



OEA's 2012 Legislative Agenda

A Focus on Teaching and the Classroom

Recruiting and Keeping Quality Teachers and Support Professionals

Increase teacher salaries \$2,000 across the board.

In addition, provide increased funding for:

- Teaching experience
- Higher degree and certification attainment
- Working in hard to staff subject areas or locations

Increase Education Support Professionals salaries \$1,000 across the board.

Provide supplemental funding for 2012 National Board Certified Teacher stipend and scholarship program.

Education Employees Health Insurance and Retirement

Provide health insurance benefits that are equal to what legislators and state employees receive.

Increase the OSEEGIB/EBC Board to include representatives from the constituent groups (i.e. education employees).

Provide for a sound Teacher Retirement System that provides fair COLA's and increased health insurance subsidies.

Investigate the sale of the Oklahoma Lottery with proceeds going to the Teachers' Retirement System.

School Culture

Increased time during the student day – Teachers must have time to plan, collaborate and learn in order to have a successful learning community. OEA supports mandating a minimum of 300 minutes per week during the student day. This time should be structured to allow for teachers to plan and discuss how to best implement instruction.

Professional development to empower quality instruction – Teachers are faced with a more diverse student population than ever before. Many of today's students do not speak English fluently. Additional challenges are experienced by students that come from nontraditional families and backgrounds of poverty.

Two-year teacher mentoring program – More than 35 percent of our newest teachers have come to teaching through Alternative Certification. All new teachers must have quality professional mentoring in order to provide quality instruction and support to stay in teaching.

Reward outstanding students who enter teacher education programs at state colleges and universities.

Increase the ability of teachers and support professionals to have input into school decision making

Expand alternative school settings to provide avenues to help deal with chronic classroom discipline issues. Provide counseling and other strategies to change disruptive and violent behavior.

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Accountability and Classroom Instruction

Complete a student data tracking system designed to inform instruction and provide needed data to teachers and other school personnel regarding the instructor's and school's strengths and weaknesses.

Create a student evaluation system that focuses on the growth of individual student learning and can be also used to inform instruction. Test data should be returned as soon as possible to help teachers and administrators best plan for student success.

Our Kids Deserve the Best

Support legislation to ensure all available monies are directed to the classroom.

Provide adequate operations funding to enable districts to have textbooks, technology, instructional materials, supplies and transportation funding.

Provide funding to keep our schools clean, comfortable and safe for all our students.

Provide additional funding so that our students can receive the additional instruction they need for remediation in order to meet third grade reading and ACE requirements.

Require that class sizes be small enough to allow for the individual attention our students need, and provide support professional assistance to all classes that exceed the state limits. Eliminate exemptions from class size requirements.

Support the reinstatement of funding for programs cut in the State Department of Education's 2011-12 Budget (including but not limited to Literacy First, Great Expectations, Oklahoma Technology Assistance Center, National Board Certified Teacher stipends).

Support changes to the manner and degree that tax credits and exemptions are provided to special interests in order to provide additional funding for schools.

Virtual education should be offered in a similar manner as alternative education.



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