CLOSED CAPTIONING

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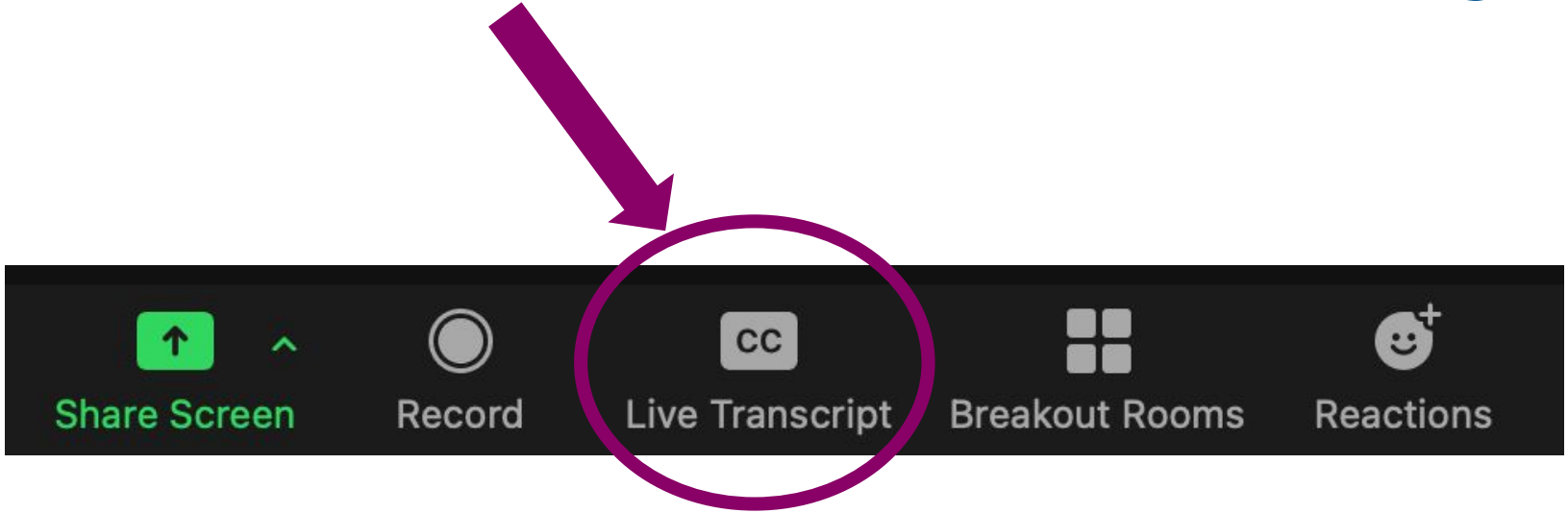


Honesty Lunch & *Learn*

Join the Team!

Building an Honesty Movement for Ohio

Honesty for Ohio Education

Welcome!

Cynthia Peeples

she/her
Founding Director
Honesty for Ohio Education
cpeeples@honestyforohioeducation.org

