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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of April 27, 2015**

**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: Re-Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**HB2**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-2)CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP (Rep. Mike Dovilla, Rep. Kristina Roegner) With regard to sponsorship and management of community schools

**STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Finance-Education Subcommittee**

[**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: Passed by House, Vote 95-0**

[**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) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

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

**STATUS: (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: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

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

**STATUS: Passed House 96-0**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STATUS: House Finance Committee – Reported out as amended; Passed by House, Vote 63-35**

[**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: House Education Committee – Reported out**

[**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: Referred to House State Government Committee**

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

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

[**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: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Finance Committee**

[**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: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB148**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-148)CLASSROOM FACILITIES ASSISTANCE (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide classroom facilities assistance to a school district resulting from the consolidation of two or more school districts or from the voluntary transfer of the entire territory of a school district if specified conditions are satisfied

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB156**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-156)CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (Rep. Kristina Roegner, Rep. John Patterson) To make changes to the law regarding governance, operation, and management of community schools, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB158**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-158)INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY TERM (Rep. Jonathan Dever, Rep. Stephanie Howse) To change the variations of the term "mentally retarded person" to "person with an intellectual disability”

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

[**HB160**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-160)TEXTBOOKS-HIGHER EDUCATION (Rep. Anthony DeVitis) With regard to the selection, availability, and purchase of textbooks that are required for a course offered by any state institution of higher education

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB166**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-HB-166)LOCAL TAX-FISCAL REVISIONS (Rep. Doug Green) To extend the deadline for filing an application for the homestead exemption or 2 1/2% property tax rollback to the end of the tax year, to require that auditors certify Local Government Fund allocations to subdivisions by regular or electronic, rather than certified mail, and to repeal laws requiring county auditors to issue permits for traveling shows, issue licenses for new merchandise public auctions, certify the annual state tax interest rate to local courts, and provide certain certifications related to the repealed personal property tax

**STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB174**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-174)GRADUATE DEGREE-ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS (Rep. John Barnes, Jr.) With regard to entrepreneurial skills education requirements for professional graduate degree programs at state institutions of higher education

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB181**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-181)ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION-AUTO UPDATE (Rep. Kathleen Clyde) To require that eligible persons in certain government and school databases be automatically registered to vote or have their registrations updated automatically unless those persons decline to do so and to create an online voter registration system

**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: (Passed by Senate) Referred to House Education Committee**

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

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

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

**STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee – Reported out**

[**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: Senate Health & Human Services Committee – Reported out; Passed by Senate, Vote 32-1**

[**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: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB144**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-144)STEM PROGRAM-LAKE COUNTY (Sen. John Eklund) To fund the Lake County Educational Service Center pilot project to support STEM initiatives for middle school students and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB148**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-148)CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (Sen. Peggy Lehner, Sen. Tom Sawyer) To make changes to the law regarding governance, operation, and management of community schools, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance – Education Subcommittee**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Bill Takes Education Route**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199575) **Hannah**

The namesake of a House bill that would allow local school districts to create their own education plan for age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse prevention spoke Tuesday alongside the bill’s sponsors. Erin Merryn, a nationally recognized advocate for prevention of child sexual assault and author, experienced abuse herself from a neighbor and family member. HB85 (Ramos-Hagan) is called “Erin’s Law,” after Merryn’s national efforts to pass legislation on educating about assault prevention. Such legislation has been passed in 21 states and is pending in 22, she said.

[**Keen Criticizes Guarantees, Caps in House K-12 Formula Changes**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199583) **Hannah**

Budget Director Tim Keen told the Senate Finance Education Subcommittee Wednesday of the administration's serious concerns with House revisions to the K-12 funding formula, particularly over expanded use of caps and guarantees. "The governor feels very strongly that if we have a formula, we ought to let it work," he said, going off-script for his strongest statements against the House changes. Keen said the House spending changes in HB64, coupled with its more upbeat revenue outlook, threaten recent years' work toward structural balance in the budget.

