

CEA Spring Election Candidates

Campaigning for the CEA Spring Election is underway and ends on Mar. 10. Voting will begin on Feb. 24 through Mar. 10. See your Senior Faculty Representative for a ballot. (All candidates in each category are listed in alphabetical order and not in the order they will appear on the ballot)

Thank you to those of you who declared candidacy for CEA office, NEA, NEA-At-Large, and OEA. The declaration period has now closed. Officers and Governors who won (by acclamation) are as follows:

CEA SPRING ELECTIONS 2026

CEA President

John T. Coneglia

Kelsey Gray

CEA Vice President

Phil Hayes

Chris Monteiro

CEA District 1 Governor (Unopposed)

Victoria "Vicki" Evans

CEA District 4 Governor (Unopposed)

Ryan Swartz

CEA District 5 Governor

Keith Emrick

Regina Fuentes

CEA District 10 Governor (Unopposed)

Becky Coyne

CEA Minority-At-Large Governor

Jamel C. Ammons

Jocelyn S. Collins

Carla Davis

Candidates for NEA Delegate (RA in Denver, July 3–7, 2026)

Jamel C. Ammons, June Ann Andrews, Mikasa Barton, Tabetha Baumann, Sandra Bopp, Larry Carey, Courtney Coman, Omowale Crowder, Cassandra D. Daniels, Clarence Daniels, Jr., Caitlynn Dauterman, Carla Davis, Trenice Davidson, Marty Flood, Jr., Michelle Fosnaugh, Janaya Lynne Foster, Heather Giles, Kelsey Gray, Jada Harper, Tai Hayden, Jacquia Hearn, Tracie L. Helmbrecht, Megan Hinz, Bronda Jackson, Lisa R. Johnson, Traci L. Johnson, Christopher O. Kopp, Jason Lewis, Garrett M. Merle, Rebecca E. McGrath-Hinkle, Chris Monteiro, Lindsay Rice, Rachel N. Rowen, Angel Dyer Sanchez, Brittany Saunders, Denise Sizemore, Cynthia Smithers, Annelise Taggart, Zachary Traxler, Chris Weyand, Benita Wright Smith, Sheeva Yanga, Ardelia L. Young, and Dwayne Zimmerman

Candidates for NEA State-At-Large Delegate

Jamel Ammons, Larry Carey, Courtney Coman, Cassandra D. Daniels, Clarence Daniels Jr., Marty Flood, Jr., Janaya Lynne Foster, Lisa R. Johnson, Traci L. Johnson, Lindsay Rice, Rachel Rowen, Brittany Saunders, Denise Sizemore, Chris Weyand

Candidates for OEA Delegate (2026–2027)

All members that submitted a declaration for OEA Delegate won by acclamation. Their names will be listed in the *Voice* for Feb. 23, 2026.

Ballots will be sent to buildings the week of Feb. 16. The voting window begins on Tuesday, Feb. 24, and ends Tuesday, Mar. 10. Members of the Elections Committee will collect ballots for tally on Wednesday, Mar. 11. Contact Elections Chair Brittany Pierce at (440) 225-2631 with any questions.

Article 211: Alternative Panels Approved

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 request an alternately constructed panel. The following schools/units have requested and been approved for an alternate panel:

Alpine ES, Arts Impact MS, Beatty Park ES, Beechcroft HS, Briggs HS, Buckeye MS, Cedarwood Alt ES, Clinton ES, Cols Africentric EC, Cols Africentric EC, Cols City Prep Boys, Cols Prep Schl for Girls, Columbus Scioto, Duxberry Park ES, Early Childhood, East Columbus ES, Easthaven ES, Ft Hayes Career Ctr, Ft Hayes Metro Ed Ctr, Gables ES, Gifted Academy, Hiltonia MS, Independence HS, Innis ES, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Linden-McKinley STEM, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Northgate Intermediate, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard Alt ES, Parsons ES, Psychological Services, School Counselors, Scottwood ES, SELP, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS, Southland Ctr, Southwood ES, SPED TOSA Behavior Spcl, SPED TOSA VI Itenerant, Starling PreK-8, Watkins ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Woodcrest ES, and Yorktown MS.

Grievance Update

CEA works 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 regularly inform you of grievances we are working to resolve. Go to: <https://www.ceaoio.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Grievance-260217-24.pdf>.

