

## Akron Education Association

# BRiefs

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**Focus Group:** At the Board of Trustees meeting last night, we heard from a couple of members who expressed concern over the number of new initiatives the district has rolled out at the start of this school year. After the meeting, I decided to form a focus group as soon as possible to look at the impact if any these new initiatives have on the daily workload of teachers and if they are actually taking away from instructional time.

**Issue 2:** As of today we have not received any materials (yard signs, stickers, buttons) from We Are Ohio. We will get the word out to building reps as soon as these items are delivered to AEA. We are still in need for members to sign-up for phone calling here at AEA on Mondays, especially the second shift from 6-8. Call Kristina here at AEA to sign-up. We will be calling every Monday through November 7.

**Staffing:** The district will adding approximately 35 teachers as a result of fall enrollment. All of these additions will be at the elementary level. Twenty-four elementary buildings will adding teachers. Three elementary buildings will be losing one teacher each.

**Teacher Retesting:** There is a provision in House Bill 153 (Budget Bill) that states that the core content teachers in the lowest-performing 10 percent of schools must be retested. There are websites (Plunderbund) and blogs that have listed those lowest-performing schools and the teachers in those schools. No such list exists at this time at The Ohio Department of Education. The teacher retesting provision of HB 153 will take effect with the 2012-2013 school year. The effort will be initiated with the new school ranking system also required by HB 153, which is currently under development.