



The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE

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Dear Believe in Ohio Friends,

This past December, the Believe in Ohio supporters in the Legislature were unable to approve the funding appropriations necessary for Believe in Ohio to complete its program for the 2016-2017 school year, as previously hoped. Thus, it will not be possible for the Believe in Ohio program to fund teacher grants and regional and state competitions this spring.

Despite this incredible disappointment, we continue to be hopeful that we will be able to secure state funding to reinstate the program for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. The following is a recap of recent meetings:

- The Believe in Ohio team made a major presentation on November 15 to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Ohio Board of Regents to update them on Believe in Ohio's accomplishments. Not only was the presentation very well received, but the Board of Regents voted unanimously to recommend continued support for the program, and further asked the Believe in Ohio team to discuss the funding of the program with the Governor's office.
- On December 19, the Believe in Ohio team met with the Governor's education policy advisors to review the program and ask the Governor's office to include funding for the program in the upcoming biennial state budget (which would fund the Believe in Ohio program for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years).

As Ohio's budgeting process offers multiple opportunities for obtaining funding in the upcoming biennial budget, the Believe in Ohio team is in the process of developing a multi-faceted strategy focused on both the Governor's office and the State Legislature to secure the funding needed to reinstate the program for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

As part of our strategy, we may be asking you during the next few weeks to email certain state legislators to ask for their support. On behalf of the many thousands who have already participated in the program, and all those who will have the opportunity in the future, please help support the Believe in Ohio program.

Thank you,

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