

# AKRON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## BRiefs

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**Health Insurance Audit:** One of the best practices mandated by the state School Employees Health Care Board is that districts conduct health insurance audits. While the idea of an insurance audit is not a new one, the requirement that districts conduct one periodically is. APS has never audited the health insurance plan. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that all participants in the plan meet the plan's eligibility requirements. Our audit will begin in January and will be conducted by Chapman Kelly, Inc.

**The New Teacher Project:** This well-known research firm is conducting a study on teacher dismissal for poor instructional performance, particularly as it relates to tenured teachers. Ohio and three other states are involved in this study which will culminate in a national report. AEA has a seat on the Ohio Advisory Committee. After the first of the year, current plans are for all teachers to receive surveys and a small number of teachers will be randomly selected for personal interviews. All information will be collected anonymously.

**State of the State:** No surprises here...the state is in a fiscal crisis. Income and sales taxes are down. Departments will be asked to cut budget requests severely for the next biennium. This, of course, holds potential consequences for school funding. Please see handout from Deb Delisle.

**Delisle Pegged as State Super:** Deb Delisle has just completed her first week as the new Superintendent of Public Instruction in Ohio. Her background includes work in urban districts, the most recent of which was Cleveland Heights-University Heights. Ms. Delisle gives urban districts reason to hope that the department will be more responsive to urbans than her predecessor.

**Unbelievable:** We smashed our previous Strides fund raising effort this year. A record number of schools participated in the campaign. We raised an incredible \$48,866.10!

**Pony Envelopes:** Please send in your excess pony envelopes, as we are nearing the point of having to purchase more (very expensive). Several folded envelopes will fit neatly inside of one envelope.