

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of January 26, 2015**

**Featured News**

[**Gov. John Kasich's budget to push reforms with a dose of personal responsibility: welfare to work**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/gov_john_kasichs_budget_to_pus.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

Gov. John Kasich hasn't unveiled his budget proposal yet, but he has signaled clearly that it will recommend significant reforms in how the state delivers public assistance to try to make the programs more user friendly, more effective and perhaps cheaper to run. The end game? To help people in the short term and get them back to work and self-sufficiency.

[**Ohio legislative Democrats' budget priorities include more cash for schools, local governments**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/ohio_legislative_democrats_budget_priorities_include_more_cash_for_schools_local_governments.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Ohio House Democrats said Tuesday they will resist income-tax cuts, seek more money for local governments and push school funding reform during the upcoming legislative budget fight. However, Democratic lawmakers were light on specifics, saying at a Statehouse news conference that they want to wait for Gov. John Kasich to unveil his two-year budget proposal next week.

[**Kasich Unveils Human Service Proposals for FY16-17**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198667) **Hannah**

Gov. John Kasich began the process of unveiling parts of his proposed FY16-17 budget Thursday in an address before the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA). Refusing to read from scripted talking points, the governor began by telling the crowd, which gave him a standing ovation, that he has spent some time lately "wondering what happened to John Kasich." Yet, as he has done fairly often lately, he pondered his upbringing and the influence his parents had on his "intensity" to "help the people in shadows."

[**Kasich plans tax cuts, more aid to poor in upcoming budget**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/29/gov-john-kasich-talks-budget.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Ohioans will see a half-billion-dollar tax cut proposed when Gov. John Kasich unveils his two-year state budget proposal on Monday. The Republican governor rolled out the first piece of his plan yesterday: eliminating state income taxes for 1 million small businesses, spurring them to reinvest and possibly create jobs, while also reducing income taxes for 3 million low-income and middle-class families. And he wants the working poor to hang onto some state-subsidized child-care benefits longer instead of having them completely cut off as families make more money.

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

[**Budget Preview: What Will the President's Spending Request Look Like?**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/01/budget_preview_what_will_the_p.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Get excited, Politics K-12 readers, because Monday is Budget Day! That means we'll be running the numbers on President Barack Obama's fiscal 2016 budget request, otherwise known as the administration's wish list for federal spending. And from what we know so far, the forthcoming wish list is going to include lots of education proposals that probably won't go anywhere.

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

[**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: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

***Senate***

*No legislation has been introduced.*

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Northeast Ohio senators named to committee leadership posts**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/northeast_ohio_senators_named.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

A few Northeast Ohio lawmakers will serve in leadership positions on Senate committees during the 2015-16 two-year legislative session. Senate Republicans on Friday announced assignments for standing committees as well as a handful of panels that will work through pieces of the state's two-year budget. Sen. Gayle Manning, a North Ridgeville Republican, will serve another term chairing the Senate Transportation Committee. Sen. Tom Patton, a Strongsville Republican, will serve as vice chair.

[**Tentative Schedule for Budget Bill Targets House Floor for April 22 or April 23**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198634) **Hannah**

At the first meeting of the House Finance Committee Tuesday, a tentative schedule was released for the committee's and its subcommittees' deliberations on the FY16-17 budget. The budget is due to the Legislature on Monday, Feb. 2. There are three budgets that will be acted on: the main operating budget, the transportation budget, and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation/Ohio Industrial Commission budgets. The schedule shows the House voting on the operating budget on Wednesday or Thursday, April 22 or April 23.

[**House GOP Introduces Priority Legislation**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198651) **Hannah**

The Ohio House Republican caucus launched their first set of bills on Wednesday, saying their focus is on four areas that they believe will improve the state in the next six years, part of what Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) calls “Ohio 2020.” Rosenberger said he sees the initiative as having four pillars to build on for the future: energy, education, competitiveness and health care. He also said that the House will be an institution that leads on many of these issues. Among the priorities are a grant program tied into workforce development, improving the use of Naloxone for heroin overdoses, and charter school reform.

