

# Advocacy Update!

Here is a short summary of some legislative and advocacy activities right now.

The following are from the October "Ohio PTA News" and Ohio PTA Advocacy e-mails:

## - **HB406 Anti-Paddling Bill**

This is currently on the house floor. There are 17 school districts in Ohio that still allow paddling. Ohio is striving to be the 30th state to eliminate paddling in schools.

## - **Visit the new Ohio PTA website Advocacy Section.**

"Cap Wiz" has been added as a tool to help monitor current legislation and provide alerts to our members when action is needed to contact key legislators. Links are available to the actual language of the bill on the Legislative Services Commission website. At the site you can also locate your legislator for biography and contact information. Tips on contacting your legislator are also included.

Go to: [www.ohiopta.org](http://www.ohiopta.org); Select the Advocacy tab; Select the "Issues and Legislation" Here you will see legislation that PTA has spotlighted (National and Ohio) Select "All Current Legislation" to view additional bills PTA is monitoring. They are grouped by issue (Education, Health, welfare and Safety, Charter Schools, Funding, etc)

## - **PTA Encourages Helping to Set-Up Flu Vaccine Clinics**

Get the word out about flu prevention and host a "Let's Fight Flu Together" clinic in your school, community center, library, church or other community facility. Each local PTA unit received a kit in the mail with "how to" and promotional material last month. To register to host a clinic or for more information please visit the PTA website at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). BONUS: PTAs registering to host a flu vaccination clinic by October 31 will be entered automatically into a drawing for a \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 prize.

Note that Congress is still not in session due to the elections.

The following is from the "Ohio Fair Schools Campaign" e-mails:

## - **Ohio's New State Superintendent**

On October 14th, The State Board of Education chose Deb Delisle as the new State Superintendent. Delisle was most recently the Superintendent of Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district. As superintendent, she will "lead and supervise the state's elementary and secondary education system; oversee the Ohio Department of Education; administer licensing of Ohio's early childhood through high school educators; and manage relationships with key stakeholders, such as the governor, state legislature, chancellor of Ohio's university system and local school districts."(Ohio Department of Education)

## - **Governor Strickland's Efforts on Education Reform**

Governor Strickland hosted eleven "Conversations on Education" across the state in July-September. In addition to the comments from the participants attending the conversations, over 3000 comments were collected from the public through the web site, watch parties, and working groups. In her October 20 Education Update, Joan Platz provides highlights from an analysis by the Governor's Office, broken into ten key themes. To read it, visit: [http://ohiofairschools.org/learn/Ed\\_Updates/10\\_20\\_08.html](http://ohiofairschools.org/learn/Ed_Updates/10_20_08.html) (item #3)

## - **HOW MANY KIDS FROM YOUR DISTRICT GO TO CHARTER SCHOOLS?**

"Most people associate charter schools with Ohio's large urban school districts. However, for the 2007-2008 school year, all but three of the state's 600-plus public school districts lost students to charter schools." The Ohio Education Association has put together an interesting tool that you can use to look up a school district and find out how many students left the district for charter schools, and whether or not

those charter schools are performing better or worse than the district that the students left. You must have Microsoft Excel installed on your computer to use this tool. To download the tool, visit:

<https://www.ohea.org/GD/DocumentManagement/DocumentDownload.aspx?DocumentID=12399>.

**- INTERACTIVE MAP: 2007-08 LOCAL REPORT CARDS**

Every August the Ohio Department of Education releases school district report card data for all the schools in the state. This interactive map details information about each school district including: mean SAT and ACT scores, standards met, performance index rating, and distinction. The map was created by the Akron Beacon Journal and also serves as a visual reminder of the varying adequacy of school districts across Ohio. To view the map, visit:

[http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2008/08/ohio\\_school\\_report\\_cards\\_1.html](http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2008/08/ohio_school_report_cards_1.html)

To view any district's full report card, visit: <http://ilrc.ode.state.oh.us/>

**The PTA Mission:**

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities
- *A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child*

Please contact me (Elise Fessler @ [bfsing@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bfsing@cinci.rr.com), HCC & Finneytown PTAs' Advocacy Chair) to get on a distribution list for monthly Advocacy Reports (this report can be used as is for meetings and newsletters or edit it as desired but please keep the references mentioned).