

**The ESC BRIDGE**

**Bridging Resources, Information, and Data from**

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of January 22nd, 2018**

Colleagues,

The ESC Bridge is a weekly review of important news, research and legislation from national, state and local education entities presented in one document to help you stay up to date on issues that affect your district or organization.   I welcome your feedback as we work to improve this resource to meet your needs.  If you are aware of any other colleagues that are interested in receiving this weekly document, please have them send an email to me at [Bob.Mengerink@esc-cc.org](mailto:Bob.Mengerink@esc-cc.org).

                                                                                                                             Bob

**National, Federal, US Department of Education**

[**FERPA Ruling Provides Privacy Advocates and Educators with Clearer Interpretation of Rights**](https://www.edsurge.com/news/2018-01-19-ferpa-ruling-provides-privacy-advocates-and-educators-with-clearer-interpretation-of-rights) **EdSurge**

One of the most prominent legal issues in the edtech space revolves around the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a law passed in 1974 to protect the privacy rights of students. Today, the law repeatedly comes up as new technology products, many of which ask for students’ personal information, make their way into classrooms. Yet, a recent finding made by the U.S. Department of Education’s Family Policy Compliance Office on an outstanding FERPA complaint has privacy advocates hopeful that the law will be upheld—and may have edtech companies scrambling to ensure they are compliant.

[**Children's Health Insurance Gets Six-Year Extension**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/01/childrens_health_insurance_gets_six_year_deal.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

The nearly three-week continuing resolution passed by Congress Monday to end a brief government shutdown includes a six-year funding package for the Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP covers 9 million children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but who can't afford insurance on the open market. Normally that would be seen as good news. But advocates are still questioning why Congress took so long to fund a popular program, forcing some states to send notices to families that they were at risk of losing their coverage.

[**Trump's Education Department Picks Get Senate Committee Approval**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/01/trump_nominees_education_senate_committee_approval.html) **Education Week**

The Senate education committee gave the thumbs up on Thursday to three of President Donald Trump's nominees to work at the U.S. Department of Education. Committee members voted to send the nominations of Jim Blew, Kenneth L. Marcus, and Mick Zais to the full Senate. Blew is the nominee for assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy analysis, Marcus is the pick to be assistant secretary for civil rights, and Zais is Trump's nominee to be the deputy secretary. All three would work under Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, if they win full Senate approval.

[**Betsy DeVos: There's a 'Disconnect' Between K-12 Schools and the Economy**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/01/betsy_devos_mayors_economy_apprenticeships.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos told a group of mayors in Washington on Thursday that there is "a fundamental disconnect between education and the economy." "Today, across states and industries, there are 6 million job openings, as the 'blue collar' jobs of yesterday become the 'blue tech' jobs of today," said DeVos, citing Department of Labor statistics in her address to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "Coding is as common and necessary a skill today as riveting or stamping was a few decades back.

[**Ed. Dept. Budget Could Combine Three Significant Research, Policy Programs**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/01/regional_labs_state_data_systems_comprehensive_centers_in_ed_budget_2018.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=insideschoolresearch) **Education Week**

The Trump administration's budget, due out next month, is likely to combine three significant research programs—the State Longitudinal Data System program, the Regional Educational Laboratory Program, and the Comprehensive Centers—advocates with knowledge of the proposal said.The money for all three programs—nearly $140 million all told—would instead be doled out to states through formula grants, said Michele McLaughlin, a senior advisor at Penn Hill Group, a government relations organization.

**Ohio Legislation Update (recent bill action in red)**

**132nd General Assembly**

***House***

[**HB3**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-3)DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Christina Hagan) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations

**STATUS: House Finance Committee – Reported out**

[**HB8**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-8)PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee – Reported out**

[**HB21**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-21)COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION (Rep. Steve Hambley) Regarding verification of community school enrollments

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**HB37**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-37)SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES (Rep. Steve Arndt) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**HB47**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-47)STUDENTS IN MILITARY (Rep. John Boccieri) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges

**STATUS: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB49**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49)OPERATING BUDGET (Rep. Ryan Smith) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget

**STATUS: (Passed by House) (Passed by Senate) Signed by Governor – Effective July 1, 2017; House has voted to override several vetoes; Senate considering**

[**HB53**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-53)PUBLIC EMPLOYEES-MEMBER DUES (Rep. John Becker) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit public employers from requiring public employees to join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit an employee organization from being required to represent public employees who are not members of the employee organization, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB58**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-58)CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Marilyn Slaby) To require instruction in cursive handwriting

