

SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

WELCOME! WE'LL BEGIN SHORTLY.



COLUMBUS
EDUCATION
JUSTICE
COALITION





SYLLABUS

1

MEET THE TEACHERS

2

SYLLABUS

3

OBJECTIVES

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WHERE WE ARE

5

CHALLENGES

6

RESOURCES/ACTION

ABOUT US



Izetta Thomas
Columbus Education
Justice Coalition



Amanda Fontana,
MSW
New Philadelphia
School Board



Ana Chapman
Berea City School
Board



Laura Mullen
Red Wine & Blue
Brunswick City
School Board



Natalie Hastings
Honesty for Ohio
Education



OBJECTIVE

- Understand the issues facing public school students and the schools they attend.
- Understand the role of school board members in addressing these issues/needs.
- Hear from school board members on how they use their role to support students.
- Learn about the challenges from the state & federal levels
- Learn how to identify which candidates in your district will work to support all students.

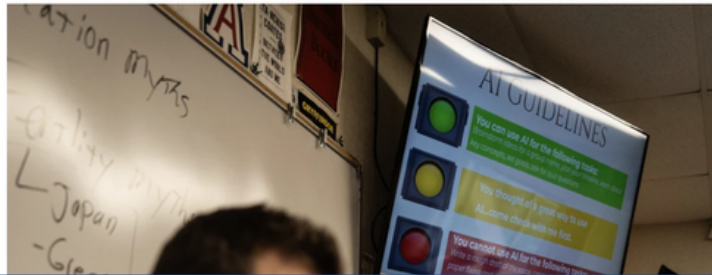
WHERE WE ARE

Ohio schools plagued with chronic absenteeism with 1 in 4 students missing too much class

Story by Laura Hancock, cleveland.com • 1w • ⌚ 7 min read

Rising Use of AI in Schools Comes With Big Downsides for Students

By Jennifer Vilcarino & Lauraine Langreo — October 08, 2025 ⌚ 6 min read



Potential Risk of Harm from Content Exposure

Extreme, inappropriate, and harmful content continues to be easily and widely accessible by children and adolescents. This can be spread through direct pushes, unwanted content exchanges, and algorithmic designs. In certain tragic cases, childhood deaths have been linked to suicide- and self-harm-related content and risk-taking challenges on social media platforms.^{45, 46} This content may be especially risky for children and adolescents who are already experiencing mental health difficulties.⁴⁷ Despite social media providing a sense of community for some, a systematic review of more than two dozen studies found that some social media platforms show live depictions of self-harm acts like partial asphyxiation, leading to seizures, and cutting, leading to significant bleeding.⁴⁸ Further, these studies found that discussing or showing this content can normalize such behaviors, including through the formation of suicide pacts and posting of self-harm models for others to follow.

Social media may also perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls.^{49, 50, 51, 52} A synthesis of 20 studies demonstrated a significant relationship between social media use and body image concerns and eating disorders, with social comparison as a potential contributing factor.⁴¹ Social comparison driven by social media is associated with body dissatisfaction, disordered eating, and depressive symptoms.^{53, 54, 55, 56} When asked about the impact of social media on their body image, nearly half (46%) of adolescents aged 13–17 said social media makes them feel worse, 40% said it makes them feel neither better nor worse, and only 14% said it makes them feel better.⁵⁷

Additionally, roughly two-thirds (64%) of adolescents are “often” or “sometimes” exposed to hate-based content.⁵⁸ Among adolescent girls of color, one-third or more report exposure to racist content or language on social media platforms.

Ohio lawmakers push to ban DEI programs in K-12 schools

OHIO POLITICS

How busing private school students is hurting already strapped public schools

Updated: May. 19, 2025, 2:29 p.m. | Published: May. 19, 2025, 11:28 a.m.



EDUCATING ALL LEARNERS

EDUCATION

Amid shutdown, Trump administration guts department overseeing special education

OCTOBER 13, 2025 · 5:00 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



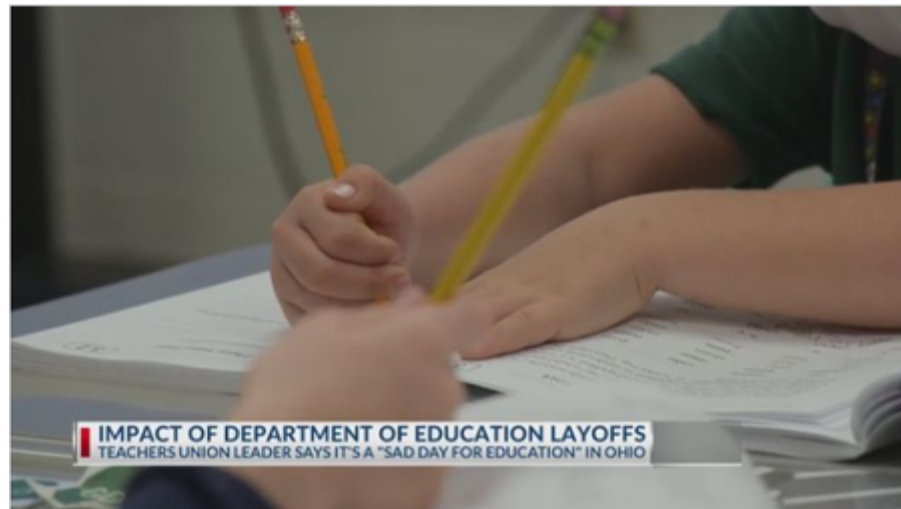
Cory Turner

DIVE BRIEF

Students make modest math recovery, but stalled on reading progress

A new dashboard shows K-8 national and state-level math and reading achievement trends pre- and post-pandemic.

