

# The Education Focus

For the membership of the Oklahoma Education Association • Sept./Oct. 2010



## SQ 744

*A once-in-a-lifetime  
chance to make education  
a true priority*

# Education's big election

Perhaps the most important election for education is coming on November 2. In this issue, you'll find important information on SQ 744 as well as who's running for office.

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## Need help? Call us.

Do you need assistance with a personnel matter? Would you like to invite an OEA Teaching and Learning Specialist to provide professional development in your building? Does your Association need organizing help? Call your regional office and ask for help.

### Oklahoma City Metro and Southwest Teams

800/522-8091 or 405/528-7785

### Northeast and Tulsa Metro Teams

800/331-5143 or 918/665-2282

### Northwest Team

800/439-0393 or 580/256-0071

### Southeast Team

800/563-4230 or 405/275-4060

# The Education Focus

Volume 28, No. 1

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## Join today!

*Membership in the OEA provides security, symbolizes professionalism and brings with it a wealth of benefits.*

*Visit [www.okea.org](http://www.okea.org) for more information, and call 800/522-8091 to find out how to join today.*



# We cannot accept 49th

*By Becky Felts  
OEA President*

**49** Every time I see that number I shudder.

Oklahoma is No. 49 in per pupil expenditures, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. That's dead last in our region, which includes Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri.

Only Idaho and Utah spend less money on students than we do (Washington, D.C., is included in the rankings).

Another ugly number is 48th – Oklahoma teachers are 48th in pay, says NEA's Rankings and Estimates. Again, dead last in the region and ahead of only Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota. What's so ironic about that number is how Oklahoma ranks in the top 10 in teacher quality.

49. I'm pretty sure everyone hates that number. They should. We're too competitive to think that number is OK. There's too much at stake to believe 49th is acceptable. Does anyone in Oklahoma think it's alright to spend less on our kids than almost every other state? I don't care what your political party affiliation is, what church you attend, or where you grew up, I really doubt you think 49th in student funding is tolerable.

In what other category would 49th be acceptable, where one is the best and 49th is just two spots from rock bottom? Football? Never. Tourism? We wouldn't have it. Legislative pay? Absolutely not!

If there is any good news about 49th, it is only that we have a way to leave that number behind.

Our salvation can be found in another number – 744 – as in State Question 744. This constitutional amendment will require our legislature to fund PreK-12th grade public education at least at the regional level. By just striving to be average, we'll send about \$1,600 more per student to our schools.

As an education professional and an OEA member, you know just how far another \$1,600 per student would go to help your district. Over the last few months, we've lost thousands of teaching positions and support jobs to budget cuts. The legislature has given schools permission to spend money normally set aside for professional development and text books wherever they see fit to put a bandage on the cuts.

SQ 744 is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to change funding for Oklahoma public education. It's our chance to take education to the next level. SQ 744 is the answer to, "How can we truly make education our state's top priority?"

I could overwhelm an accountant with numbers to show education's impact on our state. Numbers like improving the graduation rate by just 3.2 percent raises tax revenue by \$31.6 million and raises the economy by \$415 million. That housing one inmate in medium security costs our state more than \$20,000 a year, or that a high school dropout is more than eight times more likely than a graduate to wind up in jail.

Right now, the only number that matters is one – your one vote. On November 2, you can help make



*President Becky Felts*

education a true priority when you vote Yes on 744.

Before November 2, we need your help getting out the vote and spreading the message. The first thing you can do is turn to the center of this magazine and pull out the four postcards stapled there (they encourage others to vote yes). Sign them, address them to friends or family, and put them in the mail.

Next, you can help us make calls through phone banks every evening, Monday through Thursday, at the Oklahoma City Headquarters, Tulsa Regional Office and the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association offices. Also, we're making calls from the Woodward and Shawnee offices on Tuesdays.

Call your regional office and volunteer to make calls. We're finding lots of voters who don't know about 744 and are excited to know what it can do for our schools.

The campaign will be organizing doorbell Saturdays in October, knocking doors in your community to share the message with your neighbors. Call your regional office and sign up.

Spread the word. Take someone to the polls with you that might not be able to get there otherwise. Together, we'll make this happen for our kids.

# Two great opportunities

## *OEA offers dynamic professional development sessions in OKC, Tulsa*

Oklahoma teachers will have a tough choice to make on October 21. Should they attend the dynamic professional development program the Oklahoma Education Association will offer in Oklahoma City that day? Or should they attend the dynamic professional development program OEA will offer in Tulsa at the same time?