**STATUS: Re-referred to House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB66**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-66)TENURED TEACHING REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Ron Young) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester

**STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 86-8**

[**HB69**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-69)LEVY REVENUE REIMBURSEMENT (Rep. Bob Cupp) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district

**STATUS: Signed by Governor (12/22/17) – Effective after 90 days**

[**HB74**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-74)INCREASE COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. Stephen Huffman, Rep. Theresa Gavarone) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to the state's 529 college savings program from $2,000 to $3,000 per beneficiary per year

**STATUS: Referred to House Ways & Means Committee**

[**HB77**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-77)SICK-CHILD CARE LICENSURE (Rep. Wes Retherford) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers

**STATUS: Referred to House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee**

[**HB80**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-80)SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION (Rep. Sarah LaTourette, Rep. Kent Smith) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**HB87**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-87)COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school

**STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee – Bill amended**

[**HB89**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-89)AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes

**STATUS: Referred to House Ways & Means Committee**

[**HB98**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-98)CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Kristin Boggs) Regarding the presentation of career information to students

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**HB102**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-102)SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB103**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-103)FISCAL EMERGENCY PROVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

**STATUS: (Passed by House) (Passed by Senate) Signed by Governor**

[**HB108**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-108)INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT ACT (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Robert McColley) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act"

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended**

[**HB110**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-110)COLLEGE CREDIT APPRENTICESHIPS (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Bill Dean) To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs

**STATUS: Referred to House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB118**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-118)TAX COMPLAINT DISMISSAL (Rep. Derek Merrin) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Passed by Senate, Vote 32-0**

[**HB124**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-124)VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TAX LEVY (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Rick Carfagna) To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory

**STATUS: Signed by Governor – Effective immediately**

[**HB129**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-129)SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR (Rep. Kent Smith, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years

**STATUS: Referred to House State & Local Government Committee**

[**HB134**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-134)SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Darrell Kick) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district

**STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended**

[**HB163**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-163)PREVAILING WAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (Rep. Kristina Roegner, Rep. Craig Riedel) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB166**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-166)WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke, Rep. Bob Cupp) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

**STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**HB170**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-170)COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (Rep. Rick Carfagna, Rep. Mike Duffey) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive technology **STATUS: Signed by Governor (12/22/17) – Effective after 90 days**

[**HB176**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-176)SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (Rep. Andrew Thompson) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended**

[**HB179**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-179)IMMIGRATION LAW COMPLIANCE (Rep. Candice Keller) To require state and local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws, to prohibit a local government that fails to do so from receiving certain state funds, to provide for the removal of officers of a local government that fails to do so, and to declare an emergency

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB181**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-181)ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS (Rep. Ron Hood, Rep. Tom Brinkman) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB186**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-186)COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Gary Scherer) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow an individual obtaining a postsecondary degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB200**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-200)OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Koehler, K) - To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended**

[**HB217**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-217)COLLEGE APPLICATIONS-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring students to disclose disciplinary actions on their applications for admission

**STATUS: Referred to House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB220**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-220)NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS (Rep. David Leland) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools

**STATUS: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB224**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-224)RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging

**STATUS: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB227**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-227)LICENSE PLATE-KENSTON LOCAL SCHOOLS (Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate

**STATUS: House Transportation & Public Safety Committee – Reported out as amended**

[**HB235**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-235)EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE (Rep. Theresa Gavarone) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**HB237**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-237)MULTICOUNTY LOCAL ELECTIONS (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda) To require a political subdivision with territory in more than one county that places an issue on the ballot to notify the board of elections of every county in which the political subdivision has territory, to require the Secretary of State to establish a database to facilitate communication between the boards of elections and the Secretary concerning local elections, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee**

[**HB242**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-242)SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING (Rep. Rick Carfagna) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments

**STATUS: House Aging & Long Term Care Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**HB246**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-246)DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS (Rep. John Boccieri, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill**

[**HB262**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-262)INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS (Rep. James Butler, Jr., Rep. Mark Romanchuk) To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook

**STATUS: Referred to House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee**

[**HB298**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-298)PUBLIC EMPLOYEE SICK DAYS (Rep. Derek Merrin) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to public employees

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB312**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-312)LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Dave Greenspan) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**HB318**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-318)SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEFINITION (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB322**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-322)SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS (Rep. Adam Miller, Rep. Bernadine Kent) To revise the law regarding emergency management plans and school safety drills; to require each educational service center to employ an emergency response planner; to make an appropriation; and to declare an emergency

