



OTES Update

Thank you for all of your assistance and patience in wrapping up the evaluation process for the 2019–2020 school year. In spite of the difficult pandemic circumstances, you finished evaluations strongly and professionally. As we are preparing for the evaluation process for next year, we want to provide you with an update on OTES 2.0.

The new/revised version of the teacher evaluation, OTES 2.0, was scheduled to be implemented in the 2020–2021 school year. Provisions from the state/legislation [sic] have allowed Ohio school districts the ability to defer implementation of OTES 2.0 for an additional year. The Joint Evaluation Panel has determined our district will defer OTES 2.0 until 2021–2022. Thus, the current version of OTES will remain in effect for next year.

Please know the decision to defer OTES 2.0 was not made lightly. The panel feels this is the best decision during these unprecedented times where many unknowns still remain. During an already stressful pandemic, we don't want to create additional stresses in changing to a new evaluation system. In thinking of everyone's well-being and to ensure the implementation of OTES 2.0 is done with fidelity, the current version of OTES will continue next year.

We are excited for the move to OTES 2.0 in the future. Stay tuned for more information about this next year. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Wendy Jones, ileadadmin@columbus.k12.oh.us, or Rhonda Rice, rrice2924@columbus.k12.oh.us, in Professional Learning and Licensure. You can also reach out to Teri Mullins, tmullins@ceaohio.org, at CEA.

Memorial Day: Remember the Fallen

The Memorial Day weekend carries a lot of associations. It is the weekend when the pools open for the summer. It's the last three-day weekend before the end of the school year. But it's



also a time of remembrance and reflection. Did you know that Memorial Day began with freed slaves taking time to bury the fallen soldiers who had sacrificed their lives to help free them? This was the era when, in the late 1860s, Americans in towns across the country began holding tributes to those who died during the Civil War, laying wreaths and flowers on their graves.

The first official national commemoration was on May 5, 1866, in Waterloo, N.Y., when businesses closed and the community created observance activities. In 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, who led an organization of Union war veterans, called for a permanent date throughout the northern U.S. to remember all who had fallen in defense of the country. It was called Decoration Day, a time when people gathered at cemeteries to decorate the graves of these soldiers. By 1890, most of the Northern states were celebrating the holiday. Southern states adopted the tradition, too, but on different days throughout the year.

During World War I, May 30 became a day to remember all American military personnel who died in all wars. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Holiday Act, and Memorial Day

was marked as the last Monday in May. It became official in 1971. As we take our last, long weekend of the school year, sharing time with friends and family in anticipation of summer, let's not forget that the luxury of enjoying this leisure time came at a price. Take a few moments to remember those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms. Some of them may be your family members and, for their service, we are grateful.

Contract Distribution

CCS Human Resources will be distributing contracts and salary notices beginning Tuesday, May 26. Contracts will require a teacher signature; salary notices do not require a signature. The contracts and salary notices will be delivered to individual teachers via an email to their Columbus City Schools email account. The following communication was sent to all teachers on Friday, May 22.

Date: May 22, 2020
From: ContractQuestions@columbus.k12.oh.us
To: CEA
Subject: Teacher Contracts for the 2020–2021 School Year

Human Resources will be distributing contracts and salary notices by division and department next week. Contracts will require a teacher signature; salary notices do not require a signature. The contracts and salary notices will be delivered to individual teachers via email to their Columbus City Schools email account.

Process Details:

- Contracts will be sent from ContractQuestions@columbus.k12.oh.us to individual teachers via email.

Contract Distribution Date: May 26, 2020

Teacher Responsibility

- Each teacher will be responsible for printing and signing his/her own contract. They will need to print and sign the contract and return to ContractQuestions@columbus.k12.oh.us either by scanning the document or taking a picture to attach to their district email. Teachers will be advised that they need to return the contracts within one week to ensure that all contracts are submitted by deadline, June 5, 2020. Salary notices do not require a signature, nor are they to be submitted to Payroll.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Where should questions be directed?
 - For the quickest response, please direct all questions to ContractQuestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.
- What if a specific teacher didn't receive a contract?
 - The teacher may be on a continuing contract and therefore will receive a salary notice which does not require a signature and does not need to be submitted to Payroll.
 - The teacher has not completed the requirements for renewing their license so we are unable to renew their contract at this time.
 - The teacher is on a leave of absence and will receive their contract when they return to work.