The two events replace OEA's traditional Convention, held for the last several years in Tulsa. In response to the changing times and needs of its members, OEA is sponsoring two smaller events, but both are equally inviting.

In Oklahoma City, Hal Bowman will bring his "Teach Like A Rock Star" presentation to Metro Technology Center's Springlake Campus (1900 Springlake Drive).

At the same time, Marcia Tate will present "Workshops Don't Grow Dendrites" at the Northeastern State University's Broken Arrow Campus (3100 E. New Orleans Street).

Registration for both events begins at 7:30 a.m., with the programs scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. OEA members attend for free when they show their membership card at registration. Non-members pay \$25, or the fee will be waived if they join at or before the event.

Seating is limited at both sites, so participants are encouraged to pre-register today at [okea.org](http://okea.org) to guarantee a seat.

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### Teach Like a Rock Star

Bowman is the author of the books "A Grade Above, A Step Ahead" and "Teach Like A Rock Star." After earning a degree in music education from Texas Tech, he spent 20 years in the classroom as a band teacher



*Hal Bowman*

and running student mentoring and leadership programs.

His goal for the Teach Like A Rock Star program is to provide teachers "...with the most powerful tools, strategies, and resources available for creating an extraordinary learning environment."

Attendees will learn how to:

- Raise test scores throughout diverse populations.
- Discover the underlying motivation of each individual student.
- Make the transition from classroom management to classroom leadership.
- Build strong connections between teachers and students.
- Create student enthusiasm through unique and innovative teaching strategies.
- Positively influence a student's thoughts, emotions, actions and character.
- Tap into their own abilities to uncover the "Rock Star Teacher" that lies within.

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### Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites

Tate, who earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Clark Atlanta University, is the former executive director of Professional Development for the DeKalb County School System, in Decatur, Ga. During her 30-year career with the district, she was a classroom teacher, reading specialist, language arts coordinator and staff development director.

As an educational consultant, Tate has made presentations around the world and is the author of five best-

*See "Participants" on Page 12*

# Supreme Court ruling lowers insurance premiums

By Kandis West

“Better than expected” is probably the best way to sum up the coming year’s health insurance rate increase.

In the midst of an economic rainstorm, the lowered rate increase and reduced co-pays along with the enhanced benefits offer a bit of relief from the steady beating educators have endured the last few months.

The Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) lowered the expected premium rate increase from 2.5 percent to 1.5 percent last month.

The one percent across-the-board reduction came as a result of the Oklahoma Supreme Court decision

that recently ruled it unconstitutional to place a 1 percent tax on health insurance claims. OSEEGIB had already incorporated the fee into the upcoming plan year and opted to lower the premiums and put the money back into the pockets of the insured.

Joel Robison, OEA associate executive director for the Center of Legislative and Political Organizing, said easing the load on educators, even a little bit, is helpful during tough economic times.

“Every penny counts. Unlike state employees and legislators, premiums for dependents and spouses of educators are not covered. Our education workers deserve a break, and I am

glad OEA has been at the meetings to encourage the board to consider the economic situation of education employees,” Robison said.

This is also good news for school districts, which will now spend \$4.34 less to insure each employee than originally expected.

Other money-saving changes for the upcoming plan year include;

- Reduced co-pays, from \$50 to \$30.
- Coverage for eligible dependents extended to 26 years of age.
- Removal of the lifetime prescription drug limit.
- Preventive office visits (well check-ups and some annual screenings) will be covered at 100 percent with no co-pay for members and dependents under the age of 20.
- Members 20 years and older will receive one free preventive office visit each year, including blood work like lipid panels and comprehensive metabolic panels.

## Who’s responsible for TRS credit?

By Kandis West

One, Two, Three...not me.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education and state legislators seem to be playing a game of tag with the \$35 million dedicated for the teacher retirement credit.

However, neither the Oklahoma Teachers’ Retirement System (OTRS) nor Oklahoma teachers think the game is funny.

James Wilbanks, OTRS executive secretary, said it is very clear that the \$35 million is an obligation of the state and teachers shouldn’t have to make up the difference.

“We are currently in frequent communication with the state department and the governor to see how we can expedite the funding for our teachers’ retirement,” said Becky Felts, Oklahoma Education Association president.

Throughout the process, OEA has been the only teacher organization to speak and represent the interest of

education workers at meetings of the State Board of Education.

The OTRS board voted last month to seek a legal opinion from the attorney general after the \$35 million allocated by legislators to fund teacher retirement credits was spent elsewhere.

