



NEWSLINER

Look What Tom Brinkman Jr. Says About Our Schools!

State Representative Tom Brinkman Jr. responds to requests to provide a cap on Charter Schools:

Dear Citizen:

Thank you very much for writing me about a cap on the number of Charter Schools in the State of Ohio.

The eight large urban school systems have repeatedly failed their students. Parents are looking for a way out and Charter Schools provide one escape from the failed inner city public schools.

Rather than limit Charter Schools, I believe we should increase options for parents and students and support more vouchers

and tax credits to bring additional educational options.

More money has not resulted in making the Big Eight urban schools better. Perhaps competition from Charter Schools will.

My suggestion to these public schools: stop whining and complaining and start doing your job right. Most Americans work in a competitive environment and succeed. Celebrate this competitive environment and you will too.

Sincerely Yours,

Tom Brinkman, Jr.
State Representative

As you cast your ballot in the future, please give serious thought to whether CFT/ACPSOP members should support such candidates! Politics has a tremendously huge impact on every aspect of our professional lives, from the



standards taught to the resources our students have, as well as the \$49 million being drained out of CPS to the Charter Schools. All the while, 82% of CPS students outperform the Charter School students in our area. Where is the truth and where is the accountability?



IN THIS ISSUE

OFT News	2
Job Corps Position	2
Congratulations!	3
TES Modifications	3
Labor Day Picnic	3
Energize Your Career	3
Liberty Mutual	4
Classifieds	4

Back to School/Ready to Learn—August 12, 2005

On Friday, August 12, 2005, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Cincinnati Parents for Public Schools (CPPS), The WIZ 100.9 FM and Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) will host the **Back to School, Ready to Learn Celebration** at The Legacy Banquet and Conference Center, 7617 Reading Road in Roselawn. CFT has played a major role in organizing the school supplies and participating in this event the past few years. We are inviting CPS par-



ents, students, families and CFT/ACPSOP members to come celebrate the beginning of school. As part of the festivities, CPPS is planning to have a fun-filled day of entertainment, refreshments, educational information, parent seminars and free school supplies.

To kick-off the celebration, the nationally syndicated Russ Parr Morning Show ~ reaching more than 3.2 million listeners in more

than 45 cities across the country ~ will air live at the event from 6:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. featuring national recording artists and personalities. In addition, the WIZ will continue to broadcast live the rest of the day from the event and feature local artists including CPS student talent. The WIZ also will give away lunch boxes, movie passes and numerous other surprises. An ice-cream social will top off the afternoon.

Come join in the festivities and celebration as we kick off the 2005-06 school year!

CFT/ACPSOP SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

BEGIN ON..

June 20, 2005

We will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Ohio Poised to Launch First Statewide Voucher Scheme Since Supreme Court

Senate budget worsens fiscal crisis in public schools

Ohio is poised to become the first state to launch a statewide school voucher program since the U.S. Supreme Court declared tax-funded tuition vouchers constitutional in 2002, while cutting funding for local public schools.

The state budget bill approved recently by the Ohio Senate funds 10,000 private school tuition vouchers, even though vouchers have failed to raise academic performance. A study commissioned by the state found that students participating in a pilot voucher program in Cleveland performed no better than public school students.

"Handing out tax-funded tuition vouchers will drain more funds from hard-pressed public school districts," OFT President Tom Mooney said. Other provisions of the Senate budget bill will worsen the fiscal crisis facing urban school districts. Both House and Senate budgets freeze state aid to hundreds of school districts next year, and eliminate business property taxes that fund local schools. The state will replace that revenue for five years, leaving many districts with huge deficits thereafter.

Some large urban school districts, including Cleveland and Cincinnati, receive no increase in state aid next year under the Senate's budget plan, even though Senate leaders claim they built a new school funding formula that allocates more state aid through "poverty based assistance" and increases funding for academic intervention, also weighted toward districts with high poverty levels. Cleveland Municipal Schools enroll the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students in Ohio.

Results Overlooked: Politics and Money Rule

Ohio's public schools districts are facing the most widespread and severe fiscal crisis since the 1970s. Local school boards are laying off thousands of teachers, and slashing instructional programs, extra-curricular activities, and student transportation. The state's decision to use more than \$425 million in public funds to pay for privately operated charter schools is a major

factor in the financial plight of many districts. Most Ohio charter schools are academically failing. Vouchers will simply aggravate these problems.