**STATUS: House Finance Committee**

[**HB337**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-337)TEXTBOOK SALES TAX EXEMPTION (Rep. Mike Duffey) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students

**STATUS: Referred to House Ways & Means Committee**

[**HB338**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-338)BUS DRIVER MEDICAL EXAMS (Rep. Tim Ginter) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Reported out**

[**HB342**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-342)LOCAL TAX ISSUES-ELECTION DATES (Rep. Derek Merrin) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies

**STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**HB343**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-343)PROPERTY VALUE CONTEST-RESOLUTIONS (Rep. Derek Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners

**STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee – Reported out**

[**HB360**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-360)ANTI-BULLYING AND HAZING (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges

**STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**HB361**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-361)PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS TIMEFRAME (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To increase the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints

**STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee – Bill amended**

[**HB363**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-363)CAMPUS FREE SPEECH (Rep. Rick Carfagna, Rep. Andrew Brenner) To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees

**STATUS: Referred to House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB369**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-369)PER PUPIL FUNDING GUARANTEE (Rep. Martin Sweeney) To prescribe a per pupil funding guarantee for certain school districts and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB377**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-377)CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EDUCATION (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Dan Ramos) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention

**STATUS: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB383**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-383)CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS (Rep. Rick Carfagna) Regarding parental notice of serious risks to the health or safety of children receiving child care

**STATUS: House Community & Family Advancement Committee – Reported out**

[**HB396**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-396)STEM DEGREE LOAN REPAYMENT (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Rick Carfagna) To create the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB399**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-399)HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES (Rep. Michael Henne, Rep. James Butler, Jr.) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB413**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-413)PERS ADJUSTMENT-DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EMPLOYEES (Rep. Gary Scherer) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) annual cost-of-living adjustments granted to allowance and benefit recipients and PERS service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities

**STATUS: Referred to House Aging & Long Term Care Committee**

[**HB418**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-418)SCHOOL RECORDS TRANSFER (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To require a public or chartered nonpublic school to transmit a student's records within five business days when the student transfers to another school

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB426**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-426)SCHOOL SEXUAL CONDUCT (Rep. Christina Hagan) To prohibit an employee of a school or institution of higher education who is not in a position of authority from engaging in sexual conduct with certain students

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Criminal Justice Committee**

[**HB428**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-428)STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES ACT (Rep. Tim Ginter, Rep. Sarah LaTourette)Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018”

**STATUS: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**HB432**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-432)STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN & LICENSURE (Rep. Kristin Boggs, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To require student loan servicers to be licensed by the Division of Financial Institutions and to create the position of student loan ombudsperson in the Division of Financial Institutions to provide assistance to student loan borrowers

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB438**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-438)ESC ANNEXATION (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Darrell Kick) To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB442**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-442)SCHOOL ATHLETICS-F1 VISA (Rep. Niraj Antani) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB443**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-443)MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION (Rep. Martin Sweeney) To require school district boards of education to incorporate mental health instruction into their health education curricula

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB449**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-449)CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSOR RATINGS-UNIVERSITIES (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. John Patterson) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB477**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-477)ELIMINATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Rep. Kyle Koehler) To eliminate various provisions and programs related to the Department of Education and the operation of primary and secondary schools

**STATUS: Introduced**

***Senate***

[**SB3**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-3)WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Bill Beagle, Sen. Troy Balderson) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

**STATUS: (Passed by Senate) Passed by House, Vote 93-1; Senate concurs, Vote 32-0**

[**SB5**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-5)INCREASING INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS (Sen. Jay Hottinger, Sen. John Eklund) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts and disability expense savings accounts to $10,000 annually for each beneficiary, to create the Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability, and to declare an emergency

**STATUS: Senate Finance Committee – Reported out as amended; Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0; Emergency clause, Vote 32-1**

[**SB8**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-8)SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (Sen. Randy Gardner, Sen. Louis Terhar) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security

**STATUS: Signed by Governor (12/22/17) – Effective after 90 days**

[**SB9**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-9)AUGUST TAX HOLIDAY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes

**STATUS: Signed by Governor – Effective immediately**

[**SB15**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-15)COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branches to comply with minority business enterprise set-aside requirements, and to require the Director of Administrative Services to establish guidelines for these entities, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, to establish procurement goals for contracting with EDGE business enterprises

**STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB17**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-17)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALLOCATION (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund each month