[**State panel recommends fewer tests, wants them at school year's end**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/04/30/senate-panel-fewer-tests.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Ohio students would take fewer tests and they would be administered closer to the end of the school year under a legislative panel's recommendations. And if the companies that provide the current tests don’t revamp them, the state should throw them out and find a vendor that can provide new ones, said the 30-member Senate Advisory Committee on Testing in its final recommendations unveiled on Thursday night.

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

[**ODE to look at literacy improvements**](http://www.portsmouth-dailytimes.com/news/news/153202462/ODE-to-look-at-literacy-improvements) **Portsmouth Daily Times**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is often changing the way schools test students, and how these schools are graded on their performance. A new grading system addition includes one focusing on literary growth in students called the K-3 Literacy Improvement.

[**ODE Releases New Literacy Grades, Study of Reading-Graduation Link**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=199598) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education released additional grades for the 2014 school district report cards Thursday that measure progress on improving literacy in early elementary grades, as well as an in-house longitudinal study of the class of 2013 that state officials say proves their contention that third grade reading is a linchpin of long-term academic success. State Superintendent Richard Ross, who has made the third grade reading guarantee the centerpiece of his administration, said the new study establishes a strong link between reading proficiency at the end of third grade and the likelihood of graduating on time.

**Early Learning**

[**Does Common Core Ask Too Much of Kindergarten Readers?**](http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/04/27/does-common-core-ask-too-much-of-kindergarten-readers/) **KQED News**

Sandwiched between preschool and first grade, kindergarteners often start school at very different stages of development depending on their exposure to preschool, home environments and biology. For states adopting Common Core, the standards apply to kindergarten, laying out what students should be able to do by the end of the grade.\* Kindergartners are expected to know basic phonics and word recognition as well as read beginner texts, skills some childhood development experts argue are developmentally inappropriate.

[**Some Young Children With Autism Lose Label, but Retain Learning Challenges**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2015/04/some_young_children_with_autism_lose_label_but_retain_learning_challenges.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=earlyyears) **Education Week**

A small percentage of children who had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder as toddlers no longer showed symptoms of the disorder four years later, but most continued to have emotional or learning disorders, according to a study that was presented at a recent meeting of researchers in child health. The findings came from a study of 569 children living in New York between 2003 and 2013. They had all been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder through an early-intervention program around age 2 1/2.

[**Child Mental Health Affects World 'Happiness' Ratings**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2015/04/mental_health_and_world_happiness_survey.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=insideschoolresearch) **Education Week**

Education researchers and policymakers spend a lot of time debating the best way to measure success. Is it good grades, top test scores, high school and college graduation, civic-oriented character? How about whether students are, you know, happy? The 2015 World Happiness Report is out today, and as usual in recent international benchmarks, the United States is fine, if not exactly leading the pack. It ranked 15th out of 158 countries, above Brazil and Luxemborg but below Mexico and Finland. American happiness levels have fallen since the group's last calculation in 2005-2007.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Testing can tell if students need help before college and career**](http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/testing-can-tell-if-students-need-help-before-college-and-career/) **Seattle Times**

THE outlook for opportunities for highly skilled workers in Washington state is as strong as ever. Currently there are 25,000 unfilled jobs for highly skilled workers — and that number is projected to grow to 50,000 by 2017. To ensure all students are ready for success and take advantage of these opportunities, Washington’s K-12 learning standards were established. Common Core State Standards are part of this and used for math and English language arts. The Smarter Balanced assessment system, administered in grades three through eight and 11, is aligned to the standards. It provides a way for teachers to measure student progress and make adjustments and interventions as necessary to ensure students are on the pathway to success.

[**High-schoolers face challenge qualifying for college-credit programs**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/04/27/qualifying-for-college-program-a-challenge.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Under the state’s new College Credit Plus initiative, students had to notify school leaders of their interest by April 1. Then, they have to meet college-readiness targets on entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT for those going to a four-year school, or Accuplacer or Compass tests for a two-year school. “The objective of College Credit Plus is to expand opportunity for high-school students who are, at this point in time, ready for the rigor of college work,” said Lauren T. McGarity, director of special projects for the Ohio Board of Regents, which oversees higher education in the state.