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Meet The Candidates Nights

CEA will be hosting two in-person **Meet the Candidate** events for members to meet the candidates running for positions in the Spring Election. The meetings will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19, at **The Berwick Party House**, 3250 Refugee Rd. Columbus, OH beginning at 4:30 p.m. The second meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the **Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Hall**, 1250 Kinnear Rd, Columbus, OH beginning at 4:30 p.m. Members can select which meeting they would like to attend. All candidates running for a position should plan to attend both meetings.

UNCF Helps Columbus Students

UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. UNCF plays a critical role in enabling more than 60,000 students each year to attend college. We are ready to begin our Columbus City Schools' UNCF Workplace Campaign. Fifty percent of every dollar raised is designated for scholarships for CCS students. Many of our students do not have the resources to consider higher education. Your donation is an investment in our children, our community, and our nation. Please be generous in your giving. This drive is very important, as we prepare our students for jobs in the global community. More than 60% of UNCF scholars are the first in their families to attend college and their successful education changes lives. Your investment can help break the cycle of poverty and despair in a family. The impact of your gift will be felt for generations to come. To make a donation, go to: <https://uncf.org/local-offices/columbus>.



Apply for a CEA Scholarship

Do you have a child graduating high school? Would you like some financial assistance with their college education? Consider applying for a CEA and CEA-R Scholarship. These competitive scholarships are a wonderful opportunity for our members' children to earn scholarship dollars toward college. Applications are due by 4 p.m., Friday, Mar. 20, 2026. You can download the application at <https://bit.ly/4sYfa0U>. The scholarship application must include a statement of the student's personal philosophy and goals and include two references: One from a current academic instructor with whom the student has studied during the past year and one from someone other than a relative. Applicants must be the children of a CEA or CEA-R members for their dependent(s) to be eligible. A teacher must:



- Be a current CEA or CEA-R member
- Have taught in Columbus City Schools for the four (4) years prior to applying for the scholarship unless the applicant taught for four (4) years prior to:
 - Going on an approved leave of absence
 - Going on an approved disability retirement
 - Retiring and maintaining membership in CEA-R
- Applicants must:
- Be the child of a CEA or CEA-R member.
- Be graduating high school seniors or students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a college or university.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above, which must be verified by an official high school or university transcript. Copies will not be accepted.
- Be a full-time student while enrolled in college.
- Include a copy of the Student Aid Report from FAFSA.
- Indicate all financial aid (other than student loans) which they expect to receive.

The Christa McAuliffe Memorial Scholarship is granted each year to a student majoring in education (unless no education applicants apply). This scholarship will be 1½ times the amount of any other scholarships awarded. Send completed applications to: **Columbus Education Association, Attn: Spring Scholarship, 929 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205**.

LA Attendance

One of the many duties of Faculty Representatives is to attend the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). Held on the first Thursday of nearly every month of the school year, the LA is the policy-making body of your Association. Your elected Faculty Representatives receive vital updates from CEA Officers and Staff and vote on important issues affecting your Association. Any CEA member is welcome to attend the LA. The next LA will be held on Mar. 5. The following is a list of buildings/units that were represented at the Feb. 5 Legislative Assembly:

17th Avenue Service Center, Arts Impact MS, Attendance Specialists, Avalon ES, Beatty Park ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick Alternative ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Buckeye MS, Building Substitutes, CEA Office, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus Africentric EC ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus Global Academy, Columbus International HS, Columbus Online Academy, Como ES, Devonshire ES, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, ECE @ Central Enrollment, École Kenwood, Elementary Art, Elementary Music, Elementary Phys. Ed., Fairmoor ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Georgian Heights ES, Hilltop MS, Hubbard ES, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K-8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Liberty ES, Lincoln Park ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Academy, Linden-McKinley STEM Academy, Livingston ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, North Linden ES, Northgate Intermediate ES, Northland HS, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Climate & Culture Systems Consultants and PBIS Coordinators, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, School Counselors, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, Social Workers, South HS, Southland, Southwood ES, Special Ed TOSAs, Speech & Language, Starling PreK-8, Stewart Alternative ES, Sullivant ES, Trevitt ES, Watkins ES, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Academy, Winterset ES, Woodward Park MS, World Language MS, and Yorktown MS.

Article 211 Calendar: 2025–2026 (Feb. 11, 2026, Edition)

Calendar to coordinate Article 211 activities with the district stakeholders for the 2026–2027 School Year's needs. All communication regarding the Article 211 process should utilize the Article 211 email article211@columbus.k12.oh.us.

