

# Ohio Schools

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024  
JUNE / JULY 2024



## OEA is excited to announce the launch of its digital magazine experience!

In 2024, digital issues of *Ohio Schools* will be published in February/March and June/July. You'll also receive four print magazines—April/May, August/September (Member Resource Guide), October/November, and December/January—at home.

The digital issues will offer interactive content that shares the excellent work being done by OEA members to help all students—regardless of race, background, or zip code—learn, grow, and fulfill their potential. Check out the stories, videos, and images of members advocating for students, educator rights and working conditions, serving as leaders in the education profession, and amplifying educator voices from the school board to the statehouse.

An email with a link to the new digital *Ohio Schools* will be delivered to your inbox and will also be available on the OEA website at <https://www.ohea.org/publications/>. Read and experience *Ohio Schools* whenever it's most convenient for you. And let us know if there are topics or stories you'd like us to cover.

**▶ CLICK FOR MORE**  
Offers videos or resources connected to the story.



**OEA, OAESF leaders continue commitment to ESP visibility, rights, and respect with launch of ESP web page**

In January 2023, the OEA Education Support Professional Educator Voice Academy began meeting to identify and respond to the unique needs of Education Support Professionals (ESPs). As the group discussed the staff shortage crisis, and ways to recognize support staff contributions and to advocate for better training, more professional development opportunities, and wages that reflect the responsibility and role of ESPs, they developed an action and organizing plan centered on listening to and learning from Ohio ESPs.

At the Spring 2023 Representative Assembly, delegates passed a new business item calling for the Association to provide the necessary budget and staffing support to carry out the action plan created by the ESP Educator Voice Academy. The action plan included reaching out to ESP members at OEA meetings to raise awareness and gather support for a movement to increase wages and build respect for ESPs, conducting one-on-one conversations with ESP local leaders, organizing a meeting of ESP presidents with the goal of getting member voice and state approval to build membership and power, organizing local listening meetings to gather member input, and creating an ESP page on the OEA website.

ESFVA members and OAESF leaders have continued their commitment to increasing ESP visibility, rights, and respect through their work with OEA staff to develop a new web page that shares resources for ESPs, individual stories from ESP members, and information on how to become involved as an advocate and leader for ESPs.

Working toward the goal of ensuring that all Ohio ESPs feel valued and appreciated and that they are an integral part of the Association at all levels, the web page on this ESPs to take action by completing an online survey with the following questions:

- What does respect in the workplace mean to you?
- How can we attract and retain ESP employees in Ohio?
- What would be a game-changer in your district to make student success?

ESPs also have an opportunity to sign up to host a listening tour visit with OAESF leaders to discuss issues critical to ESPs and share conversation and refinements. Interested ESPs should reach out to OAESF Chair Tammy LaFramme at [laframme.tammy@gmail.com](mailto:laframme.tammy@gmail.com) or OEA Organizer and ESP Liaison Matt Iida at [idiama@ohea.org](mailto:idiama@ohea.org).



**▶ LISTEN TO AN EPISODE** of the Public Education Matters Podcast highlighting this subject.

**▶ WATCH A VIDEO** to learn more about the featured topic.