

Save The Date For The Mass Meeting: Tuesday, May 12

CEA will be holding a Mass Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, at the Columbus Convention Center. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly 6 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on a comprehensive conceptual agreement reached with the Board of Education. Your Union is asking all members to wear red or their CEA Solidarity T-shirt for the schools #ColumbusStudentsDeserve. You will need a photo ID to enter. Your school ID or driver's license are acceptable forms of identification. CEA will cover the cost of parking, however, please plan to carpool if possible so we can keep our costs down. Members will receive an email at their personal email address on Thursday, May 7, with a parking pass included. **You must print out and present this pass when you enter and exit.**

**MASS
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

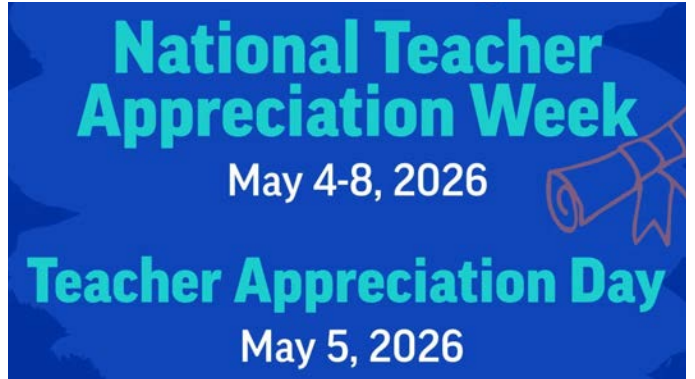
Five Days of "Thank You"

The entire week of May 4–8, **National Teacher Appreciation Week**, is sponsored by the National Education Association and the National PTA. Thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives. National Teacher Appreciation Day is May 5, 2026 and National Black Teachers Day is May 7, 2026.

CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child. Even teachers appreciate the teachers who helped shape their lives.

We are saying 'thank you' this week, and throughout the year, to the extraordinary educators who have worked tirelessly with students and families to keep things moving forward, despite such an unpredictable year. Through all the challenges we've faced this year, educators and families have stuck together to show students a bright path forward. This Teacher Appreciation Week, we need to turn appreciation into action to ensure every student, no matter who they are or where they live, has the tools to learn, grow, and thrive.

Help educators know how appreciated they are by taking action: Write to Congress, learn how to make your voice heard locally, or share a message on social media, tagging @NEAToday, and using #ThankATeacher. Go to <https://www.nea.org/TAW> to pledge your support. Thank you to our School Nurses!



National School Nurse Day

National School Nurse Day, Wednesday, May 7, has been set aside to recognize school nurses since 1972 and to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. It is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week. School Nurse Day is a way to recognize the contributions to student health and learning that school nurses make everyday. School Nurses assist our students with being able to fully access their education because of interventions and actions performed every day. A typical school nurse's schedule can encompass health care screenings, hearing, and vision testing, dealing with home accidents, diseases such as diabetes and asthma, student obesity, special needs like tube-feeding, preventing the spread of disease through blood exposure, and the fallout from mental, emotional, and social problems including arranging for disadvantaged students to receive breakfast and clothing and even helping students cope who are homeless or whose parents are incarcerated. Thank you to our School Nurses!



Appealing Your Evaluation

The Joint Evaluation Panel has approved an appeals process for staff who wish to appeal their evaluation. Staff must meet one of the following criteria:

- Educators that have an overall Final Holistic Rating of "Ineffective"
- Two evaluators this year and the overall rating is questionable
- The evaluation contains a procedural error

The Evaluation Appeal Form will be available May 10 on the ILEAD Evaluation: Evaluation Resources & Process on the CCS staff website. Scroll down to "District Forms" to access the document. Members who meet the criteria to file an appeal should submit the completed appeal form along with appropriate documentation to Teri Mullins at CEA by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

The Joint Evaluation Panel will meet to review appeal requests the week of June 1. If you have questions about filing an appeal, contact Teri Mullins at the CEA office at tmullins@ceaohio.org or (614) 253-4731.



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.ceaohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Grievance-260504-34.pdf>

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 had to 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 6	• Christine Cockley (D)
HD 3	• Ismail Mohamed (D)	HD 8	• Anita Somani (D)
HD 4	• Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (D)	HD 9	• Munira Abdullahi (D)
HD 5	• Meredith Lawson-Rowe (D)	HD 10	• Mark Sigrist (D)

Ohio Senate

SD 25 • **Bill DeMora (D)**

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 Public Education Matters Day!

In Ohio, public education matters, and the work you do matters every day.

We're coming together again to lift up the power and importance of our public schools and public school educators on Saturday, Sept. 26, for this year's Public Education Matters Day celebrations!

Ohio Education Association members are invited to join OEA for a fun day with their family and friends at:

- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Toledo Zoo

Each OEA member can get up to four free-admission tickets to the zoo of their choice.

In 2023, Ohio lawmakers declared Sept. 30 Public Education Matters Day in our state. We are excited to mark this important day together again this year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 26, and keep an eye out for more info from OEA as we get closer to this year's Public Education Matters Day events.

Registration is not required, but we will send information so that you can reserve your tickets in advance! Stay tuned for more details.

We can't wait to see you at one of Ohio's great zoos as we stand together for our students, our profession, and the future of public education!



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

As part of its 90th 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.

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 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**

If you have questions or want to pursue any of these opportunities, contact the Grants Office at 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.

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; and **Dawn Berenzweig**, Westgate 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.

There will be a **Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) general membership meeting** on **Thursday, May 21**, following the CEA Legislative Assembly to elect members to the TBS Board of Trustees.

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.



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!

REGISTER NOW!



Disability Rights & Inclusion



Special Education Symposium

- 1 \$100 attendance stipend
- 2 Lunch & CEUs provided
- 3 Collaborative learning



DON'T MISS OUT!

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 75!

<https://bit.ly/4cAcLNe>



AUGUST 4, 2026 ✨ **9:00 am - 3:30 pm**


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