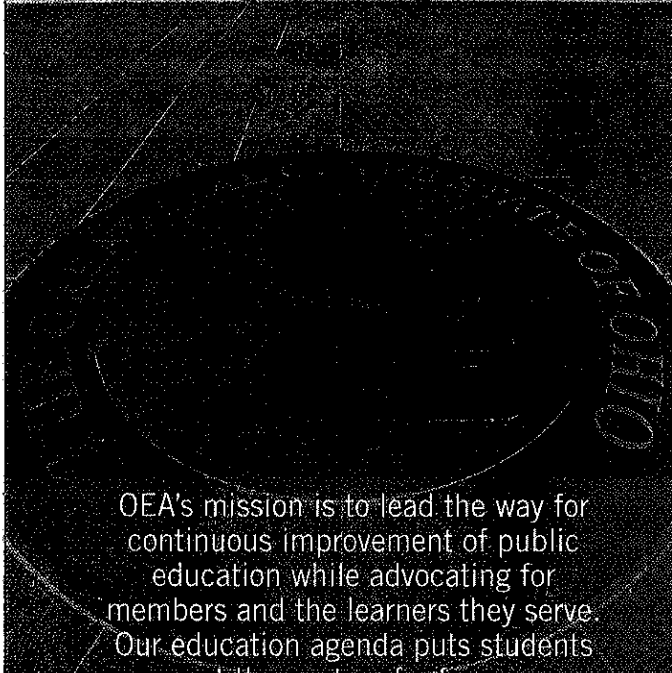
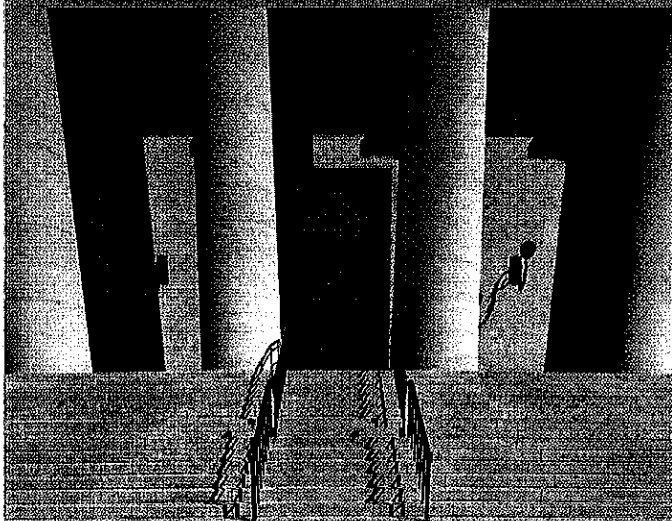


# Ohio Education Association Platform for the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



OEA's mission is to lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve. Our education agenda puts students

# OEA Platform for the 130th General Assembly

## School Funding and Education Reform

High quality education is vitally important to the success of students, the strength of our local communities and the growth of the state economy. Investments in public education, coupled with proper reform that involves all stakeholders, will help provide students with the tools and resources they need to learn. OEA will advocate for funding and education reform supporting efforts in these key areas.

### School Funding

- Devise a school funding model that meets the needs of educating all Ohio's students and addresses the true costs of educating each child
- Develop a process to continually assess the adequacies of educational funding in relation to the needs of Ohio's students
- Decrease the reliance on local property tax by reducing the share paid by local districts
- Invest in education reforms such as all-day Kindergarten and access to early childhood education programs
- Revise the special education weighted amount to reflect the latest cost study and fully fund the weights
- Secure full funding for state and federal mandates
- Provide greater support for higher education programs by boosting funding for core programs and student financial aid
- Support school facilities projects

### Education Reform

- Support creativity and innovation in the classroom
- Base the accountability system on multiple measures rather than a single high-stakes test
- Focus on a broad, well-rounded curriculum that prepares students for the global economy
- Ensure a safe and supportive learning environment

- Ensure the implementation of the common core curriculum provides adequate time and resources for teachers and students to successfully transition to the new standards
- Provide support for initiatives that seek to close achievement gaps
- Integrate technology into the classroom and provide training and support for educators

## Teacher Quality and Professional Development

OEA will work to maintain high educator standards, support expanded teacher leadership and ensure that high quality teaching and learning exists in every classroom by supporting initiatives that:

- Enhance professional development opportunities, including induction programs and job-embedded professional development programs
- Support high quality teacher evaluation systems that focus on improved practice and student learning, are developed in consultation with teachers and that do not over-rely on any single student growth measure such as value-added
- Advocate for an autonomous Educator Standards Board, with an active teacher majority, charged with setting and administering standards for educator preparation, teacher evaluation, professional learning and professional conduct
- Maintain and provide funding, induction support and mentoring for educators, particularly in high-need schools, through the four-year residency program



- Provide sufficient funding to the State Board of Education Licensure fund to cover administrative costs

### **Collective Bargaining Rights, Employee Rights and Privatization**

Ohio needs labor and employment laws that provide a voice for public education employees to advocate for students and the high quality delivery of educational services. To that end, OEA will seek to:

