

OEA

Oklahoma Education Association
putting education first™

**The Best Choice
for Education
Professionals.**

Join the Oklahoma Education Association.



Support.

Training to help you grow, regardless of job title. Communities to help you form real connections at every stage of your career.

News, information, and tools just for you.



Security.

A team of lawyers on your side, 24 hours a day. Respect, trust, and partnership with organizations across the state. More than 130 years of leading the way in public ed.



Action.

Member leadership, from your school on up. The strongest voice for education at the Capitol. Protecting and improving public education at home and statewide.

Go to [joinOEA.org](https://www.joinOEA.org), talk to the person who gave you this magazine, or scan the QR code.



The OEA Vision

A great public school for every student.

Equal Opportunity

We believe public education is the gateway to opportunity. All students have the human and civil right to a quality public education that develops their potential, independence, and character.

Partnership

We believe partnerships with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders are essential to quality public education and student success.

Collective Action

We believe individuals are strengthened when they work together for the common good. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively.

What OEA Values

Professionalism

We believe that the expertise and judgment of education professionals are critical to student success. We maintain the highest professional standards, and we expect the status, compensation, and respect due all professionals.

A Just Society

We believe public education is vital to building respect for the worth, dignity, and equality of every individual in our diverse society.

Democracy

We believe public education is the cornerstone of our republic. Public education provides individuals with the skills to be involved, informed, and engaged in our representative democracy.

Unparalleled Legal Services

A winning team.

We litigate issues that have statewide impact for all education professionals, from protecting the due process rights of all education employees to ensuring that your rights are protected in the event of a reduction in force. **We have taken cases to the United States Supreme Court and won.**

Unlimited support.

Unlike other organizations, disciplinary defense provided by OEA has no dollar limit. We have expended hundreds of thousands of dollars in defense costs on numerous individual cases – with the member paying **nothing more than annual dues.**

In-house experts.

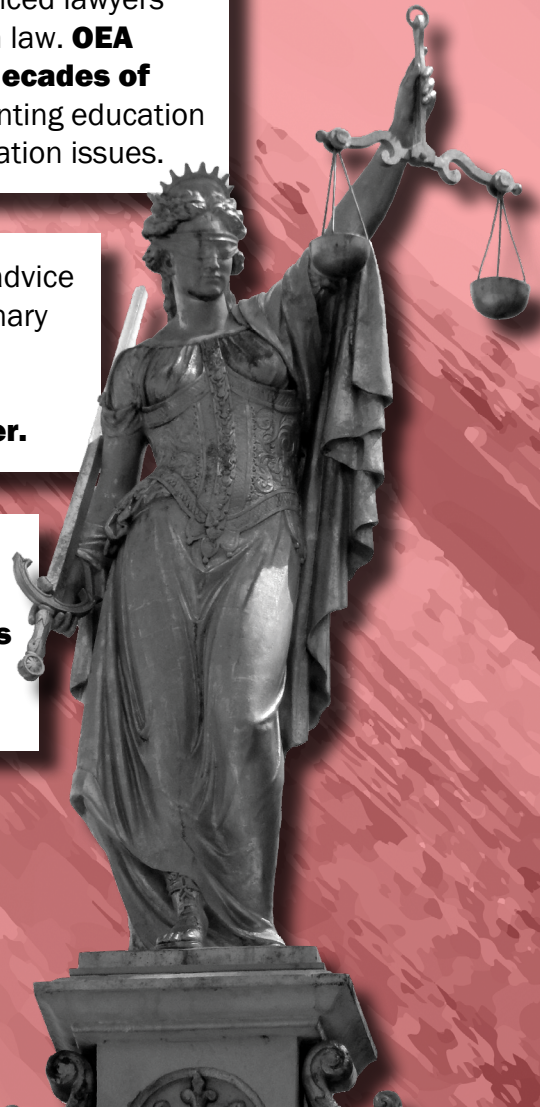
We don't refer cases to inexperienced lawyers without backgrounds in education law. **OEA employs attorneys who have decades of experience** successfully representing education employees and dealing with education issues.

No hidden costs.

OEA members receive free legal advice and defense when facing disciplinary action and employment-related contractual disputes. **No cost to members. No deductible – ever.**

The best choice.