February

Thursday	2/12/2026	Round 1 Postings OPEN [All known openings]
Tuesday	2/17/2026	Round 1 Postings CLOSE – Applications no longer accepted after 6 p.m.
Wednesday	2/18/2026	Round 1 Interviews OPEN – Interviews conducted by Zoom Only (All known openings) (Building Substitutes with an ODE license & Full and Part Time Hourly teachers are eligible for this round; special education teachers that selected a "guaranteed" position during bidding are not eligible) Interview Times are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Elementary & K-8: After 3:30 p.m.Middle & High Schools: After 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	2/25/2026	Round 1 Interviews CLOSE – Interviews end at 6 p.m. Offers begin at 6 p.m. Selection Agreement Forms & Rosters sent by Talent Department to Principals (electronically) by 12 p.m.

March

Thursday	3/5/2026	Round 2 Postings OPEN [All known openings]
Monday	3/9/2026	Round 2 Postings CLOSE – Applications no longer accepted after 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/10/2026	Round 2 Interviews OPEN – Interviews conducted by Zoom Only [All known openings] (Building Substitutes with an ODE license & Full and Part Time Hourly teachers are eligible for this round; special education teachers that selected a "guaranteed" position during bidding are not eligible) Schools and Departments. Interview Times are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Elementary & K-8: After 3:30 p.m.Middle & High Schools: After 2:30 p.m.
Monday	3/16/2026	Round 2 Interviews CLOSE Interviews end at 6 p.m. Offers begin at 6 p.m. Selection Agreement Forms and Rosters sent by HR (electronically) to Principals by 12 p.m.

Every School a Community School...The Future of Columbus

The term "community schools" has become quite familiar in our membership over the past few years, but what do you really know and understand about community schools? Over the next few weeks, we'll share some information on what a community school is, what it is not, and why we should all be fighting for them.

What in the world is a community school?

To be completely honest, community schools embody how education should function in a healthy democracy - they're public schools (in CCS we call them Community Campus Schools, in Ohio they may often be called Community Learning Centers or CLCs) that provide services and support which fit each neighborhood's needs. They are schools collaboratively organized by the people who know our children best - families, educators, community organizations, local governments, and the students themselves - all working together.

Community schools provide not only tremendous opportunities for learning and success for students, but they also offer hope, opportunity, and transformation to entire communities.

It would be easy to look at this and say, "don't we already have schools like this?" or "we're already doing that with [insert your favorite community organization here]." The truth is that strong schools have strong community partnerships. However, wrap-around services alone do not make our schools community schools. All of our schools have different levels of community engagement, family engagement, and resource—and not all of these differences are equitable and fair. When we say community schools, we're talking about the full-service community school model. Your union specifically advocates for the NEA Community Schools Model that includes six pillars of practice. Like most public education models, they are adaptable to the needs of an individual school's students, staff, families and community. This ensures that our families, students, and members receive the individual needs and attention that each building deserves.

In 2022, you won language for a pilot community school as a result of our strike. Northland HS was selected through an application process to become our pilot community school in 2024. Now, we're fighting to fully support and expand the model so that every school becomes a community school. Your union and our partners at the Columbus Education Justice Coalition believe that this is our answer for growth in our school district.

Take a look at the following videos to learn more about sustainable, full-service community schools, then watch The Voice for more information on why and how community schools will benefit every member and every student in Columbus City Schools.

NEA Community Schools Model

<https://youtu.be/5dTXujuJRc0?si=zFgh5ILtZ48tm2dV>

Why Every School Should be a Sustainable Community School (Chicago Teachers Union)

<https://youtu.be/iC33ELIZ2oM?si=4G413riYANVgRCDh>

Want to learn more about community schools?

Join us and our partners at the Columbus Education Justice Coalition for The People's State of Our Schools: A Community-Led Town Hall on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Maroon Culture Lab (formerly the Pythian Theatre).

This powerful community gathering will examine the impact of school closures in Columbus City Schools and launch the coalition's "Nothing About Us, Without Us!" Community Schools Campaign—a movement to reinvest in neighborhood schools and advance the NEA Community Schools Model as a sustainable path forward.

- Documentary screening
- Community & national voices
- Clear ways to take action

This is more than an event—it's a call to organize, imagine, and fight for the schools our communities deserve. Save the date and bring a colleague.