- Support the longstanding and successful Ohio Collective Bargaining Law (ORC 4117), including the right to collaboratively negotiate the implementation of education reforms at the local level
- Protect employee due process rights, such as tenure/continuing contracts
- Oppose Right to Work legislation; maintain fair share fees to support services to non-members
- Prevent efforts to privatize and outsource education services, such as transportation and food services, that are more efficient and accountable when provided by public employees
- Prevent the dilution of civil service laws in ways that undermine employee protection against favoritism and arbitrary treatment
- Allow the definition of "financial reasons" in the Reduction in Force (RIF) statute to be negotiated at the local level

continued

The Ohio Education Association is a self-governing, professional organization representing more than 121,000 public education employees. OEA members include:

K-12 teachers

Higher education faculty

Librarians

Secretaries

Nurses

Bus drivers

Food service workers

Maintenance personnel

DD professionals

Teachers in correctional institutions and state agencies

Professionals working at Ohio's colleges and universities

Instructional aides/Para-professionals



## Retirement Issues

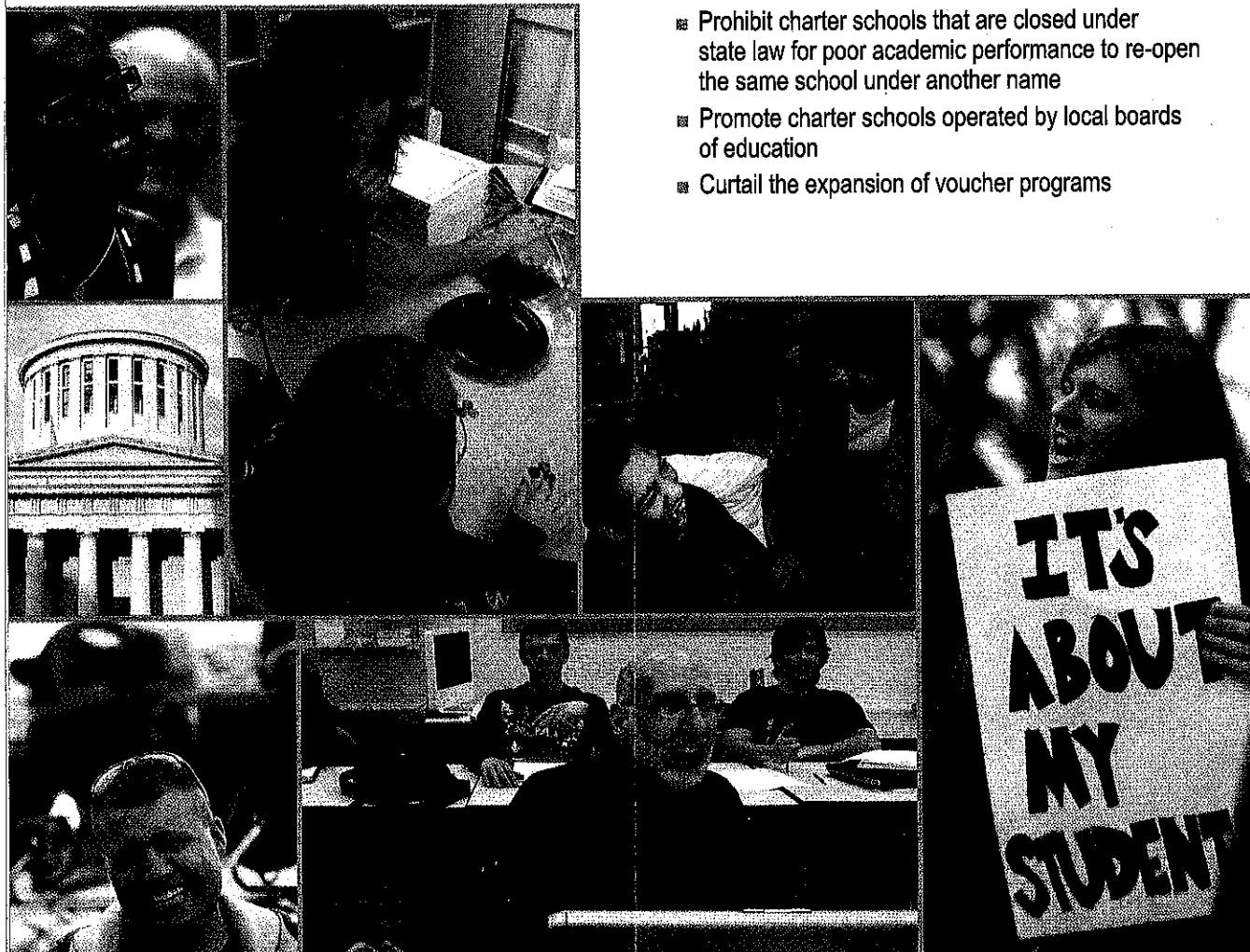
A secure retirement is vital to those who dedicate their careers to serving Ohio's students. In order to maintain these benefits for our members, OEA will:

- Support legislation that sustains the long-term solvency of the public retirement systems while treating employees and retirees fairly and equitably
- Oppose proposals that undermine the stability of defined benefit plans for public employees

## Charter Schools and Vouchers

OEA supports providing educational options in an academically sound and fiscally accountable manner. OEA supports reforms to charter school and voucher programs that will:

- Provide greater accountability and transparency in order to protect students
- Prohibit for-profit operators of charter schools
- Require the same licensure and evaluation requirements for charter school teachers as traditional public school teachers
- Conduct a thorough analysis of the academic achievement results of charter schools and voucher programs
- Prohibit charter schools that are closed under state law for poor academic performance to re-open the same school under another name
- Promote charter schools operated by local boards of education
- Curtail the expansion of voucher programs



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