



Established 1959

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

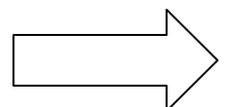
Democracy on Clearance: Ohio's Supermajority and the Disappearing Act of Public Education

For decades, Ohio has existed under the comfortable inertia of a political supermajority—an arrangement that has proven remarkably efficient at one thing: governing without consequences. When power consolidates long enough, accountability fades, dissent becomes background noise, and the Constitution is treated less like governing law and more like optional reading.

Public education has been one of the clearest casualties of this experiment. Ohio's public schools have not failed; they have been systematically undermined. While lawmakers preach "choice," they have engineered a voucher scheme that will cost taxpayers over \$5 billion—much of it concentrated in this year and next year alone. In an astonishingly short time span, billions of public dollars are being siphoned out of community schools and funneled into private and charter institutions.

This isn't reform—it's a publicly funded disappearing act. Schools that serve every child, regardless of cost or complexity, are told to "be efficient," while their competitors collect taxpayer checks with fewer rules, fewer obligations, and far less public accountability. The Ohio Constitution does not equivocate on the state's responsibility. Article VI, Section 2 states plainly: "***The general assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as... will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state.***" Thorough. Efficient. Common. None of these words describe a system that hemorrhages billions in back-to-back years while destabilizing the very schools the Constitution is meant to protect. The disregard becomes even more blatant when nearly 90% of voucher dollars flow to Catholic schools, converting public education funding into a de facto subsidy for religious instruction. The separation of church and state is no longer being tested—it is being bypassed entirely, with taxpayers compelled to underwrite sectarian education whether they consent or not.

Of course when constitutional process threatens to slow this agenda, lawmakers simply bulldoze it. Article II, Section 6 could not be clearer: "***Every bill shall contain but one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title.***" Yet education policy is routinely buried inside massive budget and omnibus bills, rushed through with minimal debate and maximum insulation from public scrutiny. This is the real legacy of a supermajority: not stability, but impunity. Ohio's public education system is not collapsing under its own weight—it is being dismantled at breathtaking speed, this year, next year, and with deliberate intent.



NEA Representative Assembly 2026



July 3-7 in Denver, Colorado

If you are interested in attending through CPEA, please declare your intentions by **March 6, 2026**. CPEA is allocated four (4) local delegates to send this year.

Upon declaring your intentions, your name will then be placed on a ballot to be voted upon by CPEA membership.

CPEA will provide funding for the three (3) delegates who receive the most votes to cover airfare, hotel, & meals. Expenses incurred beyond the amount funded by CPEA will be the responsibility of each delegate. Funding levels will be announced in March.



ECOEA offers The William and Dolores Quinn Scholarship

It is open to members and their children in the ECOEA district only. The deadline to apply is **March 1, 2026**. You can apply online at ecoea.oea.us



For Information regarding CPEA Scholarships or Awards please visit our website www.cpeaohio.com
Or call us at 330-455-2158

2025 – 2026 CPEA “EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR”

Nominate an Outstanding Educator!!!

Any CPEA member can nominate a colleague or Individuals can apply directly.

Nominations Packets Must Include:

- Completed Nomination Form
- Letter from Nominator
- Letter from one Student
- Letter from 2 other colleagues

Selection Process:

- Reviews completed by CPEA, ELT
- Up to 5 finalists selected (if necessary)
- Finalists presented at April BLR Mtg.
- BLRs vote following 5-min presentations

Important Dates

- April 6, 2026- *Nomination Forms must be returned to the CPEA Office by 4:00 P.M.*

-April 6, 2026- If necessary, the ELT narrows the field to 5 finalists

-April 13, 2026- BLRs will hear presentations and select “Educator of the Year”

-May 5, 2026- The award will be presented at the CPEA Banquet at La Pizzeria!

Ways to Get a Form: Building Rep, www.cpeaohio.com, or call the office 330-455-2158

Recognize excellence — submit a nomination!

TODAY, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2026 IS THE LAST DAY TO DECLARE CANDIDACY FOR THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

TODAY, FRIDAY FERUARY 27, 2026 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE ECOEA LEGISLATIVE DINNER

2026 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE APRIL 10, 2026