Established 1959

PACE

September 16, 2026

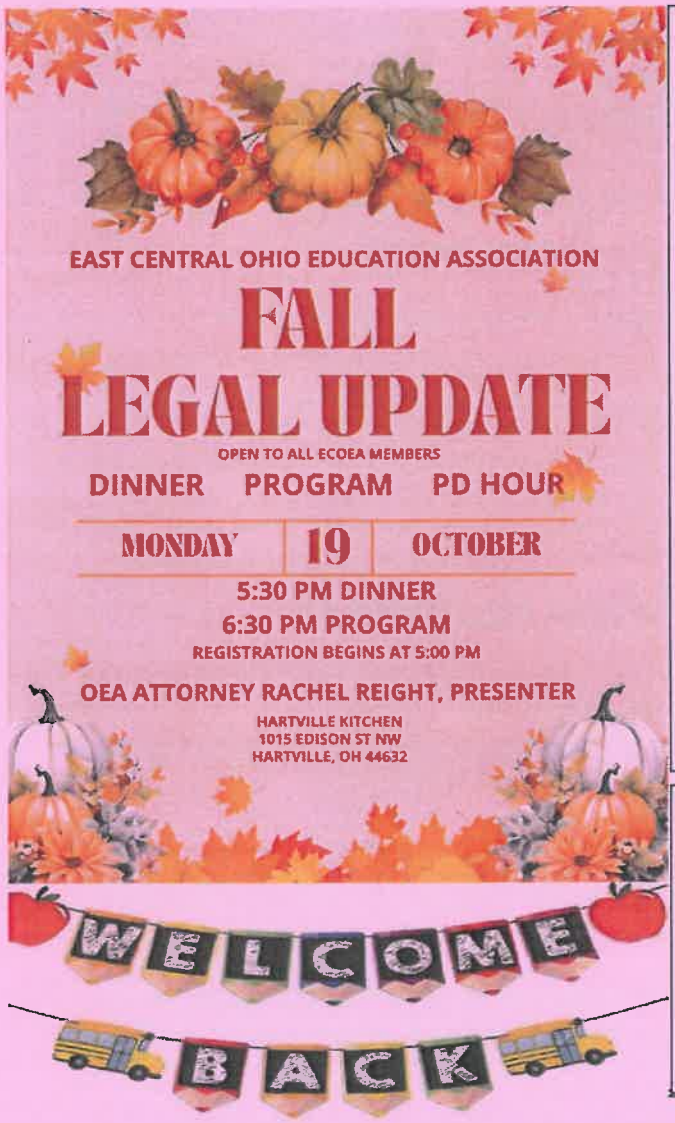
A Publication of Canton Professional Educators' Association
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MISSION STATEMENT: ***The Canton Professional Educators' Association initiates and supports positive changes in the public school system, promotes the educational profession, and actively serves as an advocate for its members.***

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: Paul Palomba

Your Dues Dollars Go Where the Fight Is

Membership season brings an understandable question: **Where do my dues dollars go?**
Most members identify with the union locally first. That makes sense. CPEA answers the phone, enforces the contract, represents members, negotiates salaries and benefits, and confronts problems inside our district.
OEA can feel more distant.
NEA can feel farther away still.
So, when members examine the dues breakdown, some reasonably ask why a significant portion supports organizations beyond the local association they see every day.
The answer is scale.
We experience our union locally, but many of the forces determining our future operate nationally. The organizations working to privatize public education are not neighborhood operations. They are coordinated, extraordinarily wealthy networks capable of influencing elections, moving legislation, financing advertising, and repeating the same voucher strategy from one statehouse to another.
Fighting that machinery requires machinery of our own.
In 2024 alone, coalitions opposing voucher expansion in Kentucky, Nebraska, and Colorado reported more than **$22 million** in contributions. Those victories required research, attorneys, communications professionals, advertising, campaign infrastructure, organizers, canvassers—and thousands of educators willing to act.
Before those victories, voters had already rejected vouchers, private-school subsidies, tuition tax credits, or attempts to weaken constitutional protections for public education on **23 other state-level occasions**. The NEA and its state affiliates helped lead many of those fights alongside parents, faith communities, civil-rights organizations, and public-school coalitions.
And here is the fact voucher advocates would prefer we overlook: among the **26 documented state-level votes in this history**, when citizens were permitted to decide directly, **public funding for private education was rejected every time.**
Yet vouchers now operate in dozens of states because legislators have frequently enacted or expanded them without a direct vote of the people—sometimes burying sweeping provisions inside enormous state budget bills. Ohio's universal voucher expansion was passed that way.That is why national strength matters. NEA dues combine the resources of millions of educators so that when a well-financed attack emerges in Ohio—or Michigan, Kentucky, Nebraska, Colorado, or anywhere else—the educators in that state do not stand alone.
Your local association protects your contract.
Your state association protects your profession in Ohio.
Your national association helps protect public education wherever the next attack begins.
The portion of your dues that travels beyond Canton does not disappear. It becomes legal capacity, research, organization, communication, and collective power beyond the reach of any single local association.
Without that shared investment, the voucher footprint would almost certainly be much larger than it already is.
Organization wins.
Communication costs money.
And solidarity means never forcing one local—or one state—to fight alone.



2026-2027 CPEA OFFICERS

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MONEY! MONEY!

DID YOU TAKE A COURSE BETWEEN September 2025 & August 2026?

*If you answered **YES**, then submit an application for*

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

*By Wednesday, **September 30, 2026**.*

An application can be downloaded from our website at www.cpeaohio.com , or call the CPEA Office @ 330-455-2158.

Don't forget to complete your online membership before September 30th to receive your $50 rebate payment!



Members AUTOPAY OEA

ELECTION TIME FOR OEA AND ECOEA RA DELEGATES

Once again it is time to elect our delegates to the OEA (Ohio Education Association) and the ECOEA (East Central Ohio Education Association) Representative Assemblies (RA). CPEA is entitled to 13 OEA and ECOEA representatives this year. The responsibilities for the delegates are:

1. Attend the OEA Fall RA in Columbus on December 5, 2026.
2. Attend the ECOEA Spring RA on April 10, 2027.
3. Attend the OEA Spring RA in Columbus May 14 & 15, 2027.

CPEA will pay for the delegate's room & will cover some of the costs for meals when you attend the Fall & Spring OEA Assemblies.

Any member interested in running for one of the OEA and ECOEA delegate positions must contact the CPEA Office at 330-455-2158. **The deadline for indicating your intent is Friday, September 25, 2026.** Delegate elections will be held the first week in October.

Community Town Hall: the Cost of Shortchanging Stark County Schools



Thursday, Oct 8, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
SCIENCE BUILDING AND PUBLIC SERVICES
SILK AUDITORIUM
6200 Frank Ave NW
North Canton, OH 44720

PARENTS UNITED

Parents United for Public Schools and Canton Professional Educators' Association are bringing parents, educators, admins, caregivers, advocates, and community members together to learn about the latest policies and trends in public education funding and discuss strategies for ensuring our most vulnerable students are successful.

WWW.PARENTSUNITEDFORPUBLICSCHOOLS.COM