Published Oct. 16, 2025



IMPACT OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAYOFFS
TEACHERS UNION LEADER SAYS IT'S A "SAD DAY FOR EDUCATION" IN OHIO

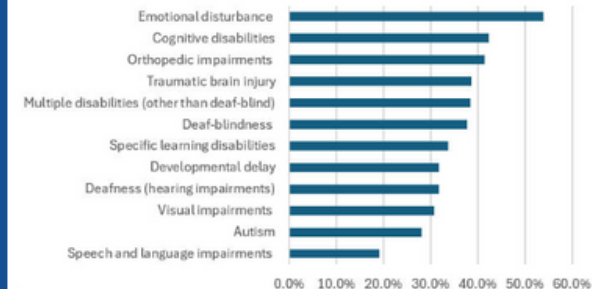
How Department of Education layoffs will impact Ohio

Columbus News, Weather and Sports



NBC4 WCMH-TV

Chronic absenteeism by disability type



Not all disabled students are chronically absent, but last school year it was 34%, which was higher than the statewide average. This bar chart shows 53.9% of students with emotional disturbance were chronically absent, compared to 19.1% of students with speech and language impairments.

© (Laura Hancock/cleveland.com/TNS)

DISCIPLINE DISPARITIES

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE HAS DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS

This report analyzes data on disparities in exclusionary discipline by race, ethnicity, poverty and economic disadvantage.

4.3x

Black male students were 4.3x more likely than white male students to be suspended or expelled.

6x

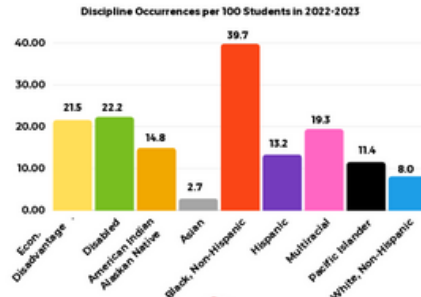
Black female students were 6x more likely than white female students to be suspended or expelled.

Disparities also persist across socioeconomic status.

In 2022-2023 school year, there were 174,000 total suspension or expulsion occurrences of students who qualify as economically disadvantaged, compared to only 35,000 of students who do not qualify as economically disadvantaged.

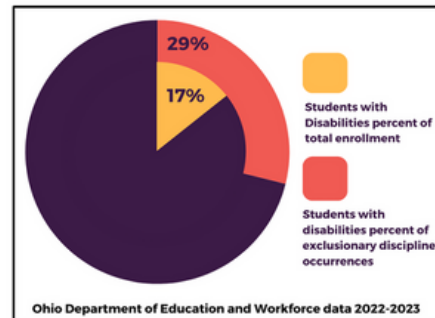


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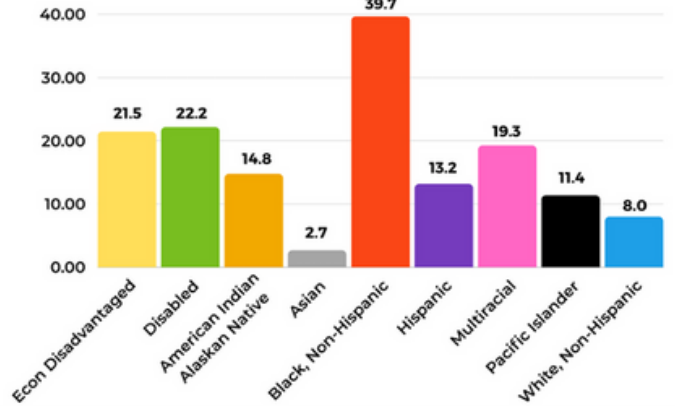


Disparities in Access to Educational Opportunity: Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by exclusionary discipline. While students with disabilities represented just 17% of Ohio students enrolled in public schools in 2022-2023, they represented almost 30% of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. For students with disabilities to be adequately supported post-pandemic, it is critical that schools receive increased funding for students with disabilities.



Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions per 100 Students in 2022-23



Note: The rate of occurrences per student should not be interpreted as a percentage of students. Students who are suspended multiple times are counted twice in this measure.

LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

1/8/25



Statement:

Shameful: Gov. DeWine Signs HB 8, Which Will Make Schools Less Safe for LGBTQ+ Students

Friedman said schools are responsible for giving students opportunities to access information, ideas, and different identities. Schools help young people learn about diversity and empathy when they read about characters who are different from them, he said.

