

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of August 21st, 2017**

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.

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**Featured News**

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

[**Betsy DeVos Says School Vouchers Are Part of Tax Overhaul Discussions**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/08/11/devos-say-school-vouchers-part-of_ap.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2) **Education Week**

More than a third of U.S. states have created school voucher programs that bypass thorny constitutional and political issues by turning them over to nonprofits that rely primarily on businesses to fund them. But the programs are raising questions about transparency and accountability at a time when supporters are urging that they be expanded into a federal program.

[**Ed. Dept. Steps Up Pace of States' ESSA Plan Reviews**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/08/17/ed-dept-steps-up-pace-of-states.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1) **Education Week**

After a rocky start in which U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ team was criticized for being too heavy-handed, confusing, or inconsistent in responding to states’ plans for the [Every Student Succeeds Act](http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/every-student-succeeds-act/index.html?intc=content-exlaineressa), approvals of state plans are now coming at a fast clip.

Six states—Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey, and New Mexico—had received the [all-clear](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2017/08/betsy_devos_approves_essa_plans_nevada_new_jersey_new_mexico.html) on their plans as of mid-August.

[**ESSA brings new focus to homeless population**](http://www.educationdive.com/news/essa-brings-new-focus-to-homeless-population/503031/) **Education Dive**

For the first time this fall, schools and districts will be required to “track and improve outcomes” for the nation’s estimated 1.3 million homeless students, thanks to a provision in the Every Student Succeeds Act which strengthens 1987’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. According to guidance from the U.S. Department of Education updated earlier this year, states will now be responsible for the following.

**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: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education & Career Readiness 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: Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Reported out**

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

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

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

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

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

[**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) Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**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 – Bill amended**

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

[**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: Introduced**

[**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**

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

[**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**

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

[**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: (Passed by Senate) Passed by House as amended on Floor, Vote 97-0**

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Introduced**

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

**STATUS: Introduced**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Introduced**

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

**Ohio Budget and Politics**

[**ECOT not only online school that owes money over enrollment issues**](http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170812/ecot-not-only-online-school-that-owes-money-over-enrollment-issues) **Columbus Dispatch**

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow by far owes the most, but it is not the only Ohio online charter school being told to repay state money because of problems with verifying enrollment. The state is deducting $60 million over 24 months from ECOT, after the Department of Education determined that the school verified only 6,313 full-time students, not the 15,322 students for whom it was paid during the 2015-16 school year. According to the department, eight other online charter schools also face repayments, and a few others have shut down. One school, TRECA Digital Academy, recently reached a tentative settlement to repay $5 million, to be deducted over five years.

[**Ohio’s urban districts up, suburbs down in state funding**](http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170815/ohios-urban-districts-up-suburbs-down-in-state-funding) **Columbus Dispatch**

Most Ohio school districts will return to action during the next three weeks without much new state money to fund operations. Under the new two-year state budget that the legislature passed this summer, the state’s 55 urban districts generally fared the best as far as funding. Suburban districts, overall, saw cuts — although that generally was not true in Franklin County.*Best* is a relative term, however. School-funding increases average about 1 percent per year for Ohio’s 610 districts, roughly half of the projected rate of inflation. Urban districts, which are seeing the biggest increases, still average less than 2.5 percent per year. “For some districts, it’s been a pretty long six years,” said Howard Fleeter, an analyst with the Ohio Education Policy Institute, noting that school-funding increases from 2011 to 2019 will total 7.6 percent. “Overall growth has not kept pace with inflation.”

[**Ohio school vouchers expand; Kettering lawmaker opposes program**](http://www.mydaytondailynews.com/news/ohio-school-vouchers-expand-kettering-lawmaker-opposes-program/yrVmmhnHP4jjkmNrQj61wO/?ecmp=daytondaily_social_twitter_2014_politics_sfp) **Dayton Daily News**

Ohio’s school voucher “expansion” program for low-income families will grow by millions of dollars each of the next two years, but a key Republican education leader says the program may be a bad idea. The point of Ohio’s primary EdChoice voucher program has been to give “students from under-performing public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools,” according to the Ohio Department of Education. But the EdChoice “expansion” program is a separate budget allocation allowing students from any public school — good or bad — to get state money for private school, as long as the family is below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

[**ECOT switches strategy to dropout recovery**](http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170822/ecot-switches-strategy-to-dropout-recovery) **Columbus Dispatch**

ECOT, the online charter giant one study found produced more dropouts than any other school in the nation, is moving into a new line of business — “dropout recovery.”

