

OEA MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS AND SECURITY

The Ohio Education Association (OEA) and our local unions represent and advocate for Ohio's educators and students. Our members and our Union are under a well-funded attack from far-right Dark Money conspirators like the "Fake" Freedom Foundation, whose platform is all about **removing the freedoms hard won by our members at the bargaining table**. This disingenuous organization's stated goal is to reduce our influence and ultimately destroy us by fighting against what educators and students need and deserve. Our members are on to their tactics and recognize that OEA membership has its benefits and security.

In addition to the benefits listed below, OEA bargains for better pay and benefits and advocates for fully funded schools. **OEA is your advocate and partner through: Support & Relationships, Protection & Advocacy, Influence & Power.**

Ohio Education Association Members Only Benefits:

- **Voice and Voting**
 - Ability to vote on the collective bargaining agreement and serving on the bargaining team.
 - Ability to vote in or run for elections for local representatives as well as delegates to district, state and national levels in the union.
- **Legal Protection and Representation**
 - Educators Employment Liability Insurance provides you with:
 - \$1 million in coverage for civil claims brought against you
 - Representation or reimbursement for the defense of criminal charges in certain circumstances
 - **OEA/NEA Legal Services Program**
 - For the defense of your employment rights including but not limited to ODE hearings, CPS investigations and retirement.
 - **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program**
 - Quality legal service for personal matters at reduced rates.
- **Professional Development**
 - Access to the NEA Professional Library for access to valuable resources.
 - Information about your profession in **Ohio Schools** and **NEA Today** magazines
- **Mental Health Program (offered in Partnership with Sanvello Healthcare)**
 - An evidence-based mobile care app.
 - Access to on-demand help for stress, anxiety, and depression.
- **OEA Access Discounts** including but not limited to: discounts on a wide range of professional services and benefits, professional liability coverage, and members-only discounts and services at many local and national businesses.
- **OEA/NEA Member Benefits** including but not limited savings and investment programs, credit, home financing and loan programs, and the NEA click and save program.

For more detailed members only benefit information, please visit [Top 10 Reasons to Belong to OEA - Ohio Education Association \(ohea.org\)](https://www.ohea.org).

Who is the “Fake” Freedom Foundation, Opt Out Today and/or Buckeye Institute?

- The “Fake” Freedom Foundation is a dangerous and extreme out-of-state anti-union, anti-worker front group paid for by the Koch Family and billionaires like Betsy DeVos.
 - Former Freedom Foundation Executive Director Lindsay Queen publicly stated she is anti-union and it is “fun” to bust unions.
 - Her replacement, Lauren Bowen, is anti-union, anti-worker. Bowen blamed public teachers for rising depression and suicide rates among their students.
- They are anti-union, anti-worker who answer to billionaires who want to bust unions to lower wages, deny benefits like healthcare, gut pensions.
- Billionaires backing the Fake Freedom Foundation have fought for decades against raising the minimum wage, pensions, increased funding for public education and affordable healthcare.
 - The Buckeye Institute actively advocates to expand school vouchers taking money from public schools.
- Dark money forces are data mining your personal information and using that to contact you with a bunch of lies.

What do the “Fake” Freedom Foundation, Opt Out Today and/or Buckeye Institute want?

- They:
 - **Oppose** higher pay for educators
 - **Oppose** smaller class sizes
 - **Oppose** local collective bargaining and worker rights
 - **Oppose** fair evaluations
 - **Oppose** educators having a voice in education policy decisions
 - **Oppose** increased funding for public schools
- They are anti-union and want to:
 - Lower your wages
 - Take away your benefits including healthcare
 - Destroy your pensions
 - Expand school vouchers

How can we fight back?

- Talk to coworkers about the value of membership:
 - Voice & Voting through collective bargaining
 - Legal Protection and Representation
 - Professional Development
 - Mental Health Program
 - OEA & NEA Members Only Benefits
 - And many, many more
- Block their numbers if they are calling or texting you.
- Report their emails as spam if they are contacting you via your personal email.
- Contact Union leadership if they are contacting you via work email.
- Write “Return to Sender” and send their anti-worker propaganda back to them in the mail or better yet, throw it in the trash.