Honesty for Ohio Education

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

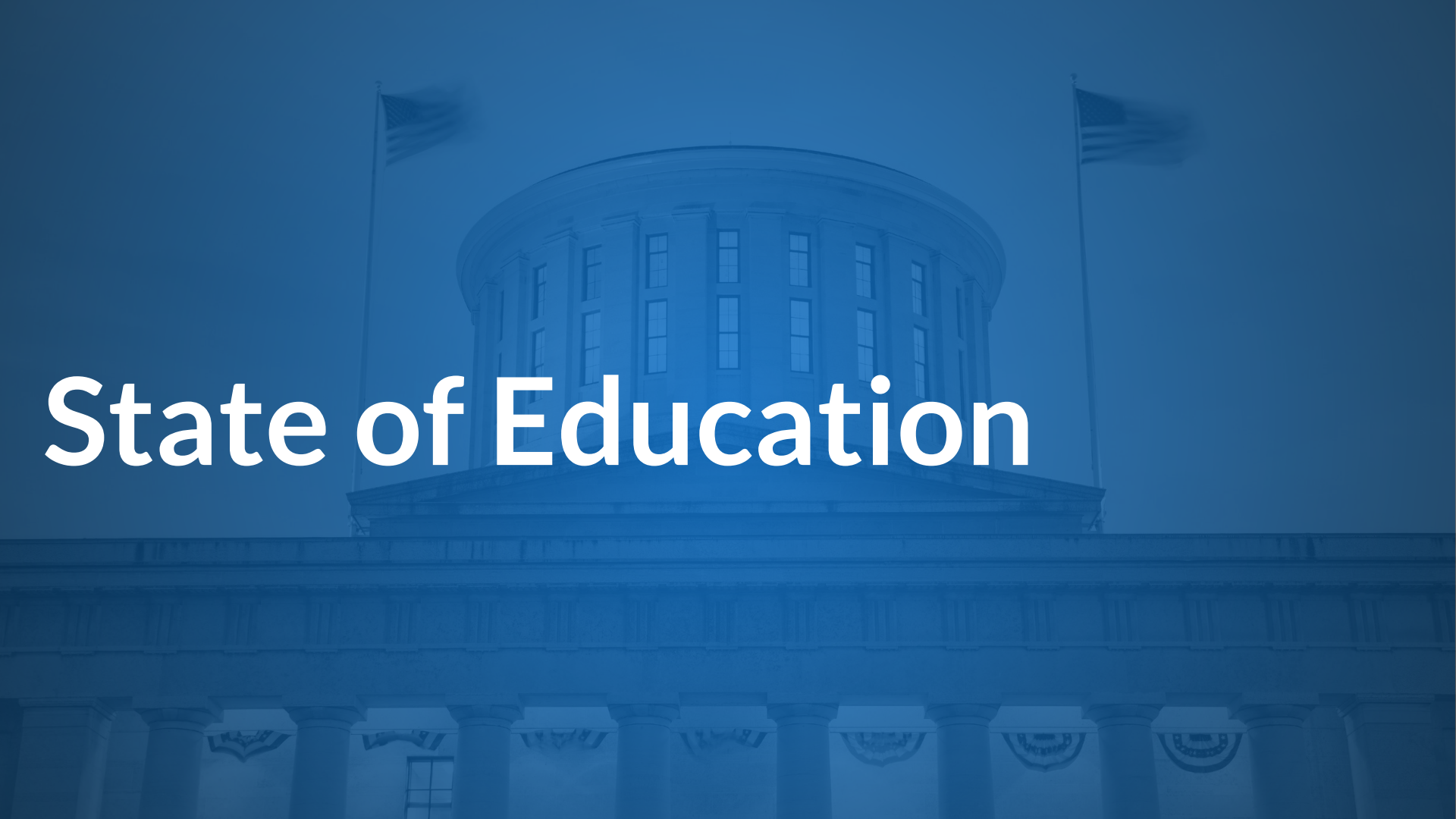
State of Education

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**

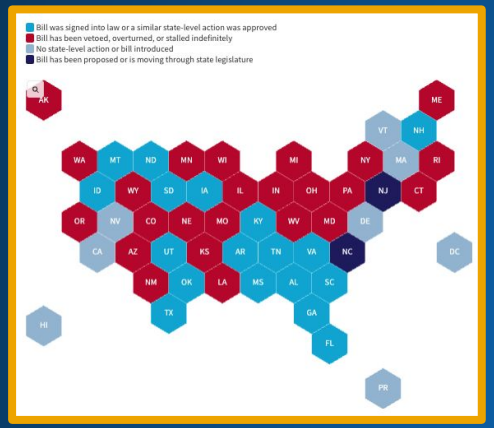
Judge delays decision in Ohio's lawsuit over who controls public education

Anna Staver
Columbus Dispatch

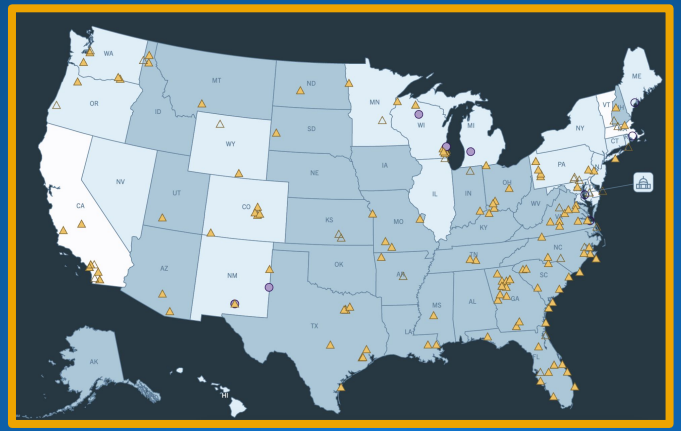
Published 4:33 p.m. ET Oct. 4, 2023 | Updated 4:34 p.m. ET Oct. 4, 2023

