

Mar 2015

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ESEA



What is ESEA?  
ESEA is the acronym for the “Elementary and Secondary Education Act” also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Currently, this legislation is being considered for reauthorization in the United States Congress. Since it was originally adopted 12 years ago, NCLB has made NO significant progress in closing the achievement or opportunity gap for students. Instead, it has perpetuated a system that delivers unequal opportunities and an uneven quality of education to America’s children making it impossible for educators to do what is most important: instill a love of learning in their students.

As educators, we have a chance to set a new vision for a public education system that promotes opportunity and excellence for ALL students. In order for Congress to get the law right this time, every educator needs to tell Congress to make sure that any new federal education bill does three things:

1) Creates more opportunity for all students to receive a quality education, no matter their zip code

- This means replace the one-size-fits-all, top-down approach with a new “school dashboard” of indicators to identify opportunity gaps and reveal gaps in some of the basic components of a high quality, well-rounded education that prepares each student for college and/or a career.

2) Allows more time for students to learn and more time for teachers to teach

- Testing takes time away from learning. We must reduce the emphasis on federally-mandated standardized tests which would drain time and resources for real learning, diminish “teaching to the test,” and allow educators to focus in on what is most important: instilling a love of learning in their students.
- A revised ESEA should include a proven approach called “grade-span” testing, which would test students in English, Math and Science once in elementary, once in middle school and once in high school.

3) Ensures every student has a qualified educator who is empowered to lead

- We need to build a pipeline of diverse, fully qualified educators who are available to every student, in every zip code and who are prepared to teach in today’s classroom on day one.
- Educators care about their students. We must ensure they have authority to do their job and lead on behalf of their students.

Tell Congress a new Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must mean opportunity and time to learn for ALL. Please take time to contact your US Congressmen and urge them to get it right!

Article compliments of NEA

“For Your Own Safety”



Logging onto the GJPS network

Please remember- When logging onto the school’s Internet, even with your own device, your information is no longer private. Your whereabouts and searches on websites are traceable. This is not to imply that our district is spying on teachers, but to inform you that

the district does have the right to check any online activity if you are using the school network. Do not use the school Internet or email for personal reasons when you are at school or home. Those emails are public record and occasionally the district does receive a request for public records that includes a teacher’s emails. By law, the district will only redact student information from those emails before the district complies with the request. Please use caution when you are searching on the school Internet and any messages that you are sending using your school email.

Mark Your Calendar:

3/13	End of 3rd Quarter
4/3	Spring Break Begins
4/3	Passover begins
4/5	Easter
4/9	Bd of Ed @ 6:30 PM
4/13	Classes Resume
4/15	Tax Day

April 15

May 13

GJEA Board of Directors Meetings

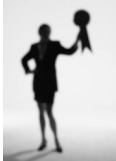
4:00 PM at the LHS Library

All members are welcome to attend!

## GJEA Awards

## Come to Dinner

## TESTING



Each year at its spring retirement dinner, GJEA recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to our schools with our **Friend of Education** award, as well as those retired members who have contributed to the advancement of our association through our **GJEA Hall of Fame** award. Any GJEA member is eligible to nominate deserving individuals for either award.

Nomination forms for both awards can be printed from the GJEA website at: [gahannajeffersonea.ning.com](http://gahannajeffersonea.ning.com). See the links on the left side of the homepage. All nominations for both awards should be submitted to the committee chairperson specified on each form no later than **Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

## 2014 Tax Info

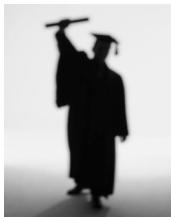


As an association member, you are permitted to deduct a portion of your 2014 dues when itemizing on your federal income tax return. Go to "miscellaneous deductions" on Schedule A of Form 1040, and follow the instructions for deducting association dues. The calculated amount has been provided by OEA, and is **\$799.59 for a full-time educator in Gahanna**. Please refer any dues-related questions to any of your GJEA officers and any tax-related questions to your personal tax advisor.



Please mark your calendars! GJEA's annual retirement dinner will be held at the Easton Hilton on **Monday, May 5**, beginning at 5:30 PM with a cash bar. The dinner will begin at 6:00. We will honor retirees for their years of service to the children of this district. GJEA Site Managers, our scholarship winners, as well as our **Hall of Fame** and **Friend of Education** award recipients will also be honored. Each retiree and one guest will have dinner provided by GJEA. Additional friends, family, and coworkers are \$25 per person. Please send reservations (along with any payment) to Paige Harding (MSE) by Wed., April 29.

## Scholarships



GJEA awards up to three scholarships annually: 1) to a graduating senior at Lincoln High School who plans on majoring in education; 2) to either a graduating senior at LHS who plans to major in education or a college student currently majoring in education *whose parent is a member of GJEA*; and 3) to a graduate of LHS who is currently majoring in education. Applications will be available at the LHS guidance office and must be completed and returned no later than **Thursday, April 2, 2015**.

## "Good from Far but Far From Good"

### Any Good Thing Can be Flawed & Testing is No Different

Testing. The state has turned this word into one that has ruined the love of teaching and learning for most teachers in our profession. Our state legislators have taken our need to assess students to measure growth in learning and create quality lesson plans and have instead created an atmosphere that uses assessments to punish both the student and the teacher. OEA has and will continue to take a strong stand against the hours that are required to give state-mandated tests as they detract from teaching and learning. Additionally, OEA is very concerned about the use of these tests to retain students and to rate and rank teachers causing the evaluation tool to be flawed. In a recent Gallup Poll, the public attitude is in agreement with teachers. 77% of Americans believe that increased testing has hurt or made no difference to improve schools. Becky Higgins, OEA President, has been meeting regularly with Richard Ross, Ohio's State Superintendent, and has testified in front of the state legislature with educators' concerns about what these assessments are doing to our children. There is some movement from a bill being introduced on the floor that will limit the number of hours that students should be spending on the tests. This bill has some "safe harbor" language that would protect both the student and the teacher from the results of the testing. These bills do not go far enough to protect our students and there is much work that remains to be done. But, please know, OEA and its staff continue to work hard to protect the interests of our students and protect our profession.

It took SB5 to rally the troops to protect our collective bargaining rights and now we need to rally again. Enough is enough! This is where you can help. President Higgins is asking for your personal stories about how students are affected by these tests. Please take the time to help OEA get the ammunition we need to put a major dent in PARCC and tests that are hurting our profession and our students. If this is allowed to continue, the effects will be detrimental to teachers, students and our society. Please follow the link for more information on how you can participate and tell Becky about your personal experiences this last month here in classrooms in Gahanna.

[http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51148/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=12659](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51148/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=12659)

Let's be proactive to help change the law. Stop the Over-Testing of our students!

## Tuition Reimbursement



Did you know that Gahanna teachers are eligible for tuition reimbursement? This year, over \$100,000 will be distributed to teachers who have spent money on their continuing education. In past years, teachers have been reimbursed for as much as one third of their tuition expenses.

Please complete the tuition reimbursement form that has been sent

to you by e-mail. Make sure that you provide proof of payment and course completion. This is for tuition expenses **ONLY**. Associated expenses, such as travel, parking, lab fees, or insurance, are not reimbursable. Also, you must fill out the form completely, including monetary totals.

**The correctly completed form must be returned to Matt Cygnor's office no later than May 1, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. No forms will be accepted past this deadline.** Please be aware that if you do not correctly follow the procedure the committee has laid out, you unfortunately will not be included in this year's allotment. If you take a course in April and are unable to procure the documentation by May 2, you may submit it next year for reimbursement.