

Questions submitted for the ECOEA Legislative Dinner, March 4, 2022

1. Equity and inclusion in curriculum/CRT
Safety and or protections for LGBTQ+ students and educators
2. Why is it thought to be a good idea to require a year's worth of lesson plans be turned in before we have even met our students? Will teachers be "punished" if lesson plans are not followed exactly, because a good teacher adjusts to his/her students on an hourly, daily basis.
3. Why are people with zero education experience permitted to make decision on requirements in schools without the educators input?
4. Requiring teachers to submit lesson plans in June for an entire year.
5. What are you doing to strengthen Ohio's public schools? What are your thoughts on the "Backpack Bill?"
6. HB 290, the backpack bill, talks about giving each child money to be used outside of public schools. What are you doing to help support public education and to keep funding in our districts? There are more tasks required of educators than ever before. We are following state standards, while assessing students often, meeting **their** emotional needs, acting as caregivers, counselors, and more. What can be done to support teachers' mental health needs when fulfilling all of these different roles?
Please discuss your thoughts on HB 327 and HB 529.
7. We are struggling with mental health, our students are suffering, however we don't have enough counselors and psychologists because they are not compensated fairly. What can you do to see that change?
8. Why is public education always under attack for political gain? We teach what we are told. We do not discriminate against who comes through our doors.
9. State testing. Graduation requirements. Distribution of funds.
10. For Representative Hillyer: HB 322, 327 and 529 collectively make it more difficult to perform my duties to the best of my abilities. I am an educator with over 27 years of classroom experience, I have earned master's degree with a concentration on the US Constitution, continue my graduate studies with an additional 32 graduate credits of study covering the United States Constitution, a James Madison Constitutional Fellow, and I want to know why the GOP led legislatures are attacking social studies teachers and treating us as enemies of the state. The very introduction of these types of bills are demeaning and destructive to all classroom educators across the state.
11. If you take controversial issues out of the classroom then you leave thousands of American young people left to follow information from the internet, social media, and network news. Teachers are trained and experienced in helping students develop critical thinking skills, detecting bias, identifying reliable sources, and recognizing of facts and opinions. These are part of the state mandated standards. But these types of actions, introduction of legislation that goes against the state standard curriculum, do not support a productive republic. They remove student advocacy, interest, action, engagement, conflict resolution, and remove the very essence of good civic education that allows a free society to flourish.
To Dr. Christina Collins, thank you for your continued support and advocacy of classroom teachers. It is genuinely appreciated.
12. Teacher retention and recruitment. HB 322. HB 327
13. Developmentally appropriate standards by grade level. Mandatory gross motor time/breaks in primary, elementary and intermediate grade levels.
14. CRT
15. "Curriculum transparency" bill
16. SEL, CRT
17. House Bill 290. Increase concerns regarding student attendance/truancy. How to fairly address the academic gap created as a result of the pandemic in regard to state testing.

18. I believe many teachers are afraid to become politically active because of our public role. How can we (the actual teachers) convince you and other politicians to listen to us instead of a small group of non-educators (parents)?
We are watching other states draft bills with unrealistic rules for teaching; Rules that tie our hands and don't allow us to use our knowledge and expertise to teach children to become productive parts of society; Rules that will drive educators out of classrooms; Rules that will require content to be the same for ALL students- regardless of learning level; Rules that contradict other rules (PBIS, reaching the individual, mental health practices) I don't think parents and politicians understand how this will adversely affect classrooms and their children. What do you envision a classroom to look like in the future and what is the political path to make that vision a reality?
It seems that many of our legislators feel that public education is failing. (For the wrong reasons) What do you feel is broken in this system and how do you plan to fix it?
19. Teacher burn-out/stress. Small class sizes in elementary. Funding for public preschool. Get rid of assessments that are online/computers for K-2.
20. Indiana House Bill 1134 and the implications it could have on Ohio. There are currently similar bills in other states including Ohio. What is your opinion of these new oversight laws and what would be your plan for Ohio?
State testing - we have continued to have disruptions to education this year and both students and teachers have had extended absences due to Covid-19. What data do you hope to gain from testing and how will you use that to help students and teachers close the gap due to the pandemic?
There are nationwide reports of teacher shortages and predictions of more teachers leaving the profession. What is your plan to ensure a quality educational environment for students and teachers? How do you plan to maintain manageable class sizes and safety protocols?
21. Legislative control/oversight of teachers' lesson planning. Funding question...when will it be settled? Book banning questions?
22. What are your thoughts about the recently failed bill in Iowa that would have required schools to install a camera pointed towards the teacher in every classroom (excluding special education and physical education classes) for the purpose of providing a live feed to parent? Do you feel this would encourage parental involvement that would positively affect education?
23. How would you prefer to be contacted to hear from community members: email, phone, usps or in-person?
24. Dyslexia legislation. Critical race legislation
25. Legislative opposition (and proposed legislation) to prohibit historical facts from being taught in K-12 schools less than glowing aspects of US history such as institution racism (e.g., enslavement of African-Americans, mistreatment of First Nations, and indigenous people, internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, poor treatment and oppression of immigrants in general). Legislative opposition to public health initiatives. Gerrymandering of legislative districts (which sometimes includes results in school districts being divided between multiple legislative districts). When will the school funding issue be resolved to comply with the DeRolph decision of so many years ago?
26. Is the Legislature (including even at the Committee level) contemplating any action in 2022 regarding Ohio's public pension systems most specifically STRS?
27. Reforms to the Election laws in Ohio decrease voter participation and the ability to elect pro public school legislators.
28. Early/Mid-career teachers are leaving the field at a fast rate than historical averages. In 2000, 11% of our nation's college freshmen were going into education. For the current year, it is 4.3%. What actions are you going to take to keep highly qualified teachers in Ohio's classrooms for the next decade or more?

Questions submitted at the Legislative Dinner:

29. Race as a wedge issue-Over the past year, CRT has been used to drive the electorate and to ensure they can win elections. Yet, no one has offered evidence on what this is. Yesterday, the Plain Dealer reported that Kim Richey, an applicant for the State Superintendent, said she will drive legislation to regulate “race-based instruction”, yet does not provide examples on what this is. Will each of you tonight commit to ending the practice of using race as a wedge issue?
30. Windfall Act-After numerous petitions that were signed to abolish the Windfall Act, why have no representatives looked into this, to be put on the ballot for voting?
31. For Representative Oelslager, former ORSC member, there are two bills currently introduced to mandate that STRS pay retirees a COLA. Please share your thoughts regarding these bills.
32. HB 317-Divisive Concepts. Children need to be taught history accurately.
33. If a school district has chosen to build an elementary school on contaminated property rather than on the *clean* property they own, is there any grant money available to pay for the ensuing mitigation that will cost taxpayers \$250,000 because of the district’s unfortunate site decision? What state group or person would help taxpayers/the district to apply for such grant money?