

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of March 2, 2015**

**Featured News**

[**Ohio bill would extend foster care to young people up to age 21**](http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/mar/01/ohio-bill-would-extend-foster-care-young-people-ag/?nw) **Youngstown Vindicator**

An Ohio bill would extend the age that younger residents can get foster care services, while requiring that court-appointed guardians receive a guide developed by the state's attorney general. The legislation would increase to 21 the age that foster youths could get services, provided they meet certain education and work requirements. It would create a "bill of rights" for those under guardianship care that would include being treated with dignity and respect, having personal information kept confidential, and safe, sanitary and humane living conditions.

**Federal, National and U.S. Department of Education**

[**Report: State Policies Largely Unclear on Testing Opt-Out Policies, Consequences**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2015/03/report_state_policies_largely_unclear_on_testing_opt-out_policies_consequences.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=stateedwatch) **Education Week**

As states begin using new assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards, most recently in New Jersey and New Mexico, one question has become increasingly urgent: What do states' laws and policies say about parents opting their students out of these exams? The answer, in many cases, is unclear, according to a new study released by the Education Commission of the States. My colleague Catherine Gewertz went over the report yesterday as she also detailed news stories about opt-outs in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. Karla Scoon Reid also highlighted the report over at K-12 Parents and the Public.

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

**131st General Assembly**

***House***

[**HB1**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-1)WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Nathan Manning) To establish the Workforce Grant Program, to authorize an income tax credit equal to 25% of the student loan payments a grant recipient makes per year, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Economic & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB2**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-2)CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP (Rep. Mike Dovilla, Rep. Kristina Roegner) With regard to sponsorship and management of community schools

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

[**HB5**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-5)PUBLIC OFFICE-STATE AGENCY EFFICIENCY STUDIES (Rep. Stephanie Kunze, Rep. Kyle Koehler) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct business case studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Local Government Committee**

[**HB7**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-7)ASSESSMENT SCORE DETERMINATIONS (Rep. Jim Buchy) To prohibit individual student scores from certain elementary and secondary achievement assessments administered for the 2014-2015 school year from being used to determine promotion or retention or to grant course credit

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Passed by Senate, Vote 31-0; Emergency clause 31-0**

[**HB12**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-12)TIF-INCENTIVE DISTRICTS (Rep. James Butler, Jr., Rep. Tony Burkley) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before creating the district

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

[**HB15**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-15)STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP (Rep. Ron Gerberry) To change the voting membership of the State Board of Education to consist of a member from each of several electoral districts with boundaries coinciding with the state's Congressional districts and a president to be appointed by the Governor if there is an even number of such electoral districts

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB20**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-20)CONCEALED CARRY-SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE (Rep. Anne Gonzales, Rep. Kyle Koehler) To expand and clarify the authority of a concealed handgun licensee to possess a handgun in a school safety zone

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House State Government Committee**

[**HB25**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-25)FOOD-DRINK SCHOOL SALES (Rep. Stephanie Kunze) To require the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the sale of beverages and food during the regular school day in connection with a school-sponsored fundraiser

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB27**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-27)FINANCIAL AID-FINISH FUND (Rep. Dan Ramos) To create the Finish Fund and the Finish Reserve Fund to provide grants to students who are nearing completion of their associate or bachelor's degrees and display financial need or hardship

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB28**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-28)SUICIDE PREVENTION-HIGHER EDUCATION (Rep. Marlene Anielski) With regard to suicide prevention programs at state institutions of higher education

**STATUS: Referred to House Community & Family Advancement Committee**

[**HB39**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-39)SCHOOL-CAMP INHALER PERMIT (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Anthony DeVitis) To permit schools and camps to procure and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powdered inhaler used to alleviate asthmatic symptoms in accordance with prescribed policies and to exempt them from licensing requirements related to the possession of these inhalers

**STATUS: Referred to House Health & Aging Committee**

[**HB42**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-42)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND (Rep. Ron Gerberry, Rep. Jack Cera) To require that, for fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Local Government Fund must receive the same proportion of state tax revenue that the Fund received in fiscal year 2005

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

[**HB43**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-43)CLASSROOM FACILITIES-PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACKS (Rep. Ron Gerberry) To revise the law governing classroom facilities assistance programs and to restore the application of the 10% and 2.5% property tax rollbacks to school district tax levies approved on or after the effective date of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly

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

[**HB44**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-44)LOTTERY PROFITS-SCHOOLS (Rep. Ron Gerberry) To require that a portion of lottery profits be distributed annually on a per pupil basis to public and chartered nonpublic schools