The credit has been in law since 1998 and is a direct payment from the

state to OTRS on behalf of all Oklahoma teachers. Depending on years of service, the credit could be anywhere from \$60 to \$1,400. If the credit is not paid, educators could face fines and penalties. In the worst case scenario, a teacher will not get credit for a complete year taught if the total obligation to the retirement system is not met for that particular year.

### Want to win \$250?

Registering with NEA Member Benefits’ Click & Save just may put \$250 in your pocket.

Every OEA member who registers through the OEA website by October 24 will be eligible for one of two \$250 grand prizes or one of five runner-up prizes of \$100.

It’s simple. Log on to [www.okea.org](http://www.okea.org) and click on the red “Your Chance to Win \$250” button on the home page. Then follow the directions to register with Member Benefits.

Click & Save’s “buy-lights” special savings for October include PETCO, up to 40 percent plus \$10 off; Dell, 30 percent off or more; and Sephora, up to 75 percent plus free shipping.



# Parents, religious groups, tribes sign on with SQ 744 Campaign

A diverse group of education associations, parent groups, religious organizations and Native American tribes have signed on with the Yes on 744 Coalition. The group was introduced with the public in early September.

“We are pleased that so many different groups from around the state of Oklahoma have decided to support this important initiative to help Oklahoma’s kids and schools,” said Michael Kolenc, campaign manager for the YES on 744 coalition. “This coalition represents Oklahomans from all walks of life who believe Oklahoma’s children deserve good, high quality schools.”

Together, the coalition members will promote the importance of State Question 744, which will appear on the November 2 ballot. The question will change the Oklahoma constitution and require the state legislature to fund public education at the regional average for per pupil expenditures.

Today the state spends \$8,006 per student, ranking last in the six-state region. The regional average is \$9,633.

“The Oklahoma PTA is excited to be part of the effort to pass SQ 744,” said Sheila Groves, Oklahoma PTA president. “We believe that 49th in the nation and dead last in our region is not good enough for Oklahoma’s children – they deserve to have the necessary tools to be successful, like small class sizes, high quality teachers and up-to-date materials and technology.”

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## Yes on 744 Coalition

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes  
Cooperative Council of Oklahoma School Administrators  
Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma  
Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City  
League of United Latin American Citizens - Oklahoma City Council  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Oklahoma Art Education Association  
Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance  
Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals  
Oklahoma Association of School Administrators  
Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals  
Oklahoma Council for Indian Education  
Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies  
Oklahoma Education Association  
Oklahoma Music Educators Association  
Oklahoma Parent Teachers Association  
Oklahoma State School Boards Association  
Oklahoma Teachers of the Year  
Organization of Rural Oklahoma Schools  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Tulsa Area Parents Legislative Action Committee  
United Suburban Schools Association

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## Ethics Commission approves NEA contribution

The National Education Association’s contribution to the Yes on 744 campaign is legal, according to a ruling of the Oklahoma Ethics Commission (OEC) in mid-September.

The One Oklahoma Coalition (OOC), which is opposing State Question 744, had called for the NEA contribution to be returned, but OEC Executive Director Marilyn Hughes said the donation is in fact legal.

“Under the Supreme Court ruling, any contribution from anyone is not illegal,” Hughes said in a copyrighted story by Scott Carter in the *Jour-*

*nal Record*. “Anyone can give any amount as long as it’s disclosed.”

The NEA has pledged \$3 million to the 744 campaign from the Ballot Measures and Legislative Crisis Fund, which is funded by NEA members. The Representative Assembly approved creation of the fund by dedicating a portion of NEA dues to fight anti-public education efforts around the country and to support pro-education measures, such as SQ 744.

“The NEA contribution comes from member dues, not the associa-

tion’s political activity account. Our legal counsel checked with the Ethics Commission before any contribution was given to the Yes on 744 campaign,” said Michael Kolenc, Yes On 744 campaign manager.

The Ethics Commission earlier had forced the OOC to refund a \$15,000 contribution it received from a state labor union’s political action committee (PAC). According to the State Ethics Commission, the transaction violated state ethics rules that prohibit Oklahoma PACs from transferring funds to other Oklahoma PACs.

# Decision 2010

*A primer for education's most important election*

## First on the ballot, first for kids

The first state question on the Oklahoma ballot is education's most important issue in this year's elections.

SQ 744, which will be the first of 11 questions on this year's lengthy ballot, will change the state's constitution to require the Oklahoma legislature to fund common education at the regional average. Oklahoma currently spends \$8,006 per student, which is \$1,600 less than the regional average and dead last in the seven-state region.