The OEA legal team is more than just a group of lawyers. **OEA attorneys are the legal experts on education employee rights in the state of Oklahoma.**



okea.org/legal
okea.org/plsp

Uncompromising Protection

Free Personal Legal Services

In addition to professional protection, OEA members have access to a wide range of free legal services, such as:



Wills



Creditor
disputes



Uncontested
divorces



Stepchild
adoption



Misdemeanors

In addition to free services, OEA members have access to reduced-fee legal services for a host of other issues, including identity theft, victim protection orders, defamation, felonies, and other legal issues. These services also extend to OEA members' spouses and dependent children. Conditions apply. Call (405) 523-4340.



“There is one teacher association in my book.

Your administrators have an association. Your school board has an association. Every group within a school has a professional association of some kind that they belong to. As a teacher, why wouldn't you?”

— Rachel Brown, English teacher and member of the Yukon Professional Educators Association

Professional Development

OEA provides **free professional development** for educators, support professionals, and school districts across the state. We can also design training specifically for your district. Just call the OEA office at (405) 528-7785. In addition to our ongoing trainings, we're excited to offer two new virtual PD pathways in 2021!



Classroom Management



Recognizing Trauma



Mindfulness



Teaching Resiliency



Bullying Prevention



Racial & Social Justice



True Colors

Power Hour: Connect with OEA

Aug. 3	K90: Knowledge is Power
Sept. 16	Collaboration in 90: Collaborating with Others to Better Serve Students
Oct. 21	Classroom Management
Nov. 18	Give Me 10: Use That Extra 10 Minutes
Dec. 16	Project-Based Learning
Jan. 20	Racial & Social Justice (Part I)
Feb. 17	Racial & Social Justice (Part II)
March 24	Social Emotional Learning

K90: Knowledge in 90 Minutes

Aug. 3	Knowledge is Power: Introduction to the OEA
Sept. 7	Structure of Our Power
Oct. 5	History of Our Power
Nov. 2	Own Your Power: Your Voice in the OEA
Dec. 7	Local Power: Organizing Around Local Issues
Jan. 4	Protect Your Power: Legal Issues
Feb. 8	Capitol of Power: Legislative Issues
March 8	Negotiating Power: How to Bargain
May 3	Build Your Power: Member Organizing
June 7	Celebrate Your Power



A Lifetime of Connection:

Before, During, and After Your Career



The **Oklahoma Aspiring Educators Association** is a pre-professional organization of undergraduate and graduate students preparing for careers in education. OAEA is one of the largest student organizations in Oklahoma with local programs at over 25 university and college campuses. okea.org/oaea



The **Oklahoma Education Association** is the largest education organization in the state, representing educators, administrators, and support professionals in nearly every district. OEA has been the force for positive change in public education for more than 130 years, and its members carry on that movement today. okea.org



The **Oklahoma Retired Educators Association** serves the retirees who dedicated their careers to public education. OREA provides a voice for retired education employees, secures and protects benefits, and enhances the quality of life for members throughout the state. orea.org

