

Ohio Education Association

2021-2022
Legislative Policies
for Achieving
Excellence in Education

As adopted at the December 2021 OEA Representative Assembly

OEA Legislative Committee

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Krista McCoy, Barberton E.A.	

Karen Linch, Wooster E.A.
Board of Directors Liaison

Michael Farren, Barberton E.A.
Alternate Board of Directors Liaison

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INTRODUCTION

The Ohio Education Association is committed to a true partnership among federal, state and local governments in the delivery of public educational services in this nation. The Association seeks provision of financial resources to assure maintenance and operation of Ohio's schools, to provide equal educational opportunity for all students, to provide a safe and secure environment conducive for all students to learn, and to enhance the level of excellence in public education.

The Association is deeply committed to the success of every student. Our mission is clear: OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve. The advocacy of the Association is driven by our core values:

Democracy: The foundation of a strong democracy is high quality public education, which is essential for an educated citizenry.

Collective Action: When we unite as one voice, we are strong advocates for learners and our profession.

Fairness: A high quality education, accessible to all, promotes a fair and just society.

Inclusion: We respect and embrace the diversity of all communities.

Integrity: By holding ourselves to the highest standards, we promote good citizenship and maintain the public trust.

Professionalism: Professional judgement and expertise of educators are critical to student success. Educators deserve the status, compensation and respect due all professionals.

The OEA supports legislation consistent with these principles and opposes legislation detrimental to its interests. Because the Association recognizes that change is often effected incrementally in a democracy and that immediate passage of the Association's full legislative agenda is not always feasible, individuals lobbying on behalf of the OEA are directed to advocate and support those bills introduced in the state legislature that move toward the implementation of the Association's legislative agenda.

The Legislative Policies for Achieving Excellence in Education have been grouped in the following manner:

Section 1: *Ensuring the foundation of a high-quality system of public education*

Section 2: *Supporting student success in and out of the classroom*

Section 3: *Protecting the voice and wellbeing of education professionals*

Section 4: *Advocating for good public policy*

On federal issues, the Ohio Education Association supports the Legislative Program of the National Education Association as adopted annually by the NEA Representative Assembly.

52 **Section 1: Ensuring the foundation of a high-quality system of public education**

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54 **A. An equitable and adequate system of education funding**

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56 *OEA Supports:*

- 57 • a school funding system that includes a sound method for calculating the base cost of an
- 58 adequate education for all children and a distribution formula that is fair to all school
- 59 districts. The school funding system must cover the costs, including state and federal
- 60 mandates, associated with educating all categories of students and ensuring that all
- 61 students attend school in safe, healthy environments and in facilities that are
- 62 structurally sound and technologically ready. Ohio has a constitutional responsibility to
- 63 fund a thorough and efficient system of public education;
- 64 • the creation of a state commission to monitor school funding in Ohio and ensure that
- 65 adequate resources are in place to support high-quality teaching and learning;
- 66 • the development of an objective method for determining an adequate formula amount
- 67 that is tied to the actual costs of students’ instructional needs;
- 68 • a formula that decreases the reliance on local property taxes while providing
- 69 opportunity for inflationary growth in local school district revenues;
- 70 • the enactment of a separate education budget enacted prior to the remainder of the
- 71 state budget;
- 72 • a school funding system that will distribute state funds with fairness and equity for all
- 73 districts and students, allowing for self-determination through local control and
- 74 ensuring that local districts retain the ability to supplement the state educational
- 75 program without losing state aid;
- 76 • a system that provides replacement revenues to school districts due to major changes in
- 77 the state tax law such as the loss of tangible personal property tax revenues;
- 78 • adequate funding to the Ohio Department of Education to effectively develop,
- 79 implement and evaluate legislatively-mandated education policies;
- 80 • providing adequate state funding for County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, joint
- 81 vocational schools, Educational Service Centers and Ohio’s Schools for the Deaf and
- 82 Blind;
- 83 • dedicated state funding for all school districts to employ an adequate number of school
- 84 counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers;
- 85 • the creation of elementary specialists as a new category for elementary art, music,
- 86 physical education, and technology educators;
- 87 • additional state funding to meet the requirements by each school district for excess
- 88 program costs;
- 89 • the principle that all school audits should be paid for by the state;
- 90 • promoting equitable state funding for all public school students regardless of
- 91 background;
- 92 • necessary state funding to cover all net costs of the College Credit Plus program to
- 93 ensure equitable access for eligible secondary students.

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95 *OEA Opposes:*

- 96 • basing school funding on test scores or report card data;
- 97 • the use of taxpayer money for private school vouchers and tuition tax credits.

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100 **B. Public dollars for public schools**

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102 i. Vouchers

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104 *OEA Supports:*

- 105 • a thorough and independent evaluation on the academic and fiscal
- 106 effectiveness of existing voucher programs;
- 107 • a moratorium on the expansion of current voucher programs or the creation of
- 108 new ones.

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110 *OEA Opposes:*

- 111 • voucher plans and tuition tax credits to parents/guardians under which private
- 112 school tuition is financed by public funds.

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114 ii. Charter Schools (known in Ohio law as “community schools”)

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116 *OEA Supports:*

- 117 • accountability measures that accelerate the process for closing failing charter
- 118 schools;
- 119 • fiscal accountability measures that require any public moneys returned to the
- 120 state by a charter school, as a result of an audit by the Auditor of State, the Ohio
- 121 Department of Education, or any other authorized agency, to be distributed back
- 122 to school districts;
- 123 • verification of charter school per-pupil funding claims/enrollment counts by
- 124 allowing ODE to know the identity of the student associated with each Statewide
- 125 Student Identifier (SSID) number in the Education Management Information
- 126 System;
- 127 • ensuring that charter schools, including governing boards, sponsors and
- 128 operators, are subject to the same public records laws and financial
- 129 transparency standards as any other public entity;
- 130 • a system of funding charter schools in a way that doesn't penalize traditional
- 131 public schools, e.g. direct state funding instead of "pass through" funding;
- 132 • requiring charter schools to meet the following criteria:
 - 133 – have open admission policies;
 - 134 – be tuition-free;
 - 135 – be nonsectarian in their programs, admission policies, affiliations,
 - 136 employment practices, and all other operations;
 - 137 – be fiscally accountable and subject to the same federal and state audit
 - 138 requirements as other public elementary and secondary schools in the
 - 139 state;
 - 140 – have clear objectives, missions, and goals for which they are periodically
 - 141 assessed and held accountable to the public;
 - 142 – directly involve school employees in their program design, implementation,
 - 143 and governance;
 - 144 – meet the needs of students identified as being at risk and those requiring
 - 145 special education services;
 - 146 – have adequate start-up resources and funding mechanisms that do not
 - 147 harm traditional public school districts or schools within districts;

