

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of February 5th, 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**

[**Pilot Program Offers Federal Funding Flexibility to School Districts**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208750) **Hannah**

Up to 50 school districts across the U.S. could get greater flexibility in spending federal education money under a pilot program announced by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). The pilot program, authorized by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, will relax rules on federal funding to enable blending of federal, state and local dollars to create "student-centered funding systems."

[**Three States Raise Their Hands for ESSA Innovative Assessment Pilot**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/02/innovative_new_hampshire_test_assessment_pilot_ESSA.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Three states—Arizona, Louisiana, and New Hampshire—told the U.S. Department of Education they are interested in [applying to participate in the Every Student Succeeds Act's Innovative Assessment Pilot.](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/01/trump_start_essa_innovative_tests.html) That list isn't necessarily the final word. [The department encouraged states that think they may apply to raise their hands early this month.](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/01/trump_start_essa_innovative_tests.html) But formal applications aren't due April 2. Additional states could jump in, or any of the three could change its mind.

**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: 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: 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: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

[**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: 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, Vote 31-0**

[**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, Vote 31-0**

[**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**

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

[**ODE Looking for More Summer Feeding Sites**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208775) **Hannah**

Though participation is up 10 percent in the past few years, summer feeding programs still aren't reaching all the families in need, says the Ohio Department of Education, which is looking for more organizations willing to host free meals for students. “The need for healthy meals doesn’t stop when school breaks for the summer," said Superintendent Paolo DeMaria. "The Summer Food Service Program helps provide children with nourishment to make sure summer can be a time for continued learning and fun. Instead of worrying about where their next meals will come from, our students can enjoy activities like reading, sports, playing outdoors and the growing that happens during the summer months."

[**Mentorship Grants Available from ODE Again**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208786) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) opened the application period this week for Community Connectors, the mentorship program created by the Kasich administration. In this fourth round of grants, $8 million is available to be distributed in grant amounts of up to $150,000 per project. The state provides a $3 match for every $1 provided by local applicants. Nonprofits, houses of worship and faith- or values-based organizations are eligible to be lead applicants in the program, which is meant to join the nonprofit, faith, business and education sectors.

**Student Support**

[**Cutting-edge research to support students with reading disabilities**](https://www.eschoolnews.com/2018/02/05/cutting-edge-research-support-students-reading-disabilities/?all) **eSchoolNews.com**

Current approaches to identifying students with reading disabilities are often problematic and ineffective, and will not lead students to academic success. However, there have been significant improvements in identification and screening that are allowing us to provide greater—and earlier—support. In [“Cutting-Edge Research to Empower Schools to Support Students with Reading Disabilities,”](https://home.edweb.net/webinar/readers20180117/) Rick Wagner, associate director for the Florida Center for Reading Research, discussed problems with current methods and how to better help students with these disabilities.

[**Kent State getting close to launching esports program; one of its campuses recruiting for varsity team**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/news/local/kent-state-looks-to-start-esports-program) **Akron Beacon Journal**

Kent State University plans to soon reveal details of an esports program involving its eight campuses.“Esports, in kind of an unorganized way, has been happening on all of our campuses for a number of years,” with student video gamers organizing groups, said Tim Pagliari, a KSU project director whose duties involve all of Kent’s campuses. Participation in esports (electronic sports), he said, has more or less “been in the underground. “The goal, Pagliari said, is to “bring it into the mainstream and be able to have our students participating in a community and represent their school in a way that’s meaningful to them.”

[**The Impact of Parents' Education Levels**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/02/08/students-postsecondary-education-arcs-affected-parents-college-backgrounds-study) **Inside Higher Ed**

A [study of first-generation college students](http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2018421) published today by the U.S. Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics shows that children of college-educated parents are much more likely to pursue and complete an undergraduate degree than are young people whose parents did not attend college. However, the gap closed significantly upon completion of a bachelor's degree, and the two groups' employment status, salary amounts and rates of enrollment in a master's degree were nearly the same.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**The 9th Graders of 2009, 7 Years Later**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/02/02/study-72-percent-ninth-graders-have-some-postsecondary-education-within-seven-years) **Inside Higher Ed**

Nearly three-quarters of ninth graders tracked in a major federal study had received some kind of postsecondary education or training within seven years -- and nearly a quarter of them had left their programs without a credential of any sort. Of the 28 percent of respondents to the survey who were ninth graders in 2009 but had not enrolled in any postsecondary program by February 2016, more than four in 10 cited financial factors as the reason, and roughly the same proportion earned $10,000 or less in 2015.

