

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of February 19th, 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**

[**Betsy DeVos' Team Moves to Cut Political Positions, Merge Federal Education Programs**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/02/betsy_devos_cut_staff_consolidate_education_department.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and her team are moving to revamp the Education Department. The goal? To make the agency more efficient, transparent, collaborative, and responsive to states, districts, and the general public, a department official said Friday. The plan is part of a broader effort throughout the administration to reorganize government. Last year, President Donald Trump [asked all cabinet secretaries to take a hard look at their agencies and to find places to streamline](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2017/03/new_trump_executive_order_smaller_education_department.html). A task force at the department has been working on this since last spring.

[**Betsy DeVos Wants Education Savings Accounts for Military Families**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/02/betsy_devos_education_savings_accounts_school_choice_military_families.html) **Education Week**

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos signaled that the Trump administration will turn its school choice focus to a group of students the federal government has a special responsibility for: children connected to the military. Education savings accounts for the children of military personnel is an idea that's being championed by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank with close ties to the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress. But some advocates for military families have been cautious about embracing the idea.

**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)UNDERGRAD MISSION STUDY COMMITTEE(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) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**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) Senate Education Committee – Bill amended**

[**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: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Bill amended**

[**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: House Ways & Means Committee – Reported out as amended**

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

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

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

[**HB487**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-487)RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL-COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To eliminate the right of first refusal for community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools in the acquisition of school district real property

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

[**HB488**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-488)PROPERTY TAX LEVY-BALLOT LANGUAGE (Rep. Ron Hood, Rep. John Becker) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies

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

[**HB491**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA132-HB-491)SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS-SPECIFIED SERVICES (Rep. Jay Edwards) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel

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

[**HB502**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-502)YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING-PUBLIC (Rep. Marlene Anielski) With regard to educator in-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools

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

[**HB503**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-503)YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING-PRIVATE (Rep. Marlene Anielski) With regard to educator in-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools

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

[**HB508**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-508)OHIOCORPS PILOT PROJECT (Rep. Scott Ryan, Rep. William Reineke) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB512**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-512)CONSOLIDATE CAREER-EDUCATION GOVERNANCE (Rep. William Reineke) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education

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

[**HB517**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-517)MONTH DESIGNATION-OHIO PRINCIPALS (Rep. Tim Schaffer, Rep. David Leland) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month."

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB524**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-524)529 CONTRIBUTIONS IN OTHER STATES (Rep. Gary Scherer, Rep. John Patterson) To expand the income tax deduction allowed for contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings program to include contributions to 529 programs established by other states

**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: Senate Education Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**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: (Passed by Senate) Referred to House Education & Career Readiness Committee**

[**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: Senate Education Committee – Bill amended**

[**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: (Passed by Senate) Referred to House Ways & Means Committee**

[**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: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee – Substitute bill accepted**

[**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**

[**SB258**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-258)AWARDING SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To require the State Board of Education to establish criteria and procedures for the awarding of school safety funds to school districts and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced**

**Ohio Budget and Politics**

[**Sponsors Detail Mentoring, Education Proposal in House Finance**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208892) **Hannah**

House Finance Committee members raised questions Tuesday about geographic limits and practical limitations for the new OhioCorps mentoring and education proposal, a priority of leadership. Sponsors said the legislation is a work in progress and said they're trying to ensure legislative language doesn't impede community effort. Reps. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) and Bill Reineke Jr. (R-Tiffin) provided sponsor testimony on HB508, reiterating its basic aims: to pair Ohio college students with at-risk youth in mentoring relationships, and provide funding to assist both with education expenses. The pilot program established in the bill would run for two academic years, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, after which the Ohio Department of Higher Education would have to issue a report on the outcomes. 

[**Brenner Plans School Safety Review, Legislation**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208921) **Hannah**

The House Education Committee plans to take a "comprehensive look" at school safety, according to its chairman, Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell). Brenner said the committee will have hearings on placeholder legislation to gather input from mental health professionals, law enforcement, local school officials and educators on what policies to include in the bill.

