

**MEMBER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR PANEL CONSIDERATION AT THE  
EAST CENTRAL OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE DINNER**

**MARCH 3, 2017**

**TOPIC: DECISION MAKING**

What steps do legislators take to educate themselves on the many education policy decisions they make that directly impact the daily lives of students and teacher? How do legislators learn about the impact of testing?

**TOPIC: SCHOOL CHOICE**

When we say that “Parents are children’s first teachers” and “Parents know best what their children need,” the parents who are that invested and involved in their children’s academic success will likely raise children who are successful, regardless of where or how they are educated. But what about the many, many students who have parents who cannot or do not invest in their best interests and advocate for them? In the school choice discussion, where do these kiddos fit in? We have to make sure these kids, who have no one to advocate for them, don’t have the double penalty of losing the funding that pays for the people who do care for and advocate for them, teachers!

**TOPIC: TESTING/VOUCHERS**

Ohio exceed the number of tests required under ESSA. Everyone thinks there is too much testing. Are you in favor eliminating end-of-course exams?

What is your position on vouchers?

**TOPIC: BUDGET, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (TESTING)**

1. My school district will be receiving less money with the government’s budget. The school funding system is still unconstitutional and has been for 20 years. Have you given up on fixing it? If not, what is your plan?
2. Testing and graduation requirements are failing policies. What will you do about the graduation rates? Only 80% of my schools current juniors are on target to graduate.

**TOPIC: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

The current path to graduation is nearly impossible for most students. What is being done to fix that?

**TOPIC: E-SCHOOLS**

This is an area that must be revamped. The curriculum for the programs I have seen are a joke. Is our goal to educate students thereby turning out responsible citizens or is it to simply move students through so the graduation rate looks good?

**TOPIC: CHARTERS AND VOUCHERS**

What can you commit to doing about accountability for charter schools that receive any public money? Same accountability as public schools is what we would like to see!—*Wellsville Local*

### **TOPIC: CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Since charter schools are allowed to steal tax dollars from public schools, why are they also not required to take students with IEPs, special needs, and behavior problems? Is it the intent for public schools to become a dumping ground for those students the charter schools reject?

### **TOPIC: CHARTER**

How can we be assured that charter schools will continue to be held at greater accountability for performance and protect families from charter schools who do not manage finances, have poor academic achievement and have huge profits?

### **TOPIC: CHARTERS, VOUCHERS, E-LEARNING**

Many questions about this topic:

1. What can you commit to doing about charter school accountability?
2. Ensuring rigorous standards within e-learning curriculums.
3. Protecting families from failing charter schools.
4. Insisting charter schools accept and educate ALL students rather than rejecting students with special needs.

### **TOPIC: STANDARDIZED TESTING**

As a parent of two elementary aged children, I continue to be very concerned about the amount of and reliance on testing. My fourth grader gest to visit the school library once a week and the vast majority of this time in the library is spent on computer literacy skills! He regularly comments to me that he just does not understand why he cannot just look at and read the books. How do we convince the state that our kids do not need to spend so much time testing? They need more time learning.

### **TOPIC: WITH CHARTERS AND OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM STILL LOOMING LARGE...**

What will you advocate for in order to continue increasing the heat on charter school oversight and decrease the punitive climate that continues with the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System?

### **TOPIC: OTES**

Superintendents have been asked to share feedback about possible changes with the current teacher evaluation system.

1. Can anyone speak to these changes?
2. What is the plan for seeking teachers' input?

*--Kelli Green, Perry Classroom Teachers' Association*

### **TOPIC: TEACHING PROFESSION**

How do you plan to attract and keep the "best and brightest" teachers? Stress, testing, punitive measures with OTES, pay freezes. Great teachers are leaving the profession and few want to enter.—*James Wooley, Plain Local Teachers' Association*

**TOPIC: TEACHER REQUIREMENTS**

Teachers are on a daily basis dealing with business and business workers. Business owners are not in schools regularly, if ever, particularly seeing it from a teacher's point of view. Why is the proposed law to force teachers into businesses, not the other way around? –*Ed Sims, Rittman Education Association*

**TOPIC: TEACHER RESPECT**

At one time, educators were highly respected for their roles in developing our children into contributing members of society. In recent years, educators seem to be the fall guy for all of society's ills. Today there are attacks on our ability to collectively bargain, constant evaluation and questioning our techniques and methods, and endless data analysis and completion of useless forms wears away at our self-esteem. I would like to know when and how teachers became public enemy number one?

**TOPIC: PROTECTING OF SERVICES**

With the potential federal meddling with Title I funding which can be comingled with Title II, how do you plan on protecting services for our English language learner population?

**TOPIC: SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

Are you in agreement with the talk of proposed cuts to the funding of free and reduced school lunch programs?

**TOPIC: CERTIFIED LIBRARIANS**

How will you ensure that certified librarians are in charge of school libraries, especially now when there is an important focus on fostering critical thinking in our students?

**TOPIC: EQUAL ACCESS**

What possibilities are there for restoring the lost funding for INFOhio , as this money supports an even playing field for all 2.1 million Ohio schoolchildren, including charter, private, and home schooled students by providing equal access to important digital literacy tools?

**TOPIC: INFOHIO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

For the 15-16 fiscal year budget, the state legislature inadvertently made a clerical error, cutting critical funding from INFOhio in the amount of \$1.1 million. Are you willing to restore this funding to FY 14-15 levels, ensuring that all Ohio's school children including public, private, charter, and home schoolers have access to the 31 million downloads of digital content?

**TOPIC: SCHOOL FUNDING**

Are we ever going to fix school funding? Why should school funding depend on the treatment of transgender students? Why should school funding depend on test results?

**TOPIC: ESSA**

Talk about the rollout, the timelines, the requirement, and the necessity?

**TOPIC: ESSA**

Your thoughts? Suggestions for advocating for what is best for our students?

**TOPIC: EDUCATION LEADERS IN THE HOUSE**

It seems as though there have been no leaders in the House that have discussed alternatives to school accountability and teacher evaluations. Is there any new ideas or thoughts on these issues?

**TOPIC: COMMUNICATING WITH LEGISLATORS**

For our members here who are new to advocacy and political action and may be nervous, what is the best way to communicate with our legislators about our concerns?