



# HANDS OFF MCCOY PARK!

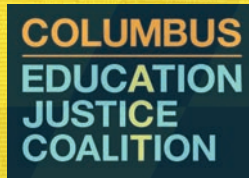
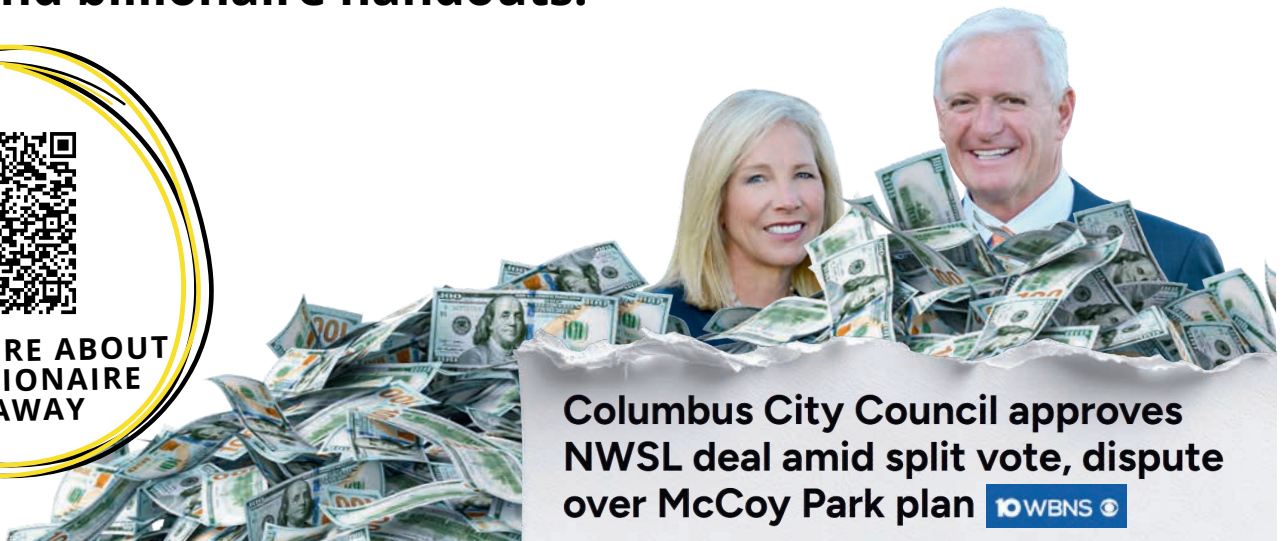
Billionaires Jimmy & Dee Haslam are taking \$25 million from Columbus taxpayers for a new NWSL franchise. Even worse, City Council and our Franklin County Commissioners are handing over McCoy Park, one of the few city parks on the South Side!

## MAY DAY RALLY & FAMILY OUTING

**McCoy Park**  
600 Stimmel Rd, Columbus, OH

**Friday May 1**  
4:30 p.m.

**Bring your family! Rally, eat, play, and sign the Our City, Our Say petition to reform city council and end billionaire handouts.**



CEA Members,

As you know, we've been asking you to save the date for May Day (Friday, May 1) after school. Last night, as part of a secret backroom deal for a new NWSL soccer franchise, Columbus City Council voted 5-3 to give away \$25 million taxpayer dollars to Billionaire Jimmy Haslam. Even worse, the deal included giving away one of the few city parks on the South Side, McCoy Park. For years, the city has made firm commitments to residents for improvements to McCoy Park that were supposed to begin in 2026. Not only were these improvements that had been planned with community input, they were specifically designed to

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## 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.ceahio.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Grievance-260427-33.pdf>

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enable physically disabled kids and families to use the park in new and better ways. Now, the park is being turned over to a billionaire instead.

While CCS eliminates 445 positions due to budget cuts, City Council has found \$25 million and a park to gift to billionaires. Enough is enough. It's time to show up to defend our students and our community!

**WHAT:** May Day Rally and Family Picnic  
**WHERE:** McCoy Park, 600 Stimmel Rd, Columbus, OH 43223  
**WHEN:** Friday, May 1, 4:30 p.m.

Wear CEA gear and/or **REDforED!** Bring your family. Rally, eat, play, and sign the CEA-endorsed **Our City, Our Say** petition to reform city council and end billionaire handouts.

We'll see you there.