“For many LGBTQ youth, in particular, books can be a lifeline,” Friedman said. “If you are growing up in an unsafe home environment, often it is the public school where you might be able to find safety or affirmation of who you are.”

LGBTQ+ young people are known to have difficulty finding safe spaces. Research shows [LGBTQ+ youth are five times more likely to die by suicide](#) due to their inability to be out among family members and peers. In addition, 92% of transgender youth have attempted suicide before age 25.

These statistics are why Amanda Erickson, director of education and outreach at [Kaleidoscope Youth Center](#), said teaching about diverse identities and family structures is essential.

ANTI- DEI

BROOKINGS

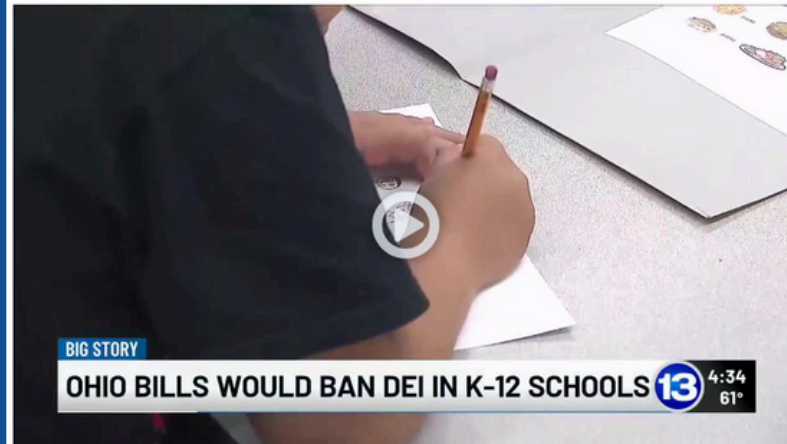
Government Shutdown

RESEARCH

For better student outcomes, hire more Black teachers

Andre M. Perry
October 16, 2019

Ohio lawmakers push to ban DEI programs in K-12 schools

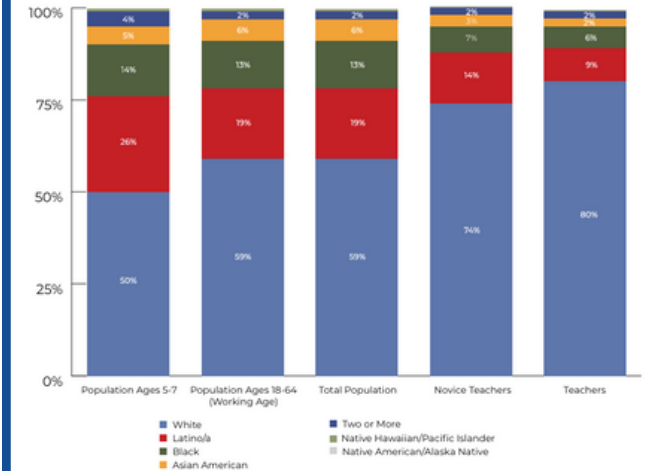


BIG STORY