**STATUS: Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB34**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-34)SCHOOL YEARS (Sen. Gayle Manning) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB39**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-39)COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB39**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-39)COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB54**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-54)SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (Sen. Edna Brown, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB72**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-72)PREVAILING WAGE LAW (Sen. Matt Huffman) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB82**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-82)SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB85**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-85)OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Sen. Matt Huffman) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB88**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-88)SUBDIVISION COMMISSIONS-FISCAL EMERGENCY (Sen. Louis Terhar) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

**STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0**

[**SB97**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA132-SB-97)REGIONAL STUDY COMMITTEE CREATION (Sen. Frank LaRose, Sen. Kenny Yuko) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB104**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-104)PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB105**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-105)MONTH DESIGNATION-OHIO PRINCIPALS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month”

**STATUS: Senate Education Committee – Reported out**

[**SB111**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-111)SCHOOL ZONE SIGN LIGHTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB123**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-123)PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PROCESS (Sen. William Coley) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB124**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-124)COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (Sen. Sandra Williams) To qualify students in noncredit community college and career and technical programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges’ career certification programs

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee**

[**SB133**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-133)STUDENT DISCIPLINE-VIOLENT BEHAVIOR (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require the Education Management Information System to include information regarding persons at whom a student's violent behavior that resulted in discipline was directed and to require the Department of Education to submit a one-time report to the General Assembly regarding that information

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB140**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-140)PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To create the Public-Private Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to develop, enhance, and promote educational programs to address regional workforce needs; to create the Sector Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to identify and provide grants to industry partnerships; to support programs that improve access to workforce training opportunities for students; to support economic development and revitalization programs; and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB149**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-149)ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS (Sen. Frank LaRose) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB151**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-151)SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS (Sen. Cliff Hite) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee**

[**SB172**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-172)HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS RIGHTS (Sen. Kenny Yuko) To establish the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act to require schools to provide certain services to students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB175**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-175)RECOVERED FUNDS-SCHOOL AUDIT (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school.

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB191**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-191)ESTABLISH SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To establish the Breakfast After The Bell Program for public schools

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB196**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA132-SB-196)AGGRAVATED BULLYING-OFFENSE CREATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Edna Brown) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee**

[**SB197**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-197)SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Edna Brown) To require a tiered disciplinary procedure for harassment, intimidation, or bullying in school; to require annual student instruction about preventing such acts; and to create the offense of aggravated bullying as a third-degree misdemeanor

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB199**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-199)OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni, Sen. Cliff Hite) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB203**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-203)MUNICIPAL TAX RULE REINSTATEMENT (Sen. Matt Dolan) To reinstate the municipal income tax "throw-back rule" used in apportioning business income among municipalities

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB209**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-209)PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS-TIF (Sen. William Coley, Sen. John Eklund) To modify the conditions that determine the relative priority of property tax exemptions when a parcel subject to a tax increment financing arrangement concurrently qualifies for another exemption

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB213**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-213)ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PLAN (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To enhance economic and employment opportunities and improve local infrastructure in Ohio by providing additional assistance to workforce development and employment programs; establishing a revolving loan program for small businesses seeking to expand operations; extending job tax credits to smaller businesses; enabling expanded participation in public sector contracting by smaller companies; enhancing support for childcare centers; funding additional local infrastructure and public transit; authorizing tax incentives for hiring military veterans, for donating money to local programs assisting distressed communities, or for improving distressed property; exempting the homes of disabled veterans from property taxation; terminating the income tax deduction and reduced tax rate for business income; and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB216**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-216)PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT (Sen. Matt Huffman) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB226**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-226)PERMANENT SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax

**STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee - Reported out**

**[SB239](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-239)** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (Sen. Matt Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB240**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA132-SB-240)REGARDING TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Sen. Peggy Lehner) With regard to teacher evaluations

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB241**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-241)ACCREDITED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CATEGORY (Sen. Louis Terhar, Sen. Cecil Thomas) To establish a category of nonpublic schools called "accredited nonpublic schools" and to prescribe requirements and exemptions for such schools

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB246**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-246)STUDENT SAFETY ACT (Sen. Peggy Lehner, Sen. Gayle Manning) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades prekindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

**Ohio Department of Education/State Board of Education**

[**Ohio in Middle of Pack for Latest Education Rankings**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208582) **Hannah**

The 2018 "Quality Counts" rankings of state education systems by *EdWeek* finds Ohio in the middle of the pack again, ranking 22nd and drawing a grade of C, with 74.8 out of a possible 100 points. The ranking is on par with 2017's 22nd place finish and 2016's 23rd place finish. Ohio peaked in *EdWeek* rankings with a fifth-place designation several years ago, but it's hard to compare to more recent ratings because *EdWeek* retooled its rating system during a 2014 hiatus. 

