

Education Focus

Member Resource Guide





President's Letter

Now, more than ever, educators need to be united. Over these past weeks I've had the pleasure to visit a number of local school districts for their Back-to-School events. This year was exciting—there was just a buzz in the air. From Alva to Guthrie, to Tulsa Union to Commerce, I've relished every connection I have made. If you were at one of the events, you heard me talk about OEA's rich history over the past 134 years and how our mission to fulfill the promise of public education to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world hasn't changed. I think about those 11 teachers and how they came together on Christmas Day in 1889 to form the Oklahoma Teachers Association. Their focus was straight forward and simple: to advocate for a public school system and their profession. The trajectory they set us on is important now more than ever.

Despite the craziness that surrounds us these days, I'm so glad that our profession has a constant—our students. They come to us every day and they need us. I think about the honor it is to shape a student's life. No matter your job title, if you work in our public schools, you impact their life on a daily basis. You are the first smiling face they see when they step on their bus each morning. You take them on journeys that expand their imagination and stretch every part of their potential. You are the one that washes off the scraped-up knee and puts on the perfect Band-Aid just for them. You are the one that prepares and provides them with the hot meals that they need to thrive. You provide them with a listening ear or caring shoulder when they are struggling. You carry them in your heart when you leave the building hoping that whatever is bothering them will be ok. You are the safe place for many who know that you will be that constant in their life. So many times, my friends, we get caught up in all the noise and ruckus that may distract us from our purpose.

When it comes down to it, our 30,000 members across our great state are no different than the 11 teachers that came together in 1889. We believe in our public schools and the opportunities they provide for every student. We believe in our profession because it is noble, and we are worthy to call ourselves Educators! Thank you for stepping into your brave space every day to shape a student's life; we need to be united because it's Worth It.

Katherine Bishop

The Education Focus

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OEA Oklahoma Education Association
putting education first.

Before, during and after

A professional association built
for your entire education career



Oklahoma Aspiring Educators Association
putting education first.

Through the Oklahoma Aspiring Educators Association (formerly Student OEA), education majors at Oklahoma colleges and universities enjoy great professional development and networking opportunities that prepare them to hit the ground running on their very first day in a classroom.

okea.org/oaea • 800.522.8091



Oklahoma Education Association
putting education first.

The state's oldest and largest education association, OEA is recognized as *the* voice of public education. Its members include active certified educators, support professionals and administrators. Research-based professional development, protection on and off the job and political advocacy enrich all careers.

okea.org • 800.522.8091



OREA provides education employees a way to continue promoting public education after their active careers are over.

County units take on community service projects and the statewide organization lobbies for better pension benefits and to protect the retirement system.

orea.org • 800.310.2230



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.



Free Legal Services

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



Wills



Creditor
disputes



Uncontested
divorces



Stepchild
adoption



Misdemeanors

OEA members also 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.**



Professional Learning Offerings



Bullying Prevention

Stop bullying by investigating the psychological, social and educational impact of bullying behaviors, including cyber-bullying.



True Colors

A personality survey that provides insight into learning and leadership styles and helps you make the most of both student and adult group dynamics.



The Role of Resiliency

For Oklahoma students impacted by poverty and trauma, resiliency is a key characteristic for success in school. Learn classroom practices to help build resiliency.



Communication Styles: Making your Point with Panache

Examine your own preferred communication style and how it can impact your communications with others, then adapt your style to your audience for greater clarity and effectiveness!



Communicating Professionally and Effectively with Parents, Students and Colleagues

How we engage with each of our audiences as educators can have significant benefits and repercussions! Learn about the ethical, professional, and practical considerations of both your spoken and written words as an educator.



Beyond Trauma Informed
OEA Trauma Cadre

Classroom Management 101

Create classroom momentum and engagement through specific routines, strategies, and classroom structures.



The OEA Trauma Cadre Initiative was created to provide strategies-rich, trauma-informed presentations to Oklahoma educators.



Scan for more info

OEA Member Caucuses

OEA caucuses serve to represent the interests and issues of their specific communities within the OEA. Caucuses are special interest network groups who promote association policy that benefits its members, take part in activities related to their cause, and work to improve the profession for all members. To be an official OEA Caucus, the group must establish itself with officers, bylaws and purpose. OEA members can join any caucus. Learn more and connect at okea.org/caucuses.



Black Caucus



Democratic Caucus



Hispanic Caucus



LGBTQ+ Caucus



Women's Caucus



Native American Caucus



Peace & Justice Caucus



Republican Caucus



Rural Caucus

OEA Board Member effects change for Native Americans

Mark Webb, OEA Board member from Mustang, Oklahoma, worked with his colleagues in the NEA Native American Caucus to bring a New Business Item (NBI) that calls on NEA to challenge all our nation's public schools to highlight the indigenous land(s) from which they educate during National Native American Heritage Month (November). OEA delegates enthusiastically voted to support Mark's NBI after he demonstrated the power of story-telling by sharing his story as a citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Mark shared how his grandpa told his mother and her three sisters they would grow up in a white man's world. His grandpa shared with them that even though he was a proud veteran who fought for America in World War II, that after returning from the war, his boss did not ask about his service to his country, but instead asked him, "You ain't one of those stomp dancing Indians, are you?" Mark emphasized that he will always fight for native stories and issues to be heard and respected. He made the point that recognizing the indigenous land(s) from which we educate our students during Native American Heritage Month could start important conversations and learning opportunities.



