

CIVIL RIGHTS

2011 Resolutions

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR - Veronica White, Cleveland Heights #795

Heather Courtwright, Berea #1699

Jean Hribar, Berea #1699

Laverne Thomas, Berea #1699

Victoria Wood, Berea #1699

Kari Filipovich, Brookfield #1728

Anna Rohn, Buckeye #4595

Lee Black, Cincinnati #1520

Wellyn Collins, Cincinnati #1520

Beverly Pryor Young, Cincinnati #1520

Andrea Dockery, Cleveland #279

Dorothy Fair, Cleveland #279

Justin Hons, Cleveland #279

Brian Spring, Crooksville #4988

Josh Starrett, Crooksville #4988

Lori Culp, Greenon #4370

Peggy Giuliano, Newton Falls #4864

Dale Pertcheck, Toledo #250

Hazel Hicks, Cleveland-Retired #279-R (Observer)

Lisa Zellner, OFT Staff

INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION TO RAISE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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3 Individualized Instruction is a proven tool in raising student achievement.

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5 WHEREAS the Federal Race To The Top grant program can provide public school
6 districts in Ohio with additional resources to meet individualized student needs, and

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8 WHEREAS RttT requires districts to work within a set framework in order to qualify for
9 RttT grant funds, and

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11 WHEREAS other Federal and State mandates limit the ability of quality teaching and
12 learning methods forcing what has become known as "teaching to the test", and

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14 WHEREAS student learning and teacher effectiveness can be greatly expanded when
15 afforded the flexibility to assess and adjust to the learning and teaching methods that
16 best meet individualized student needs, therefore

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18 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers supports Individualized
19 Instruction as a proven means for raising student achievement, and

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21 BE IT RESOLVED that OFT supports Individualized Instruction and learning for all
22 students, and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFT will advocate for resources and policies that are
25 aligned to support and enable Individualized Instruction and professional development
26 for teachers as a way to maximize student success.
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30 **RACE TO THE TOP IMPLICATIONS FOR ALTERNATE ASSESSMENTS**
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32 WHEREAS recognizing the top priority stated in the Race To The Top initiative is to
33 assure High Quality Standards and Assessments, and
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35 WHEREAS the Ohio Federation of Teachers commends RttT for acknowledging the
36 inclusion of “growth models” as a means of assessment, and
37

38 WHEREAS the OFT also understands that once the new standards of RttT are adopted,
39 new assessments that measure whether students are meeting those standards are
40 needed and that funds to help pay for the development of such assessments are
41 promised in the Recovery Act of 2009 and not RttT funds, and
42

43 WHEREAS current assessment systems under Federal and State mandates are
44 showing student successes as results demonstrated only on standardized tests, and
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46 WHEREAS noting with concern, current assessment systems ignore the many ways in
47 which all students, can demonstrate their knowledge, and
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49 WHEREAS the core principles of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act
50 (IDEA) of 2004, entitles those students to receive specialized instruction to meet their
51 needs and the OFT understands assessments may need specialization to accurately
52 demonstrate student ability, therefore
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54 BE IT RESOLVED that the OFT recommends that all Ohio assessments developed for
55 RTTT including alternate assessments, be aligned with State standards and “growth
56 models,” and
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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OFT encourages the use of Recovery Act Funds
59 to support the design and development of Ohio RttT assessments, including alternate
60 assessments, and
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62 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the OFT supports development and use of multiple
63 measures and assessments that acknowledge students’ individual needs while
64 demonstrating academic successes.
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67 **RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING STREAM**
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69 WHEREAS there have been many worthwhile Federal programs to improve the delivery
70 of education to Ohio’s students, and
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72 WHEREAS Race To The Top provides funds for vital educational reforms which hold
73 great promise for improving the quality of education delivered to the students attending
74 Ohio's schools, and
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76 WHEREAS in most cases, worthwhile education programs sponsored by the Federal
77 Government have been underfunded and/or have had funding eliminated after a short
78 introductory period of typically one to three years, even though the Federal laws which
79 accompanied these worthwhile programs continued to require costly adaptations by
80 districts and/or individual schools, therefore
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82 BE IT RESOLVED that OFT opposes reductions in, or the elimination of RttT funding if
83 and when the programs initiated by and funded by RttT prove to be successful by well
84 accepted educational measurement tools.
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88 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSIONAL**
89 **WHEN DEALING WITH THE VARIOUS FORMS OF BULLYING ACTS IN PUBLIC**
90 **SCHOOLS**
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92 WHEREAS the serious nature of bullying is becoming ever more apparent, and
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94 WHEREAS research proves that even minor acts of bullying or harassment can be
95 detrimental to the confidence and self-esteem of the victim of bullying, as well as
96 damaging the development of proper behavior among those who are doing the bullying,
97 and
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99 WHEREAS bullying, even bullying of a non-violent nature, has often caused the
100 students who are victims of bullying to strike back violently against themselves or their
101 attackers, therefore
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103 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers urges the Ohio Board of
104 Education and the Ohio Department of Education to produce and provide professional
105 development to better train all school staff members to recognize, to intervene and not
106 ignore, bullying and all of its forms, and
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108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OFT urges the Ohio Department of Education to
109 develop a plan to incorporate professional development programs/course work which
110 address the problem of bullying and are made available to all school staff in the State of
111 Ohio in a timely fashion, and
112