- 148 – meet equivalent safety and health standards as required for existing public
149 schools;
- 150 – comply with all federal, state, and local laws and policies regarding due
151 process, nondiscrimination, and equal educational opportunity;
- 152 – have an education force that is subject to the same educator licensure,
153 evaluation and “highly qualified” statutes/regulations as educators in
154 traditional public schools;
- 155 – operate on the basis of voluntary participation by students, faculty, and
156 staff;
- 157 – ensure the same or equivalent collective bargaining rights provided other
158 public school employees under state law;
- 159 – comply with the regular, periodic assessment and evaluation of student
160 academic achievement, including state mandated assessments; and
- 161 – use the transportation system of the public school district in which they are
162 located, unless the district agrees otherwise in conjunction with any
163 impacted employee unions;
- 164 • providing high-quality educational services to all preschool, elementary and
165 secondary students in Ohio;
 - 166 • restricting public funding for a non-public school or charter school to a level
167 that does not exceed corresponding funding for those services to the residing
168 school district;
 - 169 • requiring all non-public schools and charter schools receiving assistance from
170 public funds to meet the same accountability and transparency standards as
171 school districts;
 - 172 • retention of ownership by the public of all educational materials, equipment
173 and facilities that are purchased with public funds by a non-public school or
174 charter school;
 - 175 • requiring any non-public school that receives assistance from public funds to be
176 fully audited by the Auditor of State's office on the same basis as public school
177 districts and charter schools;
 - 178 • requiring that any non-public school or charter school receiving assistance from
179 public funds to have a fully open admission policy that only utilizes the legal
180 authorities for non-admittance, suspension and expulsion of students as is
181 allowable under law for school districts;
 - 182 • removing the Big 8 urban school districts from the permanent definition of
183 “challenged” school district, which permanently authorizes new “start-up”
184 charter schools in these districts regardless of their academic ranking;
 - 185 • requiring the Ohio Department of Education and Auditor of State to conduct on-
186 site evaluations/audits for all charter schools at least every three years to
187 confirm that sponsors and operators are in compliance with all required
188 assurances/charter terms and state accountability and transparency laws, with a
189 follow-up report highlighting any deficiencies and recommendations for
190 improving or closing the school;
 - 191 • requiring that a majority of the schools associated with a sponsor or operator
192 must be performing at a level of “C” or better before they are authorized to
193 sponsor or operate additional schools;
 - 194 • formation of a work group with representatives from all public education
195 stakeholder groups for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive analysis of

- 196 the overall operation and performance of charter schools and reporting its
197 findings and making legislative recommendations to the General Assembly;
198 • full legal access to all files retained by national charter school sponsors and
199 operators;
200 • including the performance of charter school sponsors and operators by the Ohio
201 Department of Education in its the annual report on charter schools;
202 • high-quality academic and financial reporting requirements for charter school
203 governing boards, sponsors and operators, with enforcement mechanisms for
204 failure to comply;
205 • enforcement mechanisms that hold charter schools accountable when they fail
206 to test students as required by law;
207 • requiring that any unreported report card data by a charter school be logged as
208 a zero until the required data is provided;
209 • enforcement mechanisms for charter schools that fail to timely provide a school
210 district the academic data of a student transferring from a charter school to a
211 district school;
212 • the creation of conversion charter schools where educators are members of a
213 bargaining unit and, thus, retain the salary, benefits and due process rights of
214 educators in the sponsoring school district;
215 • limiting sponsorship of charter schools to democratically elected local school
216 boards;
217 • legislation to require an independent objective analysis prior to the
218 authorization of a charter school to determine the impact of the charter on local
219 public school resources, programs, and services, to be paid for by the entity that
220 wishes to open the charter school;
221 • spending limits on charter school advertising based on a set percentage of
222 public funds received by a charter school, with annual public reporting of such
223 expenditures.

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225 *OEA Opposes:*

- 226 • providing state or local funding assistance to private corporations and/or
227 individuals for the establishment and operation of charter schools for profit;
228 • exempting "drop-out prevention" charter schools from the charter school
229 closure law;
230 • allowing students to transfer from a traditional public school building to a lower
231 ranked charter school building, while allowing for reasonable exceptions;
232 • providing charter schools the first option to purchase school district property
233 suitable for classroom space that is offered for sale;
234 • fully virtual or online charter schools unless necessary to meet unique needs of
235 students;
236 • lower accountability standards for "drop-out prevention and recovery" charter
237 schools and the sponsors of these schools.
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C. A reliable revenue stream to support public education

OEA Supports:

- a tax system that is fair, equitable and capable of generating sufficient resources to adequately fund state programs and produce a strong state economy;
- a system of inside millage that allows for local revenue growth beyond the growth due to new construction;
- state provided replacement revenue for school districts due to major changes in the state tax law such as the loss of tangible personal property tax revenues;
- the repeal of state legislation which imposes unfunded mandates and set asides on local districts, provides unfair tax loopholes or giveaways, and shelters corporations and high income individuals from paying taxes;
- retaining the option of a local income tax for school district operations;
- due diligence by the Ohio General Assembly in making tax changes including a fiscal analysis of the impact of any change once the elimination of a tax is complete.

OEA Opposes:

- any tax change that will detrimentally impact Ohio’s public schools, colleges or universities, and county boards of developmental disabilities;
- the Ohio General Assembly enacting tax changes that could hinder the ability of local entities to pass local levies;
- allowing local tax changes that are a result of an agreement between local government and school district officials or without an impact study where the districts had a major role in the decision-making process.

D. Modern infrastructure that meets the needs of students

i. School facilities

OEA Supports:

- state funding for capital improvements of school facilities that is separate from funds for operating schools;
- the requirement that prevailing wages be paid on new and remodeling construction projects of primary, secondary, and higher education facilities, financed in whole or in part through state funds;
- the prioritization of funding assistance from the Ohio School Facilities Commission to begin with those districts ranked lowest in terms of adjusted valuation per pupil or districts that meet the requirements of an accelerated funding program.

ii. Transportation

OEA Supports:

- authorizing district use of Board owned, or leased, and inspected by State Highway Patrol nine-(9) passenger school buses to transport students to and from school-related activities.

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E. Democratic school governance

OEA Supports:

- school governance by locally elected school boards responsible for providing an educational program designed to meet the needs of all students in the district;
- requiring treasurers of boards of education to forward all monies withheld from employee paychecks for optional deductions such as professional dues, tax shelter annuities, credit unions, and all other deductions, for all designated agencies within ten working days of the original deduction;
- a viable procedure for recalling school board members;
- declaring elections for school boards by seat, either at large or by district subdivision;
- requiring that all members of a Joint Vocational School (JVS) board of education be elected by the voters of the JVS district or by the voters' school districts or counties which comprise the JVS districts;
- requiring school districts to provide all students with materials necessary to implement the curriculum;
- the annexation of school districts or parts of school districts by other districts only if such annexation is mutually agreeable to all districts involved;
- a process that includes a comprehensive assessment that includes community representation and employee associations before deciding to decentralize, consolidate or reapportion to ensure that the action will be financially and educationally viable;
- a process to protect the rights of students and employees if it becomes necessary for a school district to be decentralized, consolidated, or reapportioned. This includes:
 - ensuring that the action will not be used to segregate students on the basis of social, ethnic, racial, economic, political, religious, family or geographic differences in affected districts;
 - ensuring that employees' rights and benefits are no less favorable than any in effect prior to reorganization; and
 - protecting the due-process rights of employees;
- requiring the State Department of Education and State Board of Education to exercise its right to review school district boundaries wherever municipal annexation includes territory in a school district other than that of the municipality;
- requiring the State Department of Education to protect the education effectiveness of both districts when a transfer of territory is necessary;
- the principle that all affected bargaining units will be included in the process and existing bargaining agreements will be respected when a transfer of territory or consolidation of school districts is considered.