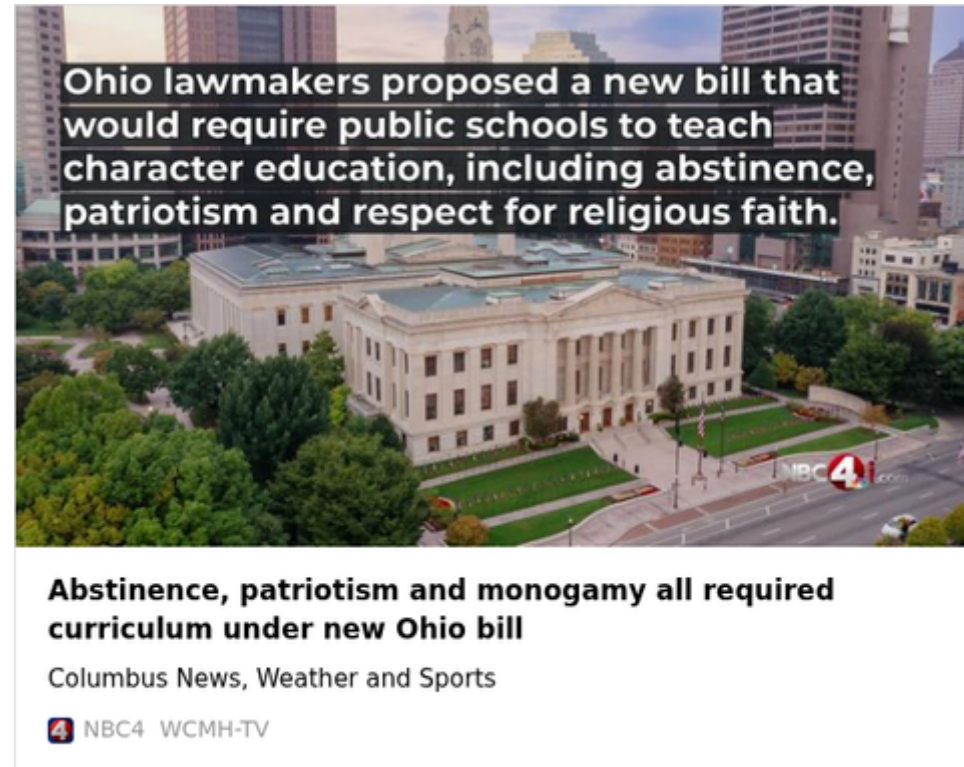
OHIO BILLS WOULD BAN DEI IN K-12 SCHOOLS 13 4:34 61°

Ohio lawmakers could extend a ban on diversity, equity and inclusion practices from college campuses to K-12 public schools.

Figure 2. Percentage distribution of the U.S. population (2020) and of teachers (2020–21) by race/ethnicity



SUCCESS SEQUENCE



SCHOOL CLOSURES

FORUM

CRAIN'S

EXPLORING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES THAT MATTER TO NORTHEAST OHIO

Home > Crain's Forum: Education

January 16, 2025 05:50 AM

Funding issues can magnify inequities in Ohio schools, and students pay the price

RACHEL ABBEY MCCAFFERTY



Public schools could be forced to close some buildings, sell them cheaply to charter schools

The Statehouse News Bureau | By Jo Ingles

Published May 23, 2025 at 6:05 AM EDT



Analysis: Ohio House Republicans say 'yes' to a football stadium, 'no' to public schools



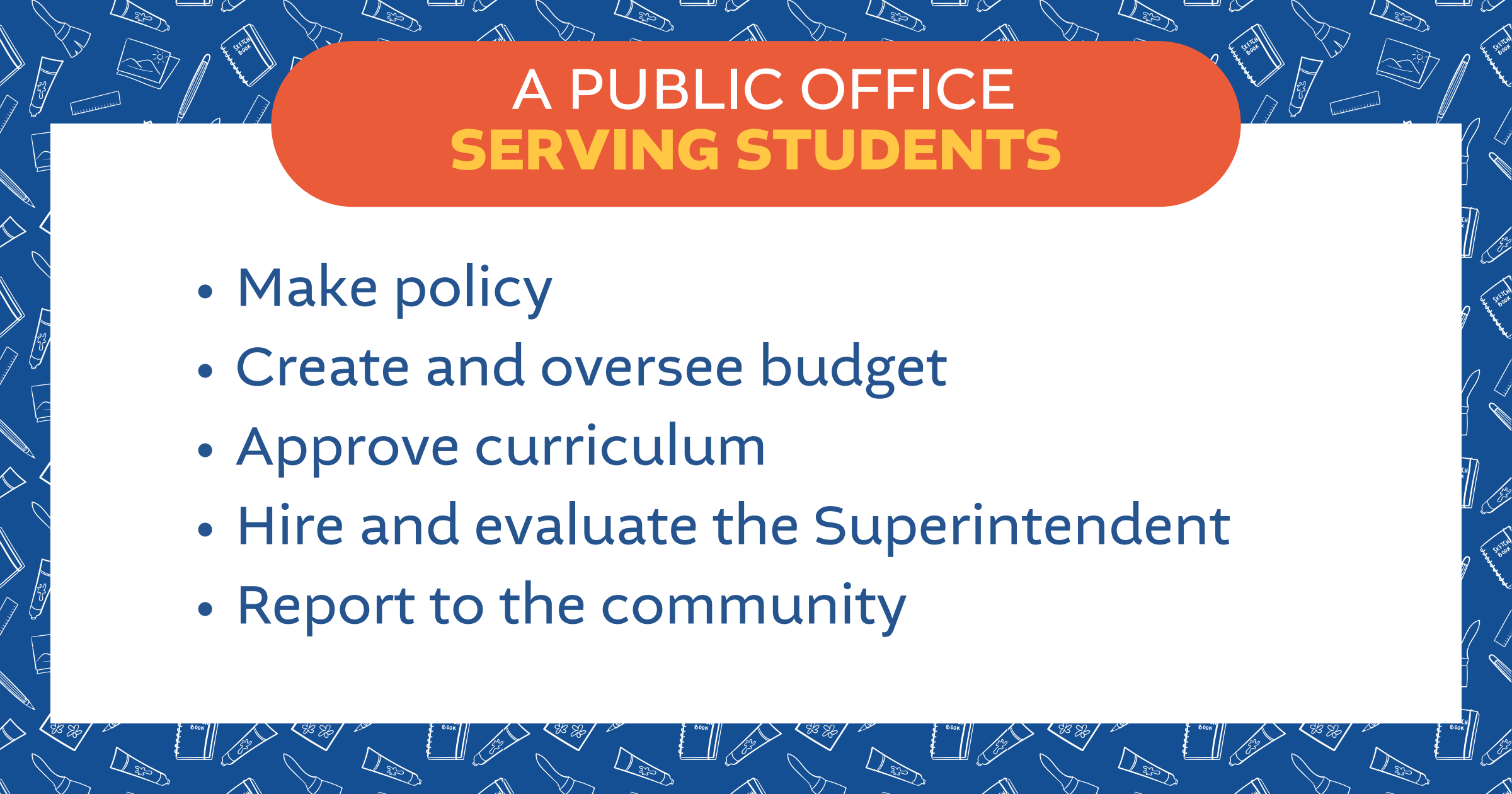
CPS to open 'Safe Sleep Lot' for students and families living in cars

