

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of September 1, 2013**

**Featured News**

[**Ohio to Receive Funds to Help Cover Cost of AP Tests for Low-Income Students**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193882) **Hannah**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will receive $327,846 under a program announced Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Education to cover a portion of the fees charged to low-income students for taking advanced placement (AP) tests. Nationally, more than $28.8 million will be distributed to 42 states. Based on the anticipated number of test-takers and other factors, grants under the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program are expected to be sufficient to pay all but $10 of the cost of each advanced placement exam taken by low-income students. States may opt to require students to pay a portion of the costs.

[**State’s school-choice chief married to Kasich’s chief of staff**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/08/29/states-school-choice-chief-married-to-kasichs-chief-of-staff.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

The Department of Education has hired the husband of Gov. John Kasich’s chief of staff to a new position that will oversee the expansion of school choice in Ohio. David J. Hansen, former president of the conservative Buckeye Policy Institute and husband to Kasich’s chief of staff Beth Hansen, is the state’s first executive director for the office of quality school choice and funding. The position comes with an annual salary of $105,000.

**National, Federal and US Department of Education**

[**Federal Oversight Takes Aim at Waiver Compliance**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/08/28/02waiver.h33.html?tkn=LVYF2QBpw97F2yL9qpOlRR2GJAankYOBxYrU&cmp=clp-edweek) **Education Week**

In the wake of the U.S. Department of Education’s decision to place three states on “high-risk status” for problems with their No Child Left Behind Act waivers, it’s clear that the federal push to grant states sweeping flexibility in school accountability will be fraught with stumbles. Implementing teacher evaluations tied to student growth is a significant sticking point for many waiver states, including Kansas, Oregon, and Washington—which were formally warned by federal officials Aug. 15 that they might lose their waivers if they don’t get new evaluations back on track.

[**Study: Waivers leave behind at-risk students**](http://www.boston.com/news/education/2013/08/26/study-waivers-leave-behind-risk-students/fAwUb8MbWrbu2LQhKyUuwN/story.html) **Boston Globe**

The Education Department has been giving some states waivers from the education law’s requirements, including those to collect and publish data about students and then use the results to pinpoint problem schools. The resulting patchwork of rules — from Miami to Seattle — has given states more freedom to carry out plans to boost education but has allowed almost 2,300 schools to shed their label of seriously troubled, according to numbers compiled at the Campaign for High School Equity.

[**Arne Duncan Attaches More Strings to NCLB Waiver Renewals**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2013/08/barring_reauthorization_this_m.html) **Education Week**

Two years after offering states waivers under the No Child Left Behind Act, the U.S. Department of Education is expecting states to up the ante on teacher quality if they want another two years of flexibility. Barring a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the current version of the law, this waiver renewal process marks the last opportunity for the Obama administration to put its stamp on the ESEA and shape a future law.

[**Ed. Dept. Research Reauthorization Gains House Attention**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2013/08/ESRA_education_Research_Authorization.html) **Education Week**

The first reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act—six years overdue and counting—finally seems to be gaining some Hill traction in the ashes of the latest attempt to renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As *EdWeek*'s resident Congress expert, Alyson Klein, reports over at Politics K-12, the House Education Committee expects to hold its second hearing on the federal education research law in mid-September. An associated bill may be introduced later this fall, but the Senate has no plans to take up education research this year.

**Ohio Legislation Update (recent bill action in red)**

**130th General Assembly**

***Introduced***

[**HB 256**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_256)HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (SYKES V, WACHTMANN L) To require the State Board of Education to adopt national health education standards or to develop its own health education standards based on the national standards for grades kindergarten through twelve. **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 180**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_180) HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY (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**

***House***

[**HB 1**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_1)OHIO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (DERICKSON T, ROMANCHUK M) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**HB 4**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_4)LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT GRANT PROGRAM (STAUTBERG P, BLESSING III L) To establish the Local Government Performance Measurement Grant Program **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House State & Local Government Committee**

[**HB 8**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_8)SCHOOL SAFETY LAWS (ROEGNER K, KUNZE S) To revise the school safety law **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 10**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_10)FISCAL TOWNSHIPS-MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS FISCAL OFFICERS (HAGAN C) To establish education programs and continuing education requirements for the fiscal officers of townships and municipal corporations, to establish procedures for removing those fiscal officers, county treasurers, and county auditors from office **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House State & Local Government Committee**

[**HB 14**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_14)SCHOOL RECORDS-ABUSED-NEGLECTED-DEPENDENT CHILD (PELANDA D) With respect to a school district's withholding or transfer to another district or school of the records of a child who is alleged or adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child. **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**HB 16**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_16)HEAD INJURIES-YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS (O'BRIEN S, HOTTINGER J) To correct a cross reference with regard to concussions and head injuries in athletic activities organized by youth sports organizations and to declare an emergency. **STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee**

[**HB 17**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_17)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND (CERA J, GERBERRY R) To require that, for fiscal year 2014 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: House Finance & Appropriations Committee**

[**HB 18**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_18)METAL DETECTORS-PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PATMON B) With respect to metal detectors in public schools **STATUS: House Education Committee**