**Early Learning**

[**Head Start Waiving Requirement to Offer Longer School Day and Year**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2018/01/head_start_can_weather_a_short_shutdown_receives_waiver_on_service_expansion.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=earlyyears) **Education Week**

The Office of Head Start is[putting off a requirement](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/19/2018-00897/secretarial-determination-to-lower-head-start-center-based-service-duration-requirement) for its grantees to offer a longer day and year for 4-year-olds, because the program would need to cut 41,000 slots to make the change under current funding levels. In 2016, Head Start passed [new performance standards](https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/09/07/longer-day-year-required-for-many-head.html). Among the changes in those standards: Center-based Head Start programs would have to operate at least 1,020 hours a year, up from the current requirement of 3.5 hours a day and 128 days per year, or 448 hours annually.

[**Head Start May Offer Next-Generation Benefits, Researchers Say**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2017/09/head_start_produces_intergenerational_benefits_study_finds.html) **Education Week**

A [new study](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/563b95a2e4b0c51a8b87767c/t/59b2e1d259cc681cdd587b22/1504895485410/Barr+%26+Gibbs_Intergenerational_2017.pdf) now awaiting publication says the benefits of Head Start extend well beyond the children enrolled in the federal early-childhood program. The researchers say they have found a connection between students' participation in Head Start and positive outcomes for their own children in the future. The study, which is undergoing the formal peer-review process by a leading economic journal, found, for example, that the children of Head Start students were more likely to go to college and avoid teenage parenthood and crime than their low-income peers.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Cleveland State, University of Akron join program to recruit out-of-state students**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cleveland_state_university_of_akron_join_program_to_recruit_out-of-state_students.html) **Cleveland.com**

Cleveland State University and the University of Akron hope to entice more out-of-state students to enroll by participating in the [Midwest Student Exchange Program](http://msep.mhec.org/). Colleges in the program must charge no more than 150 percent of what in-state students pay for tuition and fees. The tuition and fees that CSU and UA charge for out-of-state students are within the threshold.

[**Cleveland State University receives $500,000 to help foster-care youths**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cleveland_state_university_rec_14.html) **Cleveland.com**

Cleveland State University has received a $500,000 gift to advance the school's nationally recognized efforts to help students who have aged out of the foster-care system, [the university said in a news release.](https://www.csuohio.edu/news/new-gift-will-help-foster-students-succeed) The gift, from Thomas and Marsha Hopkins, will create the Mathilde Jane Gutow Endowed Fund, which will provide support for housing assistance, meal-plan assistance, book stipends and family emergency stipends.

[**Text messages 'nudging' Lakeland and Lorain County community college students to success**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/text_messages_nudging_lakeland_and_lorain_county_community_college_students_to_success.html) **Cleveland.com**

Lakeland Community College and Lorain County Community College students who received guidance via text messages stayed in school at a higher rate than those who didn't, a study shows. The study looked at students participating in a new initiative known as "Nudging to STEM Success." This year, 10,000 students studying science, engineering, technology and math at Lakeland, LCCC, Stark State College in North Canton and John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia are receiving personalized text messages, or "nudges," through the joint initiative by [Jobs for the Future](http://www.jff.org/)and [Persistence Plus.](https://www.persistenceplusnetwork.com/)

[**Cuyahoga Community College launches building projects funded by bond issue**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cuyahoga_community_college_lau.html#incart_river_index) **Cleveland.com**

Cuyahoga Community College on Wednesday will begin a series of construction projects to improve all campuses following the passage last November of a $227.5 million bond issue. A groundbreaking is scheduled for a 60,000-square-foot STEM Center on the Western Campus. The $34 million project includes lab and classroom space for science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses. The new space will foster innovative and collaborative learning opportunities, the college said.

[**New Bid to Overhaul College Admissions**](https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2018/01/22/educators-seek-use-emerging-assessments-high-school-students-college) **Inside Higher Ed**

In recent years, a number of high school districts and a few states have moved to require high school students to complete much more sophisticated projects to assess their eligibility for a high school diploma, and their preparation for college and the world of work.These "performance assessments" frequently are based on synthesis of skills, rather than showing some level of competency in particular academic subjects. And these assessments typically mix individual performance with group work.