In Solidarity,



John Coneglio  
CEA President

## OEA Makes Endorsements for May Primary

The Ohio Education Association has made early endorsements in the May Primary. **Early in-person voting at the Franklin County Board of Elections (1700 Morse Rd.) will be from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. from Monday, Apr. 27 through Friday, May 1. On Saturday, May 2, early in-person voting will be from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. In-person voting on Election Day, Tuesday, May 5, will be from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Please note that if you are voting by absentee ballot, your application for a ballot must be received by no later than 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 28. Your absentee ballot must be received by your county board of election no later than 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5.



**Governor/Lt. Governor** • **Amy Acton (D)/David Pepper (D)**

**U.S. Senate** • **Sherrod Brown (D)**

**Attorney General** • **John Kulewicz (D)**

**Secretary of State** • **Allison Russo (D)**

### Ohio House of Representatives

**HD 1** • **Dontavius Jarrells (D)**

**HD 3** • **Ismail Mohamed (D)**

**HD 4** • **Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (D)**

**HD 5** • **Meredith Lawson-Rowe (D)**

**HD 6** • **Christine Cockley (D)**

**HD 8** • **Anita Somani (D)**

**HD 9** • **Munira Abdullahi (D)**

**HD 10** • **Mark Sigrist (D)**

### Ohio Senate

**SD 25** • **Bill DeMora (D)**

## Changes Are Coming To Student Loans And Loan Forgiveness

But NEA Member Benefits is here to help! Join us on any (or all) of the dates and times below and learn the latest about Federal student loans and student loan forgiveness.



Mon., Apr. 27   4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	Thurs., Apr. 30   4:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Tues, Apr. 28   7 p.m.	Sat., May 2   12 noon
Wed., Apr. 29   5 & 7 p.m.	

To join any of the sessions, go to: <https://bit.ly/4sKCEyV>. These Zoom sessions will cover changes to income driven repayment options and action you must take to preserve choices if your loans are in forbearance having selected SAVE, how to buy back months in forbearance, major changes impacting Parent Plus and Graduate loans, options for those who will not be able to achieve loan forgiveness, and a demo of the NEA Student Debt Navigator, a tool available to help you manage your student loan debt.

Learn more about NEA Member Benefits at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com).

## Selling Personal Leave

In the 2022 round of negotiations, your Union bargained the ability for members to sell back two personal days to the district for 85% of the daily rate of the BA minimum salary, approximately \$227 per day this year. The provision calls for members

to notify the district in writing no later than May 1 of their intent to do so. Go to <https://columbus.munisselfservice.com/> to participate in the personal leave buy back program. After you log in, click on the document icon in the upper right-hand corner in the blue margin. Once the gray menu opens, scroll all the way down to the bottom and click on the link titled “**CEA PERSONAL LEAVE CONVERSION**.” You will be taken to a Google form that will allow you to sell one or two personal leave days. **This opportunity will open Wednesday, Apr. 1, and close Friday, May 1.**

## Recess? When? How Many?

Don't forget to determine your school's recess policy. This must occur following spring break and before the last teacher workday of the year. CEA fought hard to preserve and clarify elementary recesses in the contract. Each school can decide whether to have one or two 15-minute student recesses per day. There cannot be a vote for zero recesses.

The *CEA Master Agreement* requires that recesses take place mid-morning and/or mid-afternoon, not adjacent to the beginning of the school day, lunch time or end of the school day, unless the school elects to do so. The lunch period for students is 60 minutes. Teachers must have at least a 30-minute uninterrupted lunch period daily. A change requires a secret ballot vote of the staff conducted by the FR. If you do not take a vote, the status quo from last year remains. CEA urges you not to give up your rights in the contract or give up your school's recesses—our students need them. For full information, refer to Section 302.05 of the *CEA Master Agreement*.



## Celebrate 90 Years with Education First Credit Union—And Earn Up to \$1,800

As part of its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Education First Credit Union is offering an exclusive, limited-time Double Bonus promotion designed especially for school employees—including all CEA members.

This special offer is more than just a promotion—it's a meaningful way to recognize the dedication, hard work, and impact educators and school employees bring to their communities every single day.

Here's what you need to know:

- Eligible CEA members can earn up to \$1,800 by taking advantage of select credit union products and services.
- The promotion is simple to participate in, with straightforward steps to qualify.

If you've been considering switching financial institutions or exploring new banking benefits, this is a strong opportunity to make a move that rewards you directly.

