

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of April 6, 2015**

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

[**Education: Senators offer new standardized-testing plan**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/national_world/2015/04/07/senators-offer-new-testing-plan.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

School kids still would take annual standardized tests but states would have much more control in how the results are used to scrutinize schools under a bipartisan plan to update the No Child Left Behind education law announced Tuesday by two key senators. “We have found remarkable consensus about the urgent need to fix this broken law, and also on how to fix it. We look forward to a thorough discussion and debate in the Senate education committee next week,” said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, in a joint news release issued with Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., the panel’s senior Democrat.

[**Bipartisan ESEA Re-Write Emerges in U.S. Senate**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199380) **Hannah**

The U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee unveiled a bipartisan proposal this week to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), saying it will give more flexibility to states and local schools. U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), respectively the chairman and ranking Democrat of the committee, are sponsoring the Every Child Achieves Act, which the committee says "ends the federal test-based accountability system of No Child Left Behind," the Bush-era re-write of ESEA. They said the bill is also intended to end the need for state flexibility waivers, which Ohio and many other states have sought and been granted by the Obama administration. Ohio just asked the U.S. Department of Education to renew its flexibility waiver.

[**Senate Education Leaders Unveil Bipartisan Compromise to Rewrite ESEA**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/04/senate_education_leaders_unvei.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS2) **Education Week**

Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., unveiled a bipartisan bill Tuesday to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that the two have been brokering for more than two months. As Politics K-12 reported here first, the compromise measure includes education policies that are attractive to both sides of the aisle in making over the law, the current version of which is the No Child Left Behind Act**.**

**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: Passed by House, Vote 70-25**

[**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**

[**HB137**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-137)ORGAN DONATION-HEALTH CURRICULUM (Rep. Cheryl Grossman, Rep. Debbie Phillips) To require the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction on the positive effects of organ and tissue donation

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB138**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-138)STATE TESTING WAIVER (Rep. Paul Zeltwanger, Rep. Kyle Koehler) To revise the requirements regarding the administration of the state achievement assessments, to require the Department of Education to request a waiver from federal testing requirements, and to declare an emergency

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB145**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-145)STEM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (Rep. Robert McColley, Rep. Stephanie Howse) To establish the STEM Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program to provide high school students the opportunity to receive education in a targeted industry while simultaneously earning high school and college credit and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB146**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-146)CURSIVE HANDWRITING (Rep. Cheryl Grossman, Rep. Andrew Brenner) To require instruction in cursive handwriting

**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**

[**SB136**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-136)SCHOOL SECLUSION ROOMS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools

**STATUS: Introduced**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Mandel Looks to Expand Online Checkbook to Schools, Local Governments**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199363) **Hannah**

Treasurer Josh Mandel said Tuesday he has commitments from a handful of local elected leaders to add their public spending to Ohio's online checkbook website and hopes to launch the capability for any willing local jurisdiction to participate by July. Mandel joined several school, municipal, county, township and business officials and the associations that represent them to announce the new initiative, which will build on state expenditure reporting at Ohiocheckbook.com. His office sent 18,000 letters to local elected officials representing all 3,900 local jurisdictions about the program.

[**Treasurer Josh Mandel invites local governments, schools to post their checkbooks online for public review**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/04/treasurer_josh_mandel_invites.html#incart_2box_open_index.ssf) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

State Treasurer Josh Mandel intends to expand a program that put the state government's checkbook online to include all local governments, allowing residents to see how their communities and schools are spending money with just a few clicks. In letters sent Tuesday to more than 18,000 representatives from townships, villages, cities, school boards, county governments library boards and other local entities, Mandel has invited them to add their spending data to the program that already has put hundreds of millions of state transactions over several years into a searchable database.

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

[**Straight A Board Approves Six Grant Carryover Requests**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199353) **Hannah**

The Straight A Fund Governing Board of the Ohio Department of Education on Monday approved six requests from grant awardees to carry funds over to FY16 from FY15. Grant awardees can request for a carryover of funds if an unexpected event impairs their ability to spend the money effectively. The board approved the procedure for such requests during its last meeting on Feb. 5, and it requires the requesters to lay out how a carryover will improve implementation of the grant. “We want all of our grants to be successful, but we didn’t want people just … poking around,” said Katie Harper, Straight A Fund program administrator.

[**Ohio may allow some school districts to develop their own tests**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/04/06/alternative-testing.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Amid growing complaints about new state tests for students, the Ohio Department of Education announced a plan yesterday that could allow alternative assessments in some high-performing schools. The Innovative Learning Pilot is the latest effort by state officials to alter, scale back or dump tests that cost about $50 million to develop and administer, and first given to students last month.

[**15 Districts/Schools to Develop Alternative Tests**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199354) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) said Monday that a group of 15 Ohio districts and schools have been selected to develop alternatives to Ohio’s state standardized tests. The Innovative Learning Pilot will allow the schools to develop alternative tests for students to match their specific educational programs. Results of the trial could help shape state testing policies that affect schools statewide. ODE said it will seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education that would allow these schools to use locally selected or developed innovative assessments in place of state tests. Any alternative tests the schools administer would still have to meet state guidelines for rigor and other expectations. The earliest that department officials expect the schools to begin piloting the alternative tests would be the 2016-2017 school year.

[**New Principal Training Program in Ohio Will Put Leaders in High-Poverty Schools**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/District_Dossier/2015/04/ohio_embarks_on_new_principal_.html)  **Education Week**

A new Ohio program is seeking to train leaders, including those without a background in education, to take on the role of principals in schools in high-poverty environments, the Columbus Dispatch reports. Bright New Leaders for Ohio Schools, a collaboration among the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio State University Fisher College of Business and the Ohio Business Roundtable, seeks to recruit and train principals through what they describe as a unique fellowship that combines real-world working experience with courses at the business school, according to the paper.