[**Walsh University to unveil $11.4M Marlene and Joe Toot Global Learning Center**](http://www.cleveland.com/akron/index.ssf/2018/02/walsh_university_to_unveil_30m.html) **Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[Walsh University](https://www.walsh.edu/) is inviting community members to see its newest academic building, the Marlene and Joe Toot Global Learning Center, at an open house on Friday, Feb. 9 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The $11.4 million, 44,000 square-foot building was designed to provide spaces where students of all disciplines can learn. The building features complete wireless connectivity, collaborative classrooms, a new chapel, a cafe and digital labs designed to support academic programs such as computer engineering, digital media, graphic design and video production.

[**Department of Higher Education Receives $2.1M 'Strong Start to Finish' Grant**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=208771) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), working in partnership with the Inter-University Council and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, has been selected to receive a $2.1 million grant from Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) aimed at getting students on successful pathways to college completion while also addressing attainment gaps for historically underserved populations. ODHE is one of only four entities in the country selected to receive a $2.1 million grant, which will be paid over three years. Strong Start to Finish received 47 letters of interest in the grant opportunity. ODHE’s application was chosen for its exemplary “use of evidence-based practice and commitment to achieve greater equity,” according to SSTF.

[**These States Offer Tuition-Free College Programs**](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2018-02-01/these-states-offer-tuition-free-college-programs) **US News**

West Virginia is the latest state to consider offering free [community college](https://www.usnews.com/education/community-colleges). Lawmakers passed legislation on Jan. 30 that proposes the WV Invests Grant, a program that provides [tuition-free college](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2012/06/12/save-money-by-attending-tuition-free-colleges) at the two-year level to in-state residents. One catch: Graduates have to reside in state for two years after completing their degree or certification. But tuition-free programs in other states have similar requirements. The Arkansas Future Grant, which focuses on high-demand fields, requires graduates to remain in state two years after completing their qualifications, as an example.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Bay Village Schools approves 2018-19 school calendar, earlier start**](http://www.westlakebayvillageobserver.com/read/2018/02/06/bay-village-schools-approves-201819-school-calendar-earlier-start) **Westlake Bay Village Observer**

[**Eight looks great for the Westshore Young Leaders Network**](http://www.westlakebayvillageobserver.com/read/2018/02/06/eight-looks-great-for-the-westshore-young-leaders-network) **Westlake Bay Village Observer**

[**Brooklyn city leaders discussing cost-saving idea to merge athletic fields**](http://www.cleveland.com/brooklyn/index.ssf/2018/02/brooklyn_city_leaders_discussi.html) **Cleveland.com**

[**Valley Forge and Parma Senior high school students redo Parma Area Family Collaborative room**](http://www.cleveland.com/parma/index.ssf/2018/02/valley_forge_and_parma_senior.html) **Cleveland.com**

***Lorain County***

[**Lorain NAACP honors Jeff Pye, a local teacher, artist**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20180206/lorain-naacp-honors-jeff-pye-a-local-teacher-artist) **The Morning Journal**

[**Lorain schools CEO: High school could be re-envisioned**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20180206/lorain-schools-ceo-high-school-could-be-re-envisioned) **The Morning Journal**

[**Search is down to the two final candidates for North Ridgeville Schools superintendent; public invited to meet them Feb. 5 and 6**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-ridgeville/index.ssf/2018/02/search_is_down_to_the_two_fina.html) **Cleveland.Com**

[**Lorain exhibit to celebrate art of African Americans who have changed history**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20180203/lorain-exhibit-to-celebrate-art-of-african-americans-who-have-changed-history) **The Morning Journal**

[**Students encouraged to be future innovators at LCCC**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20180206/students-encouraged-to-be-future-innovators-at-lccc) **The Morning Journal**

[**Area students, teachers brainstorm STEM**](http://www.chroniclet.com/Local-News/2018/02/08/Area-students-teachers-brainstorm-STEM.html) **The Chronicle**

***Summit County***

[**Akron teacher seeks mirrors to line school walls, help students see themselves in positive light**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/news/education/akron-teachers-seeks-mirrors-to-line-school-walls-help-students-see-themselves-in-positive-light) **Akron Beacon Journal**

[**First Green Primary Sweetheart Dance a success**](http://www.thesuburbanite.com/news/20180207/first-green-primary-sweetheart-dance-success) **Suburbanite**

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