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

[**HB46**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-46)GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (Rep. Mike Dovilla, Rep. Jonathan Dever) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House State Government Committee**

[**HB52**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-52)WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW (Rep. Robert Hackett) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs

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

[**HB54**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-54)VOCATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS-OFFICE TERMS (Rep. Marlene Anielski) To revise the law regarding terms of office of members of certain joint vocational school district boards of education

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

[**HB55**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-55)THIRD-GRADE READING GUARANTEE (Rep. Robert Sprague) To specify deadlines for the administration of reading skills assessments for purposes of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee

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

[**HB56**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-56)PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT-CRIMINAL RECORDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Stephen Slesnick) To limit the use of criminal records in the hiring and employment practices of public employers

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Commerce & Labor Committee**

[**HB64**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-64)OPERATING BUDGET (Rep. Ryan Smith) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs

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

[**HB70**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-70)SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING (Rep. Denise Driehaus, Rep. Andrew Brenner) To authorize school districts and community schools to initiate a community learning center process to assist and guide school restructuring

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB74**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-74)PRIMARY-SECONDARY ASSESSMENTS (Rep. Andrew Brenner) With regard to the administration of state primary and secondary education assessments

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB81**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-81)SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Rep. Steve Hambley) To eliminate the ability to conduct special elections in February and to require a political subdivision to prepay sixty-five per cent of the estimated cost of a special election

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

[**HB85**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-85)CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (Rep. Dan Ramos, Rep. Christina Hagan) 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: Introduced**

[**HB89**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-89)MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (Rep. Anthony DeVitis) Regarding the Medicaid School Program

**STATUS: Referred to House Health & Aging Committee**

[**HB92**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-92)SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES-SEXUAL CONDUCT (Rep. Christina Hagan) To prohibit an employee of a public or nonpublic school or institution of higher education who is not in a position of authority from engaging in sexual conduct with a minor at least four years younger than the employee who is enrolled in or attends that public or nonpublic school or who is enrolled in or attends that institution of higher education

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

[**HB99**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-99)INCOME TAX-SCHOOL FUNDING (Rep. Mike Curtin) To require that an amount equal to state income tax collections, less amounts contributed to the Ohio political party fund via the income tax checkoff, be distributed for the support of elementary, secondary, vocational, and special education programs

**STATUS: Introduced**

***Senate***

[**SB3**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-3)HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICT EXEMPTION (Sen. Cliff Hite, Sen. Keith Faber) To exempt high-performing school districts from certain laws

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB4**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-4)IN-STATE TUITION REDUCTION (Sen. Keith Faber) To require each state institution of higher education to develop a plan to reduce in-state student cost of attendance by five per cent for the 2016-2017 academic year

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

[**SB6**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-6)JOINT COMMITTEE ON OHIO COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY (Sen. Shannon Jones, Sen. John Eklund) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for college savings contributions to $10,000 annually for each beneficiary

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

[**SB12**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-12)INCOME TAX CREDIT-SCIENCE RELATED DEGREE (Sen. Jay Hottinger) To grant an income tax credit to individuals who earn degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math-based fields of study

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

[**SB19**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-19)OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT (Sen. Tom Sawyer) To make changes to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, to limit state university over load fees, and to make an appropriation

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

[**SB20**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-20)CHARTER SCHOOLS-RECORD KEEPING (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding audit and record-keeping requirements for community school sponsors and operators

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB22**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-22)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND-ALLOCATION INCREASE (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 GRF each month

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

[**SB24**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-24)OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT QUALIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams) To qualify students in noncredit community college programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges’ career certification programs

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

[**SB34**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-34)SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY-DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR (Sen. Charleta Tavares) With respect to school district policies for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB39**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-39)PEDESTRIAN RIGHT OF WAY-SCHOOL ZONE (Sen. Bill Beagle) To increase the penalties for failing to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian who is crossing a roadway within a crosswalk when the crosswalk is located within a school zone

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

[**SB43**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-43)COLUMBUS STATE LOGISTICS PROGRAM (Sen. Jim Hughes) To establish the Columbus State Logistics Program and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB59**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-59)COMMUNITY SCHOOLS-STATE APPROPRIATED FUNDS (Sen. Michael Skindell) With respect to the use of state-appropriated funds by operators of community schools

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB71**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-71)TRIO-PROGRAM APPROPRIATION (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To make an appropriation for the provision of state matching funds for federal TRIO programs at Ohio institutions of higher education for FY 2016 and FY 2017