NEON

NEW EDUCATORS OF OKLAHOMA NETWORK

NAVIGATE EMPOWER OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

SCAN BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CURRENT EVENTS



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.



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

While OEA works with the Oklahoma Education Coalition throughout the year, the association forms partnerships with various coalitions as issues arise. Some of those groups include:

- Oklahoma's Promise, a coalition of organizations fighting to protect pensions for public employees
- Public Funds for Public Schools, a variety of groups who lobby against all vouchers, which give public tax money to private schools
- Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates, who promote safe, secure breastfeeding areas at public schools
- Public Schools Week, which promotes public education each February.



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				

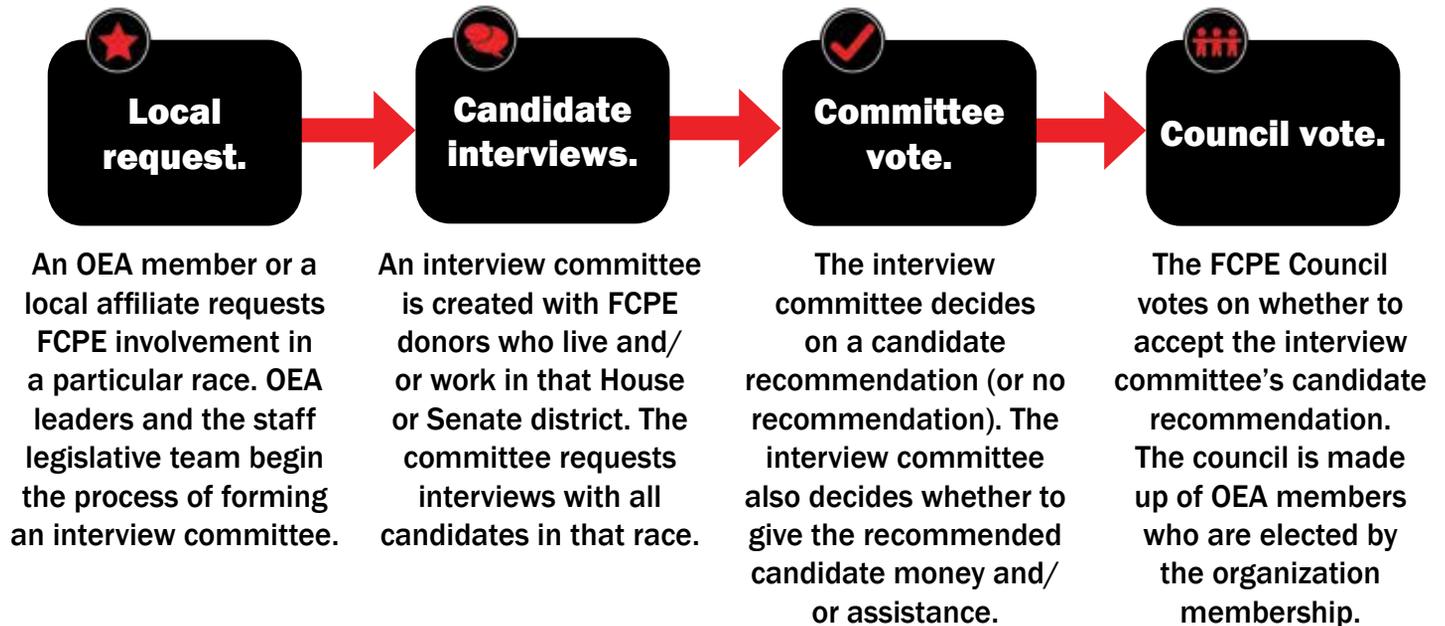
Politics is already in your classroom.



More Than Our Votes

Contributing to the FCPE

Every major policy decision affecting education is made by a politician, whether it's the governor, the Oklahoma Legislature or your local school board. That's why many Oklahoma Education Association members choose to make **voluntary contributions** to OEA's nonpartisan **Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE)**.



FCPE Facts

- **No dues dollars are involved.** Dues dollars NEVER go to the Fund for Children and Public Education. All donations are voluntary, and all donations come from OEA members.
- **Participation doesn't require big donations.** To sit on these committees doesn't require a large contribution. In fact, the FCPE guidelines recommend a \$10 annual contribution.
- **FCPE policy outlines how to treat incumbents.** OEA will not endorse someone against an incumbent unless that incumbent has "taken action to harm the OEA as an organization, public education or its employees," according to FCPE policy.
- **OEA members who are candidates receive donations.** Any member of OEA or OREA who, before the filing period closes, contributes to the OEA FCPE and whose term of membership exceeds one calendar year: \$250 for a House of Representatives seat, \$500 for a Senate seat, or \$750 for a statewide seat. This does not constitute a recommendation.