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

[**School Board Chief Assigns Committee to Review Report Card**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208867) **Hannah**

The State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement committee, along with a handful of external stakeholders, will review the state report card with an eye toward recommending both short- and long-term recommendations. Tess Elshoff, president of the board, announced the review this week as an alternative to the proposal by board member Lisa Woods to appoint two special committees -- one with members of the public, another with board members and appointees of state and local education officials -- to study the report cards.

[**Chair ‘Somewhat Neutral’ on Education Agency Consolidation Bill**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208903) **Hannah**

House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee Chairman Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) is keeping an open mind regarding legislation consolidating several education-related state agencies into the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement (DLA), the representative told reporters following HB512’s (Reineke) first hearing on Tuesday.“I’m trying to remain at least somewhat neutral until we have at least some proponents and opponents come in and speak about this. I’m not going to purport to be an expert in this area,” Blessing said. “I’m waiting to see what concerns pop up. As you can imagine, we’ve gotten some emails -- a lot of volume. I haven’t gotten a chance to look through that.”

[**Republicans want to close Ohio Department of Education and abolish state school board**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/news/education/republicans-want-to-close-the-ohio-department-of-education-and-abolish-the-state-school-board) **Akron Beacon Journal**

A Republican proposal to collapse state agencies in charge of colleges, schools and workforce development has drawn quick and sharp criticism from public school groups and Democrats. State Rep. Bill Reineke, R-Tiffin, spearheaded the consolidation plan, which has the support of leadership in Ohio House. Reineke’s office said combining the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation “will not have a direct impact on local school boards or school districts.” The new department, the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement, would be headed by a governor-appointed leader confirmed by the Ohio Senate.

[**Ohio would merge its school, university and workforce systems into one under new bill**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/02/ohio_would_merge_its_school_university_and_workforce_systems_into_one_under_new_bill.html) **Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Leaders of the Ohio House hope to combine the state's school, university and workforce development systems into a single new Department of Learning and Achievement in the name of better aligning efforts to prepare students for jobs and college. A bill to merge the state departments of Education, Higher Education and Workforce Transformation, was announced this morning, though the text has not been released. It is sponsored by [Rep. Bill Reineke](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/bill-reineke), a Tiffin Republican, and has the support of House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger.

**Student Success**

[**Canton’s year-round school exceeds enrollment expectations**](http://www.cantonrep.com/news/20180218/cantons-year-round-school-exceeds-enrollment-expectations) **Canton Repository**

When Canton City School District administrators began talking about offering a year-round school option, they were unsure of how many parents and students would be interested in enrolling. They needed at least 200 students. They were hopeful for an enrollment closer to 250. They were surprised when nearly 400 students signed up for the district’s new Accelerating Innovative Minds Academy. “Two years ago when we had the idea of creating a year-round school or a balanced-calendar school, I obviously thought people would be interested, but this is pretty overwhelming in a good way,” Superintendent Adrian Allison said.

[**Study Identifies Factor That May Help Schools Close Racial Achievement Gap**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208889) **Hannah**

A study of one Texas school district reveals one of the best evidence-based ways ever found to close the educational achievement gap between black and white students, an Ohio State University (OSU) researcher says. The research found that teachers’ sense of collective efficacy in any one school – the belief that they had the capability and support necessary to educate their students – was closely connected to the achievement gap. Schools in which teachers showed high levels of collective efficacy had a 50 percent reduction in the academic disadvantage experienced by black students, compared to schools where teachers had average levels, the study showed.