Texas spends over \$1,000 more than Oklahoma while Arkansas spends \$10,345 per pupil, which leads the region.

"Our children deserve the same educational opportunities as children in Texas and Arkansas," said OEA President Becky Felts. "SQ 744 will allow our schools to ensure lower class sizes, offer the technology our kids need in today's classrooms, and improve teacher pay."

Felts describes SQ 744 as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for public education.

"This issue will change the landscape for our children. It is our best chance to make education a true priority in Oklahoma. When passed, it will guarantee we can retain and recruit the best teachers for Oklahoma," she said.

Opponents of the measure have used scare tactics to fight the popu-

larity of SQ 744, saying the amendment will raise taxes and does not call for accountability. But specific language in the state question calls

**YES ON 744**

for no new taxes and requires schools to report on their spending and performance through annual reports provided to the public.

A state's future is dependent on a

quality education system. Economic development, personal income, rate of incarceration – everything ties into education.

"The better educated our children are, the more prosperous our state will be," Felts said.

"Unfortunately, school funding has absorbed too many cuts. SQ 744 is our best chance to protect our children's future."

### Send a postcard, share the message

Stapled into the center of this magazine is a quick and easy way for you to get involved in the Yes on 744 campaign. There you will find four postcards you can sign and send to family and friends. The message on the card says you're voting for SQ 744 and invites them to vote yes, too.

Sign the cards, address them to people you know, put a stamp on each, and drop them in a mailbox.

But wait! We want to see what that looks like. Take a photo of your cat helping you mail the cards, or what they look like waiting patiently for the mailman to pick them up. Then, post the photo on the OEA Facebook fan page. We'll choose a photo or two (randomly) and send those OEA "friends" a little prize.

### Important election dates

**Voter registration closes October 8.**

**Absentee ballot application deadline October 27.**

**Early voting October 29, October 30, November 1.**

**Election Day, November 2 ... polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Need more information? Visit [www.ok.gov/elections](http://www.ok.gov/elections)**

# Who's Running? Races

## Statewide Offices

### Governor

- Jari Askins (D) ✓
- Mary Fallin (R)

### Lieutenant Governor

- Kenneth Corn (D) ✓
- Todd Lamb (R)
- Richard Prawdzienski (I)

### State Auditor and Inspector

- Steve Burrage (D)
- Gary Jones (R)

### Attorney General

- Jim Priest (D) ✓
- Scott Pruitt (R)

### State Treasurer

- Stephen E Covert (D)
- Ken Miller (R)

### Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Susan Paddock (D) ✓
- Janet Barresi (R)
- Richard E. Cooper (I)

### Commissioner of Labor

- Lloyd L. Fields (D)
- Mark Costello (R)

### Insurance Commissioner

- Kim Holland (D) ✓
- John Doak (R)

## Oklahoma Senate

### District 4 - LeFlore, Sequoyah

- Neil Brannon (D) ✓
- Mark Allen (R)

### District 6 - Atoka, Bryan, Coal, Johnston, Marshall

- Jay Paul Gumm (D) ✓
- Josh Brecheen (R)

### District 8 - McIntosh, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Tulsa

- Roger Ballenger (D) ✓
- Janica Edmonds (R)

### District 10 - Kay, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Tulsa

- Dale Christenson Jr. (D)
- Eddie Fields (R)

### District 14 - Carter, Garvin, Love, Murray

- Darryl Roberts (D) ✓
- Frank Simpson (R)

### District 16 - Cleveland, McClain

- John Sparks (D) ✓
- Sharon Parker (R)

### District 18 - Mayes, Tulsa, Wagoner

- Janice Aldridge (D)
- Kim David (R)

### District 42 - Oklahoma

- Mike Kelly (D)
- Cliff A Aldridge (R)

### District 44 - Oklahoma

- Randy Rose (D)
- Ralph Shortey (R)

### District 46 - Oklahoma

- Andrew Rice (D) ✓
- Joshua Jantz (R)

✓ indicates candidate is recommended by the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education

## Oklahoma House of Representatives

### District 1 - \*McCurtain

- Dennis R. Bailey (D) ✓
- Rusty Farley (R)

### District 2 - \*Sequoyah

- Glen Bud Smithson (D) ✓
- John R. Bennett (R)

### District 3 - \*LeFlore

- James Lockhart (D)
- Roger Mattox (R)

### District 4 - \*Cherokee

- Mike Brown (D) ✓
- Dwayne Thompson (R)

