ceaVOICE™

John Coneglio
President

www.ceaohio.org

Volume LVI, No. 12 | The Columbus Education Association | November 2, 2026

Columbus Teachers Endorse:

- **Governor/Lt. Governor:** . . Dr. Amy Acton (D)/David Pepper (D)
- **U.S. Senate:** . . . . . Sherrod Brown (D)
- **U.S. House 3:** . . . . . Joyce Beatty (D)
- **Attorney General:** . . . . . John Kulewicz (D)
- **Treasurer of State:** . . . . . Jay Edwards (R)
- **Secretary of State:** . . . . . Allison Russo (D)
- **Auditor of State:** . . . . . Annette Blackwell (D)
- **Associate Justice:** . . . . . Jennifer Brunner (D)
- **Associate Justice:** . . . . . Marilyn Zayas (D)

VOTE

Tuesday, Nov. 3

- **Ohio House District 1:** . . . . . Dontavius Jarrells (D)
- **Ohio House District 2:** . . . . . Charity Martin-King (D)
- **Ohio House District 3:** . . . . . Ismail Mohammed (D)
- **Ohio House District 4:** . . . . . Beryl Piccolantonio (D)
- **Ohio House District 5:** . . . . . Meredith Lawson-Rowe (D)
- **Ohio House District 6:** . . . . . Christine Cockley (D)
- **Ohio House District 8:** . . . . . Anita Somani (D)
- **Ohio House District 9:** . . . . . Munira Abdullahi (D)
- **Ohio House District 10:** . . . . . Mark Sigrist (D)
- **Ohio Senate District 3:** . . . . . Stacie Baker (D)
- **Ohio Senate District 15:** . . . . . Latyna Humphrey (D)
- **Ohio Senate District 25:** . . . . . Bill DeMora (D)

TBS
Teachers for Better Schools

- **Judge of the Court of Appeals 10th District:** . . . . . Terri Jamison (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Appeals 10th District:** . . . . . Michael C. Mentel (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (General Division):** . . . . . Carl Aveni (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (General Division):** . . . . . Andy Miller (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (General Division):** . . . . . David Young (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (General Division):** . . . . . Chris Brown (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Domestic Relations Division):** . . Kelley Gabrielle Boller (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Domestic Relations Division):** . . Lasheyl N. Stroud (D)
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (Probate):** . . . . . Chris Junga (R)
- **County Auditor:** . . . . . Michael Stinziano (D)

CEA Endorsed Issues:

#3 To require voters to present photo identification in order to vote: Oppose

#5 Bexley City School District Proposed Bond Issue & Income Tax: Support
Delaware Area Career Center Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal & Decrease): Support
Pickerington Local School District Proposed Income Tax Increase: Support

#6 South-Western City School District Proposed Bond Issue: Support

#7 Upper Arlington City School District Proposed Tax Levy & Bond Issue: Support

#8 Proposed Columbus Charter Amendment (By Petition): This proposed amendment would limit the ability to vote for candidates for Columbus City Council to only those electors living within the districts that those candidates seek to represent. (Our City Our Say)

#9 Proposed Columbus Charter Amendment (By Council) This proposed amendment would limit the ability to vote for candidates for Columbus City Council to only those electors living within the districts that those candidates seek to represent. The amendment adds two (2) at-large council representatives to be elected in 2027, and an additional two (2) at-large council representatives to be elected in 2029. All at-large council representatives will be elected for four (4) year terms. The amendment includes provisions for transitioning from the current nine (9) member Council to an eleven (11) member Council and then subsequently to a thirteen (13) member Council, allowing for the ongoing staggering of terms.

Grants for New Teachers

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Each year, Gamma Chapter, one of the local chapters in the central Ohio area, provides grants to new teachers to buy materials and supplies for their classrooms. These grants are given in the form of gift certificates to the recipients. Interested teachers should go to https://bit.ly/4Bszaqp. Grant applications are due by Jan. 5, 2027. Applicants will be notified by Jan. 17, 2027.



The CEA Master Agreement is set to expire in fewer than 657 days.