[**Study Spotlights Effective Strategies for Helping Low-Income Students Succeed**](http://diverseeducation.com/article/110184/) **Diverse Education** A new report from the Working Students Success Network (WSSN) describes some of the barriers that low-income students face and identifies practices that can make a significant impact on student success. “Many of our students live on the edge,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, president of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and former president of the 58-college North Carolina Community College System.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**New Cleveland State president will start two months earlier, allowing CSU to avoid consulting fee**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/02/new_cleveland_state_president.html#incart_river_mobile_index) **Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The new president of Cleveland State University, Harlan Sands, will start earlier that initially planned, allowing the university to avoid paying a consulting fee of up to $125,000, the university announced Friday. [Sands, 54, was appointed Jan. 29 by CSU's board of trustees](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cleveland_state_universitys_new_president_is_harlan_sands_cfo_of_the_wharton_school.html) to succeed the retiring Ronald Berkman. And while he wasn't scheduled to start until July 1, [the university had agreed to pay him for consulting services](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/01/cleveland_state_universitys_new_president_to_receive_up_to_125000_in_consulting_fees_before_taking_office.html) before taking office to ensure a smooth transition of the presidency. The cost of those services was expected to range from $75,000 to $125,000.

[**Universities, Community Colleges Focus on Existing Buildings in Capital Requests**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208883) **Hannah**

Ohio’s institutions of higher education are heeding the Kasich administration’s order that they focus state capital dollars on maintaining what Ohio already has rather than building entirely new facilities, with only two projects seeking funds for new buildings. The state’s four-year public universities are asking lawmakers for nearly $300 million in funds for capital projects, while community colleges are requesting $100 million, according to submissions made to the administration late last month. The higher education institutions took a different route for their requests in this budget cycle, with four-year universities and community colleges submitting separate lists instead of having one recommendation coming from a combined panel.

[**Gifts surge nearly 60 percent at UA; Student Union to be named after donor of $20 million**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/writers/katie-byard/gifts-to-ua-surge-ua-names-student-union-after-donor-of-largest-gift-ever-received-by-school) **Akron Beacon Journal**

Donations to the University of Akron jumped nearly 60 percent for the first six months of this fiscal year. The tally doesn’t include the university’s largest single gift ever: a $20 million donation from the estate of Jean Hower Taber, who died in July at age 94. While the gift was revealed in October, it is not yet on the books. On Wednesday, UA trustees approved naming the Student Union in honor of Taber, a longtime benefactor of the school. Taber, the great-granddaughter of industrialist John H. Hower, one of the owners of an Akron company that became part of the Quaker Oats Co., died in July at age 94.

[**Kent State University creates college and career academies in Akron high school**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2018/02/kent_state_university_creates_college_and_career_academies_in_akron_high_school.html) **Cleveland plain Dealer**

Kent State University and Akron Public Schools announced a partnership to provide high school students with learning opportunities involving the university. Kent State will partner with Akron's Firestone Community Learning Center and offer instructional support and opportunities in visual and performing arts, interior design, fashion, film, aeronautics, visual and communications design, and architecture and environmental design.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Berea Planning Commission tables site plan for new high school campus**](http://www.cleveland.com/berea/index.ssf/2018/02/post_269.html) **Cleveland.Com**

[**Chagrin Falls High School Chagrin Valley Rotary Student of the Month: Community Voice**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2018/02/chagrin_falls_high_school_chag_1.html) **Cleveland.Com**

[**Cleveland Heights-University Heights school board OKs sale of Coventry school, PEACE park to Heights Libraries**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2018/02/ch-uh_school_board_oks_sale_of.html) **Cleveland.com**

[**Fairview Park City School District names interim treasurer, hires search firm to find permanent replacement**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2018/02/fairview_park_city_schools_nam.html) **Cleveland.com**

[**North Royalton schools will pay ThenDesign Architecture $5 million for district reconstruction project**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-royalton/index.ssf/2018/02/north_royalton_schools_will_pa.html) **Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Orange school board selects Kirtland High School Principal Campbell as next superintendent**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2018/02/orange_school_board_selects_ki.html) **Cleveland.com**

[**Fourth-graders at Laurel School in Shaker Heights design light box for students in Zimbabwe**](https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/e-team/fourth-graders-at-shaker-heights-elementary-school-design-light-box-for-students-in-zimbabwe) **News 5 Cleveland**

[**Shaker schools, teachers' union OK 3-year contract, 2% annual raises**](http://www.cleveland.com/shaker-heights/index.ssf/2018/02/shaker_schools_teachers_union.html) **Cleveland.com**

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