

COLUMBUS
EDUCATION
JUSTICE
COALITION

Columbus

Education Justice

COALITION

RELATIONSHIPS |

REINVESTMENT | RECONSTRUCTION

About

US

The **Columbus Education Justice Coalition** is a collective of parents, students, educators, labor union members, and community partners who believe that access to a fair, just, well-rounded public education for all students, families, and staff in Columbus City Schools is a civil and human right.

We work to end inequities, oppose privatization, and build strong, community-based public schools where all students can thrive.



Why does CEA



Community coalitions, like CEJC, are essential to **amplifying our political power, building broader support for public education, and addressing complex challenges** that affect both students and members.

We build trust between teachers and parents and have shared objectives which directly benefit both members and families!

Need CEJC?

Summer 2022

CEA goes on strike with support of Columbus community, including parents, families, and students.

Community requests to stay together to fight for equity & justice in CCS. Columbus Education Justice Coalition is officially formed.

Fall 2023

CEJC campaigns for tax levy issue, canvasses in “low voter turnout” neighborhoods, helps win the levy.

Learns about possible school closings after levy passes. Begins to engage community and focus on board actions.

2025

Focused on common good bargaining, CEJC partners with CEA to include community members as observers in contract negotiations.

Increases work on community schools focus, develops policy to address budget shortfalls while focusing on growth, and school closures as last resort.



Spring 2022

CEA receives grant from NEA for Campaign Institute which is focused on community schools, common good bargaining, and building community coalitions for collective power. Creates and hires for Education Justice Organizer position with OEA support.

Summer 2023

CEJC builds city-wide community listening campaign “Our City, Our Schools.”

Determines three priorities from teacher, parent, student, community feedback:
Relationships
Reinvestment
Reconstruction

2024

CEJC works with partner organizations, like All in for Ohio Kids, to build “Our Community, Our Schools” campaign to focus on shared decision-making for school transformation and plans for school growth - not school closings.

Challenges school closing policy and Superintendent’s “Community” Task Force. Hosts BBQs at the BOE to get parent, member, community participation at board meetings.

Board vote paused until December. 75% of schools on initial closing list saved. Works with CEA and CCS on community schools model - leads implementation team and selection of Northland HS as pilot school.

Our



To **build collective power** to advance education justice in Columbus City Schools by amplifying the voices of communities most impacted by disinvestment and marginalization and organizing for the transformative policies and practices

Mission

Our



Relationships

- The build-up of **trusting, ongoing partnerships between Columbus City Schools and the community.**
- The **inclusion of those most impacted** (students, families, educators) **in shaping policy and practice.**
- **Responsive and transparent communication** from decision-makers with families, educators, and community members

Reinvestment

- **Equitable and fair school funding** that channels funds, attention, programmatic innovation, and infrastructure into neighborhood schools and communities that have been marginalized.
- **Reimagining and planning for schools as the hub of their neighborhoods**, with shared decision-making, wrap-around services, and community-connected planning and learning.

Reconstruction

- Transforming the educational ecosystem of top-down decision making by **rebuilding a structure that ensures student, family, community, and staff engagement as shared decision-makers.**
- **Policy and governance changes** that address the root causes of inequity in Columbus City Schools.

Priorities

What We Are



- **Community School Model for Every CCS School**
- **A CCS Black Student Achievement Plan**
- **Safe Green Schools**
- **Fully Funded Schools**
- **Students, families, staff, and community members to have a respected role in decision-making in our schools**

Fighting For!

What We've



2022 Tax Levy

End to Stop & Frisk Tactics (2023)

Pause on School Closing Vote (Summer 2024)

Increased family & member participation at board meetings

Community & Member Observers at 2025 Negotiations

Parent & student voices dominated earned media in 2024

Won!

Safe Green Schools Resolution passed by BOE (2025)

Efforts saved 75% of schools on the 2024 closing list

What Are



Community Schools embody how education should function in a healthy democracy - they're public schools that **provide services and support which fit each neighborhood's needs, created and run by the people who know our children best** - families, educators, community organizations, local governments, and the students themselves - **all working together.**

Community Schools?

Why Columbus Needs



Community Schools were won in the 2022 strike as **the solution to help grow our district, support members & the community, and end member & student displacement caused by forced school closings.** The Community Schools model is supported by the National Education Association.

Community Schools

What We're



- Board Watch

PARENT & MEMBER LED BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

- UPDATE COMMUNITY ON BOARD ACTIONS
- MONITOR BOARD MEMBER RELATIONS & REACTIONS WITH PUBLIC
- *MOBILIZATION TEAM*

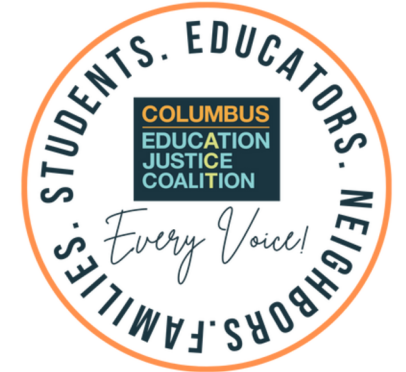
- Pride Warriors

- 2026 Community Schools Campaign

PARENT & MEMBER LED BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

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Building Together



Our *Partners & Allies*

MEET THE ORGANIZATIONAL
PARTNERS OF OUR COALITION

FAQs



Is CEJC just another union committee?

- No. The Columbus Education Justice Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, supported by CEA through and NEA grant.

Does CEJC only care about community schools?

- No. CEJC has built a number of campaigns to address systemic issues that are harming our schools, including privatization, deportation, and yes - community schools.

Can I be a member of CEA and CEJC?

- Yes! Unions and community coalitions build collective power together and enable us to be stronger and more effective changemakers.

Are there other teachers' unions with a community coalition?

- Yes! Nationwide, education associations are working alongside and helping to build coalitions. Check out UTLA and Reclaim Our Schools LA, as well as AFT Michigan and the Michigan Education Justice Coalition.

How long will CEJC and CEA work together?

- There is no end to this work.

Save the Date



February 28, 2026

The People's State of Our Schools

The Maroon Culture Lab

867 Mt. Vernon Ave

The People's State of Our Schools is not just an event - it's a **movement to reimagine education in Columbus City Schools from the ground up**. For too long, decisions have been made without the community and those closest to the classroom. We're reclaiming the narrative, honoring the history, and building a new future rooted in equity, accountability, and collective power. **Join us in rewriting the future of our schools.**

For More Info



www.cbusedjustice.org
@cbusedjustice

Izetta Thomas, Director & Lead Organizer
thomasi@ceaohio.org
614-596-7352

