CLOSED CAPTIONING

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Join the Team!

Building an Honesty Movement for Ohio
Welcome!

Cynthia Peeples
she/her
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Honesty for Ohio Education
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We Are

Coalition
Nonpartisan, Statewide, Diverse Stakeholders

Pillars
Educate • Advocate • Build Community

Priorities
Statehouse • State Board of Ed • Schools

Resources
News, Info, Events, Programs, Organizing
Agenda

State of Education

Building an Honesty Movement

School Board Elections

Coming Up...

Resources
State of Education
STATEHOUSE

National extremist agenda imported into Ohio

GOAL:
- Disrupt, dismantle, defund public education
- Create flight to privatized education
- Distract from REAL education issues
- Perpetuate othering, discrimination, hate

HOW:
- Weaponize race, identity, faith
- Villainize educators and staff
- Cast chilling effect on education
- Pass extremist legislation

2024-25 State Budget
- **SB 1** - State Takeover of Public Education
- **SB 11** - Universal Vouchers
- **SB 117** - Partisan Thought Centers at 5 universities

Academic Standards & Curricula
- **HB 103** - State Overhaul of K12 Social Studies Standards
- **HB 171** - Multicultural K12 Social Studies Curricula
- **SB 83/HB 151** - Higher Ed Destruction Act

Anti-LGBTQ+
- **HB 8** - Forced outing of students
- **HB 68** - Gender-affirming care and sports ban
- **HB 183** - Restroom Ban
- **HB 245** - Drag show and gender expression ban

Staff, Conduct, Governance
- **HB 214** - Alignment of district values and staff values
- **HB 240** - Chaplains as unlicensed school counselors
- **HB 206** - Indefinite expulsion policy
- **HB 235** - State Board of Education Restructure
Statehouse Hearings

**Tues, Oct 10, 4pm**
House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
- HB 250 - Amdmt, Invited Testimony Only, Vote
  Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- HB 214 - Amdmt, Proponent Testimony
  Prohibits districts from requiring staff align with district values and beliefs
- HB 206 - Proponent Testimony
  Allows districts to create indefinite expulsion policies

**Wed, Oct 11, 9:30am**
Higher Education Committee
- **SB 83 - Sub Bill, Sponsor Testimony**
  Restricts DEI, race and gender-based programs, worker rights, and academic relationships with China on higher ed campuses
- **HB 183 - Opponent Testimony**
  Bans transgender students from restrooms and facilities aligning with gender identity
- **HB 242 - Proponent, Opponent Testimony**
  Establishes Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program
State Board of Education

Lawsuit to STOP the State Takeover of Public Education

- On Sept 19, 7 State Board of Education members, Democracy Forward, and Ulmer & Berne filed a lawsuit to stop the state takeover of public education
- On Sept 21, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Karen Phipps granted a 2-week temporary restraining order (TRO) to pause the takeover; the TRO was later extended until Oct 20
- On Oct 2, Governor DeWine defied the TRO by continuing the state takeover on Oct 3

Learn more at State Takeover
Ohio’s Whole Child Framework
A collaborative approach to learning and wellness
#EachChildOurFuture

In Ohio, each child is challenged, prepared and empowered.

**Vision**
In Ohio, each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.

**Four Learning Domains**
- Foundational Knowledge & Skills
  - Literacy, numeracy and technology
- Well-Rounded Content
  - Social studies, sciences, languages, health, arts, physical education, etc.
- Leadership & Reasoning
  - Problem-solving, design thinking, creativity, information analytics
- Social-Emotional Learning
  - Self-awareness & management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making

**One Goal**
Ohio will increase annually the percentage of its high school graduates who, one year after graduation, are:
- Enrolled and succeeding in a post-high school learning experience, including an adult career-technical education program, an apprenticeship and/or a two-year or four-year college program;
- Serving in a military branch;
- Earning a living wage; or
- Engaged in a meaningful, self-sustaining vocation.

**Three Core Principles**
- Equity
- Partnerships
- Quality Schools

**10 Priority Strategies**
1. Highly effective teachers & leaders
2. Principal support
3. Teacher & instructional support
4. Standards reflect all learning domains
5. Assessments gauge all learning domains
6. Accountability system honors all learning domains
7. Meet needs of whole child
8. Expand quality early learning
9. Develop literacy skills
10. Transform high school/provide more paths to graduation

Ohio Strategic Plan For Education: 2019-2024

Ohio Department of Education

Each Child Our Future
Building an Honesty Movement
Nate Brown (He/Him)
*State Organizing Director*
Honesty for Ohio Education
nbrown@honestyforohioeducation.org
Building Honesty Organizing Power... together
The goal of Honesty Organizing is to fight for education justice by building power at the local school district level that connects at the statewide level.