On average, OEA members vote at a rate 20% higher than the general public, but **voting isn't enough**. Electing good candidates costs money. To contribute to the FCPE, go to **okea.org/FCPE** or scan the QR code.



Your Board of Directors



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Putnam City



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Vice President
Norman



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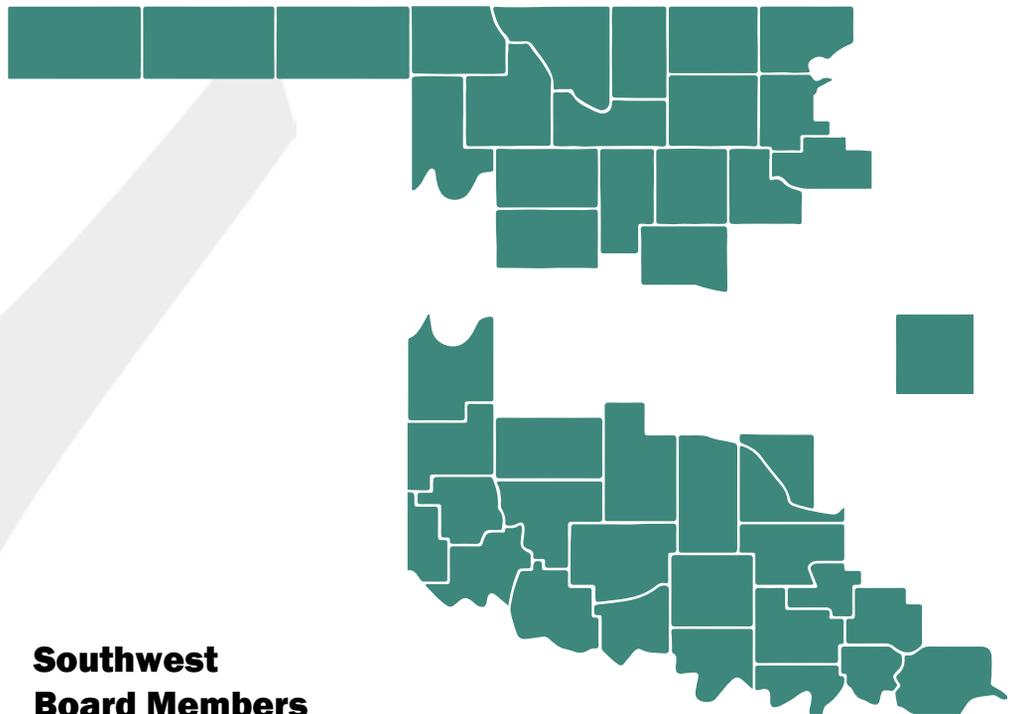
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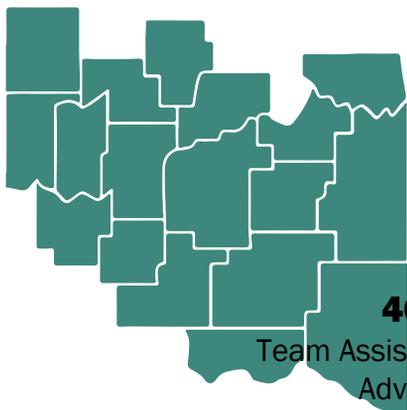
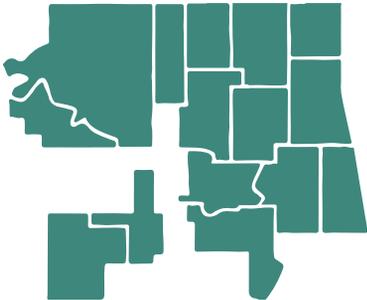
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The OEA is divided into six geographical regions with staff and board members across the state to serve you where you live and work.

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.

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.

Education professionals deserve a specialist.

With ever-changing school budgets, demanding schedules, and surprise challenges every day, you know the realities of the education world inside and out. You expect your partners to keep up—and even lead the way, when needed. With decades of supporting schools and districts, consider American Fidelity for a different opinion in employee benefits, education and enrollment.

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Advocacy and Action

OEA members across the state join forces to advocate for public education: more resources for our students, better working conditions, and policy that strengthens 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.**”

— Angelia Franke, President of the Nowata Classroom Teachers Association





YOU DESERVE MORE
Including a change of scenery



SCAN & GO

You deserve to go places where even the photobombs are breathtaking. Find a world of travel savings, advice and more at NEA Member Benefits. Use your membership to plan an unforgettable, budget-friendly getaway.

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