Learn more at State Takeover

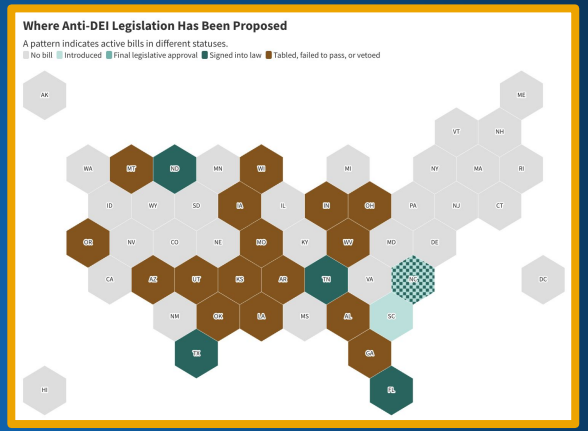
K-12 Censorship Bills



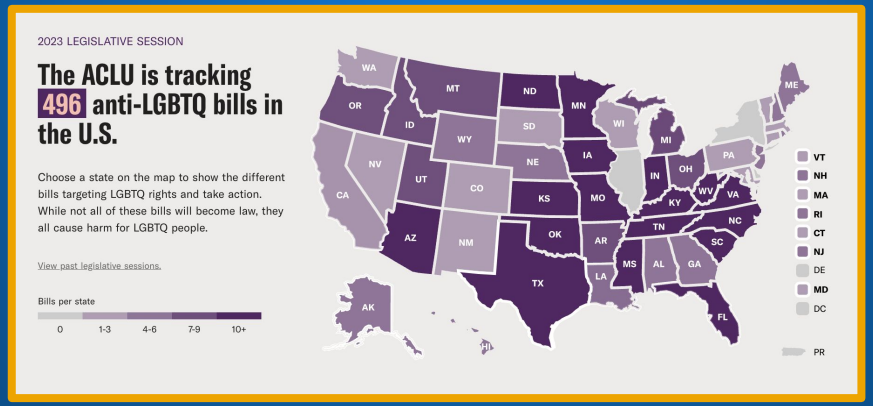
K-12 Anti-CRT Bills



Higher Ed Destruction Bills



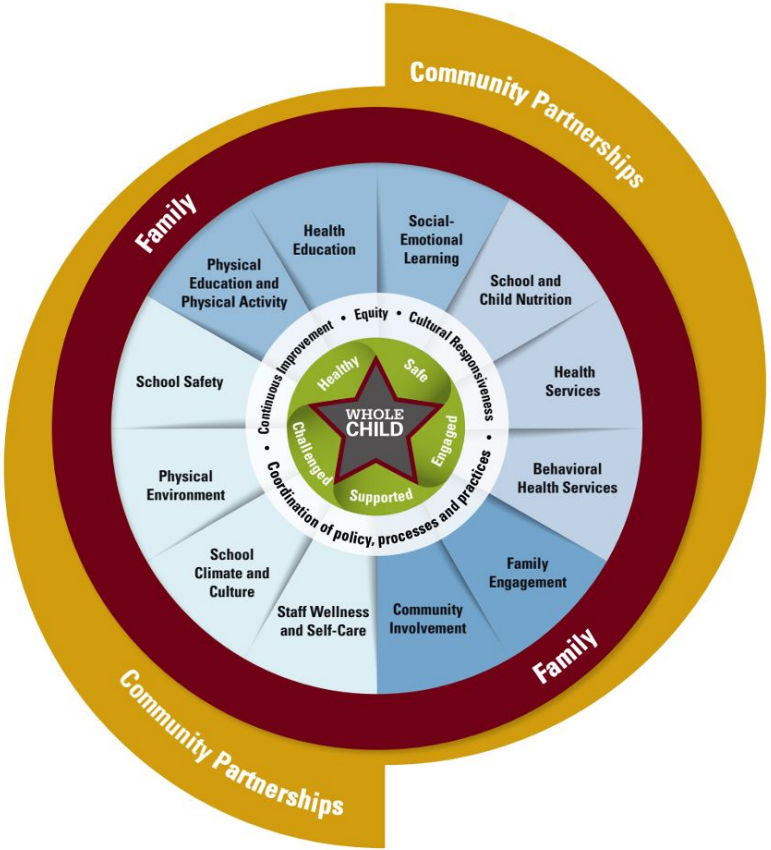
Anti-LGBTQ+



“Parental Rights”
Classroom Censorship
ESAs
Anti-DEI
HE Destruction
Teacher Shortage
Vouchers
Anti-SEL
State Takeover
LGBTQ+ Rights
Indoctrination
Unlicensed Educators
Racism
Hate Groups
Christian Nationalism
Book Bans
Anti-CRT