OEA Opposes:

- the takeover of school district/building governance by any entity, including the state or a mayor.

F. Investment in higher education

OEA Supports:

- a higher education funding system that is focused on undergraduate education and provides annual increases to ease parent/guardian and student costs of tuition and fees;

- 340 • the right of each student to attend a program of higher education beyond the twelfth
- 341 grade;
- 342 • increased state basic funding to all colleges or universities;
- 343 • adequate state funding of professional development programs for all college/university
- 344 personnel;
- 345 • a standard accounting and reporting system by higher education institutions in reports
- 346 to the higher education institutions in reports to the higher education governing
- 347 authority;
- 348 • declaring all records, except those of students and personnel as provided by the state
- 349 statutes on privacy and personnel records, of the Ohio Board of Regents and all state
- 350 colleges and universities to be public record and available to the public;
- 351 • shortening the term of trustees of institutions of higher education to a term not to
- 352 exceed five years;
- 353 • requiring full and complete financial disclosure of all trustees as currently required of
- 354 most other public officials;
- 355 • providing statutory restrictions which would prohibit trustees from voting or exercising
- 356 influence in potential conflict of interest situations and requiring, as a part of the record,
- 357 the existence of any such potential conflict;
- 358 • providing procedures which would emphasize the need for trustees with qualifications
- 359 requisite of the duties of the office (while deemphasizing partisanship of the
- 360 appointment procedure) and who reflect social, economic, racial and gender balance;
- 361 • establishing procedures to recall members of boards of trustees of state colleges and
- 362 universities;
- 363 • the promotion of articulation agreements between secondary and post- secondary
- 364 institutions (as well as between different post-secondary institutions) when the content
- 365 of those agreements has been determined by educators from both sectors;
- 366 • the right of adjunct, limited service and part-time higher education faculty to bargain
- 367 wages, hours and working conditions;
- 368 • the expansion of the Ohio Transfer Module to include the course offerings of all colleges
- 369 or universities in Ohio;
- 370 • the establishment of a state fund for reducing student debt on a means tested basis;
- 371 • the principle that faculty evaluation should be left to each individual college or
- 372 university;
- 373 • the growing online availability of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and would
- 374 support awarding of a limited number of credit hours for the satisfactory completion of
- 375 MOOCs if there is prior consultation with faculty and the student pays the regular
- 376 tuition rate for the credit hours earned;
- 377 • an increase in Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) funding including the
- 378 requirement that the Pell/EFC grant is applied first toward the cost of attendance
- 379 (tuition, general fees, books and transportation) before applying OCOG;
- 380 • the concept of providing state need-based block grants to private, non-profit (but not
- 381 for-profit) institutions for use in awarding aid to need-based students;
- 382 • increased funding for future educator scholarships and grants.

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385 **G. *Serving children and adults with developmental disabilities***

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387 *OEA Supports:*

- 388 • an individual’s right to freely choose his or her service provider;
- 389 • access to a broad choice of providers and programs, including quality services provided
- 390 by County Boards and sheltered workshop employment;
- 391 • all elected governing boards of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities;
- 392 • requiring any appointments for governing boards of educational programs, including
- 393 governing boards for DD programs, to be announced to the general public and allow for
- 394 public comment;
- 395 • a standard accounting and reporting system by County Boards of DD in reports to local
- 396 and state officials.

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399 **Section 2: Supporting student success in and out of the classroom**

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401 **A. A well-rounded curriculum**

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403 *OEA Supports:*

- 404 • academic standards that provide high-quality education for all students regardless of
- 405 background statewide;
- 406 • a robust and meaningful curriculum that encourages critical thinking, inspires curiosity
- 407 and challenges every student to learn and grow;
- 408 • a curriculum that includes instruction in art, music, physical education, health, career-
- 409 technology education, vocational education, family and consumer sciences, and
- 410 foreign/world/classical languages;
- 411 • requiring special subjects to be taught by educators who are certified/licensed in the
- 412 respective subject;
- 413 • guaranteeing access to music, art and physical education for students with disabilities
- 414 with their non-disabled peers;
- 415 • maintaining student access to school counseling, library/media, nursing and other
- 416 services that support a well-rounded curriculum;
- 417 • providing developmentally appropriate education that ensures free and appropriate
- 418 public education (FAPE) for those students identified as having disabilities;
- 419 • providing appropriate education for those students identified as gifted;
- 420 • including educators in the development, approval and adoption of revisions to the
- 421 curriculum;
- 422 • educator participation in the selection and evaluation of distance learning coursework;
- 423 • maintaining the option of local school districts to create non-traditional schools to meet
- 424 specific curriculum needs;
- 425 • keeping requirements of law concerning curriculum and classroom teaching methods to
- 426 a minimum;
- 427 • requiring that educators are involved in the credit flexibility options offered in local
- 428 school district;
- 429 • state support provided to aid in the establishment of local school-to-work programs;
- 430 • the direct involvement of all school employees in the design, implementation and
- 431 governance of non-traditional school options;
- 432 • requiring consistent minimum standards of college readiness for student placement in
- 433 College Credit Plus courses;
- 434 • limiting College Credit Plus participation to college-ready students in grades 9-12 only;

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- requiring the collection of relevant data to evaluate whether the College Credit Plus program is meeting student needs and operating effectively.

438 *OEA Opposes:*

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- curricular mandates that do not provide the needed resources;
 - restrictions on academic freedom or free speech in the classroom;
 - the waiver of physical education credits for participation in other school programs such as band, cheerleading, sports or Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

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445 **B. Expanding early childhood education opportunities**

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447 *OEA Supports:*

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- access to early childhood education programs regardless of income, including Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs for children-at-risk;
 - preschool opportunities for three and four-year-old children including children with disabilities;
 - early childhood education services taught by certified/licensed personnel;
 - state and federal resources for programs that enhance school readiness and support early childhood initiatives;
 - all day every day kindergarten and the resources necessary to implement and maintain the program;
 - alternative assessment options to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)
 - providing adequate time and resources for assessments regarding Kindergarten readiness to minimize loss of learning time;
 - requiring completion of a reliable developmental assessment before admission to kindergarten;
 - granting the option of early entry to kindergarten to children who successfully complete the developmental assessment but who have not reached the age requirement;
 - attendance in an early literacy program for children who do not satisfactorily complete the developmental assessments and who have reached the age requirement;
 - a curriculum centered upon developmentally appropriate instruction and practices.

