



MAYFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Quality Education Quality Staff



News and Views

Protect the contractual rights of all its members and to build an effective partnership in an environment of professionalism and mutual respect in order to promote the educational goals of the Mayfield City School District.

www.mayfieldea.ohea.us

From the President

March 2015

Dear MEA Members,

Over the past several weeks, I've heard and witnessed the realities of over testing. I've heard students questioning why they have to take yet another test. I've seen teachers rearranging schedules so they can give up time with teaching and learning so their students can get into computer labs to take the assessments. In our district, students in grades 3-9 will spend an average of 12 hours taking PARCC and AIR tests, instead of learning. This does not even include SLO tests or other standardized assessments. In total, if you add up all of the hours students will test, it is over 84 hours. This leads me to question everything about the PARCC and AIR tests.

Did you know that current PARCC results won't be available until well into October next year? If this test was truly used as a measure to differentiate student instruction, the data might be beneficial. However, we all know that this data is being used to evaluate teachers. Together, educators know what is best for students. Over testing students is not the answer. Taking money from high performing school districts is not the answer. Giving more money to failing charter schools is not the answer. Elected politicians making decisions about education is not the answer. Taking time away from teaching and learning so students can be tested is not the answer.



Mayfield is set to lose 41.7% in State Aid. This is one of the highest percentages in the State of Ohio. Instead of solving the school funding problem, we continue with an unconstitutional funding system. High performing districts with supportive parental units, an active community, and a great teaching and support staff continue to be victims in an education system where irrational decisions are being made by elected officials, rather than school districts.

In conclusion, here's what I believe:

1. Taking money away from local districts to fund failing charter schools needs to stop. Charter schools receive money from local districts, yet are not held to the same standard. For profit companies opening up schools to make money is just wrong.
2. Students are over tested. Time should not be taken away from teaching and learning so students can be over tested. Our students are being used as "guinea pigs" and this needs to stop.
3. The school funding formula remains unconstitutional and needs to be fixed.
4. Connecting student standardized test scores to teacher evaluation does not improve student achievement. Our current teacher evaluation system was intended to help teachers improve the art and science of their teaching. Adding student growth measures to this system is complicated and not researched-based.

So, what can you do? Well, legislators are starting to listen. Later in this newsletter, you will read about some important legislative updates. Please take time to read and react. I encourage all of you to contact your state senator and representative. Share your personal stories of how over testing is impacting you and your students. The following link will give you easy access to your elected officials who need to hear from you.

<http://tinyurl.com/meatakeaction>

We have to reclaim the joy in education! MEA - Let's stand united! Keep inspiring the lives of your students!

John Paydo
MEA President

Please consider running (or nominating someone to run) for a Mayfield Education Association Executive Officer Position: MEA President, MEA Vice President, MEAESP Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. If you nominate someone to run, please be sure that he/she is willing to accept the nomination.

Regular nomination deadline –March 27th

Nomination for Mayfield Education Association Executive Office



I, _____, nominate

for the office of

_____.

(Please Print)



All nominations are due to
Jeanne Assing-Schroeder at the mms
by 3:00pm on
Friday, March 27, 2015.

March Legislative Update

OEA Testifies on K-12 Portion of Budget Bill

House Bill 64, the state budget bill for Fiscal Years 2016-2017, continues to receive hearings in House Finance Subcommittees. The current version of the bill contains Governor Kasich's budget proposals. The OEA testified on House Bill 64 on Thursday, March 5, regarding a number of changes to education policy that are of interest to OEA. These issues include:

- A funding formula that fails to provide the resources needed for a high-quality public education to all students
- Changes to testing
- Replacing Student Learning Objectives (SLO) with shared attribution in teacher evaluation
- Charter school reform
- Changes to licensure renewal requirements for "consistently high-performing teachers"
- Expansion of the EdChoice voucher program
- "De-Regulation" for high performing districts
- Changes to who can provide health services to students
- Establishment of school counselor standards

You can read more about these proposals and OEA's positions in OEA's testimony that was given before the subcommittee.

<http://tinyurl.com/oea3615>

Senate Creates Advisory Committee on Testing

On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Senator Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), Chair of the Senate Education Committee, announced the formation of the Senate Advisory Committee on Testing. The group will be made up of 28 members including teachers, superintendents and curriculum specialists. The purpose of the group is to advise the Senate on needed changes to state required assessments and testing. Three OEA members were named to the committee: Amy Holbrook (Mad River), Kimberly Jones (Columbus) and Billie Sarich (Grandview).

At the press conference announcing the formation of the committee, Lehner noted that “everything will be on the table,” from making adjustments to the current tests to doing away with PARCC altogether.

“The purpose of the committee is to find workable solutions, not to hear we have a problem,” she said. “We know we have a problem.”

