

Teachers texting students....

This year there has been a slew of controversial incidents involving teachers texting students. Meanwhile, school districts and lawmakers around the country have been developing or revising policies on electronic communication and social media interaction between teachers and students. And with no shortage of scandals, many are erring on the side of caution by crafting stricter regulations

Mike Simpson, a general counsel for the National Education Association, said he encourages members of his organization to find a middle ground: communicate only about professional matters and use tools that can be tracked by the schools.

"We encourage users not to use personal cell phones or laptops and to go though the school servers," said Simpson, whose association is the nation's largest teachers' union. "Knowing that there is an administrator looking over your shoulder is going to make a teacher think twice about saying something, even in a joking manner."

Source: Teachers Texting Students: Should Schools Ban Or Encourage?

BOND/PI ISSUE

- ◆ The bond/PI issue is the same as it was in August. A new high school building built by the OSFC and renovation of the current high school and middle school.
 - ◆ Per \$100,000 home value, the home owner **under 65** will pay \$15.29 per month, \$183.44 annually.
 - ◆ Per \$100,000 home value, the home owner **over 65** will pay \$11.47 per month, \$137.58 annually.
- * Upon successful passage in February, we can start the renovations immediately and have optimal conditions like Spring and Summer weather to get a lot accomplished. Starting the renovations immediately will also help to reduce interruptions to students and staff. It is possible that we could get a majority of the renovations completed before the next school year starts.

CYBER-LOBBYING- CONTACTING LEGISLATORS THROUGH EMAIL OF OTHER INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

The OEA and its allies will have to continue to fight efforts by Governor Kasich and legislative majorities that seek to cut additional funding for public education. Efforts to increase the number of unaccountable charter schools and expand private school vouchers statewide will not stop. With the repeal of the Evidence-based School Funding Model, the future of Ohio's school funding system is unknown as we await a different proposal from Governor Kasich and legislative leaders. As always, OEA will fight to protect collective bargaining and attempts to privatize public school services.

<http://ohea.convio.net/site/PageServer>



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You'll find helpful information, links, and updates on our district as well as advice, our contract, past newsletters, upcoming events, and teacher resources.



<http://neoea.org/>

[Fund for Children and Public Education- FCPE](#)

OEA's Fund for Children and Public Education is designed to help protect children by advancing the cause of public education in Ohio. In addition to supporting a wide range of activities that strengthen public education and help students, it also works to bolster member rights and benefits.

Public education employees have a personal stake in the outcome of decisions made by public officials. Salary, retirement protection, working conditions, and even work hours are determined by elected or appointed officials.

Political involvement separates the players from the non-players. Donate and make your voice heard!

Go to~ <http://www.ohea.org> ~then click on **Donate to the FCPE** on the left.

IMPORTANT CEA NEWS

APPLY FOR A GRANT OF \$1000 OR MORE* FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL'S ATHLETICS PROGRAM



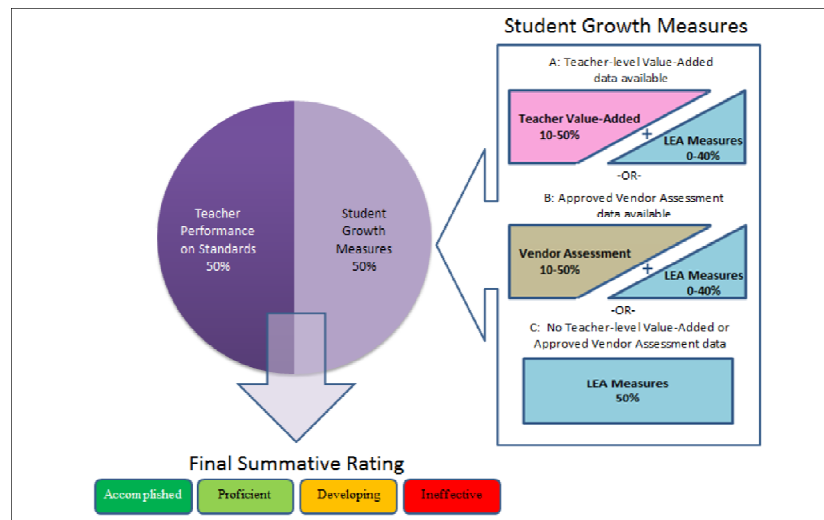
The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public high school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets. As an employee of the school and a member of the National Education Association (NEA), you can apply for a grant award for your school's sports program. To learn more or to apply for a grant offered by California Casualty, visit CalCasAthleticsGrant.com. Applications will be accepted through January 15, 2013. Award recipients will be announced in April 2013.