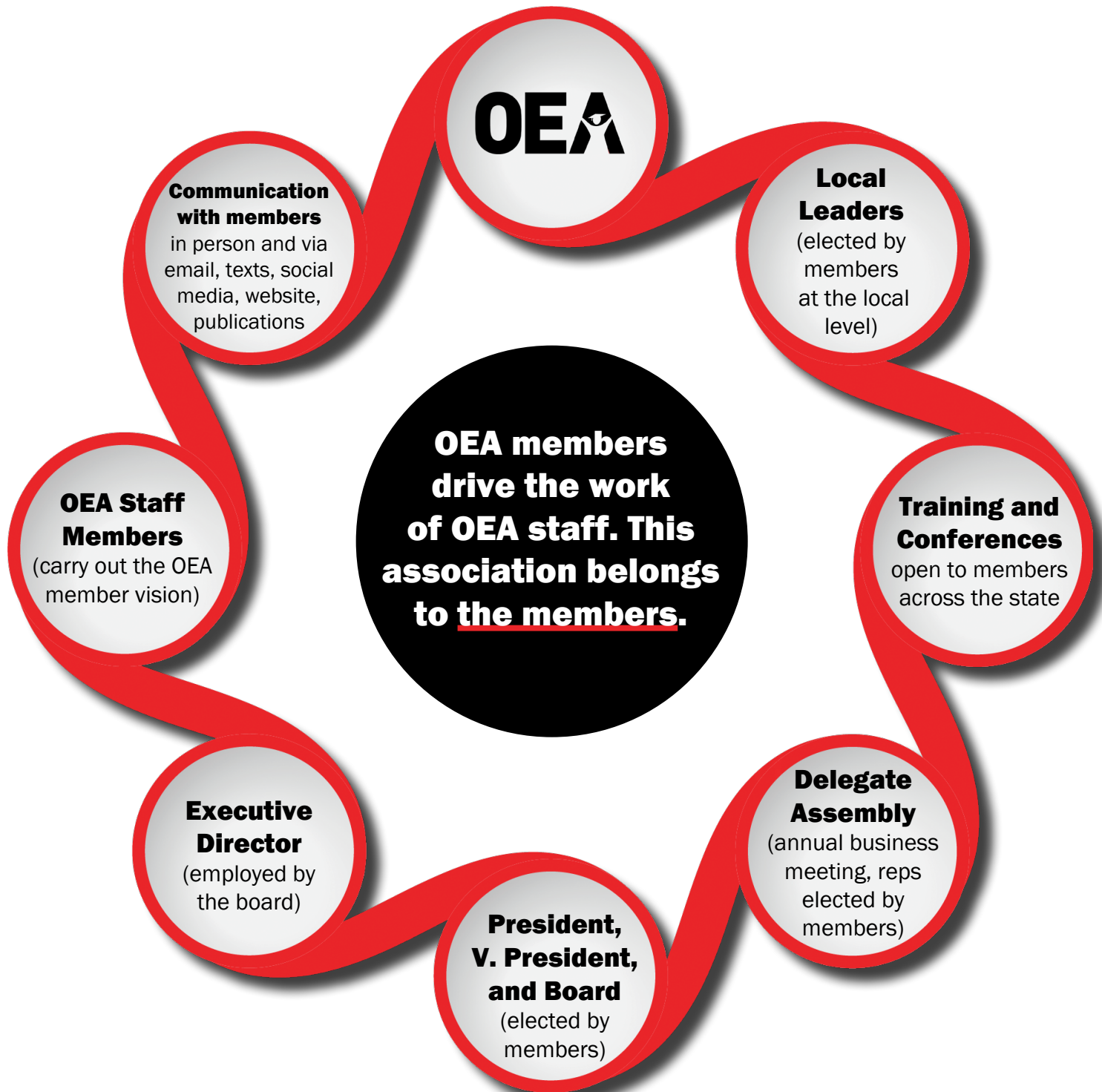


Attention: First-year teachers!

Did you know you're eligible for a rebate in your first year as an OEA member? Get \$30 back for every year you were a student member with OEA and NEA. Fill out the form online at okea.org/studentrebate or call 405.528.7785.



Democracy in Action



The OEA is a democratic organization, which means members decide how their organization runs at the local, state, and national levels. Members dictate the budget, legislative goals, and other business. There is no rich benefactor profiting at the end of the line. The OEA is an organization of educators, by educators, and for education.



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of Classroom
Teachers



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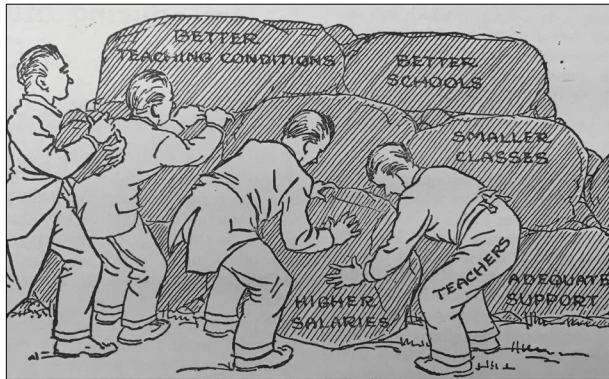


Amber Taylor
Putnam City
Association
of Classroom
Teachers



Mark Webb
Mustang
Education
Association

132 Years of Fighting for Public



1901

The Oklahoma Teachers Association recommends the establishment of a **teacher retirement system**.

1919

OEA members successfully lobby for the **first state aid bill** for schools.

1949

OEA calls for all teachers to have a bachelor's or higher. That campaign comes to fruition when the State Department of Education in Oklahoma is the **first state in the country** to require only college graduates as teachers.