[**State Aid Should Change to Meet Needs of Students, Report Says**](http://chronicle.com/article/State-Aid-Should-Change-to/229747/) **Chronicle of Higher Education**

The "who" and "how" of going to college are changing rapidly, but state financial-aid programs are stuck in the past, according to a report released on Wednesday by the Education Commission of the States. The report calls on state officials to change their aid programs to focus more on the needs of students rather than institutions and to allow state aid to be used for a greater variety of postsecondary programs.

[**A good incentive**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2015/05/01/1-a-good-incentive.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

As Ohio gets more serious about helping high-school students get an early start on college, an old problem is highlighted anew: Many high-school students aren’t prepared for college-level work. But the new emphasis on earning college credit in high school means more students are learning earlier that they aren’t on track for college, giving them more time to catch up. And the potential reward of college credit earned early, and paid for by school districts, is a powerful incentive.

[**Groups Pledge $100 Million to Expand Access and Equity to AP, IB Courses**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/04/groups_pledge_100_to_expand_access_and_equity_to_ap_ib_courses.html) **Education Week**

Recognizing the need to get more underrepresented students into college-level courses in high school, a group of education, nonprofit, and business leaders are giving $100 million to identify and enroll 100,000 low-income students and students of color in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes over the next three years.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

**[Beachwood school board may fill new facilities and grounds position](http://www.cleveland.com/beachwood/index.ssf/2015/04/beachwood_school_board_may_fil.html) Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Berea schools win one of 14 federal sustainability awards (photos)**](http://www.cleveland.com/berea/index.ssf/2015/04/berea_schools_win_one_of_14_fe.html) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

[**Brooklyn schools pick Cuyahoga Falls deputy superintendent to take over**](http://www.cleveland.com/brooklyn/index.ssf/2015/04/brooklyn_schools_pick_cuyahoga.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Political action committee opposes Cleveland Heights-University Heights school tax: The school district responds**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/04/political_action_committee_opp.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Mayfield school board to consider $865,000 contract for phase two of stadium renovations (live coverage)**](http://www.cleveland.com/hillcrest/index.ssf/2015/04/mayfield_board_of_education_to.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Mayfield schools to add pavilion, bathrooms, concessions to Wildcat Park: Board meeting recap**](http://www.cleveland.com/hillcrest/index.ssf/2015/04/mayfield_schools_to_add_pavili.html)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted schools, state select Hammond Construction for middle-high school building**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2015/04/north_olmsted_schools_state_se.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Royalton elementary school receives state award**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-royalton/index.ssf/2015/04/north_royalton_elementary_scho_1.html)  **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Richmond Heights voters to decide on tax renewal to repair schools**](http://www.cleveland.com/hillcrest/index.ssf/2015/04/richmond_heights_voters_to_dec.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Solon schools say state budget could push them over fiscal cliff**](http://www.cleveland.com/solon/index.ssf/2015/04/solon_schools_say_state_budget.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Solon school officials working to change state-mandated testing methods**](http://www.cleveland.com/solon/index.ssf/2015/04/solon_school_administrators_pr.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Lake County***

[**Willoughby-Eastlake School of Practical Nursing hosting an open house May 20**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150501/willoughby-eastlake-school-of-practical-nursing-hosting-an-open-house-may-20) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**Avon to build playground at soon-to-be old middle school**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150427/avon-to-build-playground-at-soon-to-be-old-middle-school) **Lorain Morning Journal**

[**Amherst teachers respond with creativity to schedule changes**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150427/amherst-teachers-respond-with-creativity-to-schedule-changes) **Lorain Morning Journal**

***Medina County***

[**Brunswick R.O.C.K.S. prepares youngsters for kindergarten: Photos**](http://www.cleveland.com/brunswick/index.ssf/2015/05/brunswick_rocks_prepares_young.html) **Sun News**

***Portage County***

[**Aurora school, Portage children services levy renewals on ballot**](http://www.auroraadvocate.com/news%20local/2015/04/29/school-children-services-levy-renewals-on-ballot) **Aurora Advocate**

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