



What is The Fund for Children and Public Education?

The Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) is a non-partisan, political action fund for candidates who support the values of public educators. Stand up for public education by making a contribution to the Fund for Children and Public Education today!

FCPE funds pro-public education candidates, regardless of party.

By contributing to FCPE you are supporting individuals who understand the issues and are actively working to improve our schools and help our students

We believe...

- Teachers and Support Staff are committed to the success of every child.
- Students need to be at the center of education reform.
- To ensure the success of every child, teachers, students, parents, and POLITICIANS need to be held accountable.

FCPE is ultimately about issues, not candidates. If you care about any of the following issues:

- Class Size
- Standardized Tests
- Salary
- Common Core
- Evaluations
- Value-Added
- Working Conditions
- Retirement
- Compensation and employee benefits
- Social Security coverage
- Unemployment coverage
- Workers' compensation
- Medical coverage
- Licensure/Certification standards and fees
- FBI/BCI Background checks
- Conduct and discipline policies
- Due process rights/suspension/termination/non renewal
- Tenure
- Reduction in Force policies
- Adequate funding
- Private School vouchers
- Charter School funding and accountability
- Length of school year/week/day and calamity days
- ESEA/No Child Left Behind
- Planning Time
- Curriculum and textbooks

- School lunch menu
- Health and safety standards
- Transportation rules and regulations

Then FCPE is important to you, too.

By becoming politically active, we don't guarantee ourselves success in public policy debates, but it does guarantee us a seat at the policy-making table and allows us to tell our story.

The law prohibits members' dues dollars being used for contributions to candidates for office; therefore, the voluntary FCPE contributions you make are one of the ways we tell the story of what we believe.

How can I donate?!?

<https://ohea.org/donate/> or through forms handed out through your local association/faculty rep. Locals may have an option for automatic payroll deductions!!

When a member donates, what is the process and where does the donation go?

Money contributed to the OEA FCPE can be used to support:

- Governor
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Ohio Supreme Court Justices
- candidates running for the Ohio General Assembly
- candidates running for the State Board of Education.

Then the process for screening and supporting a pro-public education candidate goes as follows:

Every House and Senate District in Ohio has a District Screening Committee made up of local OEA members who donate their time and energy to the screening and endorsement of candidates for the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. The OEA FCPE District Screening Committee notifies candidates of its intent to interview and endorse and sends a legislative questionnaire to be completed. After all candidates are screened, the committee makes its decision by majority vote and that decision is sent to the OEA FCPE State Council for concurrence.



BEST PRACTICES Person to person contact. Use timely, pertinent issues that will motivate members to give. Give personal story. Give success stories. Make it easy to give. Be organized with forms, goals, responsibilities, and timelines. Build in accountability and maintain records. Give consistent and regular reminders. Use personal incentives/friendly competition. Recognize contributions and contributors at local/district/state/national level. Always say thank you in some way!

DON'TS Don't hold FCPE drives during the workday. Convocations are usually recognized as a Union Meeting time. Don't put FCPE forms in school mailboxes. Make your ask personal contact. Don't ask nonmembers. Don't commingle OEA Membership money with FCPE donations. Convert cash to money orders. Make all checks and money orders payable to OEA FCPE (not OEA). Don't hold contributions-mail immediately.

MYTHS *OEA only recommends candidates and donates to the Democratic Party.* All candidates are invited to be screened and are screened by local members. *OEA uses various social issues to evaluate candidates.* Questionnaire only focuses on education and public employee issues.

OEA/NEA supports abortion. Nowhere in any OEA/NEA documents does the word abortion appear. Actual wording appears in NEA Resolutions 1-16 (all methods of family planning). OEA/NEA Women's Caucuses continue to monitor and address these issues.

I can't afford it. For \$1 a pay, you can't afford not to give!

No one asked me. It is your responsibility, whether someone asks you or not!

I can't ask my friends to give. Put your money where your mouth is! Be a role model and show them how it is done.

IF YOU STILL HAVE MEMBERS THAT DO NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO FCPE, ENCOURAGE THEM TO:

- * join OEA ACES and contact legislators via email www.ohea.org
- * volunteer to work on pro-public education candidates or levy campaigns
- * visit local legislators and various organizations and lobby for public education

* write letters and articles to local newspapers, newsletters

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS + INFORMATION ABOUT THE OEA FUND FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHAT IS FCPE? The OEA FCPE is our state Political Action Committee, which works to support pro-public education candidates on the ballot.

WHY POLITICS? All the decisions that affect us as public school employees, as well as individuals, are made by elected leaders or individuals appointed by elected leaders.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS? Screening Committees at local, district, and state levels are comprised of local leaders and representatives who are FCPE contributors. Candidates answer questions pertaining only to public education issues. Screening Committee members then make non-partisan recommendations and endorsements.

WHY GIVE? Decisions affecting future of public education are made in political bodies. FCPE allows for greater influence and united power and a greater pool of money. Provide monetary support to candidates who support public education. Dues dollars cannot be used to support candidates.

WHO CAN GIVE? OEA Members: full-time, part-time, active, retired, students. OEA Staff

HOW TO GIVE? Payroll deduction. Local Fund Drive. District/OEA/NEA Representative Assemblies. Various Union Activities, Conferences, and Trainings. Online giving. ANY TIME!