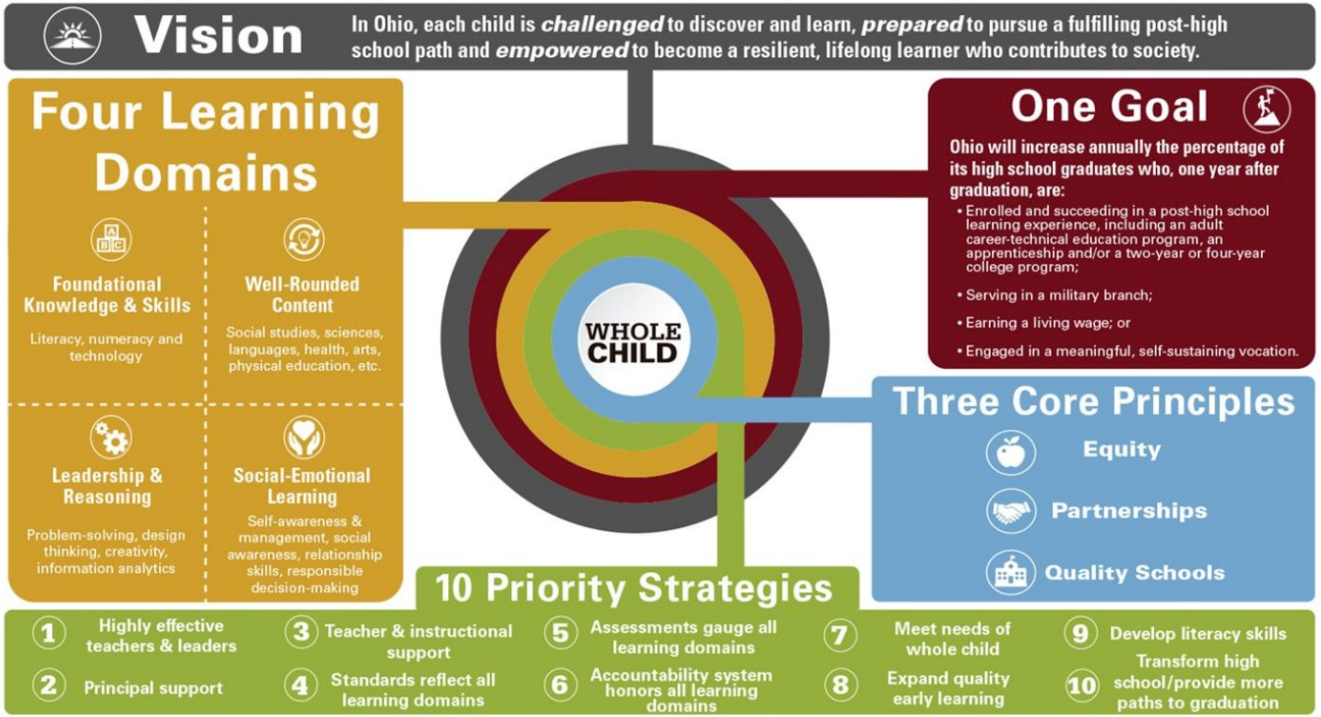
Ohio's Whole Child Framework

A *collaborative* approach to learning and wellness



#EachChildOurFuture

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



Ohio Strategic Plan For Education: 2019-2024

Ohio | Department of Education

Each Child Our Future

Building an Honesty Movement

Honesty Welcomes

Nate Brown *(He/Him)*

State Organizing Director

Honesty for Ohio Education

nbrown@honestyforohioeducation.org

Honesty for Ohio Education

Building Honesty Organizing
Power… *together*

Honesty Organizing

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.