1944

OEA members again stage a petition drive for several ballot measures, including increased **school funding and free textbooks**. Voters approve the measures.

1880

1890

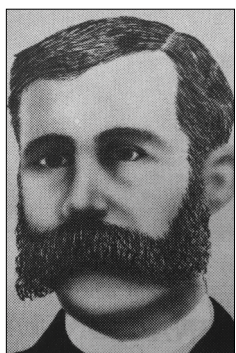
1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1889

A group of 11 teachers met in Guthrie to form the Oklahoma Teachers Association, which would eventually become the **Oklahoma Education Association**. Guthrie Superintendent Frank Terry was elected president. They hosted their first statewide meeting on Christmas Day that year.

1935

OEA members successfully lobby for the first **state minimum salary schedule**.

1942

OEA members help gather enough signatures to put the issue of **state teacher retirement benefits** on the ballot. Oklahoma voters approve the constitutional measure.

1943

Muskogee teacher Kate Frank was fired for being a "**troublemaker**," as the local newspaper put it. She organized, and she and her local association were able to unseat several school board members. OEA fought for her to get her job back and to receive back pay. NEA members from across the country donated money to pay her salary during the court battle. In the end, Frank was reinstated, setting a national precedent. The NEA named its legal defense fund in her honor.



Public Education

What started as a meeting of 11 teachers has turned into tens of thousands of public school advocates across Oklahoma. From state aid to retirement to salary to health insurance, **OEA has led the way** in public education for 132 years.

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...on in 1957,
...n announces
...ntry to have

1965

After intense pressure from the OEA, the Oklahoma Legislature completely **overhauls the funding formula and increases salaries and retirement benefits**. The OEA also helped support and pass SQ 430 to allow voters to fund their local schools with property taxes.

1987

OEA secures **due process for education support professionals** after fighting a court battle that led all the way to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

1970

The Oklahoma Legislature votes to **allow teachers to bargain** with local school boards, after a months-long campaign by OEA.



1990

OEA members stage a four-day statewide walkout that ended with the emergency enactment of HB 1017. More than 20,000 attend. The education reform bill **raised teacher pay, cut class sizes, funded professional development, and injected hundreds of millions into education funding**.

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

1965

The Midwest City Classroom Teachers Association becomes the **first bargaining local** in the state.

1980

OEA members lobby for the **Education Reform Act**, which establishes the first teacher mentor program in the country, boosts teacher certification standards, and mandates teacher-designed professional development statewide.

2018

OEA members stage a two-week statewide walkout that leads to tens of millions in additional classroom funding and pay raises for teachers and support. More than 50,000 attend on the largest day. It's **the most successful walkout of the national #RedForEd movement**.

1959



































OEA member Edna Donley becomes the first Oklahoman named **National Teacher of the Year**.

1988

OEA-backed legislation requires all schools to offer **group health insurance** to employees.



What does **politics** have to do with **my classroom**?

Who decides ...	School Board	Oklahoma Legislature	State Agencies	Federal Government
Your salary				
School budget				
Class sizes				
Length of the school year				
Health benefits				
Due process				
Retirement benefits				
Testing				
Hiring practices				
Teaching credentials				
Academic standards				
Textbooks				
Campus repairs and upgrades				
Employee rights				

Politics is already in your classroom.



Advocacy and Action

OEA members across the state join forces to advocate for public education: more resources for our students, better working conditions, and policies that strengthen our schools. OEA members have fought for and won bargaining rights in hundreds of districts across the state. Bargaining has been proven to boost salaries, but OEA members fight for more than that. Leaders and members work together to improve working conditions, student supports, and public policy. OEA members are also active in local campaigns, working to elect pro-public education candidates at every level of government.



“Being a Republican and a member of OEA has allowed me to see changes that both parties have wanted to bring to public schools in Oklahoma. I feel as long as the organization is working towards the best interests of the students and the teachers, it really doesn’t matter if we’re Republican or Democrat. **We do come together and work as one.**”

— Angela Franke, math teacher and member of the Nowata Classroom Teachers Association

Support Professionals

School does not happen every day without education support professionals. The Oklahoma Education Association and local associations stand up for the unique and critical needs of Oklahoma support staff. Here are a few reasons why OEA is the choice for support staff.



Fighting for good jobs.

OEA and local associations have successfully stood up to privatization efforts across the state.



Working for better pay.

