

NOVEMBER 2014

Dear CEA,

When I reflect over the last few weeks, my heart is heavy when thinking of the tragedies our community has faced. I also felt a sense of pride watching the community come together to help the Smart and Rhoten families. Along with the heartache of losing children and several parents in the community, we also have faced the defeat of a renewal levy. The loss of funding is equivalent to ten percent of the budget being cut. We don't know at this time what those cuts will entail. The levy expires in May, so it will be imperative that it passes this spring. Not only have we been effected with personal loss and funding, we also received a blow when our pro-education candidates did not get elected. Now on the federal and state level we have to continue to fight for the well being of children and public education. I found it shocking that when looking at the poll results, the number of voter turn out was at the lowest since in the early 40's.

Unfortunately in this election, citizens didn't see the importance of voting and the consequences of not taking action. As educators we need to keep up the fight for public education. We know we have leaders in Ohio and at the federal level who don't believe in public education and continue to privatize it with taking money from public schools and handing it over to charter schools. I want to challenge you to take action! We must become politically involved if we want to guarantee a positive future for our children and ensure stability in our own careers.

Renee Burkhart
CEA President

OEA WELCOMES THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO DELAY THE USE OF HIGH-STAKES DECISIONS BASED ON STUDENT TEST SCORES

COLUMBUS — October 21, 2014 — The Ohio Education Association (OEA) today applauded the introduction of House Bill 642 by Representative Teresa Fedor, D-Toledo. The bill calls for a 3-year suspension of high-stakes decisions based on student test scores in measuring student growth and evaluating teacher performance.

"As Senator Peggy Lehner, the chair of the Senate Education Committee, has noted – 'we are over-testing our kids'," said OEA President Becky Higgins. "We urge state lawmakers to hit the pause button and determine which tests are actually needed and which are also appropriate for the grade level at which they're being administered."

OEA believes that with the use of the new Common Core standards in Ohio schools and the prospect of even more tests being conducted, it is important to take more time to make sure the implementation of these standards goes well.

"We've seen what has happened in other states where the hasty implementation of Common Core and the related testing has led to a backlash among parents, students and educators," continued OEA President Higgins. "We support Ohio's New Learning Standards, but we want to make sure Ohio gets it right. That's why we think taking the time to 'test the tests' would be a prudent course to follow."

Last spring, OEA members voted unanimously at their Representative Assembly to support the 3-year delay in the use of high-stakes decisions based on student test results. OEA is pleased that 18 co-sponsors have already signed on in support of Representative Fedor's bill.

"We recognize the need for a comprehensive assessment of student growth. But student assessments should not be overly-dependent on the results of standardized tests," said Higgins. "Students are spending too much time preparing for and taking tests. There needs to be a more balanced approach to identifying the strengths and needs of students."

Our Website-

[http://
coventryea.ohea.us](http://coventryea.ohea.us)

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at our CEA table at Track-or-Treat. Our involvement in that event will allow us to purchase a CEA banner from a NEOEA grant!

Look for our pictures in the Suburbanite!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to FCPE! We had the most from CEA that we've ever had. There will be another drive this spring to get more members to do payroll deduction. See a building rep if you are interested in making a donation now.

This is just a reminder because there still seems to be some confusion on evaluations this year.

If you **SKILLED** or **ACCOMPLISHED** rating on **PERFORMANCE** last year, you do **NOT** have to go through the entire OTES cycle this year.

However, you do have to have an **unofficial observation**.

The observation is:

- Unannounced
- There is **no** 10-day window
- You have **one** opportunity to waive the observation

There will be a post-conference but nothing is reported to ODE and nothing goes in your file. You will only be asked to sign off that the observation happened.

OTES Update

Recap:

¶ At the beginning of the year, the District Evaluation Committee met to discuss and review the state's recent changes to the OTES process. At that time, we worked through many details and discussed the impact that OTES was having on our students, educators, and the district overall. There is no doubt that the OTES model has brought about a lot of change - some good and some, maybe not-so-good. The goal has always been to utilize OTES to improve teaching and learning throughout the district in productive ways. By reflecting upon and changing those areas that were bringing the most frustration and concerns, I believe we have developed a more meaningful and united program. The attached document reviews the changes that have been made to our district's OTES model for this school year. Some of the highlights include:

- o Shared Attribution for eligible educators
- o Elimination of the SLO requirements
- o Retirement and Leave option

SLOs:

¶ Even after the update meetings, there still remains a few questions concerning SLOs and what is required for this school year. Please allow me to reiterate the information - **we are no longer participating in the SLO process**. Therefore, if you are a SLO teacher - you **do not** need to turn in the SLO application; you **do not** need to administer a pre-test and/or post-test to your students; and you **do not** need to measure ongoing student growth in your classrooms *for the purpose of your evaluation*. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about SLOs.

PD360 - Edivation:

¶ Last year, PD360 was the program we used to manage the documents associated with the OTES process. We will continue to use the program this year. **HOWEVER** - the name has changed. PD360 is now called "Edivation". If you have forgotten how to access the program, here is some information that may help:

1. Edivation (PD360) website = <https://www.pd360.com/index.html#login>
2. Username - your school email address
3. Password - If you have forgotten your password, click on the "Forgot Password?" link, located under the log-in button

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD ABUSE TRAINING

Remember that this year's required in-service day (iPD) will be completed on an independent basis. This means that each of us is required to complete 6 hours of in-service training on our own time. The iPD program approach will provide our district's educators with the chance to participate in opportunities that specifically meet each individual's needs.

It just so happens that this year - is the year, the majority of us must retake 4 hours of Child Abuse Training. So, right off the bat - 4 of the 6 required hours are already planned for you.

On our CEA website, you will find the information that Lisa sent us at the beginning of the year concerning our PD requirements and the information on how to do the online child abuse training.