ZACK CARREON
91.7 WVXU

A PUBLIC SYSTEM SERVES THE PUBLIC

- **FREE**
- Open to **every** school aged child
- Available in every corner of the state
- Nonsectarian
- Nonpartisan
- Benefits the **whole community** – not just the individual
- Serves the **Common Good**



The background of the slide is a dark blue pattern featuring various white line-art icons of school supplies, including pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, and notebooks. At the top center, there is a large orange rounded rectangle containing the title text.

A PUBLIC OFFICE **SERVING STUDENTS**

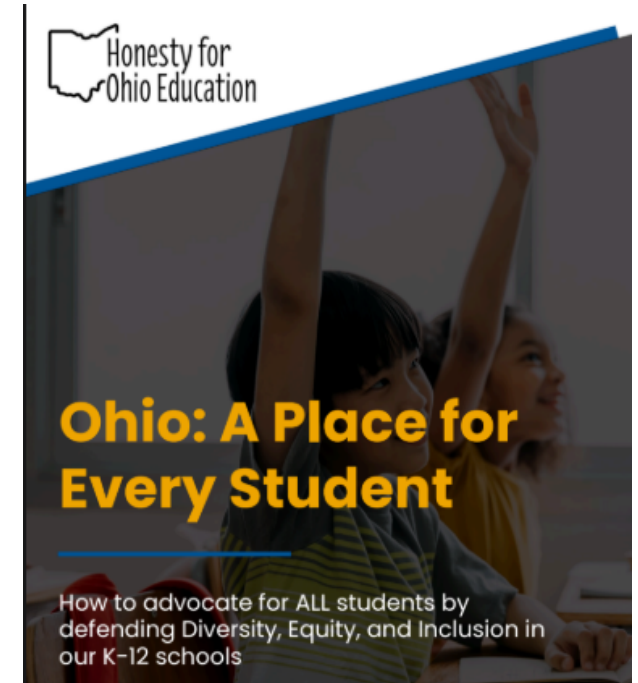
- Make policy
- Create and oversee budget
- Approve curriculum
- Hire and evaluate the Superintendent
- Report to the community

ADVOCATE

Ohio: A Place for Every Student

LEARN HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

In Ohio, there are two bills, **SB 113** and **HB 155**, moving through the statehouse that would “prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools.” Diversity, equity, and inclusion are necessary for our students and school communities to thrive. That's why we've created "Ohio: A Place For Everyone." This toolkit walks you through the specifics of the bill and ways to advocate locally and at the statehouse to protect diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring our schools support ALL students.

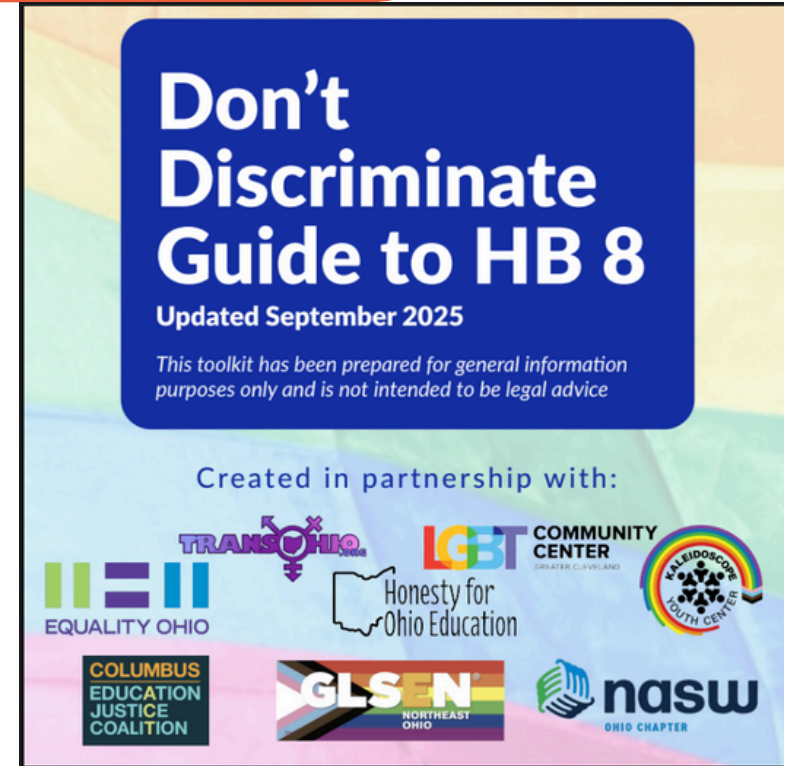


ADVOCATE

Preventing harm from state policy

LEARN HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

This toolkit was created in partnership with, The Columbus Education Justice Coalition, Equality Ohio, Honesty for Ohio Education, the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Kaleidoscope Youth Center, the National Association of Social Workers - Ohio Chapter, TransOhio, and GLSEN - Northeast Ohio Chapter.