### District 9 - \*Rogers

- Eric Cullen (D)
- Marty Quinn (R)

### District 10 - Nowata, Osage, Washington

- Nick Brown (D)
- Steve Martin (R) ✓

### District 15 - \*Haskell, LeFlore, McIntosh, Muskogee, Sequoyah

- Ed Cannaday (D) ✓
- Paul C. Parrott (R)

### District 17 - \*Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, Pittsburg

- Brian Renegar (D) ✓
- Micah Thompson (R)

### District 18 - \*McIntosh, Pittsburg

- Donnie Condit (D)
- Kyle Burmeier (R)

### District 21 - \*Bryan

- Nathan W. Williams (D)
- Dustin Roberts (R)

### District 22 - \*Cleveland, Garvin, McClain, Murray, Pontotoc

- Wes Hilliard (D) ✓
- Allie Burgin (R)

### District 23 - \*Tulsa

- Mark W. Manley (D)
- Sue Tibbs (R)

### District 27 - \*Cleveland, Pottawatomie

- Chris Odneal (D)
- Josh Cockroft (R)

### District 28 - \*Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie, Seminole

- Ed Smith (D)
- Tom Newell (R)

### District 29 - \*Creek, Tulsa

- David W. Narcomey (D)
- Skye McNeil (R) ✓

### District 30 - \*Creek, Tulsa

- Donna Marie Vogelpohl (D)
- Mark E. McCullough (R)

### District 32 - \*Creek, Lincoln

- Danny Morgan (D) ✓
- John B. Husted (R)

### District 34 - \*Payne

- Cory T. Williams (D) ✓
- Ryan Smith (R)

# s for the 2010 Elections

**District 35 - \*Noble,  
\*Osage, Pawnee,  
\*Payne**

- Rodger Ensign (D)
- Dennis Casey (R)

**District 36 - \*Osage,  
\*Tulsa**

- Greg Brown (D)
- Sean Roberts (R)

**District 37 - \*Kay, \*Osage**

- Ken Luttrell (D) ✓
- Steve Vaughan (R)

**District 43 - \*Canadian**

- J. P. Hemminger (D)
- Colby Schwartz (R)

**District 44 - \*Cleveland**

- Emily Virgin (D) ✓
- Kent Hunt (R)

**District 45 - \*Cleveland**

- Wallace Collins (D) ✓
- Aaron Stiles (R)

**District 46 - \*Cleveland,  
\*McClain**

- Scott Martin (R)
- Zachary Knight

**District 49 - \*Carter,  
Love, Marshall**

- Samson R. Buck (D) ✓
- Tommy C. Hardin (R)

**District 53 - \*Cleveland**

- Amy Corley (D)
- Randy Terrill (R)

**District 56 - \*Caddo,  
\*Canadian, \*Grady**

- Maya Torralba (D)
- Phil Richardson (R)

**District 58 - Alfalfa,  
\*Grant, \*Major,  
Woods, \*Woodward**

- Wilson John Adamson (D)
- Jeff Hickman (R)

**District 61 - Beaver,  
Cimarron, \*Ellis,  
Harper, Texas,  
\*Woodward**

- Gus Blackwell (R) ✓
- Stephen Skacall (I)

**District 64 - \*Comanche**

- Michael J. Corrales (D)
- Ann Coody (R) ✓

**District 66 - \*Tulsa**

- Eli Potts (D)
- Jadine Nollan (R) ✓

**District 68 - \*Creek, \*Tulsa**

- Seth Watkins (D)
- Glen Mulready (R)

**District 71 - \*Tulsa**

- Jeff Tracy (D)
- Daniel S. Sullivan (R) ✓

**District 72 - \*Tulsa**

- Seneca D Scott (D) ✓
- Randall L. Reese (R)

**District 78 - \*Tulsa**

- Jeannie McDaniel (D) ✓
- Molly McKay (R)

**District 84 - \*Oklahoma**

- Brittany M. Novotny (D)
- Sally Kern (R)

**District 85 - \*Oklahoma**

- Gail Vines (D)
- David Dank (R) ✓
- Edward A. Shadid (I)

**District 87 - \*Oklahoma**

- Dana Orwig (D)
- Jason Nelson (R)

**District 88 - \*Oklahoma**

- Al McAffrey (D) ✓
- Dominique DaMon (R)

**District 91 - \*Cleveland,  
\*Oklahoma**

- Hollis Harper (D)
- Mike Reynolds (R)

**District 93 - \*Oklahoma**

- Wanda Jo Peltier (D)
- Mike Christian (R)

**District 94 - \*Oklahoma**

- Scott Inman (D) ✓
- Kyle Coulter (R)

**District 95 - \*Oklahoma**

- Michael A. Walker (D)
- Charlie Joyner (R)

**District 97 - \*Oklahoma**

- Mike Shelton (D) ✓
- Daniel N. Stankiewicz (I)

**District 98 - \*Tulsa,  
\*Wagoner**

- Dennis W. Weese (D)
- John Trebilcock (R)

**District 101 - \*Cleveland,  
\*Oklahoma**

- Johnny Laudermilk (D)
- Gary Banz (R) ✓

\* -- asterisk indicates county is divided into two or more State Senate or State House of Representatives districts.