[**Future of school nurses, librarians, counselors and arts teachers goes before the state school board again on Monday**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/04/future_of_school_nurses_librarians_counselors_and_arts_teachers_goes_before_the_state_school_board_again_on_monday.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The [state school board](http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/State-Board-Members) will have its final hearing and vote Monday on axing the so-called "5 of 8 rule" that requires school districts to have a minimum number of nurses, counselors, librarians and arts teachers. A rule change that makes filling those positions an option for districts was [tentatively passed by the board in December](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/12/state_school_board_votes_against_requirements_for_schools_to_have_nurses_librarians_and_counselors.html) after heated debate. It now comes back for the final vote after clearing a [required review](http://www.jcarr.state.oh.us/home) to make sure the rule change would not conflict with laws and rules already in place.

[**State Board to Move on Final Adoption of School Operating Standards Overhaul**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199405) **Hannah**

The State Board of Education will cap off a lengthy effort to re-write operating standards for Ohio schools at its meeting next week, but likely not without substantial debate. The overhaul, started in late 2013 and led by board member Ron Rudduck, drew controversy as it neared preliminary approval late last year because of planned revisions to the so-called "five of eight" rule. That rule states that for every 1,000 students, a district must fill five of the following

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

[**Superintendents Want Chief Academic Officers They Can Trust**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/03/18/superintendents-want-chief-academic-officers-they-can.html?cmp=ENL-CC-NEWS3) **Education Week**

Andrés A. Alonso has a three-dimensional view of the relationship between superintendents and chief academic officers, built largely around his experiences as the top academic administrator for the New York City schools, the CEO of the Baltimore schools, and in his current role as a professor in the Harvard Graduate School of Education. There isn’t a handbook on what makes the two leadership positions click, because “it takes all kinds of combinations and approaches,” Mr. Alonso said.

[**'Middle' Students Find Success Tutoring Peers, in N.Y.C. Study**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/04/01/middle-students-find-success-tutoring-peers-in.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS2) **Education Week**

In the midst of national debate over how to differentiate instruction, a new program shows potential to significantly boost mathematics and science learning by leveraging a group of students who often go unnoticed: middle-of-the-road achievers. "One of our principals calls them our invisible middle," said Leslie S. Keiler, an associate professor of education at York College in the Queens borough of New York City. The Peer Enabled Restructured Classroom program recruits average students to create a small army of teaching assistants in math and science that is significantly boosting both their own academic progress and that of their peers.

**Early Learning**

[**A Matter of Equity: Preschool in America**](http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/04/a-matter-of-equity-preschool-in-america/) **US Department of Education**

All parents hope their child will start school ready for success. Unfortunately, not every parent can find the high-quality early learning opportunity that sets their child up for success. Earlier today the U.S. Department of Education released a new report outlining the unmet need for high-quality early learning programs in America. Roughly 6 in 10 four-year-olds are not enrolled in publicly funded preschool programs, and even fewer are enrolled in the highest quality programs.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Plausible Promises?**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/04/07/promise-programs-thrive-despite-unanswered-questions-about-long-term-effects-and) **Inside Higher Ed**

Nearly a decade after the Kalamazoo Promise launched to nationwide buzz, the fanfare around promise programs has remained strong. Several cities, large and small, are considering launching their own versions of the programs -- in which they pledge help for their residents to pay for college -- while the national attention on free community college can be traced back to the model founded in Kalamazoo, Mich.

[**Children's Savings Accounts Help States Create 'College-Going Culture'**](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/4/06/childrens-savings-account-help-states-create-college-going-culture?utm_campaign=2015-04-06%20Stateline%20Daily.html&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua) **Pew Trusts**

Free money for college may sound like an easy sell, but when parents of newborns in Maine were offered a $500 grant for their infants’ college education, fewer than half signed up. Even worse, a study found that less educated, lower-income families–those that could benefit most—were least likely to take the money. So last year, Maine changed its strategy. Today, each of the roughly 12,500 babies born in Maine each year receives a $500 grant deposited automatically in a college savings account.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

[**Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools will replace Bees Stadium turf in June**](http://www.cleveland.com/brecksville/index.ssf/2015/04/brecksville-broadview_heights_358.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Chagrin Falls Schools collect food for Harvest for Hunger**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2015/04/chagrin_falls_schools_collect.html) **Chagrin Falls Schools**

[**Cleveland Heights High School to play basketball, volleyball at Lutheran East during renovation**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/04/cleveland_heights_high_school_22.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Orange schools receive conditional waiver on state testing mandates**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-valley/index.ssf/2015/04/orange_schools_receive_conditi.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Lorain County***

[**Avon Lake teachers union, school district approve three-year contract**](http://www.cleveland.com/avon-lake/index.ssf/2015/04/avon_lake_teacher_and_school_d.html) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Academic professionals to visit Lorain schools, evaluate classroom work**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150411/academic-professionals-to-visit-lorain-schools-evaluate-classroom-work) **The Morning Journal**

[**Lorain superintendent Tucker to retire**](http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2015/04/09/lorain-superintendent-retire/) **Chronicle-Telegram**

[**New Elyria Schools superintendent selected**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150401/new-elyria-schools-superintendent-selected) **The Morning Journal**

***Medina County***

[**Medina school board approves College Credit Plus agreements**](http://www.cleveland.com/medina/index.ssf/2015/04/medina_school_board_approves_c.html) **Sun News**

***Summit County***

[**Revere Schools to showcase student artwork**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-entertainment-news.asp?aID=26247) **Akron Leader**

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