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB73**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-73)MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (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: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB78**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-78)GED GRANT PROGRAM (Sen. Sandra Williams) To create the GED Grant Program for undergraduate students who have earned high school equivalence diplomas and are enrolled in two-year state institutions of higher education and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB82**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-82)GED-TEST COST (Sen. Sandra Williams) With regard to the administration and cost of the tests of general educational development required to earn a high school equivalence diploma

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB85**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-85)PROPERTY-TAX COMPLAINTS (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**

[**SB92**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-92)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: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB93**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-93)BULLYING PREVENTION FUNDS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To require the State Board of Education to establish criteria and procedures for the awarding of bullying prevention and education funds to school districts and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB94**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-94)MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (Sen. Kevin Bacon, Sen. Peggy Lehner) Regarding the Medicaid School Program

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Medicaid Committee**

[**SB101**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-101)CONTRACEPTION EDUCATION (Sen. Capri Cafaro) Regarding coverage for prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, the provision of certain hospital and pregnancy prevention services for victims of sexual assault, and comprehensive sexual health and sexually transmitted infection education in schools

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Committee**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Sen. Brown urges extension of child health care program**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/02/Brown-urges-extension-of-child-health-care-program.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Through the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, her kids are able to get the coverage they need. Mendoza joined Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, in Columbus today as he explained his plan to extend funding for CHIP. Brown introduced legislation in February that would extend the program through 2019.

[**Schiavoni Reintroduces Bullying, School Safety Bills**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198995) **Hannah**

Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) has reintroduced two bills aimed at protecting students in Ohio’s public schools. SB92 would appropriate additional funding for school safety projects and SB93 would create the Bullying Prevention Grant Program. “Protecting our students and creating a safe place for them to learn is the foundation for success in our schools,” Schiavoni said in a prepared statement. According to Schiavoni, SB92 appropriates an additional $34 million in both FY16 and FY17 for school safety projects such as upgrading security equipment and hiring additional security officers. Funding distribution would be based on a district’s enrollment, with four tiers ranging from $25,000 for small districts, to $100,000 for large districts.

[**Senate Passes Student Testing ‘Safe Harbor,’ GOP Announces Testing Advisory Committee**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199005) **Hannah**

The Senate unanimously passed legislation that would grant “safe harbor” to students taking the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing this year, as the Senate Republican Caucus announced an advisory committee on testing. HB7 (Buchy), which prohibits student scores from the PARCC tests being used to hold a child back or to have an effect on their grades, was the only bill on the Senate’s agenda, passing with an emergency clause to make it effective with the governor’s signature. The bill was amended by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on the floor, who said it cleared the House and the Senate Education Committee with language that could still strip a scholarship from a child under an EdChoice or other school choice scholarship if they refuse to take the PARCC tests. The amendment would allow the student to keep the scholarship and is only in effect for this year.

[**State Auditor Yost asks House for better control of charter school finances, buildings and tax dollars spent on charter school truants**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/state_auditor_yost_asks_house_for_better_control_of_charter_school_finances_buildings_and_tax_dollars_spent_on_charter_school_truants.html#incart_river)  **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[State Auditor Dave Yost](https://ohioauditor.gov/about/auditor.html) asked the Ohio House today to make charter schools stop collecting tax money for truant kids, publicly report more of their spending, and pay the state back for buildings they buy with tax dollars if they fail quickly. Yost also asked the House to allow the [Ohio Department of Education](http://education.ohio.gov/) to start tracking students by name, not just an identification number, to prevent charter schools from collecting money for kids that have left the school.

[**Education panel will critique Ohio’s new PARCC exams**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/05/education-panel-will-critique-ohios-new-exams.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

The tests used to measure whether Ohio students are meeting Common Core standards are going under the microscope of a special advisory committee and could be dumped. State Sen. Peggy Lehner said anything is possible regarding the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers tests.

[**Details of charter school reform up for debate**](http://www.mydaytondailynews.com/news/news/details-of-charter-school-reform-up-for-debate/nkNq5/) **Dayton Daily News**

State officials are moving to mandate more accountability and transparency from Ohio’s $1 billion charter school industry, which has received black eyes over conflicts of interest, wasted public money and poor academic performance.

[**Latest Ohio schools funding formula questioned**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/06/latest-funding-formula-questioned.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

A mix of unusually volatile property values and shifting school-funding formulas over the past decade has detached school funding from reality in Ohio. That was the analysis from Howard Fleeter, who has spent 25 years researching Ohio school funding and has uncovered additional issues with Gov. John Kasich’s latest formula. The proposal already has many lawmakers encouraging people to stay calm because they are looking for a fix.