[**ECOT Looks to Become 'Dropout Recovery School'**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=207275) **Hannah**

State senator and candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) reacted Wednesday to the news that the board of the online Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) had voted to convert the online charter school to a "dropout recovery school" effective immediately. Schiavoni commented, "If the state allows ECOT to become a dropout recovery school, they will get exactly what they want: your tax dollars with fewer strings attached. Through their lawsuits and failure to track attendance, the leaders of ECOT have made it clear they're not interested in improving students' education. Now they're asking us to trust them with children who need even more attention and support. This proposed change would have very real consequences for thousands of struggling students."

[**Ohio Senate overrides 6 Kasich budget vetoes, skips tax hike**](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FvDyWbWu) **Associated Press**

The Ohio Senate has overridden six of Republican Gov. John Kasich's (KAY'-sik's) budget vetoes while stopping short of reversing his decision to strike a tax hike proposal that the administration had called "unsustainable." Senators voted Tuesday to restore budget provisions giving legislators additional control over future Medicaid spending and imposing additional requirements on some program recipients.

[**ECOT seeks to stay alive with the low academic expectations of a dropout recovery school**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/08/ecot_seeks_to_stay_alive_with_the_low_academic_expectations_of_a_dropout_recovery_school.html#incart_river_mobileshort_index) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

With poor test scores threatening to force the ECOT online school to close, the giant charter school has applied to be a dropout prevention and recovery school, which would allow it to be graded on much lower standards. It's an official state designation that would slap the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) with a stigma that could hurt its ability to recruit students and to keep money flowing into its coffers.

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

[**State Board of Education Committee Recommends Raise, Bonus for Superintendent**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=207216) **Hannah**

The State Board of Education's Executive Committee convened briefly Wednesday morning to consider performance evaluations submitted by board members of State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria and voted to recommend he receive a standard compensation raise and a bonus for his work. If approved by the full board at its September meeting, DeMaria will receive a 2.5 percent raise, the standard raise rate for the Department of Education, bringing his annual salary to $184,496, alongside a $20,000 bonus. "I'm happy to second and support this, knowing that we will, as a full board, discuss the evaluations in more detail. I think that, given Paolo's first year, the relationship we've come to develop with him and the work that he's doing, I'm happy to support this and look forward to having a more in-depth conversation about the evaluations and the direction we want to head over the next year or so," board member Stephanie Dodd said.

[**It's in the Budget: New Resource Explains Two Additional Graduation Options Only for Class of 2018**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=207263) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has released a new, two-page handout outlining the five pathways available to this year's high school seniors to graduation: three permanent pathways and two additional ones approved in the FY18-19 budget (HB49) for the Class of 2018 only. The department notes it expects that most students will satisfy their high school curriculum requirements which include a state minimum of 20 credits in specific subjects, instruction in economics and financial literacy and two semesters of fine arts and then meeting one of the following three existing graduation pathways.

**Early Learning**

[**Pediatricians Urged to Get Involved With Early-Childhood Education**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2017/08/pediatricians_urged_to_get_involved_with_early_childhood_education.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2) **Education Week**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is calling on its members to advocate for high-quality early childhood education. The group, which represents 66,000 doctors, has issued a [policy statement on the issue](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/2/e20171488) that was published in the August edition of the journal Pediatrics. It notes that high-quality early childhood education has particularly strong benefits for children from low-income families and lays out what pediatricians can do to ensure young children in their communities are getting this strong foundation.

[**Full-Day Kindergarten Students Do Better Than Half-Day Students, Analysis Finds**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2017/08/researcher_full-day_kindergarten_students_perform_better_than_half-day_students.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-RM) **Education Week**

Should kindergarten be mandatory? Should it be a full day, just like 1st grade, or is a half day more appropriate for children just entering school? These are questions that education leaders continue to grapple with across the country. Only 13 states and the District of Columbia require full-day kindergarten. That's according to an analysis released last year by the Education Commission of the States. But that analysis found that full-day kindergarten remains pretty popular with families. In 35 states, 70-89 percent of students attend full-day programs.

[**Payoffs Seen in Smooth Transition to Kindergarten**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/08/23/payoffs-seen-in-smooth-transition-to-kindergarten.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1) **Education Week**

The kindergartners are coming. And these children, nearly 4 million strong in the 2017-18 class, are more likely than any other grade to be a blank slate to their teachers. But states, districts, and individual schools are working to change that, by creating transition programs to ease children's entry into school.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**It's in the Budget: ODHE Outlines Changes to College Credit Plus Program**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=207303) **Hannah**

The budget for FY18-19, HB49 (R. Smith), changed some of the rules and responsibilities for districts in Ohio’s College Credit Plus (CCP) program, effective this school year. It leaves others unchanged. To help understand where the program stands, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) developed a one-page flyer, "5 Things You Should Know about College Credit Plus." Those five things include the following.