[**Senate Majority Unveils Priorities for 131st General Assembly**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198652) **Hannah**

While legislation will not be introduced until next week, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina), flanked by most members of his caucus, Wednesday unveiled the caucus priorities for the 131st General Assembly. With "opportunity" as the overall theme, the top 10 areas they will tackle include the following.

[**House Education Kicks Off with Regulatory Review by Charter Alliance**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198655) **Hannah**

With charter school reform among top House priorities, the House Education Committee dedicated its first meeting of the session Wednesday to an overview of charter rules and laws from the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Darlene Chambers, head of the OAPCS, said she wanted to "clear the air" of misperceptions about charter schools and the way they're run and overseen in Ohio. "In the charter world, there's a bargain, autonomy for accountability," she said.

[**Charter schools, student grants on Ohio House GOP's to-do list**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/charter_schools_student_grants.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Ohio House Republicans on Wednesday unveiled some of their top-priority bills for this year, including measures to increase charter school accountability and pay students to train for in-demand jobs. At a Statehouse news conference, House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, a Clinton County Republican, said the House GOP will focus particularly on economic competitiveness, energy, education, and health issues. Most committees will start hearings next week, after Gov. John Kasich unveils his two-year budget plan.

[**GOP plan would increase accountability for Ohio charter schools**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/28/republican-charter-school-law.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Majority Republicans in the General Assembly pledged yesterday to change Ohio charter-school law to make the privately operated, tax-funded schools more transparent and accountable. Gov. John Kasich also is expected to address what charter-school supporters and critics alike say is lax state oversight in the two-year state budget proposal he will unveil Monday.

[**Chancellor: College Affordability to be Addressed in Governor’s Budget**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198671) **Hannah**

Previewing the rollout of Gov. John Kasich’s budget next week without tipping his hand, Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey said Thursday that making college more affordable will be a key feature. He said that Ohio has been 49th out of 50 in terms of tuition increases in the last five years, and credit should be given to colleges and universities for keeping costs down. But he said that if the state wants to move forward and be stronger, then it needs to become more efficient in the way higher education dollars are spent now.

[**Charter school bill is just "tweaking" and "window dressing" that ducks real issues, says key Democrat in Ohio House**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/charter_bill_is_just_tweaking.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The new House Bill 2 is just window dressing and a distraction while the core issues with charter schools in Ohio aren't touched, [State Rep. Teresa Fedor](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/teresa-fedor) said today. Fedor, the ranking Democrat on the House Education Committee, said the bill isn't the major charter school [reform bill it's being trumpeted as](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/charter_school_supporters_say.html). Instead, she said, House Republicans are avoiding taking on tough issues because many receive  [significant campaign donations from charter management companies,](http://blog.cleveland.com/openers/2008/04/give.html) like White Hat Management of Akron.

[**John Kasich's new coordinated welfare approach to start with teens, young adults**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/01/john_kasichs_new_coordinated_w.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

Gov. John Kasich will propose new approaches for Ohio's welfare programs in the budget he unveils Monday, targeting teens and young adults as part of an effort to intervene at an early age to stop poverty. The changes would require individual counties, which administer the assistance programs across the state, to designate a lead entity that will be responsible for coordinating help -- assistance programs and job training efforts -- and matching them to clients.

[**What's in the new House charter school bill?**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/whats_in_the_new_house_charter.html#incart_river)  **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The new House Bill 2, [introduced Wednesday as a charter "reform" bill](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/charter_school_supporters_say.html), has several detailed changes in how the charter schools are managed and operated, as well as how finances are to be reported. We discussed the bill with [State Rep. Kristina Roegner](http://www.ohiohouse.gov/kristina-roegner), a Hudson Republican, who is co-sponsoring it. To understand the proposed changes, remember how charter school management is organized in Ohio. Sponsors, known as authorizers in most states, help charter schools start and then oversee them. Sponsors have primary responsibility for policing schools to make sure they meet standards.

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

[**Ohio Education Department Considers Dayton Schools 'At Risk'**](http://wyso.org/post/ohio-education-department-considers-dayton-schools-risk)  **WYSO**

An Ohio Department of Education district review team is in Dayton this week because its schools are considered “at risk.” The Ohio Department of Education has sent a review team to Dayton schools this week as part of an early intervention tool for the troubled district. The visit to Dayton Public Schools is part of a new early intervention effort from the state. The week-long visit is the first step for troubled districts to address their problems with help from the state. DPS ranked second lowest in the state for student performance in the most recent report card. Dayton is serving as the guinea pig for this process.

