

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of March 9, 2015**

**Featured News**

[**Bill protecting Ohio students from impacts of testing advances**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150310/bill-protecting-ohio-students-from-impacts-of-testing-advances) **Willoughby News-Herald**

A bill protecting students from the academic impacts of Ohio’s new proficiency tests is headed toward the expected signature of Gov. John Kasich. The measure cleared its final legislative hurdle Tuesday with unanimous Ohio House concurrence. It prohibits the state from using results of tests being rolled out this year from determining a student’s academic advancement to the next grade, except where it relates to the state’s third-grade reading guarantee.

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

[**"Student Aid Bill of Rights" unveiled by President Barack Obama to help with student loans**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/student_aid_bill_of_rights_to.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

President Barack Obama unveiled Tuesday a "[Student Aid Bill of Rights"](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/10/fact-sheet-student-aid-bill-rights-taking-action-ensure-strong-consumer-) designed to help students obtain and repay college loans. The president will order the Department of Education and other federal agencies to do more to help borrowers afford their monthly loan payments, according to White House release. The release cites a state-of-the-art complaint system to ensure service and accountability for the Department of Education, its contractors, and colleges; steps to help students repay loans including setting affordable monthly payments, and new ways to analyze student debt trends and recommend legislative and regulatory changes.

**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: House Concurs in Senate Amendments; Passed EMERGENCY: 84-0; Passed BILL: 90-0**

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Finance Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Passed House 96-0**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

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

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

[**HB85**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-85)CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (Rep. Dan Ramos, Rep. Christina Hagan) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention

**STATUS: Introduced**

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB118**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-HB-118) **TUITION FEES** (DeVitis, T., Patmon, B.) With respect to tuition overload fees at state institutions of higher education.

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB120**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-HB-120) **HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS** (Schuring, K.) To create the Ohio Higher Education Innovation Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

**STATUS: Introduced**

***Senate***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[**SB22**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-22)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND-ALLOCATION INCREASE (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the GRF each month

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB73**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-73)MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branches to comply with minority business enterprise set-aside requirements, and to require the Director of Administrative Services to establish guidelines for these entities, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, to establish procurement goals for contracting with EDGE business enterprises

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB85**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-85)PROPERTY-TAX COMPLAINTS (Sen. William Coley) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located

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

[**SB92**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-92)SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To require the State Board of Education to establish criteria and procedures for the awarding of school safety funds to school districts and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Medicaid Committee**

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

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

[**SB121**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-121) **IMMUNIZATIONS** (Hite, C.) To require pupils to be immunized against meningococcal disease at an age recommended by the Department of Health.

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB122**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-122) **HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION** (Gentile, L.) To extend eligibility for the homestead exemption to elderly or disabled homeowners who did not receive the exemption for 2013 and have $30,000 or more in Ohio adjusted gross income.

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB125**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-125) **SCHOOL BARRICADES** (LaRose, F., Hottinger, J.) To require the Board of Building Standards to adopt rules for the use of a barricade device on a school door in an emergency situation and to prohibit the State Fire Code from prohibiting the use of the device in such a situation.

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB126**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-126) **OPEN ENROLLMENT** (Sawyer, T.) To terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings.

**STATUS: Introduced**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Amendment Volume Slows Action on House Charter School Bill**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199067) **Hannah**

The House Education Committee is backing off plans to finish work on a high-profile charter school oversight bill this week because of the sheer number of proposed amendments. The panel got yet more suggestions for changes to HB2 (Dovilla-Roegner) from a handful of witnesses Monday at its first of two hearings scheduled for this week. Rep. Bill Hayes (R-Granville), the committee chairman, said last week he'd hoped to adopt a substitute bill or omnibus amendment Monday ahead of a committee vote Wednesday. Now he's hoping to take action next week, but said he won't promise anything given the amount of work. The committee heard testimony Monday from Dennis Hetzel of the Ohio Newspaper Association; Darold Johnson of the Ohio Federation of Teachers; Richard Varrati of Quaker Digital Academy; William Phillis of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding; and Stephen Dyer of Innovation Ohio.

[**Teachers Bring Testing Concerns to Senate Hearing**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199068) **Hannah**

After a couple sessions with school administrators in recent weeks, the Senate Education Committee turned to teachers Tuesday for their input on the state of assessments and the recent recommendations of Superintendent Richard Ross. Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), chairwoman of the committee, noted at the outset the creation of the Senate's new advisory committee on testing, which she said will meet for the first time next week. Becky Higgins, president of the Ohio Education Association (OEA), said testing and associated preparation time are eating into instructional time too much. She repeated a prior call for the current one-year moratorium on using test results for high-stakes decisions to be extended to three years while problems are addressed. And she questioned the overall value of using test data for such decisions, saying its best used for purposes like informing instruction.