REACT GET INVOLVED

**HOW TO
HELP CANDIDATES YOU SUPPORT**



I'M A NEWBIE	I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE	I'M A PRO
<u>I HAVE 5 MINUTES</u> Comment on the candidate's social media to boost engagement and/or share content on your platforms.	<u>I HAVE 5 MINUTES</u> Ask a new neighbor if they updated their voter registration. Text candidate info to three friends using Rally Together from Red Wine & Blue. Plan to vote early and then invite a friend to join you!	<u>I HAVE 5 MINUTES</u> Comment on the candidate's social media to boost engagement and/or share content on your platforms.
<u>I HAVE 30 MINUTES</u> Write postcards. Pick up a yard sign for yourself and a friend.	<u>I HAVE 30 MINUTES</u> Reach out to the candidate to learn about volunteer opportunities. Be sure to mention if you have a skill set that may be helpful.	<u>I HAVE 30 MINUTES</u> Write a letter to the editor about why this candidate will be the best choice for your district (resource). Help your candidate of choice raise critical funds by asking your network to make a donation.
<u>I HAVE 1 HOUR+</u> Use Red Wine & Blue's Rally Together tool to share candidate info with friends. Volunteer to drop off candidate literature on doorsteps. Sign up to phone bank (make phone calls).	<u>I HAVE 1 HOUR+</u> Sign up to canvass or knock on doors to speak with voters. Time and again, research shows that talking with voters is the most effective method to earn votes!	<u>I HAVE 1 HOUR+</u> Share candidate info with your network by using Red Wine & Blue's Rally Together tool. Host a meet-and-greet so your friends and neighbors can meet the candidate!



DETERMINE HOW
MUCH TIME YOU
HAVE & FIND A
GOOD FIT.

WHAT SKILLS DO
YOU WANT TO
SHARE?

REACT GET INVOLVED

**HOW TO
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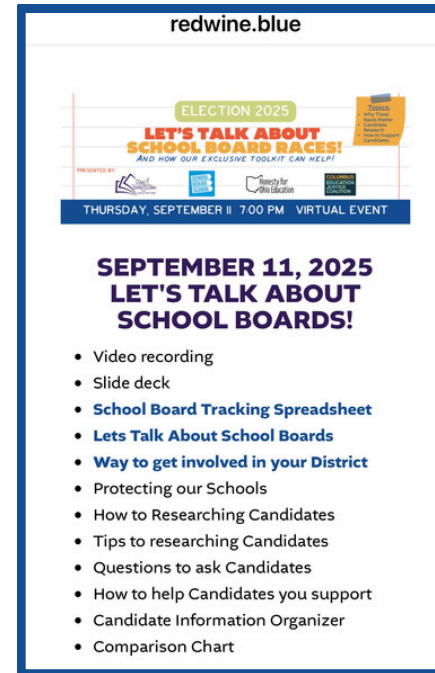
DETERMINE HOW
MUCH TIME YOU
HAVE & FIND A
GOOD FIT.

WHAT SKILLS DO
YOU WANT TO
SHARE?

REACT GET THE TOOLKIT!



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO
ACCESS THE SCHOOL
BOARD TOOLKIT & MANY
OTHER RESOURCES**



- Video recording
- Slide deck
- **School Board Tracking Spreadsheet**
- **Lets Talk About School Boards**
- **Way to get involved in your District**
- Protecting our Schools
- How to Researching Candidates
- Tips to researching Candidates
- Questions to ask Candidates
- How to help Candidates you support
- Candidate Information Organizer
- Comparison Chart

**SHARE THE SCHOOL
BOARD TOOLKIT
WITH OTHERS**

**WHAT ELSE CAN
YOU DO TO SPREAD
AWARENESS ABOUT
CANDIDATES?**

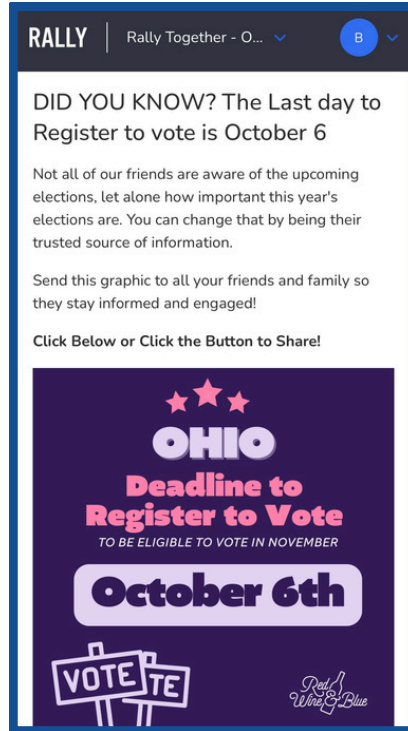


FRIEND TO FRIEND ★ ORGANIZING

IS YOUR SUPERPOWER



REACT SHARE INFORMATION



**Learn More About the Red
Wine & Blue App and Rally!**

RALLY MAKES IT
EASY TO SHARE
WITH PEOPLE IN
YOUR CIRCLE

ACTIONS WILL BE
ADDED OFTEN

Every Vote Matters!