[**HB 30**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_30)EDUCATORS LETTERS OF ADMONISHMENT (JOHNSON T) Regarding letters of admonishment to licensed educators **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 32**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_32)MINIMUM SCHOOL YEAR (HAYES B, PATMON B) To establish a minimum school year for school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools based on hours, rather than days, of instruction **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 50**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_50)CHILDREN'S' RIGHTS (HEARD T, MCGREGOR R) To protect the rights of children before and during custodial interrogations **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Judiciary Committee**

[**HB 58**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_58)STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP (GERBERRY R) To change the voting membership of the State Board of Education **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 59**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_59)BIENNIAL BUDGET (AMSTUTZ R) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**HB 96**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_96)PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAW (STRAHORN F) To eliminate an exemption from the Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Law for specified educational employees **STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 97**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_97)DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH (BRENNER A, LETSON T) To designate October as "Dyslexia Awareness Month” **STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**HB 107**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_107)CAREER EXPLORATION INTERNSHIPS-TAX CREDIT (BAKER N) To authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships **STATUS: Referred to House Ways & Means Committee**

[**HB 111**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=5H4d_Cvhe0Wzv4BWXoMZysdsG4K3AdBIbfWJL6CbUOcyjWEMTNlO6-1BvdHi3p8dEWUdJ_YFXbE.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_111)STATE UNIVERSITIES-STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS (DUFFEY M, STINZIANO M) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions **STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 113**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=OFXP5tjrdkqmVnFZ1-Ceyj_1pIT9DNBI6-MzsVRH8sGG4-XiAYzWB6U2J8Lz9o5uIZC8o_2W6a8.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_113)HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION (ANTONIO N, HENNE M) To specify that school districts and chartered nonpublic schools may excuse from high school physical education students who participate in a school-sponsored athletic club **STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 115**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=OFXP5tjrdkqmVnFZ1-Ceyj_1pIT9DNBI6-MzsVRH8sGG4-XiAYzWB6U2J8Lz9o5uIZC8o_2W6a8.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_115)LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRIDGE FUND (SCHURING K) To create the Local Government Bridge Fund for the purpose of providing grants to local governments up to the reduced amount of funds the government received in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 from the Local Government Fund **STATUS: Referred to House Finance & Appropriations Committee**

[**HB 127**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_127)CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH (ADAMS R) To designate the month of March as "Career-Technical Education and Skilled Workforce Development Month” **STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Workforce and Economic Development Committee**

[**HB 152**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=W7BggD-xEEuwkYspyBGmHbo3WW6-HNBIrcgq3Bflb8_yjf8Xm0vVwqItYNqMX6sLfAfoIOrW_Ao.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_152)RIGHT TO WORK-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (MAAG R) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization. **STATUS: Referred to House State & Local Government Committee**

[**HB 154**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_154)LOTTERY PROFITS-EDUCATION (GERBERRY R) 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 Finance & Appropriations Committee**

[**HB 158**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_158)NONREFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS-NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (BRENNER A, PATMON B) To authorize nonrefundable tax credits for donations to nonprofit entities providing scholarships to low-income students enrolling in nonpublic schools

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

[**HB 167**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_167)COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (HEARD T, GROSSMAN C) To authorize school districts with an average daily membership greater than 60,000 and located in a city with a population greater than 700,000 to levy property taxes, the revenue from which may be shared with partnering community schools **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**HB 168**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_168)CERTIFIED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS (HAGAN C) To create a subprogram of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 171**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_171)RELEASED TIME COURSES-RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (MCCLAIN J, PATMON B) To permit public school students to attend and receive credit for released time courses in religious instruction conducted off school property during regular school hours **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 175**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_175)OHIO STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (DOVILLA M) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to State & Local Government Committee**

[**HB 178**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_178)SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS (PHILLIPS D) To amend with respect to school safety drills

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

[**HB 180**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_180)CARDIAC ARREST-YOUTH ACTIVITIES (PILLICH C) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Health & Aging Committee**

[**HB 181**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_181)PERSONAL IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION-STUDENT (BRENNER A) To prohibit submission of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board **STATUS: Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 193**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_193)HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS (BRENNER A) To revise current high school diploma requirements including state-administered assessments **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 209**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_209)FINISH FUND (RAMOS D) To create the Finish Fund and the Finish Reserve Fund to provide grants to students who are nearing completion of their bachelor's degrees and display financial need or hardship and to make an appropriation **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Finance & Appropriations Committee**