[**Kasich gets bill limiting impact of student testing**](http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150310/NEWS/150319952/10971/NEWS) **Canton Repository**

A bill protecting students from the academic impacts of Ohio’s new proficiency tests has cleared the Legislature and is on its way to the governor. The bill cleared its final legislative hurdle with unanimous Ohio House concurrence Tuesday .It prohibits the state from using results of tests being rolled out this year from determining a student’s academic advancement to the next grade, except where it relates to the state’s third-grade reading guarantee.

[**Legislation could address Ohio's school barricade issue**](http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/state/2015/03/11/legislation-address-ohios-school-barricade-issue/70155468/) **Mansfield News Journal**

A proposed bill could end the controversy over classroom barricades and allow their use by districts to protect students from intruders. State Senators Jay Hottinger, R-Newark, and Frank LaRose, R-Copley, intend to introduce legislation directing the state to implement rules permitting the use of the devices on classroom doors.

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

[**State promises no funding cuts for Common Core opt-outs**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/05/state-promises-funding-cuts-common-core-opt-outs/24395245/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Parents opting out of Common Core-based testing got some good news this week: One: It won't mean a cut in state funding. And two: It won't impact grades, promotion or school-choice vouchers. Technically, state law prohibits the Ohio Department of Education from paying for students who didn't take a state test the previous school year, according to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Richard Ross.

[**SBOE Briefed on Proposed Budget, Foundation Funding Changes**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199054) **Hannah**

Aaron Rausch, director of the Office of Budget and School Funding for the Ohio Department of Education, Monday afternoon walked the State Board of Education (SBOE) through an overview of the school foundation program, explaining how the system currently operates and how HB64 (R. Smith) proposes to change school funding in FY16-17. He explained that the state's school funding formula is "centered on the needs of students." As such, Rausch noted, if the student is economically disadvantaged, has special education needs or rides the bus to school, "additional funding is provided." In fact, besides those three categories, there are six other primary aid categories in the current formula.

[**School Board Committees Discuss Testing Re-Takes, ITC Rules, Charter Oversight**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199055) **Hannah**

A State Board of Education committee voted Monday to recommend letting a student's test re-takes reflect positively on a district's report card if the student fell short of proficiency the first time. Another board panel discussed new rules that would affect schools' contracts with Information Technology Centers (ITCs.) The board's Accountability Committee voted Monday to recommend allowing calculation of district report card indicators to include assessment re-takes in circumstances where students hadn't achieved a proficient score on earlier administrations of the assessment. Board President Tom Gunlock said he wanted to discourage situations where students who'd already achieved proficient were pressured by school administrators seeking better report card ratings to re-take a test to achieve a higher score.

[**Families will have grades from Ohio's new state tests in late fall, December**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/grading_decisions_on_ohios_new.html) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

High school students will find out how they did on the new [Common Core](http://www.corestandards.org/) tests from PARCC and on Ohio's other new state tests by October or November, state testing director Jim Wright said Tuesday. Scores and grades for students in grades three through eight should be available for parents in December.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

[**Why Schools Need More 'Hybrid' Teaching Roles**](http://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2015/02/18/why-schools-need-more-hybrid-teaching-roles.html?cmp=ENL-TU-NEWS1) **Education Week**

For the first 10 years of my education career, I served as a full-time middle and high school language arts teacher. The work was always challenging, it was usually rewarding, and it kept me on my toes. Over the years, I got involved in site-cased decision-making committees and served as a union representative, a PLC facilitator, and other traditional leadership roles.

[**Fewer Girls at Top and Bottom of STEM Performance, OECD Finds**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2015/03/fewer_girls_at_top_and_bottom_.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=insideschoolresearch) **Education Week**

Fifteen-year-old girls are more likely to be proficient in reading, mathematics, and science than their male peers, according to a new analysis of international test data by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. But among top-performing students, girls do worse than boys in math and science.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Legislator proposes student incentives for in-demand jobs**](http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150307/NEWS/150309444/1994/NEWS) **Canton Repository**

A bill proposed in the Ohio House of Representatives, however, aims to reward students at higher education institutions who are pursuing the jobs most-needed in Ohio. The legislation — which both Stark State College and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges are backing — would give scholarships to students who are taking courses to prepare for in-demand jobs. The goal is to match students, many of whom have accrued debt while earning their credentials, with employers who are seeking a skilled workforce.

