

Educational Issues Committee

2024 Resolution

Educator Wellness

WHEREAS educator wellness has been neglected for a significant time. The responsibility of taking care of students who are dealing with trauma has become an additional source of stress for educators, which has led to many of them leaving the profession. As a result, there is now a shortage of educators across the nation; and

WHEREAS the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education reported that the traditional teacher-preparation programs saw the largest decline of 35% between 2009 and 2019 academic years; and

WHEREAS according to a teacher survey (Steiner '21 & '22) teachers had more job-related stress than other professions; and

WHEREAS Future Forward Ohio encompasses Ohio's strategic priorities for using funds to help students recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly has ignored funding educator wellness in their recovery plans; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the OFT calls on the state Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and the state legislature to fund programs for educator wellness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED these programs shall not be a one-time professional development but an ongoing educator wellness program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED districts throughout the state shall work with their local unions to plan and deliver educator wellness programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED districts throughout the state shall work with their local unions to put systemic wellness structures in place for educators to access easily.