

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of February 16, 2015**

**Featured News**

[**Kasich suggests school districts use cash reserves to offset budget cuts**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/15/too-much-savings.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Gov. John Kasich said Ohio school districts slated to lose revenue under his budget proposal have another pot of money to help offset the loss — their cash reserves. School leaders are troubled by that suggestion, saying that immediate cash-balance figures don’t represent a district’s long-term financial situation.

[**Legislators will change Gov. Kasich’s school-funding plan**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/20/legislators-will-change-gov--kasichs-school-funding-plan.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Legislators are going to change Gov. John Kasich’s proposed school-funding plan. The only question is how. House Republicans have turned to a soft-spoken veteran legislator and former Supreme Court justice to take the lead in deciding which levers to pull inside a complex proposal that would spend an additional $459 million over two years but leave more than half of all school districts with a funding cut.

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

[**National Teachers' Unions Step Up Lobbying Efforts on NCLB Rewrite**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/02/national_teachers_unions_step_.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Just because members of Congress are back in their home states and districts during this weeklong legislative recess doesn't mean they aren't thinking about the No Child Left Behind Act they are working to overhaul. In fact, if the two national teachers' unions have their way, it will be one of the only things they think about all week.

[**The Twists and Turns of Arne Duncan's Testing Talk**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/02/the_twists_and_turns_of_arne_d.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan—and President Barack Obama—have been fine-tuning their case against a Republican bill to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act that's slated to pass the U.S. House of Representatives next week. One of their big beefs with the legislation? It doesn't include any language to cut back on testing. The difficulty is ... Duncan is also one of the loudest voices clamoring in favor of keeping NCLB's testing schedule, which calls for statewide assessments in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school.

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

**131st General Assembly**

***Introduced***

[**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: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

[**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: Introduced**

***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) Referred to Senate 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: 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: Introduced**

[**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: 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: Introduced**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Kasich targets Ohio charter sponsors for reform**](http://www.newarkadvocate.com/story/news/local/2015/02/14/kasich-targets-ohio-charter-sponsors-reform/23436511/) **Newark Advocate**

Ohio’s charter schools are in for some stark reforms after the governor, state auditor and numerous legislators have drawn attention to the need. And it looks like the sponsors of the schools — or authorizers — will face the brunt of that reform. In rolling out his budget proposal, Gov. John Kasich said he wanted to cut off failing school sponsors and make it easier for good sponsors to succeed.

[**Bill frees students from Common Core results**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2015/02/11/bill-frees-students-common-core-results/23258033/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

The Ohio House on Wednesday approved a bill that would prohibit schools from retaining students based on the new Common Core-based standardized tests this year. House Bill 7, sponsored by Rep. Jim Buchy, R-Greenville, also prohibits schools from sharing individual test scores with outside sources. Critics of the Common Core standards have expressed concerns over privacy of test scores.

[**Ohio's education spending debated**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/15/education-spending-debated.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

As a percentage of the state general revenue fund budget, Ohio would spend less on education in 2017 than at any other point since 1995 — but some question whether that number has much meaning. In the debate over Gov. John Kasich’s proposed two-year, $72.3 billion spending plan, some Democrats and progressive groups have raised concern about how the budget breaks down on a percentage basis.

[**Gov. Kasich's budget would send nearly $1 billion to charter schools: How is your district affected? (chart)**](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#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Charter school funding in Ohio will creep to nearly $1 billion a year, under [Gov. John Kasich's schools budget](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasich_announces_700_million_increase_in_state_aid_to_school_change_in_aid_formula_based_on_local_tax_capacity.html), estimates released today show. If more students decide to attend charters next school year, that $990 million total could top the billion dollar mark. Estimates by the [Legislative Service Commission](http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/), the non-partisan research arm of state government, also showed other key details today of how charter funding would change if Kasich's plan is approved by the legislature.

[**Kasich budget plan increases funding to all charter schools**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/18/kasich-budget-plan-increases-funding-to-all-charter-schools.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Charter-school funding in Ohio could exceed $1 billion by 2017 under Gov. John Kasich’s proposed two-year budget, which provides increases to every school. About half of traditional public schools would see funding cuts over the next two years under Kasich’s education funding plan, though it spends $459 million more. The non-partisan Legislative Service Commission calculated that charter-school funding will rise 5.4 percent over two years, with no schools facing a cut.