OEA fought for and won a statewide support staff pay raise, and local affiliates bargain for better pay, too.



Earning real protection.

OEA won paycheck protection for support staff during and after the pandemic. Now that protection is law.



Specialty training.

Support staff have unique jobs. You need training that fits your needs, and OEA has you covered.



Retirement resources.









OEA provides specialized resources to help support staff make the best choice about pension enrollment.



OEA: The Professional Association in Oklahoma

If another organization advertises itself as cheaper, ask yourself: What services am I not getting? What am I willing to sacrifice when it comes to my profession and my livelihood?

If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

	OEA	Other Organizations
Negotiates local contracts at hundreds of school districts statewide and advocates for collective bargaining everywhere in Oklahoma.		
Employs an unparalleled legal team . We don't outsource work to cut-rate law firms that help you when it's convenient for them.		
Led and supported the 2018 Teacher Walkout , including negotiating funding and pay raises. The fight continues today.		
The largest professional association for educators and support professionals in Oklahoma.		
Leadership elected by association members at the local, state, and national levels.		
Effectively advocates for education employee rights at the Capitol, including collective bargaining and worker rights.		
Provides personal liability insurance .		

**We are the OEA.
Together we are stronger.**

COREY COLE, President
Sulphur

TOBY TODD, Vice-President
Sulphur

MILT BASSETT, Executive Director
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June 2021

Fellow Coaches:

You probably don't hear it often enough, but on behalf the Oklahoma Coaches Association, let me just say Thank You. Thank you for all your hard work for the student athletes of Oklahoma. Thanks for helping our communities come together in a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship. Your job is important, and you're among the best in the country.

I wish you the best of luck in the coming year, both on the field, the course, or the court, and in the classroom. Coaching is teaching, and you're making a difference in a number of ways.

Your membership in the OCA protects you on the athletic field. To protect yourself in the classroom, I encourage you to join the Oklahoma Education Association. Local OEA associations that negotiate bargain your extra duty salaries in addition to your teaching salaries, benefits and working conditions.

The OEA battles for you in a number of ways. It works tirelessly for public education, serving as a champion for all educators as well as a watchdog against those who want to dismantle public education. OEA's core values are those that all public school employees can embrace: equal opportunity, a just society, democracy, professionalism, partnership, and collective action.

When I was teacher and coach in Oklahoma's public schools, I was always a member of both the OCA and OEA. I encourage you to join the OEA, because we're stronger when we stand together and because you are a teaching professional. And professionals join their professional associations.

Call us if we can help at 405-635-9300. And call the OEA at 800-522-8091 if you have questions or would like to join. Check out all that OEA – the largest teachers association in Oklahoma – has to offer by visiting its website, okea.org.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Milt Bassett
OCA Executive Director

Working Together for Education

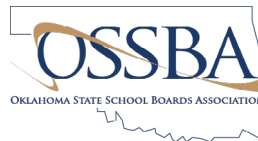
OEA is a founding member of the Oklahoma Education Coalition, which is dedicated to leading the effort to create, improve and support quality public education for all students, teachers and staff. OEA and its largest affiliate, the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association, are the educator voice at the table of the most comprehensive coalition for public education in Oklahoma. okedcoalition.org



Oklahoma Education Association



Cooperative Council of Oklahoma School Administration



Oklahoma State School Boards Association



Organization of Rural Oklahoma Schools



United Suburban Schools Association



Oklahoma City Public Schools



Tulsa Public Schools



Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association



Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education



Oklahoma Parents and Teachers Association



“I’ve always felt that in order to advocate, to stay together, to get what you want, you have to have a voice at the table. **OEA gives us that voice at the table.**”

— Victor Gonzalez, ESL teacher and member of the Stillwater Education Association

Keeping You Informed

The OEA has a team of communications professionals who work to keep you informed about the latest happenings in your profession and at the State Capitol. Members enjoy free access.

Education Edge

A weekly email newsletter with resources, opportunities, and freebies.

Legislative Update

A weekly email with a recap of the latest in education and legislative news.

okea.org

News, information, and special resources only for OEA members.

Legislative Dashboards

An annual publication detailing lawmakers and their voting records on education.

Election Guide

A publication featuring candidate positions on education issues for every legislative race statewide in even-numbered years.

Fried Okra

A weekly podcast featuring guests from across the state, including OEA members, elected officials, and education experts.