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469 **C. Support services to enhance student learning**

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471 *OEA Supports:*

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- providing educational opportunities and services for students with disabilities as well as the identified accommodations, supports and resources as outlined in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
 - development, maintenance and support of health care and nutrition programs for children and students;
 - providing elementary and secondary school counseling, school psychology, school social work and other pupil services;
 - establishing cooperative administrative and curriculum structures to facilitate effective integration of guidance and counseling into the entire education experience;

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- in-service training for counselors in areas such as conflict resolution, peer mediation, goal setting, self-discipline, improved self-image, decision making, and acceptance of responsibility;
 - elementary school counselor services for all elementary students including conflict resolution, peer mediation, goal setting, self-discipline, improved self-image, decision making, and acceptance of responsibility;
 - school health services provided by certified/licensed school nurses;
 - that all health care and nursing procedures within the school environment be the domain of the certified/licensed school nurse consistent with the Ohio Nurse Practice Act and policies of the Ohio Board of Nursing;
 - providing medically fragile students with professional and skilled treatments delivered in a clean and private setting;
 - providing students access to free breakfast using breakfast in the classroom models during the school day;
 - certified/licensed library media specialist services in each elementary and secondary school;
 - full bargaining unit and continuing contract status for certified school nurses.

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499 *OEA Opposes:*

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- assigning school employees other than certified/licensed school nurses to perform health care/nursing services.
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504 ***D. Reasonable class size to support personalized instruction***

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506 *OEA Supports:*

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- legislation that reduces class size with the ultimate goal of a maximum class size of 15 students per classroom teacher for grades pre-K through 3, 20 per classroom teacher for grades 4 through 6, 22 per classroom teacher for grades 7 through 12;
 - legislation that supports appropriately smaller class sizes for programs that serve students with exceptional needs, including children with disabilities and English learners;
 - school staffing ratios of special instructional support personnel such as school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, school social workers, school librarians/media specialists, and speech/language pathologists to students at the levels recommended by nationally recognized professional organizations;
 - a methodology that weights each special education student mainstreamed in all classes per disability;
 - limiting early childhood classes in DD programs to six students with two full-time staff, one of which must be a certified/licensed teacher;
 - policy that assigns pupils to classrooms and instructional areas in accordance with physical capacity of the building as defined by state standards.

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525 ***E. Appropriate use of assessment to support student learning***

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527 *OEA Supports:*

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- a system of realistically high standards for student learning, a curriculum that is aligned to those standards, assessment instruments that are valid, reliable and age-appropriate, all supported by adequate resources needed for successful development and implementation;
 - assessment programs that focus on helping students, educators, schools, and school districts succeed rather than using the results for the purpose of punishing students, educators, schools, and school districts;
 - assessments of student learning and proficiency that provide timely feedback to students and educators and that are used to inform instruction and student learning;
 - evaluation of student learning as a continuous process consisting of multiple measures linked to the curriculum and relevant standards;
 - assessment alternatives to standardized testing that assess students at their functioning level, regardless of developmental differences and special needs, including limited English proficiency;
 - continued comprehensive support and accommodations as needed for students after exiting a program for English learners and/or achieving proficiency on grade or topic assessments;
 - school accountability systems based on multiple forms of evidence that accurately reflect the broad range of student learning and are used to support students and improve schools;
 - assessment systems designed to prioritize student engagement in learning activities and minimize time spent on testing and test preparation;
 - State funding and assistance in conducting testing audits at the district level to help eliminate assessments that are low-quality, duplicative, or exceed statutory restrictions on testing time and/or test preparation;
 - assessment systems that support whole-child learning and development in a way that does not narrow curriculum or over emphasize test preparation;
 - Providing for a phase-in of the graduation requirements for students taking end-of-course exams;
 - providing remedial programs for high school graduates in need of additional skills to attend institutions of higher education;
 - restricting the use of value-added data to appropriate diagnostic purposes that support student learning and school improvement;
 - requiring that the assessments from which value-added data is derived are valid, reliable and aligned to Ohio's academic content standards;
 - requiring the state to provide for an appropriate technology infrastructure and software tools to support the collection, disaggregation and analysis of value-added data;
 - providing educators and administrators high-quality professional development and adequate time within the school day/year for training on appropriate methods of using value-added data as a diagnostic tool to improve student achievement;
 - the availability of state resources and technical support to assist educators, schools and districts in the implementation and appropriate use of value-added data;
 - providing parents/guardians and community members information regarding the interpretation and use of value-added information to assess student progress and school performance, including the appropriate uses and limitations of value-added data;
 - protecting the rights of parents/guardians who choose to opt their children out of standardized testing and supports informing parents/guardians of the potential consequences under law.

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OEA Opposes:

- using standardized testing as the decisive factor in decisions to promote or retain students;
- assessments of student learning or proficiency-testing programs, vendor-based assessments and locally-developed assessments to evaluate educator or principal performance or for high-stakes employment decisions;
- assigning letter grades to schools and school districts on the report cards issued through the state accountability system;
- using value-added data as a punitive measure for students, educators and school districts;
- using value-added data as the singular basis for instructional or other educational decisions and as the basis for high stakes decisions about schools, students or educators, including decisions about teacher evaluation, licensure and/or compensation;
- public records access to teacher-identifiable student test scores, including student growth measures such as value-added.
- sanctions and/or penalties against students, education professionals, schools and districts when parents/guardians exercise their rights to opt their children out of standardized testing.

F. A system of educator evaluation that encourages improvement for all

OEA Supports:

- teacher evaluation systems focused on instructional improvement and that includes multiple and variable sources of data on teacher performance;
- providing multiple resources to support struggling educators, including formal or informal peer assistance programs, creating time for educators to observe and provide feedback to one another and if necessary, intensive intervention, support and individualized professional development;
- requiring that teacher evaluators be selected based on established criteria and receive regular recalibration training, continuous professional development and regular assessment of effectiveness;
- creating teacher evaluation systems that directly link to and inform the professional development system and other systems linked to teaching and learning conditions.
- fair and effective provisions for the periodic evaluation of the competency of all full- and part-time higher education faculty;
- proper notification and adequate opportunity for correction of deficiencies in a teacher's evaluation during employment;
- due process either in the case of dismissal or non-renewal, including the right to specific and detailed reasons in writing, a hearing, counsel, and appeal;
- regularly reviewing the efficacy of the teacher evaluation system, including formal roles and responsibilities for educators in developing, implementing, and providing continuous feedback.

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OEA Opposes:

- using value-added data or any other student growth or achievement measure as the singular basis for instructional or other educational decisions and as the basis for high stakes decisions about schools, students or educators, including decisions about teacher evaluation, licensure and/or compensation.