"This is not about education at all," Mooney said. "It's about ideology and money. Some politicians want to privatize public education for the sake of privatizing it – many of whom receive campaign contributions from for-profit charter school operators." As pressure mounts on legislators to raise charter schools standards, some of the entrepreneurs who operate charter schools have also lobbied for a voucher program and may take advantage of the new law. The Senate bill limits charter school growth and increases accountability for their academic performance. Private schools are not subject to the same financial and academic reporting requirements as charter schools and public school districts.

Legislative leaders are expected to name a conference committee very soon to resolve differences between House and Senate budget bills. Taft surprised statehouse observers in January by including a statewide voucher plan in his executive budget, although he proposed funding only 2,600 vouchers in the next biennium.

The Senate plan requires the state to pay up to \$5,000 in private school tuition for any student whose school fails to meet state and federal achievement standards for three years. Under the more radical House version, any student in a district that receives the state's lowest performance rating for even one year would be eligible for a voucher.

July 2002, the Supreme Court overturned an appeals court ruling that the program violated constitutional prohibitions on state sponsorship of religion. The high court's 5-4 decision came despite the fact that nearly all of the students participating in the voucher program attended Catholic schools. Despite the Supreme Court's decision, voucher programs have not mushroomed nationwide, as proponents predicted three years ago. Colorado's legislature passed a voucher bill in 2003, but the program was struck down by that state's Supreme Court. Advocates have tried, but failed to pass voucher legislation in other states recently, including Texas. Only in

Washington, D.C., has a new voucher program been created since the ruling. That program – imposed by Congress and President Bush – began in the fall of 2004.

Health Plan to be Studied, Distress Commission Threatens Contracts

Senators did not back a mandatory statewide health insurance plan for school employees included in the House bill. Instead the Senate bill calls for studying whether there could be savings from a state health plan. But, House Speaker John Husted (R-Dayton) has signaled that he will insist on moving ahead with a mandated plan, which surfaced in the last five days of House deliberations on the budget.

The surprise in the Senate was a new Academic Distress Commission to take over a management of a school district if it is rated in Academic Emergency and fails to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for four years. The five-member commission (three appointed by the state superintendent and two appointed by the local school board president) can replace district and school level administrators, contract out school or management functions, establish the district budget and approve expenditures. Provisions establishing the commission also restrict collective bargaining over issues that are deemed "management rights."

The Battle Isn't Over

A conference committee will soon begin hashing out differences between the House and Senate versions of the state budget. Although the conference committee will meet in closed session, members of OFT, other education organizations and unions must continue to contact their legislators. We must urge them to instruct their conferees to:

Keep Senate provisions limiting charter school expansion and holding charters accountable for results; retain Senate language to study, not mandate, a statewide health insurance plan; drop the voucher program; delete the Academic Distress Commissions; invest in public schools and public higher education.

Watch for an OFT Legislative Alert that will ask members to write or call your legislators.

Certified Teacher Wanted at Cincinnati Job Corps

Cincinnati Job Corps is looking for a Certified Teacher. The qualified candidate:

- Will be responsible for developing employment and educational opportunities for students.
- Teach "Career Transition Classes" (Curriculum on site) for projected graduates.
- Provide Job Search Services and follow-up.
- Establish personal contact with prospective employers to expand job development and employment opportuni-

ties.

- Maintain record of monitoring student's progress.
- Participate in the transition panels for all projected graduates.
- Promote the development of positive social skills.
- Other duties as assigned within his/her capabilities as determined by the Career Development Manager.

(A more detailed job description available



during interview)

In addition, this position requires experience in training or conducting a workshop environment with Power Point presentations.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Interested teachers call Billie Mitchell at 513-412-7277 or send your resume to:

billie.mitchell@jobcorps.org



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Congratulations to CFT/ACPSOP Scholarship Recipients

This year's CFT/ACPSOP Scholarship recipients are:

Rachel Briedis, daughter of Aivars and Lesly Briedis, who will attend Ohio University.