ICE Belongs in Your Coffee, not School—Join Your Community in Keeping Us Safe!

The Columbus Education Justice Coalition, our partners at Pint Size Protesters, and Defend & Recruit have been diligently working with grassroots organizations and neighbors across Columbus and Central Ohio, Chicago, and North Carolina to develop local neighborhood and school patrols in response to ICE presence in our communities.

We have developed neighborhood ICE Watch teams. Now we are building our school patrols. School patrols involve volunteers who have been trained in ICE Watch to surround schools and monitor the area for ICE activity. They notify the community in the event that ICE does show up. The main goal for school patrols are to keep targeted parents who are dropping off/picking up their kids safe AND to show kids and staff that they are not alone — we keep us safe!

School Coordinators will be connected with the lead organizers in their neighborhood patrol, as well as a chat for all school coordinators to check-in, discuss protocols and tactics, etc.

If your school building is interested in being connected to your neighborhood team, please reach out to Izetta Thomas at thomasi@ceaohip.org to be connected. We will make sure that you are trained, connected to your neighborhood team, and supported in every way.

Fee Waiver Application Window Extended

Summer 2026 Fee Waivers: The application period has been extended to **Feb. 18, 11:59 p.m.** Access the online application from home or work using your CCS email username and password. Have your college ID number available when applying. You will automatically be sent a confirmation email once your application is submitted. To complete the online application, Go to <http://bit.ly/2jhWSjd>. If you have Priority I or Priority II status, upload the proper documentation with your online application. Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. Your priority status will change without the proper documentation. For assistance with frequently asked questions, links to each of the universities, priority status, and documentation guidelines, go to <https://www.ccsoh.us/Page/4815>. Call (614) 365-5039 or email feewaivers@columbus.k12.oh.us if you need assistance. *Check your CCS email regularly for updates.*

Do You Have Your Continuing Contract?

It is that time of year where you can apply for a Continuing Contract. Bargaining unit members submit their Continuing Contract application using Google Forms only. Bargaining unit members will have to be logged into their CCS email account to utilize the online form. To utilize the online application process, go to <https://bit.ly/4jKUq22>. All the eligibility requirements must be met to be considered. In accordance with *CEA Master Agreement*, Article 401.08, to be eligible to receive a continuing contract, you must have the following:

- A five-year professional license or a permanent certificate shall be on file in Human Resources. The certificate/license should be received in Human Resources on or before Mar. 6, 2026.
- At the conclusion of this school year, you must have completed three years of successful Columbus teaching experience within the last five years or if you previously had a continuing contract in Columbus or another Ohio district, you must have completed two successful years of Columbus experience. Under the new licensing standards, you must also meet the following coursework requirement:
 - If you hold a master's degree at the time of initially receiving a teacher's certificate/license, six (6) semester hours of graduate coursework in the area of licensure or in an area related to the teaching field since the initial issuance of such certificate or license is required.
 - If you do not hold a master's degree at the time of initially receiving a teacher's certificate/license, thirty (30) semester hours of 300 level coursework or above in the area of licensure or in an area related to the teaching field since the initial issuance of such certificate or license is required.
 - If you believe that you will be completing the requirements making you eligible for a continuing teacher contract for the 2026–2027 school year, you must complete the online application and provide original transcripts. Only digital transcripts will be accepted and should be sent to transcripts@columbus.k12.oh.us. The electronic form and original transcripts must be received no later than Mar. 6, 2026.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to Teacher Certification & Licensure at (614) 365-6680 or license@columbus.k12.oh.us. All applicants will receive an electronic confirmation. Applicants must check their email (spam or clutter folders) to ensure they receive the confirmation as additional information may be requested. Approvals, denials, or delay notices for the Continuing Contract applications will be sent via email by Mar. 31, 2026. *Note: Official transcripts must be emailed to license@columbus.k12.oh.us to verify if the transcripts on file are up to date.

Capital District RA and Elections

The Capital District Spring Representative Assembly (RA) will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 22, 2026, at **The Boat House**, 679 W. Long Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. and the RA starts at 5:30 p.m. Alternates are welcome to attend the RA. A key focal point of the Capital RA will be the Spring Elections for Capital District President and Vice President. CEA Members may declare their candidacy starting Jan. 20, 2026, through Friday Mar. 27, 2026. Voting will take place during the Capital RA on Apr. 22, 2026. Go to <https://bit.ly/4jNr4QM> to download a declaration form.