[**ODE Hit with Justice Department Complaint on Behalf of Spanish-Speaking Students**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198639) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and several leading school districts around the state face a new complaint alleging multiple violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004, and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The complaint says Spanish-speaking families with limited English are being denied equal access to education and student information, including special needs children and students with other disabilities.

[**ODE Previews PARCC Tests, Convenes Standards Review Panels**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198640) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education previewed Tuesday the ins and outs of assessments tied to new academic standards, while also convening for the first time a group of experts assigned to review those standards. Lawmakers created academic standards review committees in 130-HB487, the K-12 education piece of the mid-biennium review, to determine if the standards are clear, age appropriate and promote higher student achievement, among other criteria. The four committees -- one each for math, science, social studies and English language arts -- are made up of subject-matter experts, teachers, parents and state officials.

[**Ross Presents ODE's Report on Testing to Senate Education Committee**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198666) **Hannah**

The Senate Education Committee kicked off its deliberations for 2015 hearing from State Superintendent of Education Richard Ross on the results of the Department of Education's (ODE) report and recommendations around testing in the schools -- a report mandated under the education Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) bill 130-HB487. After providing an overview of testing in the state, Ross identified the following steps the department will take to reduce "the testing burden on students," to improve testing efficiency and maintain accountability systems that ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

[**Ohio lawmakers welcome superintendent’s plan to trim standardized testing**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/28/state-lawmakers-hear-plan-to-reduce-testing.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Lawmakers heard State schools Superintendent Richard A. Ross’ recommendations on cutting the time students spend taking standardized tests and said they will look to expand on them. “It’s a good set of recommendations,” Sen. Peggy Lehner, R-Centerville and chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee, said, “I think that we may be adding on to some of the recommendations. I see us expanding them as opposed to throwing any of them away. I think the ones that are out there are solid.”

**Early Learning**

[**Child-care bills rival mortgage**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/25/child-care-bills-rival-mortgage.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Like many other young families nationwide, the Vargos are trying to balance work and parenthood with household budgets and monthly child-care payments that rival mortgage payments. So when President Barack Obama addressed the affordability of child care in his State of the Union speech last week — one local child advocate counted eight references — the Vargos welcomed the recognition, even as they know that Obama’s proposals for assistance likely will face resistance.

[**Pre-K Movement Heats Up in States With Small State Programs, or None**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2015/01/preschool_movement_heats_up_even_in_states_with_small_or_no_preschool_programs.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=earlyyears) **Education Week**

The past few weeks have seen an uptick in preschool activists making themselves known in some states that have typically had small (or no) state preschool programs. A couple in Nebraska, Ron and Cille Williams, donated $2 million to Ron's alma mater, the University of Nebraska, to establish two permanently endowed funds for early education.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

[**What happens when the Common Core becomes less ... common?**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/what-happens-when-the-common-core-becomes-less--common/2015/01/25/33b8eb58-a2bf-11e4-b146-577832eafcb4_story.html) **Washington Post**

The Common Core State Standards were envisioned as a way to measure most of the nation’s students against a shared benchmark, but education experts say political upheaval and the messy reality of on-the-ground implementation is threatening that original goal.

[**Kasich calls out Common Core opponents**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2015/01/26/kasich-common-core-federally-driven/22354821/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Gov. John Kasich on Sunday defended Common Core with some of his most direct language to date, saying the only people opposed to the educational standards are "running for something." "The Common Core was written by state education superintendents and local principals," Kasich said on Sunday's Fox News Sunday. "It is local school boards driving better education, higher standards, created by local school boards. I've asked the Republican governors that have complained about this to tell me where I'm wrong. And guess what, silence."