[**Kasich: Common Core opposition a runaway campaign**](http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/02/19/kasich-common-core-opposition-runaway-campaign/23694935/) **Lancaster Eagle Gazette**

Gov. John Kasich called opposition to Common Core "a runaway Internet campaign," reaffirming his support for the educational standards on a trip to South Carolina, as Ohio students began taking tests based on them this week. After Kasich pitched a federal balanced-budget proposal Thursday — the official purpose of his trip — he was asked: "Why are candidates like you and Jeb Bush running away from the Common Core, your past support of the Common Core standards?"

[**Public colleges would reduce tuition by 5 percent under proposed legislation**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/public_colleges_would_have_to.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

As officials at Ohio's public universities breathed a sigh of relief that Gov. John Kasich's proposed budget would give them more money, they were taken aback by a proposal requiring them to reduce tuition by 5 percent in 2016. "Since higher education is rapidly pricing itself out of the marketplace for the average Ohioan, the conversation can no longer be centered on how much of a tuition freeze or increase the General Assembly will allow every year, but by how much we will reduce tuition for students," state Senate President Keith Faber, a Celina Republican, testified before the Senate Finance Committee this week.

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

[**ODE Outlines Consequences of Students' Not Taking State Tests**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198846) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently issued a guidance regarding state tests, explaining that there is "no law that allows a parent or student to opt out of state testing and there is no state test opt-out procedure or form." The department goes on to say, "... there may be consequences for the child, the child’s teacher, and the school and district ... [i]f a parent withdraws his or her child’s participation in certain state tests." Recent testimony in the Senate Education Committee from school superintendents indicated that they are seeing an increase in the number of parents submitting "official opt-out" forms for the state tests. According to the department, "Federal and state laws require all districts and schools to test all students in specific grades and courses."

[**Ohio students to be the first to take Common Core tests**](http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150216/NEWS/150219477/10971/NEWS) **Canton Repository**

Her state on Tuesday will be the first to administer one of two tests in English language arts and math based on the Common Core standards developed by two separate groups of states. By the end of the school year, about 12 million children in 29 states and the District of Columbia will take them, using computers or electronic tablets. The exams are expected to be more difficult than the traditional spring standardized state exams they replace. In some states, they’ll require hours of additional testing time because students will have to do more than just fill in the bubble. The goal is to test students on critical thinking skills, requiring them to describe their reasoning and solve problems.

[**About 100,000 Ohio kids have tried the new Common Core exams this week, with mixed reviews**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/about_100000_ohio_kids_have_tried_the_new_common_core_exams_this_week_with_mixed_reviews.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

About 100,000 students have started taking [new online Common Core exams](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/new_common_core_tests_-_coming.html) so far in Ohio, with more taking them with pencil and paper this first week. The exact number is not available yet from Ohio's testing consortium, the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).](http://www.parcconline.org/) But PARCC spokesman David Connerty-Marin said students have started 106,000 math and English exams online and he doubts that many students will have taken both in the first three days of testing. Districts have reported some technical issues and frustrations. Reaction has ranged from anger to just accepting them as glitches that come with any new test.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Community College Completion Rates Dropping in Most States, Finds Survey**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/02/report_shows_community_college_completion_dropping_in_most_states.html) **Education Week**

On the heels of President Obama's proposal to provide free community college tuition, a new report shows that while degree and certificate productivity has increased among community colleges in the past decade, there was a drop in completion last year in most states. Of the 42 state directors of community colleges who responded to a survey by the Education Policy Center at the University of Alabama, 22 reported flat to declining rates of degree completion between the academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

[**More turn to community colleges as costs rise**](http://www.mydaytondailynews.com/news/news/local-education/more-turn-to-community-colleges-as-costs-rise/nkBZg/) **Dayton Daily News**

Thirty percent of all job openings in the United States by 2020 will require at least an associate’s degree from community and technical colleges, White House officials have projected. But the debate is heating up on how to help students afford those degrees.

[**Finding the Right Formula**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/02/12/report-seeks-add-specificity-debate-over-states-performance-based-funding-models) **Inside Higher Ed**

Performance-based funding in higher education is spreading, with 35 states either developing or using formulas that link support for public colleges to student completion rates, degree production numbers or other metrics. The resulting debate over whether performance funding works is heating up, too. But a new report from HCM Strategists makes the case that there is great variation among the policies in those 35 states. It seeks to classify four types of formulas to help inform policy makers, researchers and higher education officials.