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

[**Open enrollment school districts not harmed by policy**](http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/mar/02/academics-dont-fail-with-open-enrollment/)  **Youngstown Vindicator**

Mahoning County students who leave their home school district to attend another through open enrollment don’t negatively impact the open-enrollment district’s academics, a study says. “The bottom line is that districts participating in open enrollment are not being academically impacted by students from outside districts, even when students migrate from the poorest-performing schools,” according to the study, which was conducted by the Mahoning County Educational Service Center superintendent and a Youngstown State University professor.

[**Turnover common at e-schools**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/01/turnover-common-at-e-schools.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Ohio’s largest online charter school averaged 14,600 students last school year, but almost 23,000 students were enrolled over the course of the year. Thousands of those students enrolled for just a few weeks or months in the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

[**AG Sues to Secure Debt from Associates of Defunct Cleveland Charter School**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198980) **Hannah**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine Monday filed a lawsuit against 19 individuals and businesses affiliated with a defunct Cleveland charter school. The lawsuit follows findings for recovery issued last year by Ohio Auditor Dave Yost which found that more than $2 million was illegally transferred from the Lion of Judah Academy to its associates. "Numerous Ohio families rely on charter schools to educate their children, and many do a great job,” DeWine said in a release. “However, when charter school operators’ conduct violates the law, we have an obligation to do whatever we can to recoup the money.”

[**Ohio's charter schools ridiculed at national conference, even by national charter supporters**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/ohios_charter_schools_ridicule.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Ohio, the charter school world is making fun of you. [Ohio's $1 Billion charter school system](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasichs_budget_would_send_nearly_1_billion_to_charter_schools_how_is_your_district_affected_chart.html) was the butt of jokes at a [conference for reporters on school choice](http://www.ewa.org/agenda/charters-choice-seminar)in Denver late last week, as well as the target of sharp criticism of charter school failures across the state. The shots came from expected critics like teachers unions, but also from pro-charter voices, as the state considers ways to improve how it handles charters.

[**Ohio won't penalize districts for kids who opt out of state tests**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/ohio_wont_penalize_districts_for_kids_that_op-out_of_state_tests.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The state won't penalize school districts if large numbers of students skip this year's state test, state Superintendent Richard Ross announced today. An ever-growing number of [parents are pulling their kids out of new state tests](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/growing_number_of_parents_opt.html) this year, as the state dramatically [increases testing time](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/state_superintendent_says_20_h.html) and changes test providers. This year Ohio is seeing its first state tests using the new multi-state [Common Core learning standards.](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/11/new_education_standards_known.html)

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

[**Mobile Devices for Schools Generating 'Huge Momentum,' Analysts Say**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2015/02/mobile_devices_schools_momentum.html?cmp=ENL-DD-NEWS1) **Education Week**

By the next academic year, mobile devices will be available for 1-to-1 computing for half of the U.S. K-12 student and teacher population, according to Futuresource Consulting Ltd, a U.K.-based research and forecasting company. In fact, by the calendar year 2016, 54 percent of students and teachers will have access to a school-issued personal computing device, as the following bar chart shows.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Colleges are trying to get students to make a course correction**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/colleges-are-trying-to-get-students-to-make-a-course-correction/2015/02/27/3f253906-9dce-11e4-96cc-e858eba91ced_story.html) **Washington Post**

Cleveland State University made a proposition to its students two years ago: Take a full course load of 30 credits a year and get $200 off tuition and a $200 book stipend. Only 32 percent of its undergraduates finished a degree within six years, if at all. Hundreds of students were slipping through the cracks as the cost of college went up and up — and they took on thousands of dollars more in debt. “The most effective way to limit costs is to limit time toward a degree,” said Ronald Berkman, president of Ohio’s eighth-largest public university with almost 18,000 students.

[**Free Community College: It Works**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/03/05/tulsa-community-colleges-free-tuition-program-has-paid-while-inspiring-others) **Inside Higher Ed**

President Obama's free community college proposal has a direct ancestor in a program Tulsa Community College began in 2007. And Tulsa's free-tuition experiment is working, with the college's leaders calling it a “battle-tested” recipe for increasing degree production. Tulsa Achieves pays for three free years of tuition or 63 free credits, which is enough for an associate degree. The scholarship is open to all high school graduates in Tulsa County, Okla. They must enroll right out of high school, maintain a 2.0 GPA, take a student success course and do 40 hours of community service each year to remain eligible.

