the Board of Education of Columbus City Schools, violated, misinterpreted, and/or misapplied the Columbus Education Association-Columbus City Schools 2019-2022 Master Agreement by authorizing the issuance of a Summary of Conference to grievant without just cause, signed by South High School Assistant Principal Bao Lam.	The grievant will be made whole in every way, including but not limited to the following: The district shall immediately withdraw the Summary of Conference issued on or about February 4, 2020, from the grievant's personnel and discipline files. Any record of the Summary of Conference issued on or about February 4, 2020 which must be maintained by the district as public record pursuant to state law shall contain a notation stating that the Summary of Conference was withdrawn by the board. The Summary of Conference issued on or about February 4, 2020, or any record thereof shall not be cited as past discipline or referenced in any future employment record or reprimand, warning, or discipline issued to the grievant. There shall be no retaliation against the grievant by any agent of the Board of Education.	Step I hearing held. Results pending

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Tuesday	17	Round 2 Postings OPEN [All known openings] by 3 p.m.
Friday	20	Round 2 Postings CLOSE Applications no longer accepted after 5 p.m.
Monday	23	Round 2 Interviews OPEN Schools and Departments [All known openings]
Thursday	26	Round 2 Interviews CLOSE Schools and Departments Selection Agreement Forms and Rosters sent by HR to Principals by 5 p.m.
Monday	30	All Round 2 School and Department Selection Agreement Forms due to Human Resources by 5 p.m.
APRIL		
Friday	3	Job Fair – 4:30 p.m. Location: 3700 South High Building

Got new books? Bring 'em!

Not every child has a library of books at home. Let's help our third-grade students jump start a life-long love of reading. Join us by helping to supply a new book for every third-grade summer enrichment packet. You can support our campaign by donating at least two new books appropriate for children reading on the primer through third grade reading level. Your FR has a suggested book list.

Donating books is the right thing to do; and, you might win a prize. We will be giving away three \$100 VISA gift cards to randomly selected members who donate at least three new books to the campaign. Give your books to your FR or building campaign chairperson, and ask for the entry form. You should receive an entry for every three books you donate. Send completed forms to Teri Mullins at the CEA office no later than Thursday, Apr. 9. The drawing will take place on Monday, Apr. 20.

For more information about the campaign, contact Teri Mullins at CEA by calling (614) 253-4731 or email her at tmullins@ceaohio.org

2020 Primary Early Voting Has Begun

In 2019, state legislators moved Ohio's primary from the month of May to the month of March. Ohio's 2020 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 17. This year's election falls on St. Patrick's Day. Due to the extremely gerrymandered electoral districts in our state, often times the Spring Primary Election decides the outcome of the General Election in November. Even though the Primary Election is Mar. 17, you can vote early in-person at your county Board of Elections. In Franklin County, you may vote at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Rd. Advance hours are:

- Weekdays beginning Wednesday, Feb 19,–Friday, Mar. 6, from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday, Mar. 7, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 9–Friday, Mar. 13, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Saturday, Mar. 14, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sunday, Mar. 15, 1–5 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 16, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Article 211: Alternative Interview Panel Deadline Approaches

We have completed training for the Article 211 process. The *Master Agreement* defines the interview panel as the principal, the Senior Faculty Representative, one elected member of the Association Building Council and two parents/members of the school community. However, as noted in the 211 Manual, buildings may convene an alternately constructed panel. To request an alternative interview panel, a request must be made in writing on school letterhead and sent to the CEA President, signed by both the Senior FR and administrator by Thursday, Feb. 27. Fax requests to (614) 253-0465. As of the time this issue of *The CEA Voice* went to press, requests from the following units had been granted: **Buckeye MS, Central Enrollment, Eastgate ES, OT/PT, Office of Transformation and Leadership, School Social Workers, and Watkins ES.**

Special Notes

- ❑ The **Capital Representative Assembly (RA)** will be held **Wednesday, Apr. 1, 2020**, at the STRS building, 2nd floor sublet meeting room, 275 East Broad Street. Registration begins at 4 p.m., and the RA starts at 5 p.m. Parking is available at the building. Alternates are welcome to attend the RA. **A key focal point of the Capital RA will be Spring Elections for Capital District President and Vice President.** CEA members may declare their candidacy through Mar. 30, 2020. Voting will take place during the Capital RA on Apr. 1. To download a declaration form, go to <https://bit.ly/2GvckUK>.
- ❑ **Apply for a CEA Scholarship**—Do you have a child graduating high school? Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, Mar. 27. Applicants must be the children of a CEA or CEA-R member for their dependent(s) to be eligible. Download the application at <http://bit.ly/ceaspringschol2020>. Send completed applications to: Columbus Education Association, Attn: Spring Scholarship, 929 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205.
- ❑ **CEA Spring Elections:** The following positions will be filled: **CEA Vice President, Middle School Governor-At-Large, 2020 NEA Local Delegates, 2020 NEA State-At-Large Delegates, and 2020–21 OEA Delegates.** Voting will begin on **Tuesday, Mar. 3**, and will end on **Tuesday, Mar. 17.** Ballots will be collected and tallied by the Elections Committee on **Wednesday, Mar. 18.** The positions of CEA President and District Governors are not mentioned because they are running unopposed. Call or text Neil Moore, CEA Elections Secretary, at (614) 264-2188 with any questions.
- ❑ **You can now apply for a Continuing Contract.** This year, bargaining unit members can choose to apply using a hard-copy paper form or submit their Continuing Contract Application using Google Forms. Bargaining unit members will have to be logged into their CCS Google Account in order to utilize the online form. **To download the application, go to <http://bit.ly/CC2021>.** Go to <http://bit.ly/2021onlineCCapp> to utilize the online application process. If you believe that you will be completing the requirements making you eligible for a continuing teacher contract for the 2020–2021 school year, you must return the application with original official transcripts (showing required coursework has been met) to the Certification/Licensure Office at the Columbus Education Center, Human Resources, 270 E. State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. (CEC-HR, Route 3, for school mail), no later than Mar. 2, 2020. Contact Teacher Certification/Licensure at (614) 365-5658 if you have questions.