G. Integration of educational technology in teaching and learning

OEA Supports:

- resources for programs that prepare students effectively for the high-technology environment that will exist throughout their lives;
- dedicated state funding for all school districts to have proper technology in working order, including hardware, software, network access and needed upgrades;
- equitable availability and distribution of technology to all communities, educators, and students;
- research initiatives regarding the impact of technology for different curriculum areas in order to determine the best use of technology in individual classrooms;
- educators as the leaders in the research, selection, acquisition, evaluation and professional development in regard to hardware, software, and curriculum materials in the areas of technology and digital learning coursework;
- ongoing professional development that ensures that educators maintain the skills appropriate for a digital learning environment;
- school district technology that is appropriate for the curriculum and compatible to the devices owned and used by educators and students;
- blended learning opportunities that offer technology-based instruction while maintaining the educator-student relationship;
- technology as a tool to enhance student learning in a variety of environments and circumstances;
- funding to assist public schools and colleges to provide Internet access for their students and employees;
- locally developed technology use policies designed with input from education employees and signed by parents/guardians and students including but not limited to policies addressing Internet safety and security, access to social media be in place prior to allowing student access to the Internet;
- participation by education employees in digital learning that is mutually established in employer policies, locally negotiated collective bargaining agreements, and/or other sources that establish the terms and conditions of employment for education employees.

OEA Opposes:

- technology used in a manner to replace, substitute, or supplant educators; reduce hours or compensation of employees; or replace the educator-student relationship;
- commercial advertising in the classroom.

H. A safe school environment

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OEA Supports:

- funding for school districts that choose to have school resource officers or local law enforcement in school buildings;
- greater access and assistance for mental health services for students, including support from social workers, psychologists, nurses, counselors and other student service professionals, as part of a comprehensive program to prevent school violence;
- firm, fair, and consistent policies and programs that address disruptive behavior, bullying, crime, physical and verbal abuse, sexual harassment, all forms of discrimination in order to provide a safe and secure environment;
- programs that establish and support safe learning environments that are free of crime, drug use, and other disruptions;
- requiring that all school districts adopt policies to address student bullying and provide for intervention for those involved;
- collaborative community programs to increase citizen and business group involvement in assisting and reclaiming youth who display disruptive or violent behavior and/or who have dropped out of school;
- providing civil immunity to school employees for an injury to a student that is caused by enforcing school discipline when those school employees are acting in accord with school district policies and within the course and scope of employment;
- the safety, care, and welfare of all educators and school staff from emotional, verbal, and physical abuse inflicted by a student, parent, or other;
- requiring school administrators to report to the proper law enforcement authority and to the appropriate state agency any employee injuries that are student inflicted in the course of employment or damage to the personal property of a school employee;
- classifying the penalty for assault on any school employee as a felony;
- requiring school districts to report incidents of sexual harassment, violence and crime committed on school grounds to the Ohio Department of Education and other appropriate agencies;
- providing effective incentives that reinforce the importance of student attendance and appropriate consequences for truancy;
- eliminating the authority of school districts to apply an out-of-school suspension to students ages nine and under unless the student brings a weapon to school, makes a bomb threat, or commits a criminal offense that results in serious physical harm to persons or property while the student is at school, on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity;
- policy that requires a local school district to allow students who have been suspended an opportunity to make up missed school work;
- restorative practices programs that reduce and/or eliminate exclusionary and prescribed discipline practices and that promote inclusive and supportive school environments focused on collaborative problem solving for educators and students;
- alternative education programs for all children identified incapable of operating effectively in the school settings available in that district;
- providing appropriate education programs for students who are charged and convicted of assaulting a school employee;
- expunging all records relating to complaints charging an employee with a criminal matter if through the legal process no criminal act is determined to have occurred;

- 716 • uniform and adequate investigation procedures for law enforcement to follow when
- 717 investigating charges prior to filing complaints charging an employee with criminal
- 718 activity in any matter relating to the person’s employment;
- 719 • the requirement of court findings and decisions concerning a juvenile offender be
- 720 provided to the principal and affected staff members for the purpose of planning a
- 721 relevant school program;
- 722 • requiring all schools that serve as election sites to have a written policy and procedure
- 723 to restrict public access to only those areas where the polling is occurring;
- 724 • funding from the state of County Boards of Elections in order to cover the costs of
- 725 additional security measures that are necessary to ensure the safety of student,
- 726 authorized visitors and education employees when a school is unable to restrict access
- 727 to only areas where polling is occurring;
- 728 • the development of procedures to inform local, state and federal agencies regarding
- 729 juvenile justice and delinquency;
- 730 • universal background checks on all gun sales;
- 731 • a red flag law that supports the removal of firearms from individuals who pose a danger
- 732 to themselves or others.

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734 *OEA Opposes:*

- 735 • educators serving a dual role as educators and school safety personnel armed with
- 736 weapons during the school days and/or at school sponsored activities;
- 737 • school discipline policies that apply pre-determined consequences without taking into
- 738 account associated circumstances for issues that do not involve deadly weapons;
- 739 • discriminatory enforcement of school discipline policies.

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742 ***I. Serving youth and adults in alternative settings***

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744 *OEA Supports:*

- 745 • development of dropout prevention and at-risk intervention programs with a goal of
- 746 significantly increasing the number of people who earn high school diplomas;
- 747 • guaranteeing students in the State Council of Professional Educators (SCOPE) Bargaining
- 748 Unit institutions (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Ohio Department
- 749 of Youth Services, Ohio School for the Deaf and Ohio School for the Blind) an education
- 750 equivalent to that being offered to their public school counterparts;
- 751 • requiring education standards that correspond to state standards for elementary and
- 752 secondary schools for those students in SCOPE Bargaining Unit education programs who
- 753 are expected to return to regular schools;
- 754 • establishing a supervisory board over SCOPE Bargaining Unit education programs with
- 755 the following functions:
 - 756 – ensure that SCOPE Bargaining Unit education programs have standards that
 - 757 correspond with state minimum standards;
 - 758 – provide a support system for students passing from SCOPE Bargaining Unit
 - 759 institutions to regular public schools; and
 - 760 – serve as a mediating body between SCOPE Bargaining Unit institutions and the
 - 761 public school system of Ohio.

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- requiring all educators in privately operated rehabilitation and correction institutions to meet the same licensure standards and professional qualifications as SCOPE Bargaining Unit educators in state rehabilitation and correction institutions;
 - requiring that educational program standards in privately operated rehabilitation and correction institutions correspond with state minimum standards;
 - adequate funding for high-quality re-entry services programs in state rehabilitation and correction institutions in order to support successful reintegration into society;
 - maintaining and expanding earned credit programs in the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

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772 *OEA Opposes:*

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- privately operated rehabilitation and correction institutions, charter schools operating in state rehabilitation and correction institutions and the use of private contract employment/third parties for educational/instructional services.