Honesty Organizing

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

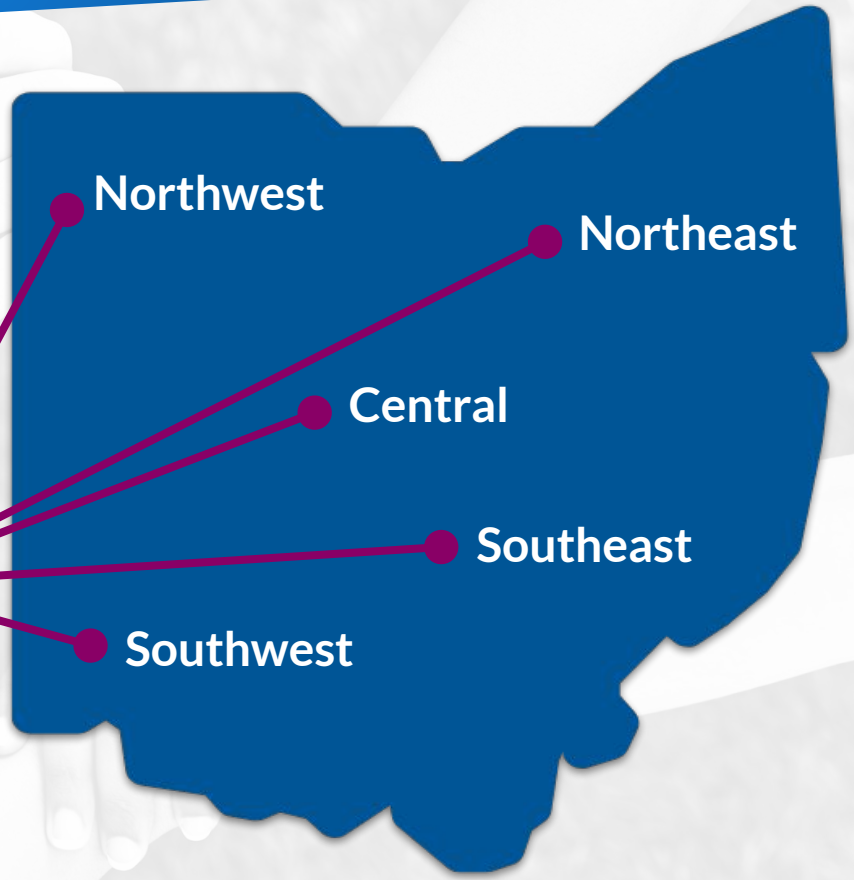
Families

Educators

Community Orgs/Groups

Businesses

Honesty Partners

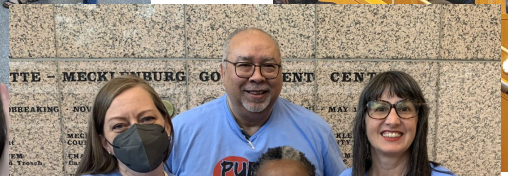


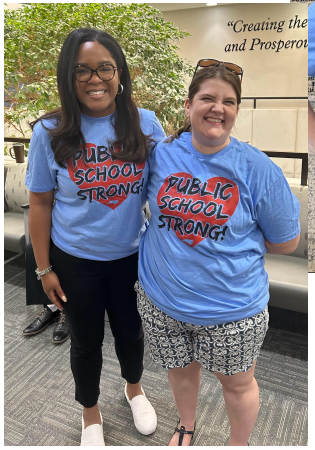
"Distributed" Model
H.E.A.L. Together Network
and Down Home North Carolina

HEAL TOGETHER

HEAL TOGETHER

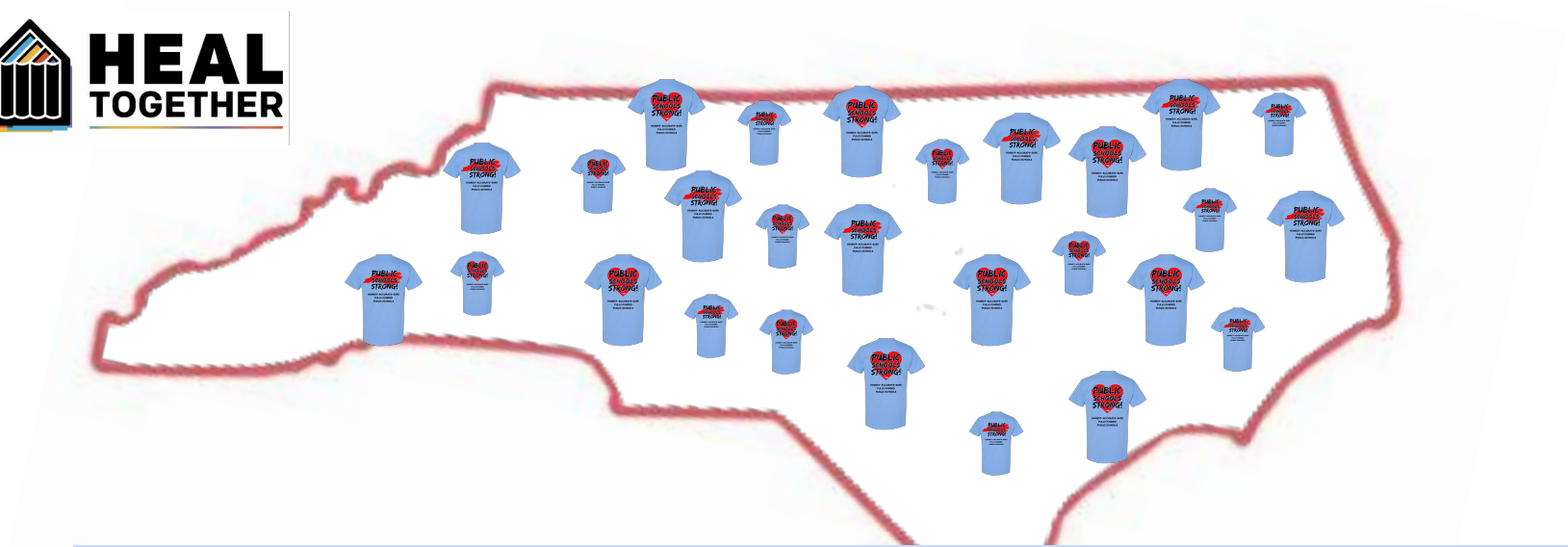
We are on our way! In May, June & July had over 30 teams go to school board meetings!





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!