OEA applauds Senator Lehner and the Senate for establishing the advisory committee. It is clear that policymakers have heard the outcry from teachers, parents and students about over-testing in Ohio. Bringing education experts to the table to talk about solutions is a positive step.

House Bill 7 - Student “Safe Harbor” Bill Passes Senate, Goes to Governor for Signature

OEA supports House Bill 7 (R-Buchy), which was passed unanimously by the Ohio Senate on March 4, 2015. The bill contains an emergency measure, which means it will go into effect immediately upon being signed by the Governor.

The tests on which students would be granted a “safe harbor” in House Bill 7 include the achievement assessments for grades 3-8 and the end-of-course exams for grades 9-12. The scores on these tests could not be used as a factor in high-stakes decisions such as grade promotion, retention, or the granting of course credit for the 2014-15 school year.

House Bill 7 would also establish greater flexibility for students to retake the end-of-course exams for grades 9-12. The Ohio Department of Education would be required to promulgate rules that provide school districts and students with more detailed guidelines on the implementation of this testing flexibility.

An amendment to the bill made in Senate Education Committee will ensure that schools do not lose state per-pupil funding for a student who does not take all of the required state assessments in the 2014-15 school year. Under current law, a school district may not include, for funding purposes, any student who did not take all of the required statewide tests during the previous school year, unless the student was granted a waiver for good cause by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Take Action on Too Much Testing

I'm sure you've seen or read the news reports about the proliferation of "opt-outs" on student testing in Ohio. There will be more and more of these stories until lawmakers act. And the best action they can take, is to significantly reduce testing time and the number of tests. This would allow more time for teaching and learning.

NO MORE EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING SOMETHING. CHANGE THE LAW. STOP THE OVER-TESTING. YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

There is no more credible person on this issue than an educator. Share your story of what you're seeing firsthand. All this testing is hurting, not helping, our students. And it puts us - professional educators - in an increasingly untenable position. We can't defend an indefensible system. Policy makers are starting to pay attention. Proposals to reduce testing by nearly 20% have been included in the state budget and other legislation. While that's a step in the right direction, more needs to be done and we have to keep the pressure on.

Please share your personal experiences about the impact of too much testing with your legislator.

The following link will allow you to share your personal experiences with your State Senator and State Representative on overtesting.

<http://tinyurl.com/meatakeaction>



MAYFIELD
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Quality Education Quality Staff

END OF THE YEAR
MEA SOIREE

2nd Annual

Come celebrate the completion of the school year as we also
raise money for
Senior Scholarships

Friday, May 15th, 2015
La Vera Party Center
32200 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills 44094
5:00pm - 11:00pm

Dinner, Dessert, Open Bar, Awards and Entertainment

This event is open to all MEA members, MASP, Food Service, Administration and their spouses/significant others.

Raising money for MEA Senior Scholarship Fund

Basket Raffle

Silent Auction

50/50 Raffle

and other exciting chances to win!!!

Contact Marty Mackar with any questions.

#440-995-6890 or mmackar@mayfieldschools.org

2014 DUES Information

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE/NON-DEDUCTIBLE PORTION OF DUES CALENDAR YEAR 2014

If you itemize, you should be aware that the amount of your Association membership dues spent on lobbying is *not deductible* on your federal tax return. For your reference the deductible portion is listed below.

			Total Dues	Non-Deductible Dues	Deductible Dues
Educator:	Full-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$689.00	\$36.53	\$652.47
Educator:	Half-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$394.67	\$21.05	\$373.62
Educator:	Quarter-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$247.42	\$13.29	\$234.13
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Fair Share Fee Educator:	Full-Time Fees	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$689.00	\$36.53	\$652.47
Fair Share Fee Educator:	Half-Time Fees	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$394.67	\$21.05	\$373.62
Fair Share Fee Educator:	Quarter-Time Fees	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$247.42	\$13.29	\$234.13
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ESP:	Full-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$402.50	\$21.05	\$381.45
ESP:	Half-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$251.33	\$13.29	\$238.04
ESP:	Quarter-Time Dues	OEA/Uniserv/NEA	\$175.92	\$9.42	\$166.50
*ESP:	Education Support Professional				

Student:	OEA/NEA	\$34.00	\$1.37	\$32.63
Retired Annual:	OEA/NEA	\$45.00	\$1.08	\$43.92
Retired Life: (Initial Year)	OEA/NEA	\$350.00	\$7.21	\$342.79

The full amount of NEA dues is deductible.

If you plan to take a deduction for your **Local Association or OEA District dues**, you will need to get that figure from the appropriate organization's President or Treasurer before filing your 2014 tax return. It will not be necessary for Students or Retired members to contact a local or an OEA District since they do not belong to a particular local or an OEA District.

Association (Union) dues qualify as a miscellaneous deduction, the total of which must equal at least two percent (2%) of Adjusted Gross Income to be deductible.

