

Governor's Conversation on Education How To Host a Watch Party

BACKGROUND:

What: After a successful first round of Conversations on Education, Governor Ted Strickland will be hosting six additional “Conversations on Education” throughout Ohio. The conversations will focus on education funding reform as well as on vetting specific policy ideas for making sure that Ohio’s schools are among the best in the world and meet the needs of every child. At each regional forum, Governor Strickland will give local citizens the opportunity to discuss proposed ideas on creating a system of education that is innovative, personalized and linked to economic prosperity in Ohio. The meetings will be broadcast on local PBS stations and streamed live on the Web. Local citizens and educators not attending the event are invited to gather for watch parties and provide feedback within their watch party and online in response to the Governor’s meetings. [Click here for the schedule LINK.](#)

Watch Parties: For maximum participation and feedback, we are encouraging this series of “watch parties” – groups gathering to watch the broadcast or webcast together and to participate in a guided discussion after the broadcast. Instructions for providing feedback to the Governor from the group will be provided in the Facilitator’s Guide which will be posted to this site in mid-July, and through other instructions on this site to be posted before the first event.

Who Can Host a Watch Party: We will be working with superintendents, teachers, staff, boards of education, parents and students to organize watch parties throughout the region. The hope, though, is that many others will choose to organize and host a watch party and to use the tools provided to further the conversation and provide feedback to the Governor. So the answer to “who can host a watch party” is: anyone with an interest.

“HOW TO” STEPS:

- Click here to find out the **date/time** of the broadcast in your area. Determine whether the event will be broadcast or webcast.
- Select a **site** for your watch party where the broadcast or webcast can be seen or heard by the audience.
- Be sure there is a **television** (or televisions) that people can see and hear. If there is a webcast instead of a broadcast in your area, then find a television or **screen** where the webcast can be shown.
- **Register** the location of your watch party on this website. [[Click here to Register](#)]
- **Invite the participants.** It is a good idea to ask participants to arrive 10-15 minutes ahead of the broadcast so that everyone is settled when it begins. Let them know the exact time of the broadcast and the exact time of the facilitated discussion to follow. (For example, if the broadcast is from 5-6:30 pm, the facilitated discussion will be 6:30-7:30 pm)

- Decide how to **set up the room** to ensure the best viewing and facilitated discussion. If your group is large, it is likely that the best way to hold part of the facilitated discussion will be in small groups, so consider whether the set-up will allow breaking up into smaller groups if necessary.
- Get the **Facilitator's Guide** from this website. Choose a Facilitator for the discussion. Ideally, this will be someone with practice facilitating meetings but the Guide is being written in such a way someone without experience can facilitate. Note that a facilitator's job is not to offer their own opinion, or to skew the conversation toward their own opinion, but to guide a process in which vigorous discussion and competing points of view can be heard.
- Hold the **watch party**. Have invitees quietly watch the broadcast/webcast. Facilitate the conversation, per the Facilitator's Guide, in the hour following the broadcast.
- **Provide Feedback**. Following the instructions in the Facilitator's Guide, provide feedback from your watch party to the Governor.

RESOURCES:

- Facilitator's Guide
- Schedule/Location (by city) of Broadcasts/Webcasts [**click here**]
- Governor's 2008 State of the State Address [**click here**]