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778 ***J. A system of licensure/certification that ensures a strong education profession***

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780 *OEA Supports:*

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- assigning a teacher only to a position for which the teacher holds a valid, current teaching certificate/license;
 - an adequately funded, independent, policy making Educator Standards Board with the legal responsibility of determining policy and procedures for teacher certification/licensure, approval of teacher certification/licensure programs, determining the national accreditation program(s) to be used in Ohio, and approval of programs designed to improve teacher education;
 - maintaining and strengthening the Educator Standards Board for elementary and secondary education in Ohio;
 - establishing and maintaining a majority membership of elementary and secondary public school educators on the Educator Standards Board;
 - ensuring high-quality educator preparation programs, refining educator preparation program curricula, promoting collaborative learning between Pre K-12 and educator preparation faculty, and funding school-university partnerships for educator preparation;
 - developing compensation models that encourage recruitment and retention of highly qualified educators;
 - including Pre K-12 educators and postsecondary faculty on accreditation review teams and improving the quality of fast-track preparation programs according to research on educator effectiveness and retention;
 - ensuring that beginning educators get the support they need through trained mentors, including time and space to meet and observe practice, respecting the confidential nature of the mentor-beginning educator relationship, and keeping instructional mentoring and evaluation separate in policy and practice;
 - ensuring Ohio’s Resident Educator program is structured to support student success through the continued growth and development of educators’ teaching practice;
 - eliminating the summative assessment portion of the resident educator program as a requirement for a professional educator license;

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- ensuring that any early-career assessment that determines future professional licensure include specific, targeted, meaningful feedback that supports the educator in attaining his or her professional license and that all assessments used for this purpose be scored fairly and reliably;
 - creation of a new two-year provisional licensure system that is based on mentoring and support for early career educators;
 - including the following elements as part of a two-year provisional licensure system:
 - a mentoring and cohort coaching program. developed at the local level, that is focused on an introduction to the profession and district, ensures adequate time for mentors and mentees to observe exemplary veteran educators and engage in reflection on instructional practices;
 - clearly defined and uniformly administered mentor qualifications to ensure quality mentors for early career educators in the two-year provisional licensure program, including requirements that mentors have at least five years of teaching experience in the district, be on at least their second professional license, and have recently served, or is currently serving, in an instructional assignment;
 - state-provided training for mentors that includes annual mentor professional development and local training on principles of instructional coaching, the negotiated contract, and appropriate legal issues;
 - whenever possible, placement of mentees with mentors who work in the same buildings, grade bands, and/or content areas, including placing special education teacher mentors with early career special education teachers;
 - professional development that is approved by the local professional development committee, focused on growth, and aligned to the Ohio standards for the teaching profession, Ohio learning standards, and Ohio standards for professional development;
 - opportunity to renew a provisional license for up to two years for those who do not move to a professional license following completion of their first two years;
 - requiring training in the issues of sexual harassment and gender equity as part of teacher certification/licensure;
 - issuing temporary licenses for a limited period, during which time requirements for conversion to full state licensure shall be completed;
 - requiring early childhood certification/licensure by the State Department of Education for educators in this area;
 - reimbursement to any educator for course work mandated to maintain or upgrade certificates/licenses;
 - granting educators paid leave time to attend classes necessary to maintain certification/licensure;
 - granting paid release time for mentoring training sessions, residency and Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) programs;
 - uniform and adequate investigative and hearing procedures for the State Department of Education to follow when investigating charges that could lead to suspension of a school employee's certificate/license for "conduct unbecoming the position held";
 - providing quality instruction by requiring properly certified/licensed educators in all areas including early childhood education, art, music, physical education, special education, computer education, library media education and gifted programs;

- 857 • requiring special subjects to be taught by educators who are certified/licensed in the
- 858 respective subject;
- 859 • licensed/certified tutors of students in specific learning disability and emotionally
- 860 disabled programs, whether as individuals or in small groups, being recognized legally as
- 861 educators, guaranteed parity with other educators, and recognized as fully covered by
- 862 all terms and conditions of the local educator association contract;
- 863 • separate and defined licensing for school bus operators, including examinations and
- 864 supplemental licensing requirements that reasonably fit the criteria for the performance
- 865 of duty.

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867 *OEA Opposes:*

- 868 • licensure of alumni of Teach For America and similar organizations, until and unless all
- 869 professional licensure requirements are met;
- 870 • requiring excessive paperwork or time-consuming, high-stakes assessments in any early-
- 871 career mentoring or licensure program that detracts from educators' ability to provide
- 872 high quality instruction to students;
- 873 • outsourcing of defined certificated bargaining unit positions through the post-secondary
- 874 enrollment option program in all of OEA's affiliates during the defined duty day on any
- 875 public school campus;
- 876 • local school boards using private contract employment to provide instruction, support,
- 877 health, or other services for which a teaching certificate/license is required, including
- 878 the use of any outside agencies in place of certificated school nurses or school wellness
- 879 coordinators;
- 880 • higher education institutions subcontracting bargaining unit work out to the private
- 881 sector;
- 882 • any mandate that education employees incur the costs of expanded background checks
- 883 related to licensure/certification;
- 884 • reviews of records in licensure/certification background checks that are irrelevant to the
- 885 individual's job qualifications or trustworthiness with children, such as civil litigation and
- 886 motor vehicle records of a teacher.

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K. High quality professional development for education professionals

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891 *OEA Supports:*

- 892 • state required professional development programs that are well aligned and promote
- 893 professional growth for educators;
- 894 • providing adequate state funding for professional development programs;
- 895 • job-embedded professional development as an integral part of the school day;
- 896 • basing in-service programs on the expressed professional development needs of
- 897 educators;
- 898 • ongoing professional development that builds and increases educators' cultural
- 899 competence including awareness of one's own implicit biases, understanding culturally
- 900 competent pedagogy, and becoming culturally responsive in one's approach to education
- 901 and discipline;
- 902 • providing state support for applicants wishing to obtain National Board Certification and
- 903 stipends for those achieving National Board Certification for as long as they maintain it;
- 904 • the Educator Standards Board having the responsibility to define "master teacher";

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- awarding teachers Local Professional Development Committee credit for completion of the master teacher application process, regardless of whether a teacher earns the designation;
 - determining changes in working conditions or compensation based on the master teacher designation through the collective bargaining process;
 - providing educators with evidence-based training and resources to fulfill the educational, cultural and linguistic needs of students who are English learners;
 - providing in-service training to staff about opioids and other addictive substances and the appropriate support programs;
 - providing in-service training to staff regarding students in the foster care system.

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916 *OEA Opposes:*

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- requiring the master teacher or similar designation for maintaining the professional license of individual educators.

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921 **L. Parental and community engagement to build partnerships for learning**

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923 *OEA Supports:*

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- programs designed to inform citizens via a variety of communication channels about public education;
 - appropriate involvement of parents, guardians or designated caregivers in schools;
 - programs to assist communities in forming parent and child advocacy organizations for preschool children through grade 12;
 - engagement of educators, parents and the community in school improvement plans designed to meet student needs;
 - the inclusion of education professionals as the majority on school improvement teams;
 - the development of community support services that coordinate the delivery of educational, developmental, family, health and other comprehensive supports through community-based organizations and integrate services to ensure that schools function as comprehensive community centers;
 - efforts in communities to identify and prioritize key risk factors, as well as understand the underlying issues in order to develop and implement solutions;
 - the development of local school-community advisory groups;
 - programs to provide students with experiences in a variety of career paths in conjunction with local businesses (i.e., service-learning experiences and internships);
 - expanded opportunities for children to work with adult role models in after-school and recreation programs.