The model we’re using is a hybrid of “distributed leadership” and “relational” organizing.

What do we mean by “distributed leadership” and “relational”? 
Honesty Organizing

**Distributed Leadership** - Honesty creating a space for grassroots leaders to find community, access trainings and resources, and strategize with others across the state. Local leadership takes action in their districts and reports back to the statewide team.

**Relational** - Honesty staff and/or grassroots leaders building local power through intentional one-to-one relationship cultivation and leadership development.
Distributed-Relational Hybrid Model - Honesty aims to serve grassroots leaders in all 611 Ohio local school districts who want to organize for education justice in their local community—while also intentionally reaching “hotspot” communities where the need is urgent. The more grassroots leadership and staff capacity increases, the more intentional we can be.
Honesty Teams

Grow the Honesty Movement in Local Communities Across Ohio

Honesty Action Teams

Educate communities about honest, inclusive education, Whole Child framework, affirming practices, student rights & safety, school governance and operations

• Build meaningful, collaborative partnerships with school district and community, respond to issues

• Ensure safe, fair, informed school board elections
Honesty Teams

Building Honesty Teams Across Ohio

Local Team Makeup
- Students
- Families
- Educators
- Community Orgs/Groups
- Businesses
- Honesty Partners

Ohio Regions:
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Central
- Southeast
- Southwest
“Distributed” Model
H.E.A.L. Together Network
and Down Home North Carolina
We are on our way! In May, June & July had over 30 teams go to school board meetings!
By the end of 2023, we’ll have AT LEAST two people in EVERY county showing up at school board meetings in PSS shirts & sharing updates!

Strategic Goals:
1. **Show support** for honest, accurate, safe, equitable and fully-funded public schools
2. **Collect data** - look for patterns, threats, etc - to plan our and coordinate responses
3. **Get more people involved** across the state - so we can keep building into 2024
4. **Strategize together and take action** as needed
Public School Strong's Reach!

- 28 teams that went to school board meetings in May or June
- 17 teams in process, planning to go in July or August
- 16 new counties so far registered for trainings in July & August

= 61 counties so far in some stage of participation!!!!

as of 8/10/23
How to Report Your Information

- **Section 1:** Basics on the meeting you are reporting on
- **Section 2:** Who attended the meeting and how many? (Moms for Liberty, PSS, other groups)
- **Section 3:** What was discussed? Main agenda items? Topics in public comments? Buzzwords?
- **Section 4:** Who is On School Board and where do they stand?
- Other info on you and your experience, issues to keep tracking, etc.
Public School Strong Statewide Collaboration Group

This group is for people who have already attended a PSS training. Public School Strong is a project of HEAL Together NC.
https://www.facebook.com... See more

Private
Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible
Anyone can find this group.
How to Build an Honesty Team

- Attend a training and get registered
- Get your Honesty Organizing T-Shirt
- Start attending local board meetings
- File a monthly report
- Attend statewide organizing meetings
- Organize others in your community
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>October 2023</th>
<th>November 2023</th>
<th>December 2023</th>
<th>Winter 2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Trainings and Statewide Team Launch</td>
<td>● Vote!</td>
<td>● Listening Campaign Planning</td>
<td>● Listening Campaign Launch (listening parties, surveys)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Candidate research, LTEs, GOTV!</td>
<td>● Organizing Essentials and Relationship Building</td>
<td>● Continued training and team-building</td>
<td>● Comment at Local Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Begin attending local SB meetings</td>
<td>● Start filing local team reports</td>
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Honesty Teams Training and Organizing Meetings

Wednesdays at 7pm, October 18 - November 1

REGISTER

Oct 18  Candidate Research
Oct 25  Entering the Public Conversation (letters-to-the-editor)
Nov 1  Getting Out the Vote (GOTV)
School Board Elections
School Board Elections

2023 General Election

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Voter Registration Deadline Tues, Oct 10

- Military & Overseas Voting: Sept 22-Nov 6
- Early In-Person Voting: Oct 11 - Nov 5
- Absentee Mail-In Voting: Oct 11 - Nov 6
- Absentee Drop-Off Voting: Oct 11 - Nov 7
- ELECTION DAY: Nov 7, 6:30am-7:30pm
School Board Elections

Why School Board Elections Matter

School boards set the policies and priorities that determine how your school will function: student wellness, curriculum, budget, staffing, facilities, transportation, and building safety.

