

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of March 23, 2015**

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

[**Arne Duncan Urges Leadership From State Chiefs on Common Core, Equity, Testing**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2015/03/duncan_common_core_esea_reauthorization_chiefs.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=stateedwatch) **Education Week**

In remarks at the Council of Chief State School Officers' annual legislative conference, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on Monday exhorted state schools chiefs to lead by example and find a "common-sense" middle to vexing K-12 policy issues.  During comments that touched on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Common Core State Standards, equity, and teacher preparation, Duncan lamented some shortfalls in his own department's work, but praised states for record-high graduation rates as well as their job boosting support for early education, a top priority for President Barack Obama.

[**Are School Turnarounds a Sticking Point in Senate NCLB Rewrite Negotiations?**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/03/are_school_turn-arounds_a_poin.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

In a town that feeds off legislative gossip, Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., have been doing a really good job keeping private their negotiations on how to overhaul the No Child Left Behind law. For nearly a month now, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate education committee have been working with their staffs behind closed doors to cobble together a bipartisan bill that would give the federal K-12 law a major facelift.

**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: House Economic & Workforce Development Committee – Reported out as amended**

[**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: House Education Committee – Substitute bill accepted & reported out as amended**

[**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: House Local Government Committee – Reported out**

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

[**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: Passed by House, Vote 92-0**

[**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: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Health & Human Services 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: House State Government Committee – Reported out**

[**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: House Judiciary Committee – Bill amended**

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

[**HB113**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-113)CPR-GRADUATION REQUIREMENT (Rep. Cheryl Grossman, Rep. Nathan Manning) To require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a requirement for high school graduation

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB114**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-114)SCHOOL DOOR-BARRICADE (Rep. Kristina Roegner, Rep. Heather Bishoff) 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: Referred to House State Government Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB130**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-130)PUBLIC RECORDS-DATA BOARD (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Mike Duffey) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB132**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-132)CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE-EDUCATION (Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan, Rep. Heather Bishoff) 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**

[**HB133**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-133)NONPROFIT DEGREE-TAX CREDIT (Rep. Tim Schaffer, Rep. Michael Ashford) To authorize an income tax credit for individuals that earn a nonprofit management degree or certain professional designations and to allow a sales tax exemption for out-of-state nonprofit corporations that relocate jobs to Ohio

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB136**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-136)STEM PROGRAM-LAKE COUNTY (Rep. Ron Young, Rep. John Rogers) To fund the Lake County Educational Service Center pilot project to support STEM initiatives for middle school students 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: Senate Education Committee – Reported out as amended; Passed by Senate, Vote 24-9**

[**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: Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Committee**

[**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: Referred to Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor Committee**

[**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 : Referred to Senate Education Committee**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**What has Gov. John Kasich really done to school funding in Ohio?**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/what_has_gov_john_kasich_reall.html#incart_river)  **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Has John Kasich given more money to schools as governor than his predecessors? Or has he [hacked away at Ohio's support for schools](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2011/03/schools_local_governments_take.html), just to cut taxes and build a state surplus?

[**Ready in Ohio legislature**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/24/charter-school-bills-nearly-ready.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

The Ohio House plans to wrap up work on a charter-school reform bill this week, and the Senate plans to roll out its own bill a few days later. While House Bill 2 focuses a number of its provisions on charter-school sponsors, the Senate bill is expected to focus more attention on charter operators and school boards, said Sen. Peggy Lehner, R-Kettering, who will sponsor the bill and has been leading an informal review of Ohio’s charter-school laws.

[**Public access to charter school spending is "just not going to happen," says House Ed Committee chairman**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/public_access_to_charter_school_spending_is_just_not_going_to_happen_says_house_education_committee_chairman.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The Ohio House won't force companies that make a profit from running charter schools to show the public any more of how they spend tax money than they do now, [Education Committee Chairman Bill Hayes](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/01/new_house_ed_committee_chair_wants_more_money_for_schools_cuts_to_the_testing_glut_and_a_less_toxic_look_at_the_common_core.html) says. House Democrats want the financial books of charter schools to be as open as those of a traditional school district. [State Auditor Dave Yost](https://ohioauditor.gov/about/auditor.html) won't go that far, but [wants for-profit operators to report a lot more](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/state_auditor_yost_asks_house_for_better_control_of_charter_school_finances_buildings_and_tax_dollars_spent_on_charter_school_truants.html) than they do now.

[**Changes to Ohio House’s charter-school bill puzzle some**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/03/24/charter-school-bill.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

A move to clamp down on expensive building leases is among the latest changes to a bill that would overhaul state charter-school laws. But the final batch of House amendments to the bill, which the chamber is expected to pass this week, did not draw praise on Tuesday, including a change in how the bill would try to stop the practice of “sponsor hopping.” That’s when a school quickly finds a new sponsor to avoid being shut down.

[**4 signs John Kasich will run for president**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/03/25/4-signs-john-kasich-will-run-for-president-new-hampshire/70424752/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

"It was sort of amazing, right?" Gov. John Kasich beamed, basked, hammed. Whatever you'd call it, he'd had a great day back on the campaign trail. "When I came here the last time, I couldn't get anyone to pay attention, and now it's, like, so totally different," he told reporters. "You come to something like this and see how people react, and it's pretty positive. It really does have an impact on the way you think."