Party order was determined by the Oklahoma Election Board.

(D) – Democrat  
(R) – Republican  
(I) – Independent

## United States Senate

- Jim Rogers (D)
- Tom Coburn (R)
- Stephen P. Wallace (I)
- Ronald F. Dwyer (I)

## United States House of Representatives

**District 1**

- John Sullivan (R)
- Angelia O'Dell (I)

**District 2**

- Dan Boren (D) ✓
- Charles Thompson (R)

**District 3**

- Frankie Robbins (D)
- Frank D. Lucas (R)

**District 5**

- Billy Coyle (D)
- James Lankford (R)
- Clark Duffe (I)
- Dave White (I)

✓ indicates candidate is recommended by the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education

# Are you on Facebook? Why not join us there?

To be progressive is to be connected, to stay on top of what's going on, to spread progressive ideas to your networks, and to challenge misinformation with the facts.

And OEA's Facebook page can help!

Just go to [www.facebook.com/Oklahoma.Education.Association](http://www.facebook.com/Oklahoma.Education.Association) and click on the "Like" button at the top of the page.

After you've clicked "Like," click the "Suggest to Friends" link on the left side of the page to invite your



Facebook friends to join you.

At the OEA Facebook page you can:

- Stay on top of the great work OEA members are doing and share it with your friends and networks.
- Discuss the major stories in the news with other members on Facebook.
- Get updates when we



release new data or commentary on the issues that matter to you.

- Learn about new member benefits.
- Get the latest details on upcoming OEA events, webinars and meetings.
- Collaborate with other professional educators in Oklahoma.
- And most of all, provide us with your valuable feedback on improving OEA services.

Thanks for standing with us and letting us serve you. We hope you'll join us in our Facebook community as we work together toward a progressive future.

## Social media expert joins OEA

Katie Hawk has recently taken the position as the Oklahoma Education Association's Social Media Organizing Specialist, a new position in the Center for Communications.

Hawk will be responsible for managing the Association's Facebook, Twitter and other social media accounts. She will also help local associations organize using social media and train members on how to use social media as a powerful, professional tool.



*Katie Hawk*

By creating the position, OEA will stay on the cutting edge of our culture's fastest growing form of communication.

Most recently, Hawk was director of marketing and operations for Oklahoma Interactive, a private company that worked with state government agencies on their Internet activities. Her duties included the development and content of multiple web sites, interactive online services and social networking accounts.

Hawk was graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a bachelor's in journalism/public relations.



### Law-related Education

[www.okbar.org/public/lre](http://www.okbar.org/public/lre)

### Lawyers in the Classroom

[www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs](http://www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs)

### Representative Democracy in America

[www.representativedemocracy.org](http://www.representativedemocracy.org)

### We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

### Project Citizen

[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

### Peaceful Resolutions for Oklahoma Students

[www.oscn.net/static/adr/pros](http://www.oscn.net/static/adr/pros)

### Supreme Court School and Teacher of the Year Awards

[www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs](http://www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs)

**FREE** teaching resources for Pre-K –12

# Legislative Waivers

## Schools allowed flexibility on spending professional development and textbook money

By Richard Wilkinson  
OEA General Counsel

During the last legislative session, HB 3029 was enacted to provide relief from certain accreditation standards for local school districts for fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012. Among those standards are the professional development requirements and the requirement for adopting new textbooks at the local level.

Beginning with the current school year, local school districts may elect not to adopt and offer a professional development program for certified and licensed teachers and administrators of a local school district. If a local school district elects not to adopt and offer a professional development program, the local school district is allowed to expend any funds allocated for professional development on “any purpose related to

### From Your Counsel

the support and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of education of the school district.”

The same is also true for standards relating to media materials, equipment and program expenditures as well as the requirements to appoint a local textbook committee, adopt textbooks or expend money on the purchase of textbooks for fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2012. Local school districts may elect not to purchase media materials and equipment and elect not to adopt and purchase textbooks during this period and instead expend those funds for “any purpose related to the support and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of education of the school district.”