To learn more and get started, visit: <https://www.educu.org/education-employees-exclusive-promotions>

Take advantage of this exclusive member benefit and see how Education First Credit Union is investing back in the people who make a difference every day.



## DEADLINE EXTENSION: Teachers' Dream Grant

This grant will provide individual opportunities ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to Columbus City Schools for teachers to assist in improving teaching and learning in CCS. This is an excellent opportunity for interested teachers to acquire resources to support a unique, creative, innovative project to increase student achievement, improve social climate and/or promote social justice. The funder does not fund package programs, equipment/furniture needed for classrooms.

**The deadline for submitting an application in CCSDAS has been extended to Apr. 30, 2026, by 4 p.m.**

This is a district-sponsored grant. Applicants will not need to submit a Grant Endorsement Form to apply but will need their principal's or supervisor's approval. A CCS email account is required to submit an application.

Click the link below and use your CCS login credentials to submit your application.

<https://applications.columbus.k12.oh.us/ccsdas/dreamGrantRequest/create>



## Fall 2026 Fee Waivers

The application period closes Apr. 30 at 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. Log in at [bit.ly/4jhgJM3](https://bit.ly/4jhgJM3) to complete the application. 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.

Go to <https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/4815> for assistance with frequently asked questions, links to each of the universities, priority status, and documentation guidelines. Call (614) 365-5039 or email [feewaivers@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:feewaivers@columbus.k12.oh.us) if you need assistance.

## Grant Opportunities for Educators

The Columbus City Schools Office of State and Federal Funding has recently come across several funding opportunities that may benefit our teachers and classrooms. Below is a list of opportunities currently available, along with their respective deadlines and award amounts. We encourage interested teachers to review these opportunities and consider applying.

To apply for any of the opportunities listed below, contact the Grants Office at [grants@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:grants@columbus.k12.oh.us) so we can assist you with the application process and ensure all requirements are met.

**Important:** Applications submitted without the involvement of the Grants Office will be considered invalid and will not be approved for submission.

**Current Opportunities:**



- **Kars for Kids Small Grant**.....Deadline: **Rolling**.....Award Amount: **\$5,000**
- **Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Open Grants** ... .Deadline: **May 1, 2026** .....Award Amount: **\$15,000**

If you have questions or want to pursue any of these opportunities, contact the Grants Office at [grants@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:grants@columbus.k12.oh.us) as soon as possible so we can begin the application process together.

Thank you, and we look forward to supporting your proposals.

## CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet

CEA is holding its **50th Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet** on **Friday, May 15**. It will, again, be at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. If you are retiring this year, contact CEA today so you can attend. As a retiree, your evening will be provided at no charge. Guests will be charged \$50 per person.

### Special Notes

**Please consider making an Organ Donation! A transplant needed for CEA Member Robyn Chernack**, Intervention Specialist at **Cedarwood ES**. She 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](http://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 members have been approved for Catastrophic Leave and are in need of donated days: **Shelley Kale**, (School Nurse) Colerain ES; **Dawn Berenzweig**, Westgate ES; **Jennifer Burley**, Valleyview ES; and **Joseph Huber**, Valley Forge ES. To donate, complete the Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation Form, available on the CEA and CCS websites. Submit the completed form to [leave-sofabsence@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:leave-sofabsence@columbus.k12.oh.us).

**Using the Arts As A Platform to Teach Social Justice and Social Change**  
**Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 4–6 p.m., Seventeenth Ave. Service Center**  
**at 889 E. 17th Street; Conference Room 2**  
**Register on the CCS PD Portal – Course #84466**



**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](http://www.educu.org).



# Share your voice! DESIGNING THE CLASSROOMS OF TOMORROW!



Superintendent/CEO Dr. Angela Chapman and the Board of Education invite parents, teachers and friends of CCS to participate in one of three workshops to weigh-in on future design concepts for district classrooms. Input will help guide our work with the State of Ohio Facilities Construction Commission in future school planning.

**Join us at 6 p.m.**  
 at a location in your neighborhood!

Monday, April 27  
**Centennial HS**

Tuesday, April 28  
**Columbus Africentric Early College**

Wednesday, April 29  
**West High School**



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

You are invited to

P.A.R.  
*Reunion*

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 4-7PM

Planks on Parsons, 743 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH 43206  
Come see old friends and share memories!