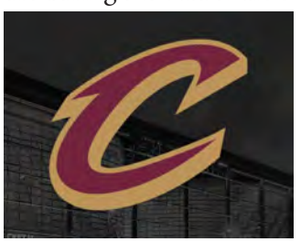
929 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43205 • (614) 253-4731 • Fax: (614) 253-0465

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/2026/10/Grievance-261102-12.pdf

Discounted Cleveland Cavaliers Tickets: CCS Night December 12!

The Cleveland Cavaliers are offering CCS staff discounted tickets to five upcoming home games, plus a special on-court experience during CCS Night on December 12 against the Golden State Warriors! The first 40 CCS staff members to purchase tickets for December 12's CCS Night will get to help hold the giant Cavaliers flag on the court during the National Anthem and receive a FREE CCS Homage T-shirt to wear during the experience.



CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

All discounted games include:

- **November 6 (vs. Philadelphia 76ers)**
- **December 12 (vs. Golden State Warriors) CCS Night!**
- **January 9 (vs. Denver Nuggets)**
- **February 6 (vs. Orlando Magic)**
- **March 25 (vs. LA Lakers)**

Cleveland Cavaliers: View All CCS Discounted Tickets at bit.ly/4zV0wni.

Special Fall CEA Election

The position of Governor for District 7 was won by acclamation by Mary Hoffman (Buckeye MS) to fulfill the unexpired term. Due to a vacancy on the CEA Board of Governors, there will be a Fall Special Election for one High School Governor At-Large. The following CEA members have submitted their declaration forms for the position:

CEA FALL ELECTIONS 2026

Clarence Daniels, Jr. (Mifflin HS)
Chris Monteiro (Northland HS)
Chris Weyand (Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS)

Campaigning is underway and ends Nov. 4, 2026. **Voting began Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026.** Ballots will be collected and tallied by the Election Committee on **Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026**. Call Brittany Pierce, CEA Election Co-Chair, at (440) 225-2631 or Christy Burchfield, CEA Election Co-Chair at (614) 886-2807 with any questions.

Consider Joining the OEA Jewish Affairs Caucus for 2026–2027

The purpose of the OEA Jewish Affairs Caucus is to:

- Inform OEA members of the unique issues which affect Jewish children and educators.
- Advocate for Jewish educators and students
- Combat antisemitism and bias in schools and workplaces
- Promote education and awareness of Jewish history and culture

The membership year is September 1–August 31 | $10 for current and retired OEA members. You do not need to be Jewish to join the Caucus. Go to: **bit.ly/47Jpeev** to join.

Had a Qualifying Life Event?

Outside of Annual Open Enrollment, there is only one other time that you can change your benefit elections: when a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) occurs. Approved QLE's are listed below.

If you experience one of these events, you will need to start a QLE in Employee Self Service by providing the date of the event as well as supporting documentation. Once the documentation is approved by the Benefits Team, you will be sent an email with instructions on how to elect your new benefits.

Go to bit.ly/4yCSaQh for instructions on completing a QLE. **IMPORTANT NOTE: QLE's must be submitted within 30 days of when the event occurred! Otherwise, you will have to wait until the next Annual Open Enrollment to change your elections.**

Reach out to the Benefits Team with any questions at (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Event	Description
Adoption or placement of child	If you have adopted or gained custody of a child, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the date of the adoption/custody paperwork. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact 614-365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.
Beneficiary update	This life event allows you to update the beneficiary on your Board Sponsored life insurance policy. The beneficiary designated on your board paid policy will also apply to your supplemental policy. If you have a Term Life policy with Allstate, you will need to contact iBTR at (614) 401-5172 to update your beneficiary information for that policy.
Birth of child or children	If you have recently had a baby, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the date of birth on the birth certificate. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.
Death of dependent	If your covered dependent has passed away, please use this life event. The date of the event should be the official date of death.
Divorce	If you have divorced from your spouse, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the date of the divorce documents. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Loss or gain of coverage	If you or your dependent has lost or gained other benefits coverage, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the first date you lost or gained other coverage. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.
Marriage	If you have recently married, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the date of the marriage license. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.
Legal separation	If you have legally separated from your spouse, please use this life event. The date of the event should match the date of the separation documents. You have 30 days from the date of the life event to complete the entire enrollment process. For questions contact (614) 365-6475 or benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Spring 2027 Fee Waivers

The application period runs from **Oct. 26–Nov. 12, 2026**, **closing 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** 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 **bit.ly/4y2IOgd** 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 if you need assistance.