Brinin Kenney, daughter of William and Regina Wilson-Kenney, who will attend the University of Cincinnati.

Jennifer Luckie, daughter of Karen and Don Luckie, who will attend Howard University.

Willie Peoples III, son of Viki Reid Peoples, who will attend the University of Cincinnati.

Best wishes for much success to our CFT/ACPSOP Scholarship recipients.

Congratulations

to Karen Oldham Brently, School Social Worker at Robert A. Taft Information Technology High School, who received the Ohio School Social Worker of the Year Award on May 5, at the Ohio School Social Worker Association Spring Symposium in Columbus, Ohio.



Modifications Made to the TES Comprehensive Evaluation



Our Collective Bargaining Agreement includes a provision for an overall review of the Teacher Evaluation System. After the review of data from focus

groups, teacher surveys, outside consultant review over several years and listening to our members, a subcommittee of the Educational Issues Panel worked to maintain the rigor, strengthen professional development and increase the efficiency of the system. The focus of TES should be on developing quality teachers and aligning all work with what teachers are already expected to do to support instruction. It was important that TES not be viewed as "add-on" or as requiring teachers to do busy work. As a result, the following changes have been made and approved:

- The portfolio has been replaced with checklists or evidence packets. Teachers seeking to obtain continuing contracts, lead teacher credentialing or re-credentialing will submit an evidence packet after two of the four observations. The evidence will include five days of lesson plans based on the observed lesson and evidence reflecting how the teacher assessed the students. This inclusion increases the efficiency of the comprehensive evaluation since this is evidence of work teachers already do. This also allows for immediate feedback to the teacher. A checklist will be used for all other teachers and the teacher standards will either be proficient or not.

- Classroom observations have been reduced from five to four with an additional conference added. Additional time to confer will allow teachers an

opportunity to grow professionally and not have to "guess" about what the evaluator's suggestions for improvement are.

- Strengthening professional development includes providing practicum sessions, visiting days, ongoing classes by domain, development of a video library of teaching performance levels, development of exemplars for each school and TES prep classes.

TES is designed to enhance and strengthen teaching performance. More immediate feedback and professional development opportunities while aligning the work with what teachers are already doing makes the system much more user friendly, developmental and efficient.

Hold the Date . . . Labor Day Picnic. . . September 5, 2005

CFT/ACPSOP, in conjunction with the Cincinnati AFL-CIO, invites you to attend the annual Labor Day Picnic at Coney Island –September 5, 2005. Cost is: \$2/adults; \$1/carload of children and \$4/parking; (\$6.00 per person for Sunlight Pool, reduced prices on rides, mini-golf, paddle boats). Enter West Gate.

CFT/ACPSOP will provide food and drinks, or bring your own picnic basket. Look for the CFT/ACPSOP banners. Join your brothers and sisters for a day of family fun including hourly door prizes and children's activities.

CFT will grill from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.





Don't forget your employee benefit for auto and home insurance!

CFT/ACPSOP negotiated this benefit to afford you the opportunity to save money on these everyday expenses. This unique program, underwritten by Liberty Mutual, allows you to purchase high-quality auto, home and renters insurance at low group rates through the convenience of PAYROLL DEDUCTION.

See for yourself how much money you could save with Liberty Mutual. More than 200 of your fellow CPS employees have already saved money through this program.

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Or request a free quote on-line!

www.libertymutual.com/lm/cps

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Coverage provided and under written by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA.



CLASSIFIEDS

VOUCHERS FOR SALE

\$100 Xavier University Voucher for sale. Contact Zarina Chughtai 363-9047 or 936-9362



\$100 Xavier University Voucher for sale. Contact Naseer Chughtai 363-8620 or 936-9362



\$100 Xavier University Tuition Voucher for sale for \$60. The voucher is good through January 2006. Contact Susan Newburger at 513-398-4817

HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful 3 bedroom quad-level house for sale in the Covedale/Western Hills area with 2.5 baths, oversized 2 car garage on a large corner lot with covered patio.

Newly remodeled kitchen, bathroom, and new floor in family room. Has newer replacement windows with large bay window in living room. Also has newer roof.

Great Buy \$192,900

Call 513-922-0997

**Cincinnati Federation of Teachers
Association of CPS Office Personnel**

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