- Local elections have low voter turnout rates
- The National School Boards Association estimates that voter turnout for local school board elections is generally only **5 to 10 percent.**

RELATIONAL ORGANIZING

FRIEND TO FRIEND

ORGANIZING

It is the simple, proven concept that people talking to their friends and family is more effective than strangers talking to strangers.



WANT TO MAKE THIS WORK REALLY EASY?



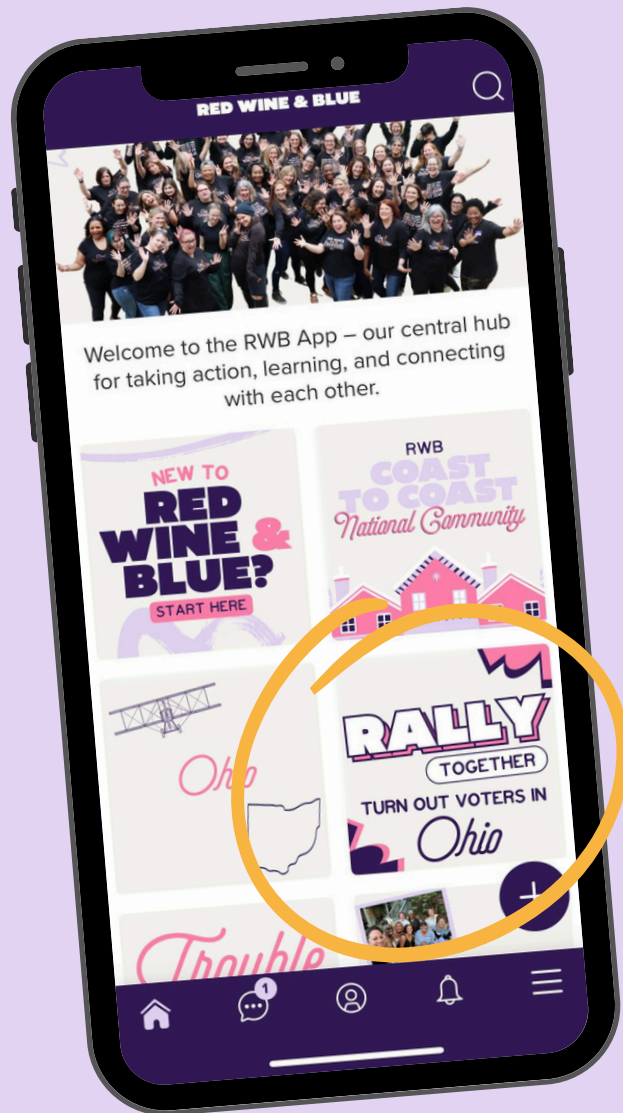
FIND OUT

- ✓ who is a regular voter
- ✓ who doesn't vote at all
- ✓ if they're affiliated with a political party

GET

- ✓ way to track your outreach and keep notes about your conversations
- ✓ what to say to start the conversations
- ✓ personalized vote plans to send as the election nears





MI

OH

NC

PA

VA

TAP YOUR STATE
RALLY TOGETHER
TILE ON THE HOME
SCREEN

MATCH YOURSELF TO THE VOTER FILE

RALLY | 



Welcome

Legal First Name

Legal Last Name

☐ I go by a different name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

RALLY | Rally Together - N... |  | 

 Back

Confirm Voter Status

Match Hudson to the voter file

We've searched for **Hudson Smith** from **Cincinnati, OH** in the official file of registered voters. Select the best match.

☐ HUDSON SMITH 

Age  22

City 
PERRYSBURG, OH 43551

Party UNK

Street LOUISIANA

☐ HUDSON SMITH 

Age  NEAR AGE

City 
100+ MILES

It's okay if
you can't find
a match!
Select "none
of these" at
the bottom
and you can
find the
match later

ADD YOUR CONTACTS!

Add the names of the people you will contact about voting and elections.

Make sure you match everyone to the voter file! If no match, click “None of these.”

RALLY | Rally Together - N... J

[← Back](#)

Add a Contact

Legal First Name

Enter first name

Last Name

Enter last name

☐ They go by a different name

City

Enter city

State

Age range

13-17

18-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60-69

70-79

80 or older

RALLY | Rally Together - N... J

[← Back](#)

Confirm Voter Status

Match Hudson to the voter file

We've searched for **Hudson Smith** from **Cincinnati, OH** in the official file of registered voters. Select the best match.