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945 **M. Investing in Education Support Professionals (ESPs)**

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947 *OEA Supports:*

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- providing staffing of educational support personnel for grades Pre-K to 12 and in Developmental Disabilities programs at an appropriate ratio;
 - evaluating ESPs according to established criteria and providing feedback, training and professional development opportunities that support continuous improvement in performance;

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- district provided in-service training for ESPs to ensure the care and safety of students with exceptional needs;
 - providing adequate state funding for maintaining older school buses and support for the purchase of new school buses;

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- all forms of privatization/outsourcing of ESP job classifications, a practice that puts student safety at risk and undermines the continuity, quality and cost-effectiveness of services;
 - using private busing companies, but if they are used, they must comply with the same state safety regulations, maintenance schedules, bus driver licensure and background check requirements that apply to buses operated by school districts.

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967 **N. Interscholastic athletics**

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969 *OEA Supports:*

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- the process of having the Ohio High School Athletic Association determine the minimum eligibility requirements for students to participate in athletic programs with the option of local school districts to set additional requirements.

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974 *OEA Opposes:*

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- the General Assembly dictating student eligibility in interscholastic athletic competition.

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978 **Section 3: Protecting the voice and wellbeing of education professionals**

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980 **A. Collective bargaining**

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982 *OEA Supports:*

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- the fundamental right of all public and private employees to bargain collectively for the hours, wages and other terms and conditions of employment;
 - the fundamental right of adjunct, graduate assistant, limited service and part-time higher education faculty to bargain collectively for the hours, wages and terms and conditions of employment;
 - strong enforcement of Ohio's collective bargaining law and efforts to strengthen and expand employee rights and the scope of bargaining in law;
 - maintaining the right to strike as the best final dispute resolution process;
 - maintaining statutory authority to bargain for the collection of fair-share fees from individuals in a bargaining unit who are non-members of the union/local association;
 - crediting student attendance to students kept out of school by parents/guardians or otherwise not in attendance on days schools are declared opened during an association strike;
 - full bargaining unit status for all school nurses.

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998 *OEA Opposes:*

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- efforts to restrict, undermine or eliminate the rights of employees or the scope of bargaining under Ohio's collective bargaining law;
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- 1001 • public education employers raising substitute employees' salaries during or in
1002 anticipation of strikes in order to perform the duties of regular employees;
- 1003 • restrictions or other negative impacts on the accepted scope of membership for existing
1004 and potential employee bargaining units.

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1007 **B. Competitive salaries to attract and retain the best education employees**
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1009 *OEA Supports:*

- 1010 • salaries for educational employees which will attract and retain highly qualified
1011 personnel;
- 1012 • a state minimum annual teacher salary of \$40,000 indexed to inflation;
- 1013 • state minimum teacher salary schedule for a 180-day school year that requires annual
1014 salary staff increases based on years of teaching, education attainment/training, level of
1015 licensure, and which includes a system of career steps to upgrade the status and respect
1016 for the profession;
- 1017 • a salary schedule for education support professionals that provides a fair living wage,
1018 with wage increases for years of experience and attainment of higher
1019 education/training, and which establishes higher wages for positions that require
1020 employees to have certain levels of higher education or pass a content knowledge
1021 assessment in order to attain a state license/permit, e.g. educational aide
1022 permits/educational paraprofessional licenses for educational assistants;
- 1023 • salary levels that support retention of education personnel throughout their career;
- 1024 • a per diem compensation for SCOPE bargaining unit educators equivalent to that being
1025 offered to public school educators;
- 1026 • requiring public education employers to pay employee salaries prior to other debts;
- 1027 • state support for the cost of substitute teachers;
- 1028 • a reduction in the number of days a substitute must teach in one assignment before
1029 being placed on the salary schedule;
- 1030 • requiring public education employers to adjust an employee's salary immediately any
1031 time during a school year when the individual becomes eligible for a higher salary due to
1032 attainment of a higher training level;
- 1033 • granting credit to SCOPE bargaining unit employees for military service under the same
1034 provisions that cover public school educators;
- 1035 • requiring employers to withhold state income taxes for education employees who
1036 reside in other states;
- 1037 • a fund for teacher candidate loans by the State of Ohio to provide scholarship loans for
1038 outstanding graduate and undergraduate students in the colleges of education with
1039 provisions for loan forgiveness, providing said students teach in the state for a minimum
1040 of five years;
- 1041 • an annual income tax deduction of student loan interest for educators working in an
1042 Ohio public school or public college/university.

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1044 *OEA Opposes:*

- 1045 • release of public records which pertain to the private use of employee salaries, e.g.
1046 funds contributed to 403-B annuities, loan payments, political contributions, etc.;
- 1047 • requirement that certification of availability of funds be attached to any new salary
1048 schedule;

- 1049 • legislation mandating or incentivizing the use of so-called merit/performance pay
1050 systems for educators.

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1053 **C. *Affordable, high quality health care and other benefits***

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OEA Supports:

- 1056 • access to affordable, high-quality health care for public education employees;
1057 • requiring school districts and other public employers to have a competitive bidding
1058 process for health insurance benefits and plan administration;
1059 • requiring the public disclosure of costs associated with plan administration, including
1060 broker commissions;
1061 • encouraging health care plans to offer wellness programs, disease management and
1062 access to specialized services as a means to maintain quality and control costs;
1063 • subject to bargaining, allowing school districts and other public employers to opt-in to
1064 health insurance plans offered for state employees;
1065 • a comprehensive state system of workers' compensation in which political subdivisions
1066 are contributing employers;
1067 • considering alcohol and drug addiction as an illness under the law;
1068 • term life insurance coverage paid for by public education employers;
1069 • requiring public education employers to reimburse a school staff member in the case of
1070 physical or property damage claims resulting from activities related to his or her
1071 employment;
1072 • assault leave for affected public employees;
1073 • religious or any affiliated faith-based leave for all public education employees;
1074 • provisions of severance pay for higher education faculty that are equivalent to those
1075 covering pre-k to 12 faculty and staff;
1076 • military leave for active-duty personnel.

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OEA Opposes:

- 1079 • mandatory health care pooling that fails to provide collective bargaining rights of
1080 employees, choice of plans, and at least equal labor representation on the managing
1081 entity of the pool.

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1084 **D. *A stable and secure retirement system***

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OEA Supports:

- 1087 • continuation of defined benefit pension plans for current and future public employees;
1088 • allowing defined contribution plans to be offered as an option for employees;
1089 • ensuring benefits are reliable and adequate to provide economic security in retirement;
1090 • maintaining an appropriate cost-of-living adjustment for retirees;
1091 • continuation of survivor and death benefits in the pension program;
1092 • requiring that the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS), the Ohio Public
1093 Employees Retirement System (OPERS), and the School Employees Retirement System
1094 (SERS) retirement boards consist of a majority of active members elected by the active
1095 membership of the retirement system;

- 1096 • the fiduciary responsible “prudent person rule” as the guideline for investments and
- 1097 other decisions made by the state retirement system boards;
- 1098 • allowing purchase of service credit for any approved leave of absence at the full
- 1099 actuarial cost of the benefit;
- 1100 • exclusion of all or a portion of an individual's annual pension from all Ohio public
- 1101 retirement systems from the payment of Ohio personal income taxes.