HB 3029 provides a waiver of any accreditation standards during this period for any school district that elects not to provide staff development programs, purchase new media materials and/or purchase newly adopted textbooks. There will be no financial penalties during this period for local school districts that elect not to meet these accreditation standards and instead use money allocated for those standards for “any purpose related to the support and maintenance of the school district as determined by the board of education of the school district.”

While local school districts may elect not to offer professional development programs, teachers are likewise not required to complete any of the required professional development points during this period. A teacher may elect to complete some or all of the minimum number of professional development points during this two year period; however, if a teacher elects not to complete some or all of the professional development requirements during this period, the total number of points required to maintain employment shall be adjusted and reduced by the number of points not completed.

The State Department of Education has also passed emergency rules that allow for certificates to be granted to any entry teacher, or any teacher who has been recommended for a second year in the residency program and who does not complete the program because a local school district elects not to offer the residency program during this period.

If you have any questions concerning the new waivers for professional development programs, the purchase of new media materials, or the adoption and purchase of new textbooks, contact your OEA Regional Advocacy UniServ Specialist for additional information.



Richard Wilkinson



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# Alternatively Certified teachers offered training

Alternatively certified teachers in Northeast Oklahoma have a unique opportunity to gain valuable insight into their new profession.

The Oklahoma Education Association's Teaching and Learning Center is planning a series of professional development sessions just for alternatively certified teachers in the Northeast Region.

The sessions are free for all attendees and will help them meet Oklahoma State Department of Education requirements for professional development clock-hours towards certification. All sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the dates listed below (all are Saturdays), and will be facilitated by Northeast Oklahoma teachers who are Nation-

ally Board Certified.

"Alternatively certified teachers may not be fully aware of the work we do at the OEA," said Linda Hampton, vice president. "These sessions are a great example of the value of OEA membership as well as the dedication OEA has to placing and keeping high quality teachers in the classroom."

Dates and topics for the sessions are:

**November 13** – "Oklahoma PASS Skills Integration," and "The Top 10 Mistakes that Lead to Teacher Discipline and Legal Liability"

**January 29** – "The What, Who, and How of Inclusion and IEPs," and "Parental Involvement: Partnerships for School and Student Success"

**February 12** – Marzano's "Class-

room Instruction that Works"

**May 7, 2011** – "I Can Do It!" (classroom management)

Participants may register online at [okea.org](http://okea.org) or contact Northeast Team Assistant Tina Townsend at 800/331-5143 or by email at [ttownsend@okea.org](mailto:ttownsend@okea.org). They should plan to provide their name, school district, grade level, subject area(s) taught, phone, and email address.

Space is limited so participants should register right away.

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*Looking for dynamic professional development? OEA's Teaching and Learning specialists can bring sessions on Closing Achievement Gaps, Classroom Management, Learning Styles, and Community Building to groups as small as teachers at your site or for a district's entire faculty. See a complete list of offerings at [okea.org/teaching-learning/professional-development](http://okea.org/teaching-learning/professional-development).*



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## New SOEA officers

*Student OEA officers for 2010-11 are (top row, l-r) Legislative Representative Robyn Walker, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; President Dominick Cooper, Oral Roberts University; Vice President Sarah Ferrell, Northwestern State; (bottom row, l-r) Secretary Alejandra Amaya, Oral Roberts; OEA Delegate Casey McKay, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; and NEA Delegate Nicole Meter, Oral Roberts.*

**Check out bios on the SOEA officers and read the SOEA blog at [www.okea.org/oea-student-program](http://www.okea.org/oea-student-program).**

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# Zone directors schedule budget hearings

Dates and sites for regional budget hearings have been set by OEA Zone Directors.

The annual meetings allow members input into the Association's budgeting process. Participants complete a survey and take part in conversations about the services and programs offered by the OEA.

Postcard reminders will be mailed to local leaders in each region prior to the meetings.

Following are meeting dates and sites. For more information, contact Rheta Kennedy at [rkennedy@okea.org](mailto:rkennedy@okea.org) or at 800/522-8091.

**OKC Metro** – 6 p.m., Oct. 18, OEA Headquarters, 323 E. Madison (an OKC Metro Zone meeting will precede the hearing at 5:30 p.m.).