[**New Initiative Seeks to Unite Native-Serving Institutions**](http://diverseeducation.com/article/108477/) **Diverse**

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WICHE, has launched a new collaboration of Native-Serving Institutions that is hoped to benefit more than five million people in the country who identify as Native American.

Funded by the Lumina Foundation, an Indiana higher education nonprofit, the initiative was officially launched in December. It is part of a three-year, $990,000 grant that will help cultivate a network within the 26 colleges and universities that have at least 10 percent Native students in their student populations.

[**University of Akron eliminates Friday classes**](https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-summit/university-of-akron-switches-to-four-day-school-week) **News 5 Cleveland**

The University of Akron is switching over to a four-day school week — but Fridays don't really count when you're in college anyway, right? The university announced the change Wednesday, which will be implemented this fall. The school says this new schedule will allow most students to focus on classes Monday through Thursday and participate in career-focused experiences on Friday.

[**Cleveland State University receives $1 million gift for sales-management center**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cleveland_state_university_rec_15.html) **Cleveland.Com**

Cleveland State University has received a $1 million gift to create a center for innovative research and education in sales management and training. The gift from Bernie Moreno, president of Bernie Moreno Companies and chair of CSU's board of trustees, will create the Bernie Moreno Center for Sales Excellence. The center will be housed in the Monte Ahuja College of Business. It will produce innovative curricula and training in the science of persuasion, consumer behavior and market analysis, [the university said in a news release.](https://www.csuohio.edu/news/csu-creates-bernie-moreno-center-for-sales-excellence)

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Brooklyn High School schedules third annual International Festival**](http://www.cleveland.com/brooklyn/index.ssf/2018/01/brooklyn_high_school_schedules.html) **Cleveland.com**

[**Actress Jennifer Lawrence makes surprise visit to Cleveland Heights High School**](https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/actress-jennifer-lawrence-makes-surprise-visit-to-cleveland-heights-high-school) **News 5 Cleveland**

[**Olmsted Falls City Schools seeks 21st century learning readiness with Graduate Profile**](http://www.cleveland.com/olmsted/index.ssf/2018/01/olmsted_falls_city_schools_see.html) **Cleveland.Com**

[**Rocky River Students Take First In Stock Market Challenge**](https://patch.com/ohio/lakewood-oh/rocky-river-students-take-first-stock-market-challenge) **Lakewood Patch**

[**New President, VP For Strongsville Board Of Education**](https://patch.com/ohio/strongsville/new-president-vp-strongsville-board-education) **Strongsville Patch**

[**Solon hosts Open House for "5-Star" preschool at Arthur Road building**](http://www.cleveland.com/solon/index.ssf/2018/01/solon_hosts_open_house_for_5-s.html)

**Cleveland.Com**

[**Strongsville Preschool Earns 5-Star Rating**](https://patch.com/ohio/strongsville/strongsville-preschool-earns-5-star-rating) **Strongsville Patch**

[**Looking ahead: Westlake Board of Education firms up 2018 schedule**](http://www.cleveland.com/westlake/index.ssf/2018/01/looking_ahead_westlake_board_o.html) **Cleveland.Com**

***Medina County***

[**Highland students take part in reading initiative**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-entertainment-news.asp?aID=36750) **Akron.com**

[**Kelly Strong: Brunswick City Schools rally around student who suffered traumatic injury**](https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-medina/brunswick-city-schools-rally-around-student-who-suffered-traumatic-injury-remains-kellystrong) **News 5 Cleveland**

[**Willetts science students give Brunswick school board 'energy bike' demonstration**](http://www.cleveland.com/brunswick/index.ssf/2018/01/willetts_science_students_give.html) **Cleveland.Com**

***Summit County***

[**Revere board hears of student successes**](http://akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=36735) **Akron.Com**

[**Revere Speech and Debate Club finds success**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=36670) **Akron.Com**

[**Social media expert teaches Copley schools and community how to keep online profiles ‘light, bright and polite’**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/news/social-media-expert-teaches-copley-schools-and-community-how-to-keep-online-profiles-light-bright-and-polite) **Akron Beacon Journal**

[**Lisa Blough ready to lead Coventry Local Schools**](http://www.thesuburbanite.com/news/20180119/lisa-blough-ready-to-lead-coventry-local-schools) **The Suburbanite.com**

[**Manchester Elementary School receives Bronze Recognition**](http://www.maysville-online.com/news/local/manchester-elementary-school-receives-bronze-recognition/article_d08c80b8-1614-5d1c-8a93-e5462ceec8b5.html) **The Ledger Independent**

[**Norton board takes step toward new levy**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=36733) **Akron.Com**

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