Education Focus

A printed magazine that provides an inside look at OEA news, members, and local affiliates.

OEA Awards

Annual contests recognizing teachers, students, and advocates across Oklahoma.



Here for you — anywhere

The OEA is divided into six geographical regions with staff members across the state to serve you where you live and work.

Northwest **405.523.4358**

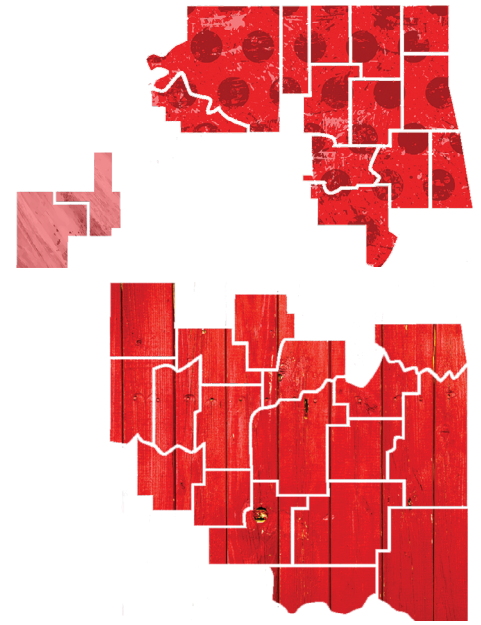
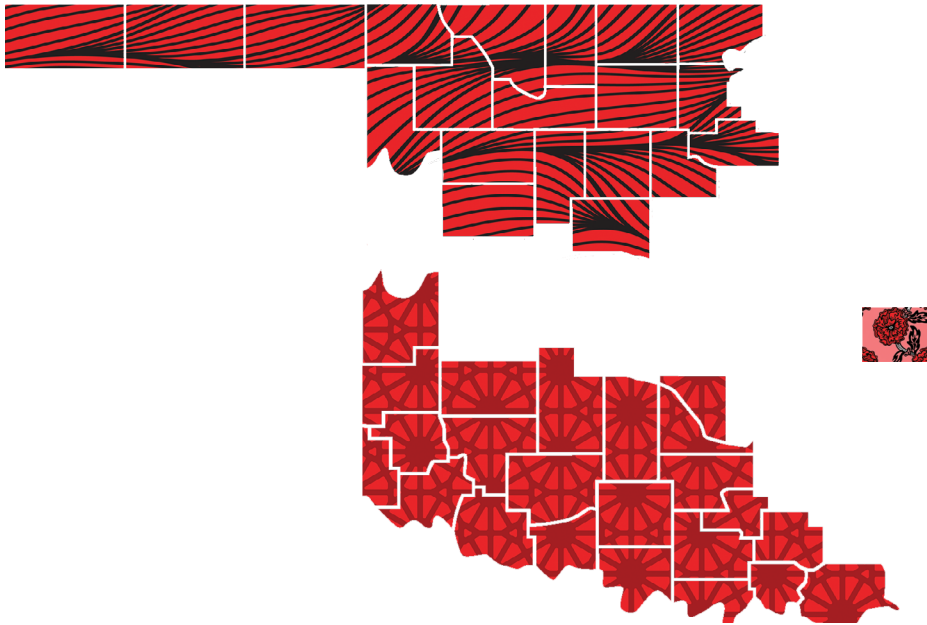
Team Assistant: Mary Robison
Advocacy: To Be Announced
Legislative: Ellen Pogemiller
Organizing: Patti Serio
Teaching & Learning: Laura Miller
Communications: Joe DuVall

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Advocacy: Kate Baker
Legislative: Ivy Riggs
Organizing: Brendan Jarvis
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody
Communications: Doug Folks

Northeast **918.665.2282**

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Legislative: Ivy Riggs
Organizing: Jeff Savage
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody
Communications: Doug Folks



Southwest **405.523.4358**

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Organizing: Bruce Treadaway
Teaching & Learning: Laura Miller
Communications: Joe DuVall

Oklahoma City Metro **405.523.4341**

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Advocacy: Annetta Hein
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Organizing: Briana Flatley
Teaching & Learning: Laura Miller
Communications: Carrie Jacobs

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Organizing: Brian Johnson
Teaching & Learning: Heather Cody
Communications: Carrie Jacobs

The Oklahoma Education Association

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