**Northeast Region** – 6 p.m., Oct. 19, OEA Tulsa Regional Office, 10810 E. 45th, Suite 301, Tulsa.

**Northwest Region** – 6 p.m., Oct. 25, Western Sizzlin', 4547 W. Owen K. Garriott, Enid.

**Tulsa Metro** – 5:30 p.m., Oct. 26, OEA Tulsa Regional Office, 10810 E. 45th, Suite 301, Tulsa.

**Southwest Region** – 6:30 p.m., Oct. 28, Jake's Rib, 100 Ponderosa, Chickasha.

**Southeast Region** – 6:30 p.m., Nov. 4, Pete's Place, 120 SW 8th, Krebs.

## Participants will experience 20 strategies

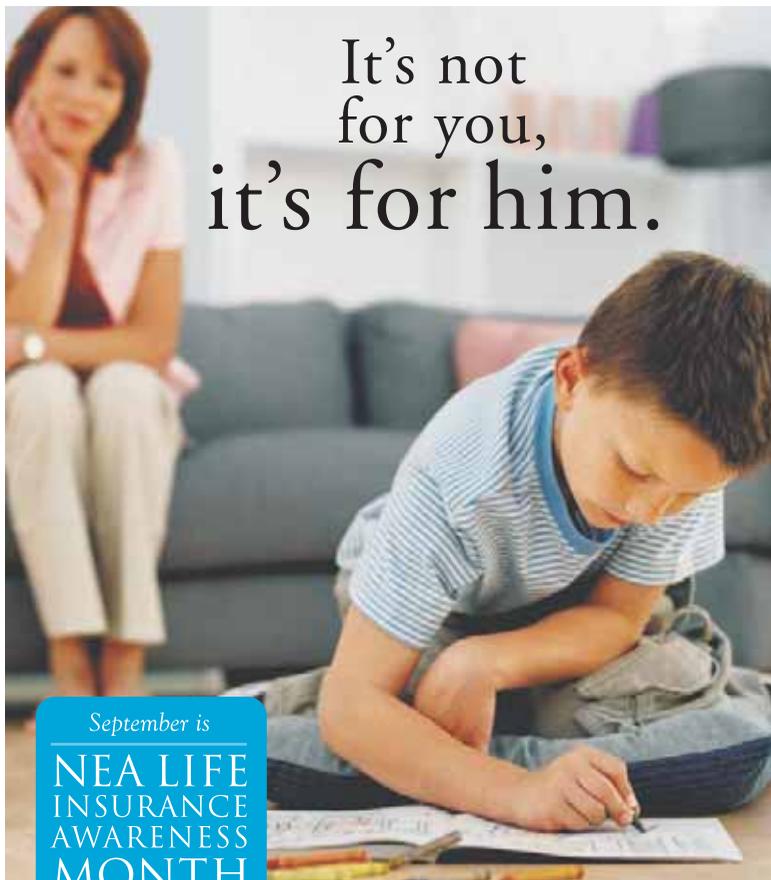
*Continued from Page 2*

sellors, including "Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites: 20 Instructional Strategies that Engage the Brain."

During her presentation, participants will experience 20 instructional strategies (based on brain research and learning style theory) that maximize memory and minimize forgetting.

In addition, they will:

- Recall facts regarding the physiology of the brain as those facts pertain to increased comprehension and retention.
- State five factors which all teachers should use to increase long-term retention.
- Design a brain-compatible classroom environment.
- Develop teaching plans which adhere to brain research and incorporate at least three of the 20 strategies.



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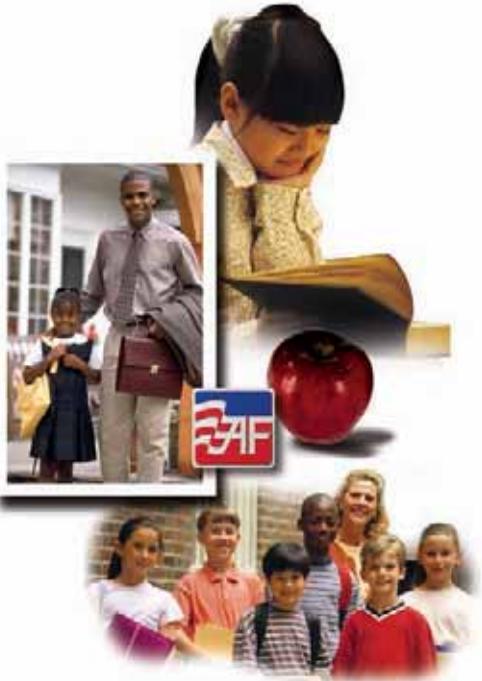
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