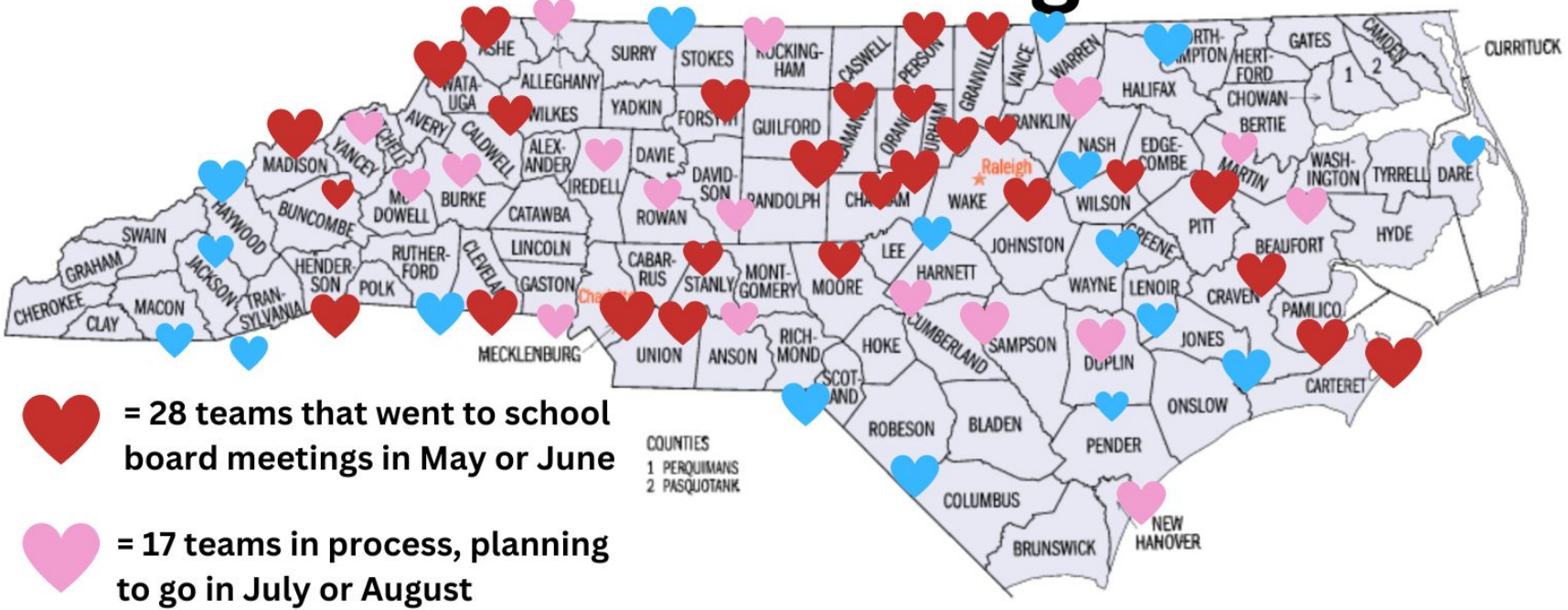
HEAL TOGETHER



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

HEAL TOGETHER

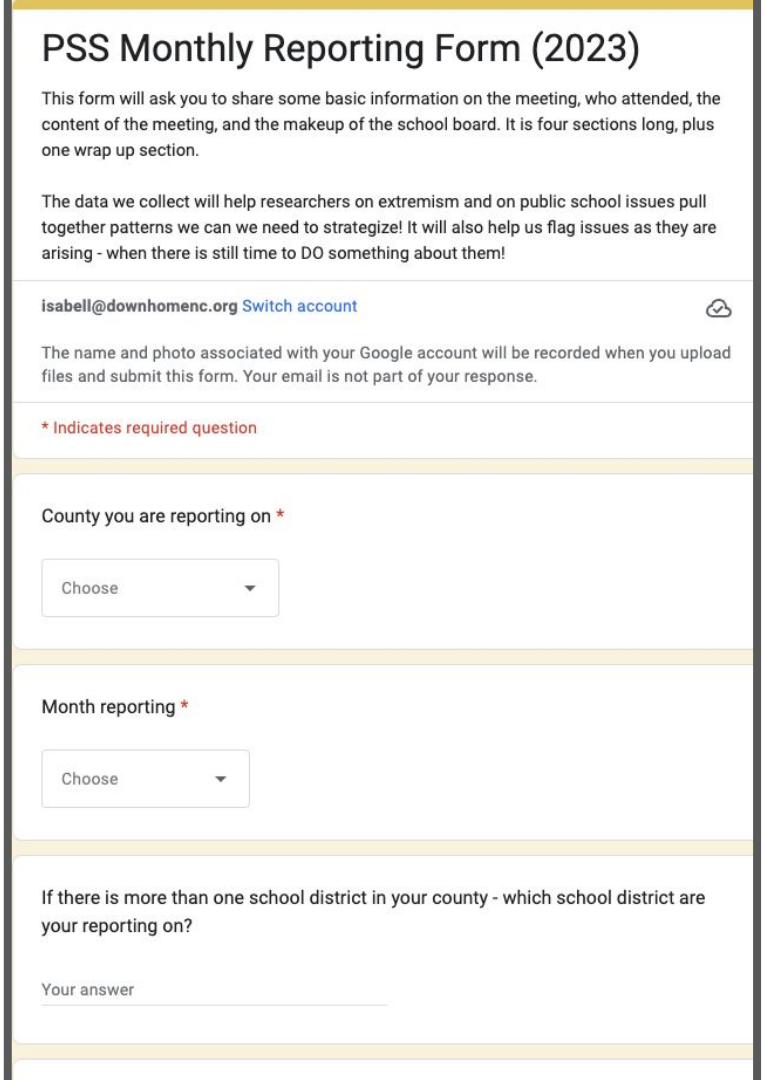
= 61 counties so far in some stage of participation!!!!