☐ HUDSON SMITH ✓

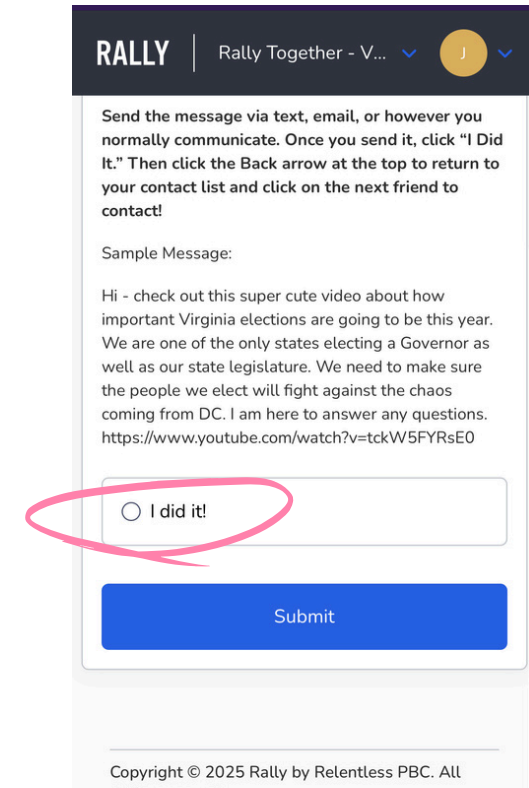
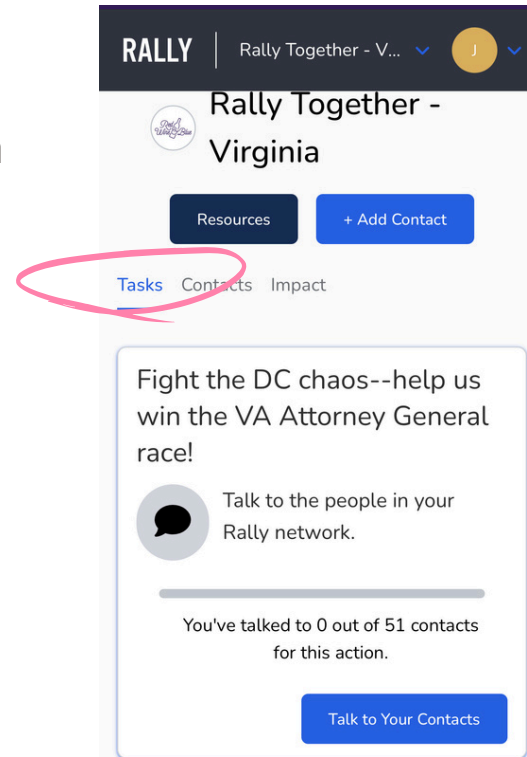
Age 22 ✓ City 100+ MILES FROM CINCINNATI PERRYSBURG, OH 43551 Party UNK Street LOUISIANA

☐ HUDSON SMITH ✓

Age NEAR AGE RANGE City 100+ MILES FROM

REACH OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS

- Find all the actions and information you can share with your friends on the **Tasks tab**
- Message your friends the way you like to communicate! (Text, email, etc.)
- Report back with the **“I did it”** button and hit Submit.



REACT SHARE INFORMATION

KEEP
RED WINE & BLUE
IN YOUR POCKET

**DOWNLOAD THE RWB APP AND
CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!**



 Download on the
App Store

 GET IT ON
Google Play

 The RWB App is free. It's our own private space built just for you — without tech bros, oligarchs, ads, or algorithms. We will never share your personal data without your consent.

**NO SMARTPHONE? CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT AT
WWW.REDWINE.BLUE**



YOU ARE A
TRUSTED SOURCE
FOR MANY FRIENDS
& RELATIVES.

LET US HELP YOU
SHARE CONTENT &
IMPORTANT INFO.

REACT ATTEND FUTURE EVENTS

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**Friday, October 17,
6:00 pm**

**Homebody Happy
Hour & Check in**

<https://go.redwine.blue/HomeHappy>

**Thursday, October 30,
7 p.m.**

GOTV Text-a-Thon

Honesty for Ohio Education

<https://www.mobilize.us/honestyforohioeducation/event/861227/>

**Thursday, November
13, 7:30 pm**

**Post-Election/How Do
We Stay Involved?**

REACT

LET'S TALK IT THROUGH

DROP-IN OFFICE HOURS WITH NATALIE

- **STRATEGIZE**
- **RESEARCH**
- **BRAINSTORM**
- **BE ENCOURAGED**



FRIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**1:30-3:30 P.M. ET
ON ZOOM**

EVERY WEEK

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andrea Granieri

School Board School

Andrea@SchoolBoardSchool.org

Izetta Thomas

Columbus Education Justice Coalition

ThomasI@ceaohio.org

Laura Mullen

Red Wine & Blue

Laura@RedWine.Blue

Natalie Hastings

Honesty for Ohio Education

NHastings@HonestyForOhioEducation.org

THANK
YOU
😊