Internet Reimbursement

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between Columbus City Schools and CEA concerning remote learning, teachers and other certificated personnel in CEA have the option to seek reimbursement for increased Internet costs if those

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The CEA Master Agreement is set to expire in fewer than 813 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.	Arbitrator selected. Arbitration hearing date pending.
CCS Administration	The CEA/Board Agreement was violated, misinterpreted and/or misapplied when the Board failed to provide the sufficient number of elementary physical education teacher(s) at Berwick K-8 to ensure physical education once per week in grades K-5 for 45 minutes.	That the Board provide a sufficient number of elementary physical education teacher(s) at Berwick K-8 to ensure physical education once per week in grades K-5 for 45 minutes and that NO REPRI-SALS be taken against the grievant or any other bargaining unit member due to the filing of this grievance.	Step II Hearing pending.
East Columbus ES Jamie Spreen	The CEA/Board Agreement was violated, misinterpreted and/or misapplied when the principal of East Columbus ES, Jamie Spreen, failed to provide appropriate administrative support to the grievants in the discipline of their students.	That the grievants shall be made whole in every way, including, but not limited to the following: that principal provide appropriate administrative support to the affected bargaining unit members and that NO REPRI-SALS be taken against the grievants or any other bargaining unit member due to the filing of this grievance.	Step 1 Hearing pending.

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costs were necessary to provide online instruction to students. In order to request reimbursement, the employee needs to send an email to employeerelations@columbus.k12.oh.us requesting the reimbursement and provide:

1. The Internet bill(s) for the period of online instruction
2. An Internet bill dated between 10/15/19 and 3/15/20 to establish previous Internet/mobile data cost. If an employee had no previous Internet service, a statement to that effect would suffice
3. Proof (or statement) that the employee was unable to utilize available free Internet (i.e. through Spectrum introductory offer, etc.)

Employee Relations will calculate the amount to be reimbursed (up to \$50 per month) and forward a request for payment to the Office of the Treasurer. An employee may submit a request for reimbursement on a monthly basis, or submit one request after the end of the school year to cover the period of online instruction. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on June 30, 2020, to be considered for reimbursement. Please email the Employee Relations email address above or your CEA representative if you have any questions.

Take Action: Urge Portman to Support Federal Education Funding

States around the nation are bracing for budget shortfalls due to the coronavirus health crisis. This week, Ohio proposed \$475 million of cuts in education funding (including over \$9 million in cuts to CCS) over the next two months, in anticipation of a revenue shortfall of more than \$2 billion in the fiscal year that ends in June. CEA and OEA are fighting to make sure education is a priority in local and state budgets, but it is clear that additional federal resources are needed to mitigate the loss of revenue.

Our national affiliate, the National Education Association, is working with congressional leaders to create a \$175 billion Education Stabilization Fund to support state and local education. These funds will help support the safety and well-being of students and educators and will require congressional legislation.

Senator Rob Portman (R) is a key player. He has already said that Ohio's local governments need federal aid. Please urge him and other members of the Ohio Congressional delegation to act now to provide that assistance, and to include \$175 billion for state and local education, in the next COVID-19 relief package. OEA has created a sample email and all that is required are a few minutes to fill in your contact information. Take action today at: <https://www.ohea.org/actions/action-alert-april-14/>.

Become an Approved PDS Course Requester

The Columbus Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) is offering web-based training sessions to learn how to become an approved PDS Course Requester in the CCS PD System. Attending this training will enable you to enter in-district professional development (including TBTs) into the PDS so that eligible educators may earn CEUs for their participation. This training will cover both the compliance components for entering courses for

CEU purposes as well as walk through the course proposal process in the PDS.

The LPDC will also have web-based information sessions for those needing assistance in creating an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). All educators with five-year Professional Licenses in Ohio must have an approved IPDP on file in order to earn credits toward the renewal of that license (for more information about the renewal process of a 5-year license, <https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/2288>).

Note: This does not apply to substitute teachers who renew licenses directly through the Ohio Department of Education.

You can find upcoming training dates in the PDS by entering the course number (35825 for PDS Course Requester Training and 35904 for IPDP Support Sessions) into the search bar under the Course tab in the title bar—<https://ccsoh.truenorthlogic.com>.

Summer School Update

The Columbus City Schools Summer Virtual Academy will take place from June 15–July 23. This opportunity for students will mirror the district's Virtual Learning Academy and utilize the district platforms that are currently in place. For those who have previously submitted applications, note that the district will no longer offer face-to-face options this summer. For those teachers who are still interested in applying, the application remains open online at <http://columbus.k12.oh.us/summerschool>. More specific information about the CCS Summer School Virtual Academy will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please contact Emma Corbin at ecorbin5214@columbus.k12.oh.us.