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.

HEAL TOGETHER



PSS Monthly Reporting Form (2023)

This form will ask you to share some basic information on the meeting, who attended, the content of the meeting, and the makeup of the school board. It is four sections long, plus one wrap up section.

The data we collect will help researchers on extremism and on public school issues pull together patterns we can we need to strategize! It will also help us flag issues as they are arising - when there is still time to DO something about them!

isabell@downhomenc.org Switch account

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Your email is not part of your response.

* Indicates required question

County you are reporting on *

Choose

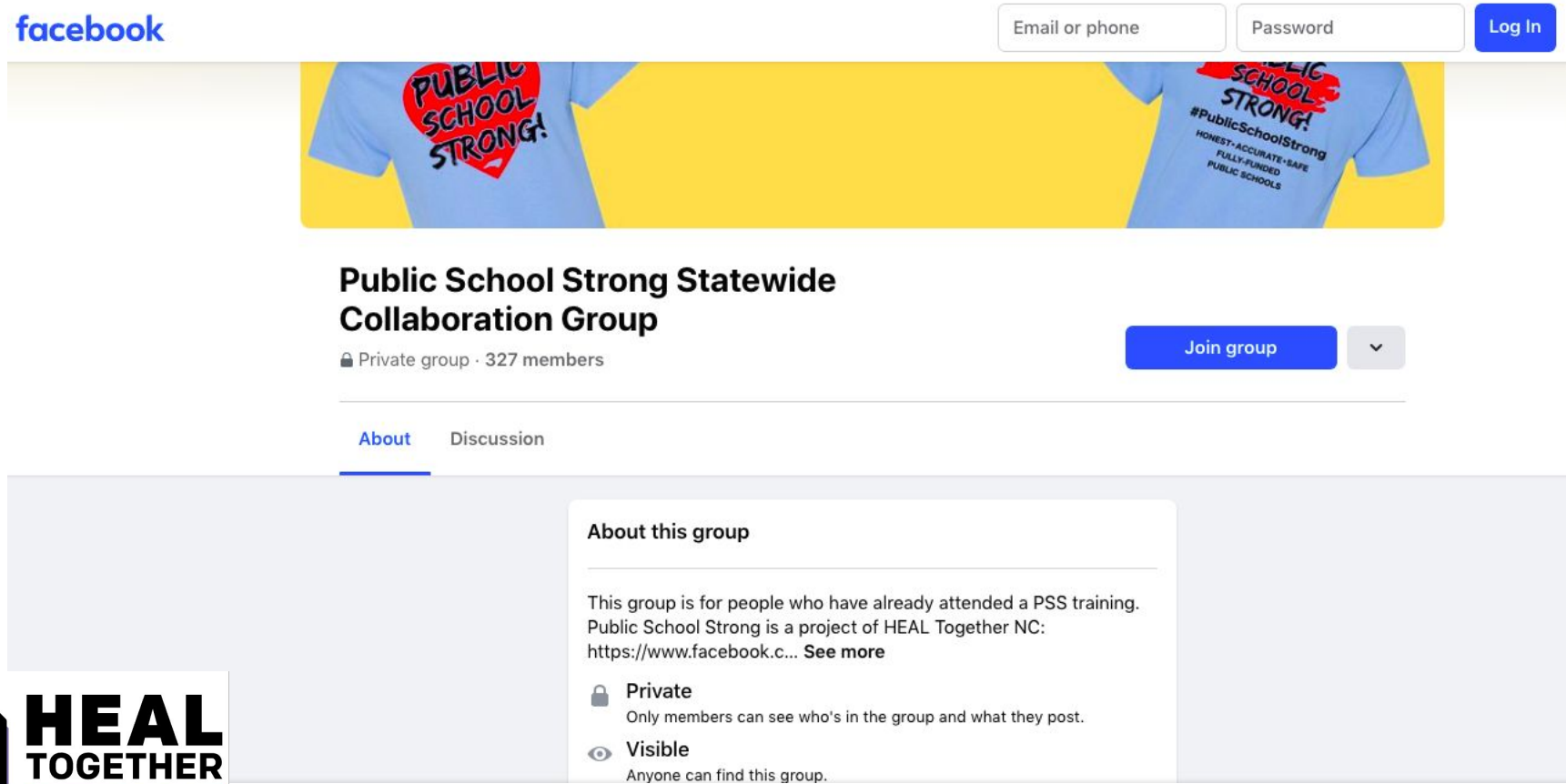
Month reporting *

Choose

If there is more than one school district in your county - which school district are your reporting on?