The Capital District seat on the Ohio Education Association Board of Directors is also up the deadline Jan. 30, 2026. Contact William Baird (baird@ohea.org) at OEA for more information. The seat will be voted on at the Capital RA.



Is Your License Expiring?

If your license from ODE is expiring June 30, 2026, and you have a limited employment contract, you must complete the required coursework or CEUs necessary for renewal and apply before May 11 to be licensed by ODE for the 2026–2027 school year. If you have a continuing contract, you have through June to complete your coursework and submit your application. Failure to renew your license may result in suspension of pay and initiation of termination/non-renewal proceedings.

In addition to the online application, you will need to complete a background check if it has been 5 years. If you have questions about the date of your last background check, or you don't plan to renew your license, contact Leslie Butler, Human Resources, Teacher Licensure, at license@columbus.k12.oh.us. Contact Leslie about questions concerning CEUs or the license renewal process at LPDC@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Special Notes

Transplant Needed for CEA Member: Robyn Chernack, Intervention Specialist at **Cedarwood ES**, is in need of a kidney donation from a living donor. Such donations are typically very successful and ideal when made by living donors. Eligible donors have matching blood types and are free of diseases including high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, kidney and heart disease. Donors are able to lead normal lives. To become a donor, go to: bit.ly/40y23zN.

Make a donation to the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank: When someone experiences a life-threatening illness or injury, and they are out of accrued time, they can apply for catastrophic leave. When approved, sick leave days can be donated, allowing them to remain in paid status and receive healthcare benefits. The following member has been approved for Catastrophic Leave and is in need of donated days: **Maria Flora**, Yorktown MS; and **Jennifer Burley**, Valley View ES. To donate, complete the Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation Form, available on the CEA and CCS websites. Submit the completed form to leavesofabsence@columbus.k12.oh.us.

CEA Spring Elections: There will be an election for the following CEA offices and positions: **President; Vice President; Governor for District 5 and Minority-At-Large Governor; 2026 NEA Delegates; Local Delegates; and 2026 NEA State-At-Large Delegates***. Voting will begin on **Tuesday, Feb. 24**, and will end on **Tuesday, Mar. 10**. Ballots will be collected and tallied by the Elections Committee on **Wednesday, Mar. 11**. Contact Brittany Pierce, CEA Elections Chair, at (440) 225-2631 with questions. *NEA State-at-Large Declaration Forms must be submitted to William Baird at OEA by January 31, 2026.

The Linden-McKinley Marching Band, also known as **TUMMP**, has been invited to perform in the vibrant Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans, LA. This is an incredible opportunity for LMHS students to showcase their talent on a national stage. Consider donating to their GoFundMe at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-tummps-journey-to-new-orleans>.

CEA Members & Families—Bank where you belong! All CEA members and their families can become members of Education First Credit Union! Enjoy exclusive financial benefits, low-rate loans, high-yield savings, and personalize service. Join today at www.educu.org.



**2026
HELEN JENKINS DAVIS
SCHOLARSHIP**

AWARD
6 awards available
in the amount of
\$3,000 each

The Process

*Complete application and

PROVIDE

- official transcript
- FAFSA Student Aid Report
- 2 signed letters of recommendation
- essay
- bio

application close date
March 6, 2026

The Scholarship

Named in memory of
Helen Jenkins Davis

*born of a slave
*waited for two years to be appointed to teach in Columbus Public School System
*taught for 37 years and was one of the first Black teachers to teach in an integrated school
*an encourager of students to excel in educational and personal goals

The Eligibility Criteria

* graduating senior of Columbus City Schools in need
*3.0 gpa or higher
*plan to attend 4 year accredited college or university

The Lunch Bunch
sponsor of the
Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship

Visit our website
WWW.HELENJENKINSDAVISSLORSHIP.ORG

Contact us
lunchbunchscholarship@gmail.com

Scan Me

Join The

SPECIAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

OUR PURPOSE

1. Advocate for the needs, rights, & working conditions of special education professionals within CEA.
2. Provide a forum for members to share resources, concerns, & strategies related to special education.
3. Support & advise CEA leadership on issues impacting special education.
4. Build community, professional development, & solidarity among members.

ALL active CEA
members
welcome!!



SCAN ME