Class Size Matters

The CCS administration has to make a concerted effort to complete initial class size adjustments within the first 19 student attendance days of the school year. Oct. 1 was the deadline to reorganize classrooms that exceed the class size guidelines prescribed in Article 301 of our *Master Agreement*.

Here are the size limits:

- K–5: No more than 27 students each
- EL classrooms: K–5 No more than 15 students per EL class time; 6–12 maximum of 100 EL students
- Middle school: No more than 33 students per class and 150 students per day.
- High school: No more than 34 students per class and 150 students per day.
- High school or middle school non-academic classes (computer, physical education and music) must not exceed the number of pupil stations. For instance, assigning 35 students to a computer class with 30 computers would be a violation of the contract.

If at any time class sizes exceed contractual limits, a reorganization must take place. If you have any questions about class size, call the CEA Office at (614) 253-4731.

Know Your Contract: Extended Time Pay Process Now Digital

In August of 2025, CEA members voted to ratify the *2025–2028 CEA Master Agreement* with a number of new provisions. One of them was the District's intent to roll out a fully digitized process for CEA members to submit and track payments for extended time for the 2026–2027 school year. Your Union is pleased to announce that beginning October 1, the District will officially transition to this system.

The extended time form has officially transitioned to a fully digital workflow in SCView.

Link **https://auth.myscview.com/Identity/Account/Login**

This solution eliminates paper forms, simplifies submissions, and allows CEA members to follow the form through the various approval processes.

Go to: **https://www.ceaohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/SOP-Extended-Time-Employee-3.pdf** to access the Standard Operating Procedure Instructions for SCView.

To view a video of how to use SCView, go to **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8joLe2-jXc**.

If you have any questions or need assistance submitting a form, please reach out by emailing scview@columbus.k12.oh.us

Special Notes

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 has been approved for Catastrophic Leave and are in need of donated days: **Dawn Berenzweig, Displaced; Jennifer Burley, Displaced; Buffy Burroughs, Avondale ES; Colleen Biederman, Displaced; and Jennifer Davis, Beatty Park 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.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING AN ORGAN DONATION! A transplant is 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**.

If you know someone new to your building or unit, approach the person and ask them to become a member of CEA. We have made joining CEA simple. **Step 1:** Click "JOIN" on the homepage at **www.ceaohio.org**; **Step 2:** Download the CEA Membership Form to your device and complete it. (It is a fillable pdf for your convenience); **Step 3:** Email the completed form to **membership@ceaohio.org**. Call CEA at (614) 253-4731 with questions.

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**.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

REGISTER TODAY:
https://www.ohea.org/one-beyond-the-classroom/



The Power of Parent & Teacher Partnerships in Social & Education Justice

November 12, *6:00–7:30 PM*

Presenters: **Izetta Thomas**, *Columbus Education Association (CEA), Columbus Education Justice Coalition; Lead Organizer*

Marielle Henault, *Columbus City Schools; Parent, Columbus Education Justice Coalition; Organizer*

Public education is under attack at the federal, state, and many local levels. How do you fight back when you're getting hit from all sides? What can one teacher possibly do? The answer is clear: one educator can't successfully win every fight. Neither can 50. But together, with parents and community members, we can all strategically organize to FIGHT and WIN together!
Join Izetta Thomas of the Columbus Education Association, along with Columbus City Schools parent and organizer Marielle Henault, to learn more about the Columbus Education Justice Coalition. Learn about their strategic fight for community schools, shared decision-making between educators, parents, and district leaders, and their fight against school closings - all led by parents, educators, and community members across Columbus.

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Daria DeNoia
Education Policy and Practice Consultant

Your Rights and Responsibilities Related to Special Education in Ohio

November 5, *6:00–7:00 PM*

The national and state special education landscape is unpredictable, causing confusion and uncertainty for Ohio's educators, families, and school districts. This session will include current federal IDEA expectations; Ohio's current special education policies and goals; IDEA discipline including restraint, seclusion and removal; recent changes to Ohio's specially designed instruction rule and how educators will be impacted; resources and supports that are available for the special education community; and how you can advocate for yourself and your students when working with students who have special needs.

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