[**Low-Income Students Choose Closest—But Not Always Best—Colleges**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/low-income_students_chance_of_college_completion_hurt_by_location.html) **Education Week**

One barrier keeping low-income students from attending four-year universities is a basic obstacle that's hard to solve: location. Research that focuses on community college students in Florida finds that many simply do not transfer to a four-year school because it's too far away from their home. The working paper, "Who Transfers and Where Do They Go? Community College Students in Florida," by Ben Backes, a researcher with the American Instittues for Research, and Erin Dunlop Velez, of the Research Triangle Institute, followed 80,000 students for 10 years who began at a community college between 2002 and 2004.

**Early Learning**

[**Reexamining Quality in Early Childhood Education: Exploring the Relationship Between the Organizational Climate and the Classroom**](http://ecs.force.com/studies/rstudypg?id=a0r70000006m3vxAAA) **Education Commission of States**

The author of this study found a significant association between organizational climate in preschool centers and overall classroom quality. Findings suggest that policies should focus less on structural influences on quality in early childhood education (such as teacher-child ratios), and more on process quality and organizational climate. Professional development efforts might be key to overall classroom quality.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Bay Village Education Foundation funds video production studio**](http://www.westlakebayvillageobserver.com/read/2015/03/03/bay-village-education-foundation-funds-video-production-studio) **Westlake-Bay Village Observer**

[**Chagrin Falls High School announces two National Merit Scholarship Finalists**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2015/03/chagrin_falls_high_school_anno.html) **Chagrin Falls Schools**

[**Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools listen as residents talk changes**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_heights-university_h_70.html) **Sun News**

[**Lakewood High School Cardboard Boat Regatta proves a fun, wet, physics experiment (photos, video)**](http://www.cleveland.com/lakewood/index.ssf/2015/03/lakewood_high_school_cardboard.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Mayfield school board renews Treasurer Scott Snyder's contract**](http://www.cleveland.com/hillcrest/index.ssf/2015/03/mayfield_board_of_education_re.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**ThenDesign Architecture of Willoughby picked to design North Olmsted school**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150304/thendesign-architecture-of-willoughby-picked-to-design-north-olmsted-school) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Parma Superintendent Jeff Graham highlights 5 goals in State of the Schools address**](http://www.cleveland.com/parma/index.ssf/2015/03/parma_superintendent_jeff_grah_3.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**South Euclid-Lyndhurst school board approves tax break for Legacy Village hotel**](http://www.cleveland.com/lyndhurst-south-euclid/index.ssf/2015/03/south_euclid-lyndhurst_school_25.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Groups**

[**Strongsville schools likely to use blizzard bags to make up calamity days**](http://www.cleveland.com/strongsville/index.ssf/2015/03/strongsville_schools_likely_to.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Lake County***

[**Fairport Harbor schools address accessibility issues**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150227/fairport-harbor-schools-address-accessibility-issues) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Willoughby to apply for funds for sidewalks near Grant Elementary**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150304/willoughby-to-apply-for-funds-for-sidewalks-near-grant-elementary) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Perry High School students build prosthetic hands**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150307/perry-high-school-students-build-prosthetic-hands) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**Lorain's Longfellow Middle School robot wins awards in state competition**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150301/lorains-longfellow-middle-school-robot-wins-awards-in-state-competition) **Lorain Morning Journal**

***Medina County***

[**Medina city, schools meet to discuss continued collaboration**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2015/03/medina_city_schools_meet_to_di.html) **Sun News**

[**Highland schools news: Auditor of State Award, Buzzard Day, Character Card recipients**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2015/03/highland_schools_new_auditor_o.html) **Sun News**

***Portage County***

[**Aurora School Board requests moratorium on results of this year's Ohio assessment requirements**](http://www.auroraadvocate.com/news%20local/2015/03/04/boe-requests-moratorium-on-results-of-this-year-s-assessment-requirements) **Aurora Advocate**

[**Superintendent praises Aurora schools for achievements**](http://www.auroraadvocate.com/news%20local/2015/03/04/bennett-praises-schools-for-achievements) **Aurora Advocate**

[**Portage County schools change start dates, mess with fair**](http://www.ohio.com/news/local/portage-county-schools-change-start-dates-mess-with-fair-1.570931) **Akron Beacon Journal**

***Summit County***

[**New Revere superintendent ready for challenge**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-community-news.asp?aID=25865) **Akron Leader Publications**

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