[**Distance Ed Myths Debunked**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/03/05/analysis-distance-education-enrollments-challenges-myths-about-medium) **Inside Higher Ed**

In fall 2013, one in every eight students enrolled at colleges and universities in the U.S. studied exclusively online. One in every four students took at least one online course. Those and other findings, released this week in a three-part analysis by the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), suggest distance education is more pervasive in higher education than previously imagined, and may help debunk some of the common myths surrounding the medium. While other reports have noted that distance education in fall 2013 posted its smallest year-over-year enrollment increase in more than a decade, a peek at the underlying numbers reveals shifting balances of power and examples of institutional success.

[**Gee Returns to Ohio to Pitch 'Compact' on Higher Education Funding**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199082) **Hannah**

Former Ohio State University (OSU) President E. Gordon Gee returned to Ohio Tuesday to testify before the House Finance Higher Education Subcommittee on the recommendations contained in the "Quality and Value in Higher Education" report that he chaired and which was released late last year. That initiative, kicked off by Gov. John Kasich in 2013, came up with nine recommendations on how to ensure the state’s public colleges and universities deliver maximum quality and value. And while Gee acknowledged to the subcommittee that not all recommendations made it into the proposed FY16-17 budget, he said he feels confident that "all were considered" and that choices had to be made. He believes the others will follow.

[**Obama announces changes for student loan repayment**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/10/us-usa-education-loans-idUSKBN0M61CI20150310) **Reuters**

President Barack Obama told students at Georgia Tech on Tuesday he wants to make the process of repaying student loans easier to understand and manage. Obama signed a “student aid bill of rights” and spelled out an assortment of policy tweaks and projects to try to make it easier for people with student loans to pay back their debt.

[**Student Engagement at Community Colleges Is Up**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/student_engagement_at_communty_college_up.html) **Education Week**

As high school students consider their options for next fall, they may want to give community college a second look.  A new report released today shows that over the past decade students attending two-year public colleges increasingly feel engaged, challenged, and supported. The positive trend holds for students who attended full-time, part-time and for those in developmental courses, according to the Center for Community College Student Engagement in Austin. Among the report's highlights.

[**Rethinking High School With Higher Expectations and More Flexibility**](Rethinking%20High%20School%20With%20Higher%20Expectations%20and%20More%20Flexibilityhttp%3A/blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/austin_tex_imagine_high_school.html) **Education Week**

As innovative educators gather at the mega SXSWedu conference, there is lots of talk about the need to rethink old models of teaching if schools are going to prepare all students for college and career.

[**Addressing Disconnect Between Student Skills and Employer Needs**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/addressing_mismatch_between_job_needs_and_education_system.html) **Education Week**

What students are learning in school and what employers need on the job often are two different sets of skills. That much was largely agreed upon by the educators, business leaders, and technology experts gathered here this morning at a SXSWedu session. When it came to whom to blame and how to solve the disconnect—fingers were pointed in all directions and the ideas were endless.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Cleveland Teachers Union protests $3.4 million in budget cuts forced by enrollment declines**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_teachers_union_prote.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Cleveland school district leases the Whitney Young school to Breakthrough charters, extends lease of Ohio City building**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_school_district_leas.html) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools talk about high school transition to Wiley building; some parents want more information**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_heights-university_h_71.html) **Sun News**

[**Euclid High students win 23rd Annual Automotive Technology Competition**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150310/euclid-high-students-win-23rd-annual-automotive-technology-competition) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Mayfield schools award $2.8 million contracts to convert old library to classroom space**](http://www.cleveland.com/hillcrest/index.ssf/2015/03/mayfield_schools_award_3_milli.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Orange taxpayers turn out at school board to talk Pinecrest tax break**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2015/03/orange_taxpayers_turn_out_at_s.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Lake County***

[**Local school leaders react to new state testing**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150307/local-school-leaders-react-to-new-state-testing) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Lake County school districts weigh in on calamity days**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150308/lake-county-school-districts-weigh-in-on-calamity-days) **Willoughby News-Herald**

[**Willoughby-Eastlake Schools to join Mayfield Excel TECC**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150311/willoughby-eastlake-schools-to-join-mayfield-excel-tecc) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**New Avon Middle School coming in under budget, to be completed early**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150312/new-avon-middle-school-coming-in-under-budget-to-be-completed-early) **Lorain Morning Journal**

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