



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Patricia Frost-Brooks, President
William Leibensperger, Vice President
Tim Myers, Secretary-Treasurer
Larry E. Wicks, Executive Director

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

January 30, 2013

Governor John Kasich
77 S. High St., 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am writing to express my disappointment that you are developing a new school funding formula, a state education budget and a set of education reforms in a process that has included only the select few while excluding groups like the Ohio Education Association, which represents more than 121,000 educators, faculty members and education support professionals.

Our organization and other education organizations in the state have respected experts on school funding and education reform. There is a danger in listening only to outside consultants and organizations whose agenda is to downplay the importance of adequate school funding, highly-qualified teachers and real student engagement in classrooms.

Policy makers outside the classroom generally do not understand the realities of teaching and learning. They should listen to educators and include our perspective on how to support our students. If they do not discuss policies with practitioners, they will create policies that serve to undermine high-quality teaching and learning.

In the past, the policy processes that exclude key stakeholders have resulted in extreme cuts to Ohio's public schools, the diversion of public school funding to for-profit charter schools, online schools and voucher-supported private schools. The budget cuts in the current biennium have narrowed curriculum choices for students, increased class sizes and shifted school funding burdens from the state to local districts.

Ultimately, we are all accountable – teachers, parents and elected officials – for keeping our promises to students and for providing adequate support for their success. As you move forward on this budget and accompanying reforms, it is critical that you include robust and wide-ranging discussions with all education stakeholders.

With dedication and commitment,

Patricia Frost-Brooks
President

