

# State Representative

**Gayle Manning**

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## Welcome

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Over the last month I have had the opportunity to attend several events throughout Lorain County. I visited Columbia High School, spoke at the Northeastern Ohio Education Association, and attended a Strategic Visioning event hosted by Avon Lake City Schools. As the Co-Vice Chair of the Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus, I also was present for the monthly webinar discussing ways to improve the chronic absenteeism crisis in Ohio. Thank you to everyone in Lorain County actively working to better our community!



### Visit to Columbia High School

As a retired teacher of 37 years, engaging with the next generation is important to me. That is why I always value my yearly visit to Columbia High School. Students at Columbia can join ROX, Ruling Our eXperiences, a group dedicated to empowering young women!

## 2024 March Newsletter



## NEW LEGISLATION

As a retired teacher of 37 years, education is my passion. That is why I introduced

### **HOUSE BILL 407**

This bill would bring transparency and accountability to state dollars and ensure all students have an equal playing field.

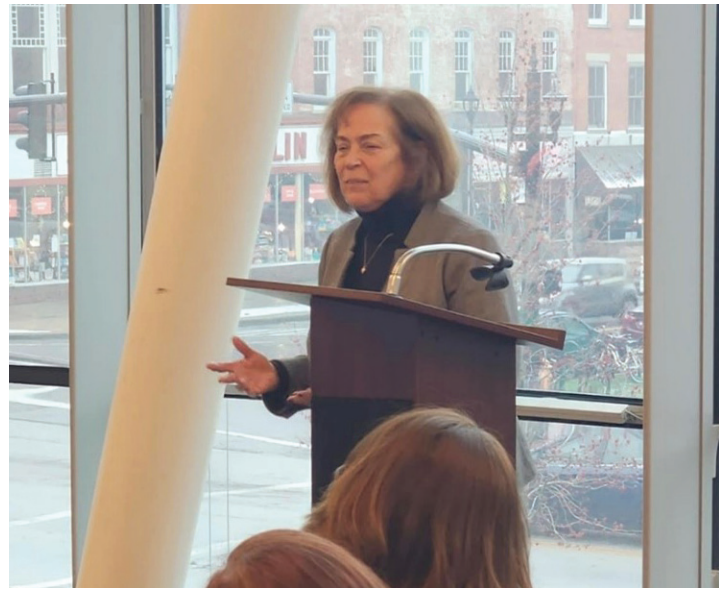
### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## Northeastern Ohio Education Association

Attending the Northeastern Ohio Education Association was a great opportunity to meet and discuss education issues with teachers from all over Lorain County. As an educator, I know the challenges of the profession personally, and have experienced the heartfelt reward of guiding a student to meet their full potential. There were many passionate and intelligent people brought together to discuss ways to improve the education system in Ohio. I am proud to be included in these types of dialogues.



## Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

The Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral caucus dedicated to advocating for children's issues since 2019. There are webinars held each month where we discuss the various avenues the legislature can take to improve the lives of children. These webinars are open to the public, so feel to join us in the conversation!

This month, we addressed Ohio's chronic absenteeism crisis. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of school days throughout the year. The caucus invited two experts to join in the conversation, Patrick Hickman from the Office of Whole Child Supports and Kim Eckhart with Children's Defense Fund-Ohio. They were able to provide insight into what legislators can do to combat this issue and provide relevant statistics.

## Third Grade Reading Guarantee

In July of last year, the state operating budget bill was passed. This bill contains the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, which exempts a student from retention if the student's parent or guardian, in consultation with the student's reading teacher and building principal, requests that the student be promoted to fourth grade regardless of whether the student is reading at grade level. The Guarantee also permits students retained under in the 2022-23 school year to be promoted to the fourth grade unless the student's parent or guardian requests otherwise. One of my longest held beliefs that was reinforced during my time in the third-grade classroom is that parents know what is best for their children. For that reason, incorporating this language into the budget was one of my top priorities during the budget process.