[**Courses for credit blur lines of high school, college**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/education/collegeconnection/2015/02/11/courses-credit-blur-lines-high-school-college/70134404/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Now, a new Ohio mandate will require that all high schools offer similar college credit courses for the 2015-16 school year called the College Credit Plus program. Oftentimes students get both high school and college credit for their efforts. They can take classes at nearby colleges or universities, through college or AP classes taught in their high school, or even online.

[**Revised dual credit program aims to make Ohio students college, career ready**](http://blog.cleveland.com/_cuyahoga_community_college/2015/02/revised_dual_credit_program_ai.html)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

For many years motivated students in Ohio could take certain college courses, often at no cost, and earn credit that appears both on college and high school transcripts. Changes to the state's dual-enrollment program, however, aim to broaden its reach. Beginning this spring, public K-12 school districts must publicize dual enrollment classes in their course guides and promote [College Credit Plus (CCP),](http://ow.ly/HQNCJ) the new name for Ohio's dual enrollment system, on their websites. Middle and high school students will be able to enroll in dual credit courses under the admission standards for the college where they are earning credit, instead of having to meet minimum GPA requirements as the former system required.

**Early Learning**

[**Report: States Increase Preschool Funding Again in 2014-15 Budgets**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2015/02/report_states_increase_preschool_funding_again_in_2014-15_budgets.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=earlyyears) **Education Week**

State funding for preschool has increased by 12 percent, or $672 million, since the 2013-2014 school year, according to a report by the Colorado-based state policy think tank, Education Commission of the States. This year's increase builds on a 6.9 percent funding increases from 2012-13 to 2013-14, according to commission's annual report, released in January. Twenty-eight of the 44 states and the District of Columbia which provide public preschool funding increased their investments. Funding remained flat in 11 states, and five states—Nevada, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida and Maine—reduced funding.

**Technology**

[**Schools Weigh Access to Students' Social-Media Passwords**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/02/18/schools-weigh-access-to-students-social-media.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1) **Education Week**

State lawmakers and school district officials are again wrestling with questions about schools' authority to access and monitor students' social-media accounts. But their attempts to proactively address such issues as cyberbullying and student safety have been more likely to result in controversy and complaints than any clear resolution.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Markwardt named superintendent of West Geauga schools**](http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local/article_0af134a6-b844-11e4-abff-e357de5895fc.html) **Cleveland Jewish News**

[**Brooklyn schools search for a new superintendent to replace Cynthia Walker**](http://www.cleveland.com/brooklyn/index.ssf/2015/02/brooklyn_schools_search_for_a.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Chagrin Falls schools to see 32 percent cut in state money; board says cuts could kill new building plans**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-falls/index.ssf/2015/02/chagrin_falls_schools_to_see_3.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Lakewood to sell former McKinley school to townhouse developer for $500,000 (renderings)**](http://www.cleveland.com/lakewood/index.ssf/2015/02/lakewood_approves_sale_of_form.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Parma schools could get $6 million more under Gov. Kasich's plan; Brooklyn, Independence could lose money**](http://www.cleveland.com/parma/index.ssf/2015/02/parma_schools_could_get_6_mill.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Geauga County***

[**Cardinal Schools autism program chosen for national training video**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150217/cardinal-schools-autism-program-chosen-for-national-training-video) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**The consolidation study of four Geauga high schools could be a role model for others: editorial**](http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/02/the_consolidation_study_of_fou.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**West Geauga Schools Pick New Leader**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150217/west-geauga-schools-picks-new-leader) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**Lorain schools releases operations statistics**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150216/lorain-schools-releases-operations-statistics) **The Morning Journal**

[**Common Core tests start in Lorain County; some students 'opt out'**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150219/common-core-tests-start-in-lorain-county-some-students-opt-out) **The Morning Journal**

***Medina County***

[**Contract penned for Medina Schools support staff**](http://medinagazette.northcoastnow.com/2015/02/19/contract-penned-medina-schools-support-staff/) **Medina County Gazette**

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***Portage County***

[**Waterloo superintendent will leave in June**](http://www.recordpub.com/news%20local/2015/02/17/waterloo-superintendent-will-leave-in-june) **Record Courier**

[**Kindergarten sign-up set in Ravenna**](http://www.recordpub.com/news%20local/2015/02/20/kindergarten-sign-up-set-in-ravenna) **Record Courier**

***Summit County***

[**Revere board names new superintendent**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=25750) **Akron Leader Publications**

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