

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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

**Government and Education**

**For the Week of March 30, 2015**

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

[**States Seek Guidance in Face of 'Opt Out' Push**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/04/01/states-seek-guidance-in-face-of-opt-out.html?cmp=ENL-CM-NEWS1) **Education Week**

A flurry of parents opting their children out of taking new state assessments in places like Colorado, Florida, New Jersey, and New York has both the U.S. Department of Education and state education departments reviewing policies and procedures for dealing with such instances.

[**ESEA's 50-Year Legacy a Blend of Idealism, Policy Tensions**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/04/01/eseas-50-year-legacy-a-blend-of-idealism.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1) **Education Week**

Fifty years ago this month, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Elementary and Secondary Education Act outside the former one-room schoolhouse in rural Texas he'd once attended. The new law dramatically ramped up Washington's investment in K-12 education, carving out a role for the federal government in educating the nation's poorest children. But shortly after that cinematic ceremony, administrators in the U.S. Office of Education—the predecessor of today's separate, Cabinet-level department—found themselves with a difficult task.

[**Investing in Innovation 'Development' Grant Competition Kicks Off**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/03/investing_in_innovation_develo.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Attention non-profits and school districts: The competition for an Investing in Innovation "development" grant kicks off this week, according to a [notice slated to be published in the Federal Register Monday](https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/03/30/2015-07213/applications-for-new-awards-investing-in-innovation-fund-development-grants?utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov#h-6).  Development grants are the smallest of the three categories in the U.S. Department of Education's i3 program and are aimed at promising ideas, as opposed to programs with a lot of research to back up their approach.

**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**

***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**

[**Can out-of-state college students vote in Ohio in 2016?**](http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2015/03/26/state-college-students-register-vote-ohio/70507014/) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Out-of-state college students, who often vote Democratic, would have to obtain an Ohio driver's license or license plate if they want to vote in Ohio, under a bill that passed the Legislature Thursday.

[**How will Ohio enforce new voting rules for out-of-state students?**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/04/01/enforcing-new-rules-looms-as-gray-area.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

If out-of-state college students register to vote in Ohio, yet fail to obtain an in-state driver’s license and vehicle registration within 30 days, what happens then? State officials had no answers yesterday as Republican Gov. John Kasich prepares today to sign the state transportation budget into which majority Senate Republicans inserted the controversial provision.

[**Bill would limit student assessment tests preparation time**](http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/apr/01/ohio-senate-oks-bill-to-limit-students-t/)  **Youngstown Vindicator**

The state would limit the classroom time students spend preparing and taking assessments, under legislation approved by the Ohio Senate.SB 3 also would exempt higher-performing districts from class-size restrictions and other state mandates. The bill’s primary sponsors call the proposed law changes a deregulation of primary and secondary education.

[**Kasich's veto removes voting target for out-of-state college students**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/04/01/ohio-transportation-bill.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Earning praise from frequent critics, Ohio Gov. John Kasich vetoed language on Wednesday crafted by fellow Republicans that would have required out-of-state residents who register to vote in Ohio to obtain an Ohio driver’s license and vehicle registration within 30 days.

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

[**Ohio's ESEA Waiver Renewal Bid Goes to Feds**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199309) **Hannah**

Ohio officially submitted its request this week for a three-year renewal of its flexibility waiver under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Ohio first won its initial waiver in 2012, after the Obama administration launched the waiver process in light of Congress' lack of action on renewing the ESEA, last passed in the Bush administration as the No Child Left Behind Act. Last year, the Ohio Department of Education received a one-year extension on that initial waiver. A new waiver would last through the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Early Learning**

[**Four States Could Begin Preschool Programs This Year; More Early-Ed News**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2015/04/four_states_could_begin_preschool_programs_this_year_more_early-ed_news.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=stateedwatch) **Education Week**

It's always tricky to write about pending state legislation from a national perspective. For one thing, given the sheer volume of proposed legislation making its way through the 50 state legislatures, I'm guaranteed to miss something. And for another, I'm not an expert in every state's processes and insider politics, so it's very hard to judge which of the dozens of proposed bills has a real chance of passage.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**What if a high school diploma guaranteed a highly paid job?**](http://hechingerreport.org/what-if-a-high-school-diploma-guaranteed-a-highly-paid-job/) **Hechinger Report**

At first glance, there’s nothing revolutionary about the Greater Waco Advanced Manufacturing Academy, a vocational school opened in 2013 to serve students in and around this central Texas city. The machines are fancy and gleaming, but the students here learn skills for the sorts of jobs that fueled America’s economy last century: welding, manufacturing, building homes.

[**New Federal Data Show Student Loan Borrowers Suffering More Than Previously Believed**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/27/federal-student-loans-delinquency_n_6957036.html) **Huffington Post**

About one-third of borrowers with federal student loans owned by the U.S. Department of Education are late on their payments, according to new federal data. The figures, released by the Education Department on Thursday, are the first comprehensive look at the delinquency plaguing those who hold federal student loans. By the new metric, which the department has never used before, roughly 33 percent of borrowers were more than five days late on one of their federal student loans as of Dec. 31.

[**Ohio State University will commit at least $400 million to lower the cost of education and improve its value, president announces**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/03/ohio_state_university_will_com.html#incart_river)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[Ohio State University](http://www.osu.edu/) will dedicate at least $400 million over five years to lower the cost of education and improve its value, President Michael Drake announced Tuesday. In the first year, at least $15 million in affordability scholarships will be given to low- and middle-income students to reduce the need for student loans, the university said in a statement. That support is expected to grow to at least $100 million in five years. In addition to scholarships, funds will be spent to support academic programs, faculty and students and encourage faculty innovation.

[**Community colleges play a big role in four-year completion rates**](http://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/SnapshotReport17-2YearContributions.pdf) **National Student Learning Clearinghouse**

In the 2013-14 academic year, 46 percent of students who completed a degree at a four-year institution were enrolled at a two-year institution in the previous 10 years. Researchers [found](http://cl.exct.net/?qs=639402a8cd82f68bd5f0599a2baaf9fcabd567879ff42fbdfcf0c57bd42f4429) in 17 percent of cases, the two-year enrollment occurred within the last year of study before earning the degree. Over half these students completed the four-year degree within three years of leaving the two-year institution; three quarters of them did so within five years.

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[**Chagrin Falls schools need $16 million for existing buildings**](http://www.cleveland.com/chagrin-falls/index.ssf/2015/04/chagrin_falls_schools_need_16.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**School construction watchdog panel gains Cleveland zoo director, head of Andrews Osborne school as new members**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/04/school_construction_watchdog_panel_gains_cleveland_zoo_director_head_of_andrews_osborne_school_as_new_members.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Cleveland Heights council, school board to discuss master plan, Cedar-Lee streetscaping (live coverage)**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_heights_city_council_72.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Cleveland Heights to work with Cuyahoga County on master plan**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/03/cleveland_heights_will_work_wi.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted school upgrades security system**](http://www.19actionnews.com/story/28674364/north-olmsted-school-upgrades-security-system) **19 Action News**

[**Westlake superintendent: Levy would supply 'dedicated stream of money' for capital improvements**](http://www.cleveland.com/westlake/index.ssf/2015/03/westlake_superintendent_levy_w.html) **Sun News**

***Lake County***

[**Kirtland Schools approve 2015-16 calendar**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150330/kirtland-schools-approve-2015-16-calendar) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Portage County***

[**Streetsboro eyes naming rights for new stadium**](http://recordpub.com/news%20local/2015/03/18/streetsboro-eyes-naming-rights-for-new-stadium) **Record Courier**

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