

Sept 2013

The Advocate

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Charter Schools: Just The Facts

Charter schools have existed in Ohio since 1997 when state legislators passed a law that allowed charters to open exclusively within the boundaries of the state's eight largest urban school systems. Charters have now been allowed to expand statewide, and consume nearly \$1 billion annually — money drawn away from public schools' general fund accounts. So, how are charters doing sixteen years later?

According to an article by *The Columbus Dispatch* (9-1-2013), "Almost 84,000 Ohio students — 87 percent of the state's charter-school students — attend a charter ranking D or F in meeting state performance standards."

Did you know that the Gahanna-Jefferson school district pays more than \$2 million annually (out of our general fund) for 300 students who reside within our district to attend charter schools? And not one of those students attends a school that is rated higher than our own district!

It is important to remember that charter schools were started in order to show the public schools — who were perceived as

being resistant to change — how to properly educate students.

While 76% of public school districts earned an A or a B on the most recently reported performance index, only 12% of charter schools earned an A or a B in this category.

While 74% of public school districts earned an A or a B in graduating students in four years, only 7% of charter schools earned an A or a B in the graduation category.

Ohio's on-line charter schools — which are receiving more funding and are rapidly expanding — have a dismal graduation rate of about 30%! And they are allowed to continue!

Even the *Dispatch* admitted in its article: "Meanwhile, the state's charter school rolls expanded again this year. Statewide, 52 charters are set to open, 17 of them in Columbus. The state approved three new Internet charters — where students work from home on computers — despite their persistently poor performance across the board." **Are charter schools in Ohio worth a continued \$1 billion investment?**

Education Foundation Grants Available

Need something for your classroom that will enhance the learning of your students? Are you not sure where to go for funding? The **Gahanna-Jefferson Education Foundation (GJEF)** may be just what you need. The GJEF's committee members — including teachers, administrators, and community representatives — are here to help!

Right now is the open application period during which teachers can request GJEF funding for innovative educational programs that would enrich their students' learning experiences and foster im-

proved student performance. Teachers desiring to apply for a foundation grant need to visit www.GJEF.org and click on "Grant Application" for additional information and a copy of the application.

GJEF applications are due no later than Friday, November 1st, and grants will be awarded in December. Please note that this is the only time this school year that GJEF will be accepting applications. Individual teachers, grade levels, and departments are encouraged to submit proposals. Help GJEF to continue promoting excellence!

Mark Your Calendar:

9/22	First Day of Autumn
9/24	Negotiations Session
10/1	Early Voting Begins!
10/7	Last Day to Register to Vote
10/10	Bd. Of Ed., Clark Hall, 6:30 pm
10/16	National Boss Day
10/18	No School — Comp Day

GJEA Board of Directors Meetings

4:00 PM at Lincoln High School Library

October 16	February 19
November 20	March 19
December 18	April 16
January 15	May 21

All members are welcome to attend!

Your GJEA Building Reps for 2013-2014

Jim Birath, LHS

Tracy Dyckman, LHS

Mike Kralovic, LHS

Carolyn Toth, LHS

Brian Antrim, MSE

Josh Goody, MSE

Dave Palguta, MSE

Matt Anderson, MSS

Stefanie Passwaters, MSS

Jeanette Frioni, MSW

Kamie Guzy, MSW

Joe McCreary, MSW

Wendy Roberts, MSW

Ed Thomas, BE

Fran Flowers, CE

Lauren Martin, CE

Danielle Ziraldo, CE

Mary Beth Powell, GL

Ellen Schultz, GL

Rachel Coldwell, HP

Chris Linnabary, HP

Lindsay Condon, JE

Doug Palmer, JE

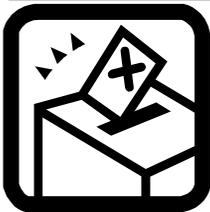
Lindsay Dexter, LE

Sarah Hanson, LE

Marcha Pittro, RM

Kristi Vanderkamp, RM

OEA, NEA Delegate Election Notification



During the last week of September, GJEA will hold elections for delegates to the 2013-2014 OEA and NEA representative assemblies. OEA delegates will represent our local membership at the **December 7 and May 9-10** representative assemblies, as well as the

Central OEA/NEA District RA, which will take place on **April 26**.

Our NEA delegates will represent the GJEA membership at the annual RA of the National Education Association. The NEA RA always takes place during the first week of July, and will be held in Denver next summer.

We are anticipating that we will

need at least ten OEA delegates and three or four NEA delegates. **Members who are interested in running to be a delegate should contact GJEA President Jenny Palguta no later than September 20** to have their names placed on the ballot.

Questions about the RA delegate election process may be directed to any of the GJEA officers.

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OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

As stated recently in *The Negotiator*, your GJEA negotiations team will next meet with the Board of Education's team on Tuesday, September 24 after school. Have you signed up for Remind 101 yet? If not, text @ **gjea** to 614.441.8941. Also, make sure you receive GJEA email messages by sending your PERSONAL email address to President Jenny Palguta at: **palgutaj@hotmail.com**

Register to Vote



Did you know that even though the General Election will not take place until Tuesday, November 5, early voting will begin on **Tuesday, October 1!** This election is very important for our school district, as we have **four** open Board of Education seats to be filled. **You must be registered by October 7 in order to vote in this election.** Go to: <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/> for additional voting information.

Office Move



On Monday, September 23, the GJEA office will be moving from its current location at Middle School South to a new space at Lincoln High School — near the Tech Center. Because GJEA pays for half-time presidential release, President Jenny Palguta will be based there each afternoon. The GJEA cell phone number remains the same: 614.562.3416.

LPDC Reminder

Do you have a question about your teaching license? Will you need to renew your teaching license in 2014? All license-related questions can be answered by our Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC), with all related information now located on the GJPS Staff Intranet. Just look in the left column and scroll down to "Human Resources." Then click on the "LPDC" link. All current LPDC forms — including IPDP and CEU requests are now located at this site. LPDC Committee members include: Chair **Sandy Nicholson** (BE); Vice Chair **Rhonda Wamsley** (MSS); Secretary **Angela Potts** (LHS); **Matt Cygnor** (CO); and **Erin Anderson** (CO).

STRS Update

STRS Ohio's total fund return was +13.7% for the year ending June 30, 2013. The market value of investment assets as of June 30 was \$68.0 billion. The strong return for fiscal 2013 well exceeded the fund's assumed actuarial return of 7.75%, but trailed the total fund benchmark return. Bloomberg News has reported that the median gain for public pension funds was +12.4% for the 12 months ending June 30.



STATE TEACHERS
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OF OHIO

Sick Leave Bank

Please remember that completed sick leave bank forms must be submitted to GJEA President, Jenny Palguta, no later than Monday, September 24. Teachers who have contributed one (1) day of sick leave to the bank are then eligible to apply for days from the bank should they ever run out of sick leave. Days from the sick leave bank can be granted for "catastrophic, prolonged, or chronic personal illness or injury to the Employee or a member of the Employee's immediate family."

Please check with your building representative if you have any questions, as well as to submit a donation form.

