

# CIVIL RIGHTS

## 2010 Resolutions

### ATTENDEES:

Berea Federation of Teachers #1699	Dave Kushlak Heather Courtwright
Brookfield Fed. of Teachers #1728	Julie Bencetic
Buckeye Local Educ. Assn. #4595	Anna Rohn
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers #1520	Kathy Gross Wellyn Collins
Cleveland Heights Teachers Union #795	<b>Veronica White, Chair</b>
Cleveland Teachers Union #279	Andrea Dockery Barbara Blamo Carmen Rodriguez Fred Bickerstaff
Crooksville Educ. Assn. #4988	Brian Spring Earl James, Jr.
Georgetown Fed. of Teachers #4903	Dee Dee Faust
Jackson-Milton Educators' Assn. #4968	Lisa Hills
Oregon City Fed. of Teachers #1080	Karen Lewis
Toledo Federation of Teachers #250	Betty Evans Christopher Fischer
Van Wert Fed. of Teachers #4088	Lee Ann Pratt Patti Kelpner
<b>OBSERVERS:</b>	
Cleveland Teachers Union Retired - #279-R	Gene Pierre
Ohio Federation of Teachers	Lisa Zellner, Staff

### 1     **RESOLUTION HOMELESS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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3     **WHEREAS** Ohio Federation of Teachers strongly supports the McKinney Homeless  
4     Assistance Act which requires public schools to eliminate barriers for homeless and  
5     youth, and

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7     **WHEREAS** the Ohio Federation of Teachers understands that homelessness in Ohio  
8     affects the children and youth in our public schools which are the primary source of  
9     stability and haven for their emotional and social support, and

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11    **WHEREAS** the Ohio Federation of Teachers acknowledges the efforts of every social  
12    agency and the supports provided in public education for homeless children and youth,  
13    therefore

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15    **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ohio Federation of Teachers encourages each school  
16    district and agency to coordinate services so that barriers such as coordination of  
17    school and agency schedules for services for which the child or youth attends, and

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19    **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ohio Federation of Teachers strongly recommends that  
20    Ohio's school districts, stakeholders, teachers and agencies evaluate and adjust their  
21    programs and services to coordinate with each other so that all homeless children and  
22    youth are effectively served and not limited due to district or agency policy.  
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24 **RESOLUTION ON OPPOSING UNREASONABLE AND/OR EXTREME**  
25 **"ZERO TOLERANCE" POLICIES**

26  
27 WHEREAS the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) strongly endorses the position that  
28 a high quality education requires a safe and orderly school and classroom environment,  
29 and

30  
31 WHEREAS the OFT supports firm and fair disciplinary policies in all school districts, in  
32 order to ensure that each and every Ohio student has the right to the best possible  
33 education that is free from excessive disruptions to learning, and

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35 WHEREAS the policy described as "zero tolerance" is too often misinterpreted and  
36 results in loss of instructional time for students, therefore

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38 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers finds that each school district  
39 with a "zero tolerance" policy should fully review every aspect of any such policy to  
40 assure fairness in its interpretation and application, and

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42 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers urges Ohio's school districts to  
43 evaluate positive disciplinary programs that have been used effectively and implement  
44 such positive disciplinary programs wherever agreement can be reached between the  
45 school district administration and the local teacher's union.

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49 **RESOLUTION ON OHIO STUDENTS LEARN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS**

50  
51 WHEREAS the Ohio Federation of Teachers has policy and history that prove strong  
52 support of college preparation and technical education; and

53  
54 WHEREAS research shows that successful students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must not only  
55 master content standards, but also possess technical/technological and employability  
56 skills that reach beyond traditional academic disciplines, and

57  
58 WHEREAS the Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSI) which stresses career and  
59 college readiness which is implemented through the Ohio Department of Education,  
60 classrooms must also include internationally recognized skills also determined to be  
61 vital for career acquisition in these ever changing times including; ability to work in  
62 teams, civic literacy, entrepreneurial skills, global awareness, information and media  
63 literacy skills, world economic and business, and

64  
65 WHEREAS Ohio Department of Education has recognized that there is a gap between  
66 the knowledge and skills most students learn in school and the knowledge and skills  
67 they need in typical 21<sup>st</sup> century communities and workplaces, and  
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69 WHEREAS the state of Ohio's policy makers continue to cut services like financial aid  
70 making the possibility of college increasingly slight for low-income students, further  
71 highlighting the need to prepare all students with these global skills, therefore  
72

73 BE IT RESOLVED that the OFT support and advocate for the infusion of 21<sup>st</sup> century  
74 skills into Ohio schools and provide tools and resources to help facilitate and drive this  
75 effort; and  
76

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers continue to support  
78 Ohio's educators by providing professional development opportunities that focus on  
79 integrating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into content; and  
80

81 BE IT RESOLVED that the OFT monitor trends of international skill applications and  
82 needs, and provide support, guidance, and training to help educators understand  
83 possible new requirements for future opportunities to ensure Ohio students remain  
84 competitive in the global market.  
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87 **RESOLUTION ON OHIO'S SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES**  
88 **WORKING TOGETHER TO CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP**  
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90 WHEREAS most Ohio schools do not have coordinated programs linking school, family,  
91 and community effectively, and the Department of Education reports that thirty years of  
92 research confirms that the starting point of putting children on the road to excellence is  
93 parental involvement in their children's education, and  
94

95 WHEREAS most educator programs in colleges and universities in Ohio do not include  
96 family involvement coursework, and most Ohio school districts do not provide  
97 professional development for family involvement, and  
98

99 WHEREAS Ohio teachers do seek National Board certification, and the National Board  
100 for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) includes family involvement as a  
101 separate standard as well as a theme integrated into other standards for its professional  
102 teaching certificate, and  
103

104 WHEREAS Ohio policy makers and educators know about, understand, and agree  
105 there is a need for family involvement in education, little has been done to prepare new  
106 or current teachers to accomplish this task, and  
107

108 WHEREAS Ohio schools for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments are student centered  
109 with academic standards and curricula that are rigorous, focused and coherent in math,  
110 language arts, science, and social studies, and research documents that parent and  
111 family involvement in schools results in better attendance, students with higher grades,  
112 fewer placements in special education and higher graduation rates, and  
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114 WHEREAS one of the Ohio Department of Education's strategic goals is to deepen  
115 essential partnerships with stakeholders that will result in enhanced educational  
116 opportunities for all Ohio students, therefore  
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118 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) urge Ohio school  
119 districts to form family and civic engagement teams and business advisory councils to  
120 develop and implement plans to close the achievement gap.