Your answer

Between-Meeting Online Community



HEAL TOGETHER

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

Honesty for Ohio Education

Honesty Organizing

October 2023	• Trainings and Statewide Team Launch • **Candidate research, LTEs, GOTV!** • Begin attending local SB meetings
November 2023	• Vote! • Organizing Essentials and Relationship Building • Start filing local team reports
December 2023	• Listening Campaign Planning • Continued training and team-building
Winter 2024	• Listening Campaign Launch (listening parties, surveys) • Comment at Local Board Meeting

Teams Training

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**

Honesty for Ohio Education

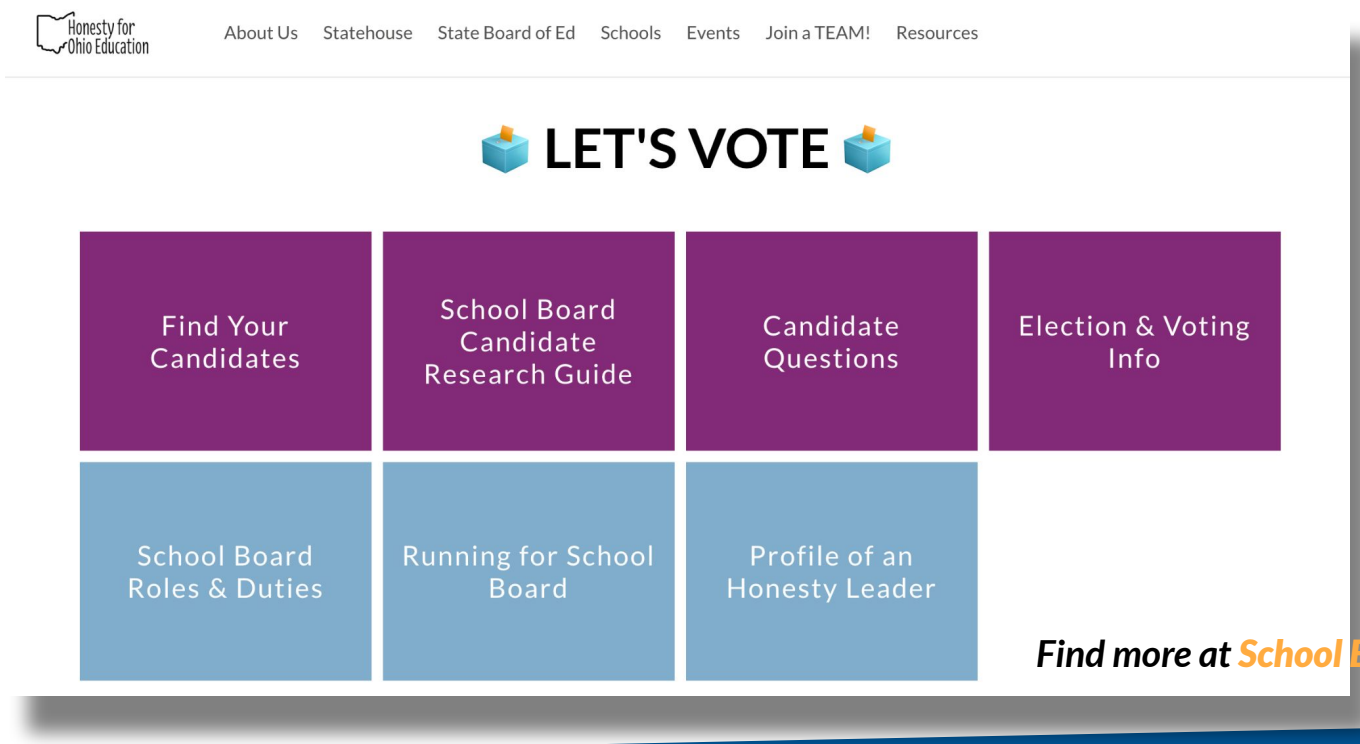
School Board Elections

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



School Board Elections

🤩 2023 School Board Candidate ACTION Guide

STEP 1
Find Candidates

STEP 2
Research Candidates & Endorsements

STEP 3 🤩
Attend Candidate Events

STEP 4
Attend School Board Meetings

STEP 5
Assess Candidates & Create Sample Ballot

Find more at School Board Elections

Honesty for Ohio Education

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** • **Vote411.org** • **School Board School** (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

Candidate Research

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.

Candidate Research

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 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

HonestyforOhioEducation.org • @Honesty4OhioEd