CEA Spring Election is by Mail

Due to the COVID-19 school shutdown, at the request of the CEA Elections Committee and Elections Chair, and upon consultation with the Ohio Education Association, the CEA Board of Governors voted to invalidate the election. The Board also voted to run a new, fully mail-ballot election conducted by a secure third party vendor; YesElections.

YesElections is a full-service election management company with more than a decade of experience. The company has been utilized by our Union's state and national affiliates (OEA and NEA) and has administered complex elections throughout six continents with millions of votes processed annually. We have full confidence that during this challenging time, invalidating previously cast votes and utilizing a mail-ballot process through YesElections is the most secure, fair, and timely way to conduct CEA elections.

The mailout of ballots to the home address on file of all CEA members began on May 15, 2020. Voters will receive detailed instructions along with their ballots. May 30, 2020, will be the last day for receipt of ballot returns at the YesElections office and the close of the elections. On June 2, 2020, the results will be reported to CEA.

It is important to reiterate that if you voted utilizing the traditional process prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, that ballot has been invalidated and you will need to cast a new ballot using the YesElections mail-ballot process. If you have additional questions or concerns about the 2020 CEA elections process contact CEA Elections Chair, Neil Moore at senyormoore@gmail.com.

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ABCs Continue Virtually

As we all know, these last few weeks have been an extremely trying time. Distance teaching and learning is new for all of us. Many of us are struggling, with learning new platforms, new job expectations, increased workload, demands from principals, trying to work from home with many distractions, and educating our own children in some cases. However, despite these new challenges, the *CEA Master Agreement* and the recently negotiated Memorandum of Understanding are still in effect. These documents should be your guide to solving building level problems. We are asking teachers to send their ABC concerns to their Senior Faculty Representative so that the committee can hold a virtual ABC meeting. All bargaining unit members in each building are allowed to attend ABC meetings.

Now, more than ever, you have the opportunity to attend your building's virtual ABC meeting. Senior Faculty Representatives should continue to forward ABC minutes to CEA Vice President Phil Hayes at hayesp@ceaohio.org

Your Union would like to thank the following schools/units that have submitted ABC minutes since the extended closure began: **Burroughs ES, ECE, Linden STEM ES, OT/PT, School Counselors, and School Nurses.**

Apply Now for CEA Mini-Grant

CEA Foundation Mini-Grants are members-only grants that support teaching and learning. The CEA Foundation's mission is to empower CEA members to design and implement innovative opportunities that will ultimately lead to higher achievement for all students. The original Spring application deadline has been extended indefinitely.

- Early Educator Mini-Grant—20 total grants up to \$300 each (for teachers in Years 1–5 of their career)
- STEM/STEAM Mini-Grant—10 total grants up to \$600 each (open to all CEA members)
- General Mini-Grant—25 total grants up to \$320 each (open to all CEA members)

Grants cover one academic year, and members are eligible to receive one Mini-Grant per year. These Mini-Grants are separate from the Teacher Dream Grant; all CEA Mini-Grants are funded completely through the CEA Foundation. Only CEA members are eligible to apply for the Mini-Grants. Members are strongly encouraged to think about innovative programs, units, and/or clubs they personally fund.

To retrieve the application form, go to the CEA website and click on the Forms/Resources tab. Scroll down to “CEA Foundation Mini-Grant,” then click on the “Spring 2020 Application” link. The deadline for completed applications has been extended until further notice. Completed applications should be emailed to Kathy Wilkes at wilkesk@ceaohio.org.

Special Notes

- ❑ **Apply for a CEA Scholarship**—Do you have a child graduating high school? The CEA Spring Scholarship deadline is **4 p.m., Friday, June 12**. 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/ceaspring-schol2020>. If your application has been submitted you do not have to resubmit. We will continue to accept any documents that are required for your application. Send completed applications to: Columbus Education Association, Attn: Spring Scholarship, 929 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205. Contact Kathy Wilkes at wilkesk@ceaohio.org if you have questions.
- ❑ **Teachers' Dream Grant Deadline Extended**—This grant provides an opportunity for all teachers to apply for individual school-based grants from \$500–\$5,000 focusing on academic enrichment, increasing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, improving school/community relations, improving classroom learning climate, and promoting social justice. The **online-only** application deadline has been extended to **Friday, May 29, 2020, at 4 p.m.** For further

information, see the district website or contact Andrea Richardson at (614) 365-5733. To submit your application go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/dreamgrant> and enter your ILEAD login name and password.

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