Not a trained artist? That's ok because all members are invited to submit original works of art whether it be photography, computer design, illustration, painting and any other type of art you can think of for potential use on the 2013-2014 OEA membership promotion materials. This year's theme is "Together, we can make a difference." Simply create and enter by **January 31, 2013.**

New Teacher Evaluations— SB316

We all know it's coming, and there are still several pieces that need to be put in place, but here are some basic facts about the new teacher evaluation process. [There are many great resources on our CEA website that explains the process..](#)

- ◆ *Multiple* measures for student growth and teacher performance
- ◆ Requires at least two formal 30 minute observations and classroom walkthroughs
- ◆ Identification of measures of student growth
- ◆ Written report of the results of the evaluation
- ◆ Credentialed evaluators
- ◆ Professional development to accelerate and continue teacher growth and provide support to poorly performing teachers



Fall Representative Assembly Notes

On November 17– Joanne, Renee and Kim traveled to Elyria High School to attend the Fall RA for NEOEA.

There was much discussion over upcoming legislation from Governor Kasich. There are plans for a right to work bill, a school voucher system, and the overall privatization of public schools. Despite plans Kasich has regarding public schools, he has no plans to address the issue of school funding.

Many of the leaders within OEA and NEOEA expressed frustration over the overall demoralization of our teaching profession. The frustration from teachers that students are being seen more as “test scores” instead of students. Many of the speeches encouraged teachers to get active politically and remain the voice of our students. We are in the classroom and we are experiencing the changing of education first hand. We need to speak up and let our concerns be heard!

In May 2013, representatives at the Spring RA in Columbus will elect a new President of OEA. Patricia Frost-Brooks’ term ends and her position will be filled with one of the following candidates. Current OEA Vice-President William

Leibensperger will run against Becky Higgins (Copley Schools) from NEOEA.



Can you attend a school board meeting and take notes? If so let Joanne know! We could really use the help...

Connect With NEA
Through Social Media
 NEA Today
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Please consider attending the Bond/PI Meetings. They are held Mondays at 6:00 in the Middle School Media Center.

There are many CEA committees that could use your help! Please consider helping on any of the following committees:

- Elections
- Human Relations
- Professional Development
- Grants
- Communications
- Legislative
- Budget
- Audit

Teachers and Social Media

First, let's debunk the free speech myth: Many teachers believe they have the absolute First Amendment right to post anything they want on social networking sites, including party pix and diatribes about the boss. After all, they're on their own time and using their own resources.

Sadly, the courts say otherwise.

Thanks to Facebook and MySpace, what used to be private is now very public. And that's the problem, particularly for young teachers: Some seem oblivious to the devastating consequences of posting really stupid things in cyberspace. Newspapers across the country have begun trolling social networking sites for embarrassing and titillating postings by local teachers.

Without going into the gory details, teacher free speech rights are fairly limited: their speech is protected only if they speak out as citizens on "matters of public concern" and their speech doesn't disrupt the school.

To date, there have been only three court cases involving teachers who claimed that their First Amendment rights were violated by being punished because of their postings on social networking sites. The teachers lost every case.

So, how would you fare in that situation? If you're not sure, show your Facebook page to your mom. If she's got any concerns or problems, then so do you.

Source: NEA Social Networking Nightmares

UNION CODE OF CONDUCT

I will not criticize any Union colleague except to the individual directly

If any Union colleague is being criticized in my presence, I will confront the criticism and ask that it stop.

I will not participate in any conversations with management that criticize, or negatively speculate about, any Union colleague.

I will settle my differences with colleagues within my Union.

I will engage in debate, offer others every opportunity for debate and respect minority viewpoints, but I will observe and support the majority mandate of my Union.