- Serve as a voice for the community
- Supervise, hire, and dismiss the superintendent
- Allocate school funding
- Protect the freedom to learn OR censor education, enforce book bans
- Embrace all races, cultures, identities OR target vulnerable, marginalized children
- Value, support teachers and staff OR attack, drive educators away
School Board Elections

Find Your Candidates
School Board Candidate Research Guide
Candidate Questions
Election & Voting Info
School Board Roles & Duties
Running for School Board
Profile of an Honesty Leader

Find more at School Board Elections
School Board Elections

2023 School Board Candidate ACTION Guide

STEP 1
Find Candidates

STEP 2
Research Candidates & Endorsements

STEP 3 (Smiley Face)
Attend Candidate Events

STEP 4
Attend School Board Meetings

STEP 5
Assess Candidates & Create Sample Ballot

Find more at School Board Elections
Candidate Research

**STEP 1: Find your candidates**

Use these options to find school board candidates in your area

- Full list of school board candidates across Ohio [HERE](#)
- Voter Guides: [OhioVoterGuide.org](https://ohiovoterguide.org) • [Vote411.org](https://vote411.org) • [School Board School](https://schoolboardschool.org) (Cincinnati area)
- Local Board of Elections website
  - Find your Board of Elections website [HERE](#)
  - Select *What's on My Ballot* and enter your address for a list of candidates or a sample ballot
STEP 2: Research your candidates

Use this checklist to research key information about the candidates.

- Campaign website and social media accounts (LinkedIn, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, etc.)
- Campaign endorsements and affiliations (IMPORTANT: these can have a strong influence on a candidate's values)
- Candidate interviews (visit Vote411.org to read unedited responses to candidate questions)
- News coverage (TV, radio, newspapers, letters to the editor, blogs, podcasts, candidate profiles, etc.)
- Place of employment
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Lawsuits, litigation, criminal background, registries
- Personal social media accounts and blogs
- Personal affiliations (boards, committees, memberships, volunteer work, etc.)
Candidate Research

STEP 3: Attend candidate events
Engage with candidates and ask questions at in-person, voter education events

- Candidate forums, debates, and town halls hosted by nonpartisan groups, including PTO/PTA, League of Women Voters, NAACP, Urban League, Equality Ohio, Chambers of Commerce, etc.
  - Find local candidate forums by entering your address at Vote411.org
- Meet and Greets hosted by candidates or supporting organizations

TIP: Bring these helpful candidate questions to the events. Take notes on candidate responses, tone, and how they engage or reference other candidates or board members.
STEP 4: Attend school board meetings

Attend board meetings to learn about district priorities and issues, and observe incumbent candidates.

- Find meeting dates and times on your district’s website or call the administration office
- Watch live and recorded meetings on your district website, YouTube, or other social media
- Review board meeting documents, including agendas, minutes, proposed policy changes, curriculum updates, and budgets

STEP 5: Assess candidates & create sample ballot

Almost done! Use all of your research to evaluate and select the best candidates for your district.

- Make a table comparing your priorities with the candidates, and select your final candidates (sample chart)
- Finally, use your final list to create a personalized sample ballot at OhioVoterGuide.org • Vote411.org
- Bring your personalized ballot with you to vote!
Learn more to **DO** more
Coming Up...

SBOE Monthly Meeting – TBD
Oct 10-11 | ODE, 25. S Front St, Columbus or watch on The Ohio Channel

Advocate for Education Day
Sat, Oct 7, 8:30am-4:45pm | University of Cincinnati | Hosted by School Board School, Partners

A Guide to Local School Board Forums
Wed, Oct 11, 7pm | Hosted by League of Women Voters Ohio & School Board School

Honesty Organizing Training
Wed, Oct 18-Nov 1, 7pm | Honesty for Ohio Education

Find more at Honesty Events
Stay Connected

JOIN the Honesty Mailing List
FOLLOW @Honesty4OhioEd
ATTEND Events & Programs
SHARE Alerts, Newsletter, Info
INVITE Us to Your Community/Org
Resources

Honesty for Ohio Education
- Mailing List HERE
- Legislation Tracker HERE
- Website HERE
- Social Media: FB • Instagram • Twitter

GOTV
- Election Info HERE
- School Board Election Resources HERE

State of Education
- Track Actions Across US K-12 | CRT | HE | LGBTQ+
- Roots of Critical Race Theory Campaign HERE

Statehouse
- Honesty Legislation Tracker HERE
- Ohio Legislature Site HERE

State Board of Education
- Each Child Our Future Strategic Plan HERE
- Whole Child Framework HERE
- Education Resources HERE
- Anti-LGBTQ+ Resolution HERE
- Anti-Racism and Equity Resolution HERE
- Gerrymandering SBOE Districts HERE

Local Schools
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Data Book HERE
- 2022 KIDS COUNT Ohio Data Profile HERE
- Finding Unity and Common Ground HERE
- ACLU Ohio Student Rights Handbook HERE
Thank You