[**$7 billion transportation budget passes Ohio legislature: Here's what's in it (and what's not)**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/03/7_billion_transportation_budge.html#incart_2box_open_index.ssf) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Ohio lawmakers gave final approval Thursday to a two-year transportation budget with more than $7 billion for highway projects around the state. The budget also contains a controversial 30-day vehicle registration deadline and requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to accept credit and debit cards, among other measures. The Ohio House passed the budget 82-13 on Thursday afternoon; the bill previously passed the state Senate unanimously.

[**Charter schools should be publicly audited**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2015/03/27/1-charter-schools-should-be-publicly-audited.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

As outlined in the Sunday Dispatch editorial “A big step forward,” financial disclosure for public charter schools is critical. My organization, the Ohio 8 Coalition, suggests that Ohio House Bill 2 bill go one step further by requiring all charter-school operators’ financial records be publicly audited and disclosed.

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

[**Update on Kindergarten Reading Assessment reductions**](http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/March-24-2015/Update-on-Kindergarten-Reading-Assessment-reductio) **Ohio Department of Education**

In his January 2015 report on state tests, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Richard A. Ross pledged to make changes to the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to reduce disruption to classroom instruction. Upon feedback and recommendations from Ohio teachers, the department is reducing the number of items on the assessment by 21 percent. The revision ensures that the results are reliable and helpful in guiding instruction.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Kent State will award more associate’s degrees**](http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/mar/23/ksu-to-award-more-associate-degrees/) **Youngstown Vindicator**

Kent State University’s seven regional campuses will begin automatically awarding associate degrees to bachelor’s degree-seeking students who have completed all requirements for either an associate of arts or an associate of science degree. To qualify, a regional campus student must be currently enrolled, be taking at least one class this semester at a regional campus, have completed or be currently enrolled in courses that meet the requirements of an associate of arts or associate of science degree, and have not already been awarded an associate degree elsewhere.

[**High School Graduation Gaps Shrinking—But Slowly**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/high_school_graduation_gaps_narrow_but_persist.html) **Education Week**

Graduation rates for historically disadvantaged groups of students—including low-income students, minorities, and English-language learners—have each increased by at least 3 percentage points over the past two years, according to data released Monday by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. In fact, the rates for those groups of students are improving faster than the overall graduation rate, which stood at 81.4 percent in 2012-13, a 2.4 percent improvement since 2010-11. More information on how that rate breaks out by state is here.

[**Researchers Rethink Community College With Clearer Student Pathways**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/researchers_rethink_community_college_with_clearer_student_pathways.html) **Education Week**

To help more students succeed in community college, researchers suggest high schools do more career advising so students start out with a better idea of what they want to pursue. Too often, students enroll not knowing what they want to study and don't find enough support on campus to give them a focus that leads to completion, said Shanna Smith Jaggars, one of three authors of the new book, Redesigning America's Community College, to be released in April by Harvard University Press.

[**Students Increasingly Mobile in Path to College Degree**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/03/students_increasingly_mobile.html) **Education Week**

The route that students take to earning a college degree is not all that linear, new findings from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reveal. Of all students who completed a four-year degree in 2013-14, about 46 percent had been enrolled at a community college at some point in the previous 10 years, according to the new snapshot report released by the Herndon, Va.-based organization. This figure is up about 1 percent compared to degrees earned in 2011, when the center first analyzed the trend.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

[**Cleveland school construction watchdog to receive more money - and have time limits on terms**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_school_construction_2.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools might delay construction of stadium outbuilding to save money**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_heights-university_h_72.html) **Northeast Ohio Media group**

[**Cuyahoga Valley Career Center plans March 31 groundbreaking on advanced training facility**](http://www.twinsburgbulletin.com/education/2015/03/18/cuyahoga-valley-career-center-plans-march-31-groundbreaking-on-training-facility) **Twinsburg Bulletin**

[**Fairview Park schools cut trash costs by more than $16,000 annually**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2015/03/fairview_park_schools_cut_tras.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Fairview Park schools financially strong, no new operating tax needed for 4 years: Superintendent Bill Wagner**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2015/03/fairview_park_schools_financia.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Lakewood breaks ground on Lincoln Elementary School construction: community news**](http://www.cleveland.com/lakewood/index.ssf/2015/03/lakewood_breaks_ground_on_linc.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted schools' building bonds sell at low interest rate, saving taxpayers $2 million**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2015/03/north_olmsted_schools_new_buil.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted schools unveil video of planned high school-middle school campus (video**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2015/03/north_olmsted_schools_unveil_a.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Orange schools to receive $3 million annually from Pinecrest, if tax break approved**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2015/03/orange_schools_to_receive_3_mi.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Solon school board passes resolution opposing state budget cuts**](http://www.cleveland.com/solon/index.ssf/2015/03/solon_school_board_passes_reso.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**South Euclid-Lyndhurst schools sell former Lowden school, future plans unknown**](http://www.cleveland.com/lyndhurst-south-euclid/index.ssf/2015/03/south_euclid_councilwoman_ruth_3.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Cameron Ryba named new Strongsville schools superintendent**](http://www.cleveland.com/strongsville/index.ssf/2015/03/cameron_ryba_named_new_strongs.html)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Strongsville teachers to receive 1-percent raise: Best of the Beat**](http://www.cleveland.com/strongsville/index.ssf/2015/03/strongsville_teachers_to_recei.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Lorain County***

[**Avon High School drops shop classes for next school year (photos)**](http://www.cleveland.com/avon/index.ssf/2015/03/avon_high_school_engineering_s.html) **The Plain Dealer**

***Medina County***

[**Medina school board opens dialogue on drug testing for student athletes**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2015/03/medina_school_board_opens_dial.html) **Sun News**

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