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1103 *OEA Opposes:*

- 1104 • reduction or suspension of employer contributions to the retirement systems;
- 1105 • attempts by the legislature to direct retirement system investments or encroach on the
- 1106 fiduciary responsibility of the retirement systems;
- 1107 • reductions in pension benefits or increase in employee contribution rates unless such a
- 1108 plan is necessary to maintain the long-term solvency of pension benefits, is adopted by
- 1109 the retirement system board and has support of active and retiree member
- 1110 organizations;
- 1111 • changes in the pension program that jeopardize the long-term solvency of the
- 1112 retirement system;
- 1113 • exclusion or carve outs of public employees from participation in the appropriate public
- 1114 retirement system;
- 1115 • efforts to reassign members to a different retirement system for reasons other than
- 1116 certification/ licensure.

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1119 **E. Due process policies such as tenure**

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1121 *OEA Supports:*

- 1122 • protecting students and the due process rights of public education employees;
- 1123 • a system of fair and effective due process rights and procedures for non-renewal or
- 1124 termination of an employment contract;
- 1125 • the availability of tenure/continuing contracts for all public education employees;
- 1126 • protecting the rights of laid off employees;
- 1127 • full unemployment compensation eligibility and the right to substitute teach without
- 1128 losing such eligibility;
- 1129 • tenure rights for public higher education faculty members;
- 1130 • statutory protection for higher education faculty concerning unfair administrative
- 1131 practices and unfair layoff or dismissal;
- 1132 • minimum contract protection for higher education faculty members that is comparable
- 1133 to those available to public elementary and secondary educators;
- 1134 • public access to formal/official disciplinary actions taken against educators by the Ohio
- 1135 Department of Education and/or the State Board of Education if a result of
 - 1136 – a criminal violation established in a court of law that authorizes the State Board of
 - 1137 Education to take action against an educator's license/certificate, or;
 - 1138 – a substantiated finding of professional misconduct established by an official
 - 1139 investigation by Ohio Department of Education officials that ensures all due process
 - 1140 and appeal rights provided by law.
- 1141 • efficient and effective mechanisms for educators to challenge the accuracy of
- 1142 information related to their state disciplinary record and all information determined to

1143 be inaccurate, false, or otherwise misleading, should be immediately removed from
1144 records available to the public;
1145 • uniform and adequate investigation procedures for law enforcement bodies;
1146 • expunging all records relating to criminal allegations if, through the legal process, no
1147 criminal act is determined to have occurred;
1148 • the right of privileged communication between public employees and their union
1149 representatives regarding grievances, disciplinary matters, and other employment
1150 issues.

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1152 *OEA Opposes:*
1153 • the loss of a public education employee's status with regard to contracts, pay scales,
1154 benefits, or any other employment rights, terms and conditions, as a result of being
1155 transferred or reassigned due to the reorganization of the public education employer
1156 and/or program(s);
1157 • limits on the percentage of professional higher education faculty who may acquire
1158 tenure;
1159 • public access to unsubstantiated information and unproven allegations against an
1160 educator, i.e. allegations resulted in no formal/official disciplinary action by the Ohio
1161 Department of Education or the State Board of Education;
1162 • arresting any school employee accused by a student of criminal acts prior to the
1163 issuance of a grand jury indictment;
1164 • diminishing, diluting or otherwise undermining the availability and rights of
1165 tenure/continuing contracts for public education employees;
1166 • any mass screening procedures such as polygraphs or blood, urine, or other medical
1167 tests to be administered to school employees.

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1170 **Section 4: Advocating for good public policy**

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1172 **A. Protection of children**

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1174 *OEA Supports:*
1175 • legislation to assist in developing programs to protect children from hunger;
1176 • access to health care coverage for Ohio’s children, families and most vulnerable citizens
1177 through Medicaid expansion;
1178 • establishment and funding of developmentally appropriate programs and standards to
1179 protect children from and educate children on physical, sexual, and emotional
1180 harassment, abuse and/or neglect;
1181 • requiring court assured payment of designated child support;
1182 • programs that assist in the identification, location and return of missing children;
1183 • providing adequate protection for individuals mandated to report child abuse and/or
1184 neglect under current law;
1185 • providing in-service training to staff regarding the identifying factors of physical, sexual,
1186 and emotional harassment, abuse and/or neglect.

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1189 **B. Citizenship, voting rights and fair elections**

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OEA Supports:

- policies and initiatives that ensure fair and open elections and strengthen the influence of citizens in the political arena;
- allowing for special elections in February and August;
- a redistricting process that produces fair, competitive districts and limits the ability of one party to seek political advantage;
- allowing for online voter registration, automatic registration and same day registration;
- policies that allow broad participation of union membership in the democratic process such as dues check off on membership forms for political action;
- full citizenship rights for educators, including the right to serve as members of any board, council, commission, or like body and to voluntarily contribute to political action committees and/or campaigns, work on political campaigns, and participate in and/or solicit for political partisan fundraising activities outside of school work hours;
- political leave for public education employees who are candidates for public office or who are elected or appointed to such positions.

OEA Opposes:

- strict voter identification laws that may result in citizens losing access to the polls.

C. *Minimum wage and labor protections*

OEA Supports:

- payment of fair living wage that supports the cost of basic needs and is indexed to inflation;
- payment of prevailing wages on construction projects financed in whole or in part with state funds.

D. *Preserving our environment*

OEA Supports:

- full state funding and enforcement authority requiring the inspection, detection, public reporting, and immediate removal or containment of friable asbestos in all publicly financed educational institutions in the state;
- training and proper safety protection for persons identifying and/or removing friable asbestos;
- regulations that identify any visible mold in the indoor environment of an education facility as a potential health hazard to building occupants;
- mandating immediate and aggressive response by school administration regarding the discovery of indoor mold and corrective action to remove all mold-contaminated materials;
- strict regulations and monitoring of the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing especially near publicly financed educational institutions in the state;
- strict regulations and stringent enforcement of regulations regarding the storage and disposal of hazardous wastes and the use of toxic environmental contaminants especially near publicly financed educational institutions in the state.

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OEA Opposes:

- any legislative and/or executive action aimed at designating any Ohio site as a national nuclear waste storage or dumping facility especially near publicly financed educational institutions in the state.

E. Protecting civil rights

OEA Supports:

- promoting equity in education for all students regardless of background, including the use of state funds for public schools and extra-curricular programs offered by school districts;
- implementation of intervention programs and/or pilot projects which expand educational opportunities for female students, especially in mathematics, the sciences, and other technical subjects with particular emphasis given to retaining female students past the elementary grade levels and in eliminating gender bias in education and career counseling;
- designating the official observance of Human Relations Week during the third week of January, which includes Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

OEA Opposes:

- discriminatory practices in matters of recruitment, employment, promotion, retention, and compensation of persons based on race, color, national origin, religion, residence, physical disability, political activities, professional association activity, age, size, marital status, family relationship, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- unfair sentencing and parole stipulations that encourage the escalation of mass incarceration of people of color.