113 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Ohio Department of Education require that all Ohio
114 Colleges of Education provide instruction in the recognition of bullying and best
115 practices on how to deal with the problem of bullying both for the victim and the bully.
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RACE TO THE TOP IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the 538 public and community schools in the State of Ohio participating in Race To The Top represent over one million children, and impact 81.5% of Ohio's African-American students, 3% of Ohio's Hispanic students, and 66.3% of Ohio's economically disadvantaged students, and

WHEREAS Ohio's RttT goals, over a four year period, are to increase high school graduation rates by 0.5% per year, reduce graduation rate gaps by 50%, reduce performance gaps by 50%, reduce the gap between Ohio and the best performing states in the nation by 50%, and more than double the increase in college enrollment for 18 and 19 year olds, and

WHEREAS Ohio pledges to engage participating Local Education Agencies, stakeholders, and partners in assessing the success of project implementation, and

WHEREAS Ohio will assure the necessary capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain, meaningful reform across participating LEAs, and

WHEREAS Ohio will administer an outcomes-based assessment procedure to monitor progress and report to Ohio's citizens, and a comprehensive system of support for all participating school districts appropriately tailored to their capacity and needs, and

WHEREAS Ohio will ensure successful transition of projects to appropriate homes in Ohio's public education infrastructure of established public-private partnership organizations upon conclusion of the grant, and

WHEREAS Ohio will adopt rigorous new standards, aligned assessments, and teacher supports to enable all Ohio students to succeed globally in the 21st Century, and

WHEREAS Ohio will adopt an effective system of student assessments that contain multiple measures, blend traditional testing with curriculum-embedded performance tasks, and engage teachers in the process and honor their judgment and

WHEREAS Ohio will ensure that educators have ready access to reliable data that will inform decisions and policy development, and professional development to increase educators' knowledge and use of data, and

WHEREAS Ohio's participating educators will design annual performance reviews for teachers and principals, engage in an accountability system that includes; measures of student achievement, growth, and achievement gaps, and

WHEREAS Ohio will develop a comprehensive system for professional growth that supports and expands educator effectiveness, and

WHEREAS Ohio expects to identify and publicly report Ohio's lowest achieving schools and significantly improve their performance by decreasing the graduation rate gap by

168 50% between minority students for the 34 lowest performing high schools and the
169 average graduation rate for non-minority students, and

170
171 WHEREAS Ohio intends to decrease the performance gaps between non-minority and
172 minority students in math and reading for the 68 lowest performing schools from an
173 average gap in math of 16.3% to 8.3% and in reading of 18.5% to 9.3%, and

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175 WHEREAS Ohio's Race To The Top efforts, initiatives, and implementation plan are
176 focused and targeted to include all stakeholders and improve student and teacher
177 performance, therefore

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179 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio Federation of Teachers supports Race To The Top in
180 the state of Ohio.