[**Ohio K-12 students to take new tests in 3 weeks**](http://www.mydaytondailynews.com/news/news/local/ohio-k-12-students-to-take-new-tests-in-3-weeks/njx4R/) **Dayton Daily News**

Ohio students will enter a brave new world of school testing in three weeks, with state exams that feature a longer, two-part structure, will be taken largely online for the first time, and will measure the ability to apply concepts more than memorize.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Cuyahoga Community College to provide "tuition reward" to full-time students**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/cuyahoga_community_college_to_4.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[Cuyahoga Community College](http://www.tri-c.edu/) proposes to offer a "tuition reward" to students who take more than 12 credit hours a semester. Students taking at least 15 credit hours would receive a credit equal to 50 percent of tuition for all successfully completed credit hours over 12 credit hours. Accumulated credits would be redeemable the following semester. A student would earn $52.27 per eligible credit hour at the current tuition rate, or $156.81 for completing 15 credit hours, considered a full course load.

[**Kasich Administration Outlines Higher Ed Initiatives**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198701) **Hannah**

The Kasich administration Friday rolled out the initiatives expected to be part of the governor’s budget when he announces it on Monday, including more ways for high school students to earn college credit, the use of campuses for lower income students in the summer, and using the Ohio College Opportunity Grant to fill in gaps in the federal Pell Grant. The announcement came during a joint appearance by Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and Chancellor of the Board of Regents John Carey at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. One proposal will convene Ohio college and university presidents again to help develop a model in which students can receive competency-based credit for a limited number of courses based on their demonstrated competencies rather than the amount of time spent in the classroom.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Beachwood schools may ask for two property tax increases (photo gallery)**](http://www.cleveland.com/beachwood/index.ssf/2015/01/beachwood_schools_may_ask_for.html)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Brecksville-Broadview Heights school board approves transportation reimbursement, recognizes retiring faculty member**](http://www.cleveland.com/brecksville/index.ssf/2015/01/post_11.html) **Sun News**

[**Community gets look at Euclid Schools' Kindergarten Village plan**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150129/community-gets-look-at-euclid-schools-kindergarten-village-plan) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Fairview Park school board to make interim Superintendent Bill Wagner permanent**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2015/01/fairview_park_school_board_pla.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted school board drops National School Boards Association membership to save $4,100**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2015/01/north_olmsted_school_board_dro.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Shaker Heights Middle School may increase class time**](http://www.cleveland.com/shaker-heights/index.ssf/2015/01/post_34.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Westlake Superintendent addresses "State of the Schools" (live coverage)**](http://www.cleveland.com/westlake/index.ssf/2015/01/westlake_superintendent_addres.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Westlake High School rolls out International Baccalaureate program with Rocky River, Berea, Avon Lake schools**](http://www.cleveland.com/westlake/index.ssf/2015/01/westlake_high_school_rolls_out.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Westlake voters to decide on new 1-mill school property tax**](http://www.cleveland.com/westlake/index.ssf/2015/01/westlake_voters_to_decide_on_n.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Geauga County***

[**West Geauga Schools narrows superintendent search to 3 finalists**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150124/west-geauga-schools-narrows-superintendent-search-to-3-finalists) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Consolidated school raises question for complex**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150127/consolidated-school-raises-question-for-complex) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Unanimous votes clear path for Berkshire, Ledgemont merger**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150127/unanimous-votes-clear-path-for-berkshire-ledgemont-merger) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lake County***

[**Perry High School advises middle school students on career paths**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150125/perry-high-school-advises-middle-school-students-on-career-paths) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**State delivers mid-year review to Lorain City Schools**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150128/state-delivers-mid-year-review-to-lorain-city-schools) **The Morning Journal**

[**Lorain schools looking to make changes to embrace diverse student population**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150129/lorain-schools-looking-to-make-changes-to-embrace-diverse-student-population) **Lorain Morning Journal**

[**Sheffield-Sheffield Lake Schools OKs levy on May ballot**](http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2015/01/28/sheffield-schools-oks-levy-may-ballot/) **Chronicle Telegram**

***Medina County***

[**Cloverleaf exits fiscal distress, maintains levy promises**](http://www.ohio.com/news/local/cloverleaf-exits-fiscal-distress-maintains-levy-promises-1.561994)  **Akron Beacon Journal**

[**Highland schools news: kindergarten registration, basketball title, science museum, Character Card winners, bus drivers needed**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2015/01/highland_schools_news_kinderga.html) **Sun News**

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