**Equity**

[**The Nation's Teaching Force Is Still Mostly White and Female**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/08/15/the-nations-teaching-force-is-still-mostly.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2) **Education Week**

Teachers tend to be white, female, and have nearly a decade and a half of experience in the classroom, according to [new data released Monday by the federal government](https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2017072).

But there are signs that the nation’s teaching force is gradually growing more diverse. It is also more heterogeneous: The nation’s [charter school](http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/charter-schools/) teachers look significantly different from teachers in traditional public schools.

**Research**

[**CREDO Report Examines Effects of School Closures on Student Academic Performance**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=207287) **Hannah**

A study released Thursday by Stanford’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) titled “Lights Off: Practice and Impact of Closing Low-Performing Schools” comprehensively examines the effect school closures have on student academic performance, looking at data from 1,500 low-performing schools in 26 states from the 2006-2007 school year through the 2012-2013 school year. Among key findings of the study were strong indicators that a student’s academic success or failure depends largely on the quality of the school he or she was moved to following a school closure, and notably, only about 45 percent of students were placed in a better school.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Beachwood School Board, Council meet to discuss levy try, elementary consolidation, shared parking**](http://www.cleveland.com/beachwood/index.ssf/2017/08/beachwood_37.html) **Beachwood Community Blog**

[**Berea City School District launches new logo**](http://www.cleveland.com/berea/index.ssf/2017/08/berea_city_school_district_lau.html) **Berea Community Blog**

[**Fairview Park City Schools distributes new iPads and MacBooks**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2017/08/fairview_park_city_schools_dis.html) **Fairview Park Community Blog**

[**New Health Center Provides Expanded Care To Lakewood Students**](https://patch.com/ohio/lakewood-oh/new-health-center-provides-expanded-care-lakewood-students) **Lakewood Patch**

[**Lakewood Schools Want New Gym Equipment**](https://patch.com/ohio/lakewood-oh/lakewood-schools-want-new-gym-equipment) **Lakewood Patch**

[**North Olmsted City Schools providing working parents with before school program**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2017/08/north_olmsted_city_schools_pro.html) **North Olmsted Community Blog**

[**North Royalton schools select architect for reconstruction-renovation plan**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-royalton/index.ssf/2017/08/north_royalton_schools_select.html#incart_river_index) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Olmsted Falls City Schools introduces full-day kindergarten at Early Childhood Center**](http://www.cleveland.com/olmsted/index.ssf/2017/08/olmsted_falls_city_schools_int.html) **Olmsted Falls Community Blog**

[**Unified Curriculum In Shaker Schools Leads To New Administrative Position**](https://patch.com/ohio/shakerheights/unified-curriculum-shaker-schools-leads-new-administrative-position) **Shaker Heights Patch**

[**Westlake Tech Students Win Tons Of Awards**](https://patch.com/ohio/westlake/westlake-tech-students-win-tons-awards) **Westlake Patch**

***Lake County***

[**Willoughby South High School to replace Rebel mascot**](http://www.news-herald.com/sports/20170817/willoughby-south-high-school-holds-press-conference-to-replace-rebel-mascot) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**Elyria stadium and new schools plans presented**](http://www.chroniclet.com/Local-News/2017/08/17/Elyria-Schools-presents-visions-of-future.html) **The Chronicle**

[**Lorain teachers share excitement at start of 2017-18 school year**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20170821/lorain-teachers-share-excitement-at-start-of-2017-18-school-year) **Lorain Morning Journal**

[**Lorain Schools: Working together in different ways on shared goals**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20170823/lorain-schools-working-together-in-different-ways-on-shared-goals) **Lorain Morning Journal**

[**LOCAL NEWS Lorain Schools CEO search company stands firm**](http://www.chroniclet.com/Local-News/2017/08/18/Lorain-Schools-CEO-search-company-stands-firm.html) **The Chronicle**

***Medina County***

[**School bond issues dominate Medina County ballot for November General Election**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2017/08/school_bond_issues_dominate_me.html) **Medina Community Blog**

***Portage County***

[**News from Crestwood Schools**](http://weeklyvillager.com/news-crestwood-schools/) **Weekly Villager**

***Summit County***

[**Stow-Munroe Falls schools rent air-conditioning units to keep students cool**](https://www.ohio.com/akron/news/local/stow-munroe-falls-schools-rent-air-conditioning-units-to-keep-students-cool) **Akron Beacon Journal**

[**Copley-Fairlawn board prepares for new school year**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=35109) **Akron.Com**

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