[**HB 211**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_211)LOTTERY PROFITS EDUCATION FUND REPORT (WILLIAMS S) To require the Director of the State Lottery Commission to prepare a report related to the Lottery Profits Education Fund **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 215**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_215)SCHOOL SAFETY (DEVITIS A) To authorize a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 216**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_216)SCHOOL INDEBTEDNESS (PATTERSON J) To forgive a school district's indebtedness to the Solvency Assistance Fund upon its voluntary consolidation with another district if specified conditions are satisfied **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB 228**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_228) SCHOOL FUNDING (BRENNER A) To reform the system of funding elementary and secondary education **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 237**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_237)COMMON CORE INITIATIVE (THOMPSON A) With respect to the Common Core Initiative academic standards and the distribution of student information **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 240**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=vzR_CwSh_kqdOw-LLppqcXPdkJ1LatBIfitSE3SDRLJ3c-cPST_xFZZWC3f3qPMegP1_r7oSP7E.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_240)SPECIAL ELECTIONS (ADAMS J, BECKER J) To eliminate the ability to conduct special elections in February and August **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 241**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=vzR_CwSh_kqdOw-LLppqcXPdkJ1LatBIfitSE3SDRLJ3c-cPST_xFZZWC3f3qPMegP1_r7oSP7E.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_HB_241)SCHOOL EMPLOYEES-SEXUAL CONDUCT (HAGAN C) To prohibit an employee of a public or nonpublic school or institution of higher education from engaging in sexual conduct with a minor who is enrolled in or attends that public or nonpublic school **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 242**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_242)HIGHER EDUCATION-PAY FORWARD-PAY BACK PROGRAM (HAGAN R, FOLEY M) To require the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to consider creating a pilot program called "Pay Forward, Pay Back" to replace the current tuition system at state institutions of higher education and to declare an emergency **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 245**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_245)PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACK (BARBORAK N) To extend the 10% and 2.5% partial property tax "rollback" exemptions to new and replacement levies approved at the 2013 general election and to declare an emergency **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 246**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_246)TAX DEDUCTION-COLLEGE GRADUATES (ROGERS J, BLAIR T) To allow recent college graduates to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses and allow employers of recent college graduates to deduct the employer's costs of employing the graduate from the employer's gross receipts **STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB 256**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_256)HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (SYKES V, WACHTMANN L) To require the State Board of Education to adopt national health education standards or to develop its own health education standards based on the national standards for grades kindergarten through twelve. **STATUS: Introduced**

***Senate***

[**SB 1**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_1)OHIOMEANSJOBS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Fund, to create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Program, to allocate a portion of casino license fees to finance the loan program, and to make an appropriation. **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**SB 2**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_2)OHIO'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (LEHNER P, BEAGLE B) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law **STATUS: (Passed by Senate) Referred to House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee**

[**SB 11**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_11)SUMMER MEAL PROGRAMS (BROWN E) To require school districts to allow alternative summer meal sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions. **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee**

[**SB 13**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_13)VETERANS-ACADEMIC CREDIT (GENTILE L) To enhance support and services for veterans at state institutions of higher education and to require each institution to develop a policy for awarding academic credit to veterans for training received while in the military **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Public Safety, Local Government & Veterans Affairs Committee**

[**SB 15**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_15)EDUCATION FUNDING (SAWYER T) To prescribe a system and timeline for the General Assembly to deliberate and determine the components and cost of a high quality public primary and secondary education **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB 21**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_21)THIRD-GRADE READING GUARANTEE (LEHNER P) To revise the requirements for reading teachers under the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**SB 26**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_26)HEAD INJURIES-YOUTH SPORTS (SCHAFFER T) To correct a cross reference with regard to concussions and head injuries in athletic activities organized by youth sports organizations and to declare an emergency **STATUS: Signed by Governor**

[**SB 31**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_31)INCOME TAX CREDIT-TEACHERS (SCHAFFER T) To allow a credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB 35**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_35)SPECIAL ELECTIONS (JORDAN K) To eliminate the ability to conduct special elections in February and August **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate State Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

[**SB 42**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_42)PROPERTY TAXES-SCHOOL SECURITY (MANNING G, GARDNER R) To authorize school districts to levy a property tax exclusively for school safety and security purposes **STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 31-2; Referred to House Way & Means Committee**

[**SB 59**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_59)EDUCATION ENERGY COUNCIL (BEAGLE B) To authorize an eligible regional council of governments to establish itself as an education energy council for the purpose of issuing debt to pay for school district energy purchases **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Public Utilities Committee**

[**SB 65**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_65)PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAW (TURNER N) To eliminate an exemption from the Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Law for specific educational employees **STATUS: Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee**

[**SB 67**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_67)AUDIT PROCEDURE-POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (PETERSON B) To create an agreed-upon procedure audit for certain eligible political subdivisions and to eliminate the Auditor of State's exemption from filing a rule summary and fiscal analysis with proposed rules. **STATUS: (Passed by Senate) Referred to House State and Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended; Passed by House, Vote 61-34; Senate concurred**

[**SB 69**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_69)COURSE AND PROGRAM SHARING NETWORK (BEAGLE B) To establish the Course and Program Sharing Network and to make an appropriation **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB 72**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_72)TRIO PROGRAMS (TAVARES C) To make an appropriation for the provision of state matching funds for federal TRIO programs at Ohio institutions of higher education for FY 2014 and FY 2015 **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB 74**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_74)AGENCY STANDARDS-CHILDRENS FACILITIES (TAVARES C) To require that any privately run non-Ohio agency, home, school, camp, institution, or other entity or residential facility to which Ohio abused, neglected, dependent, unruly, or delinquent children are committed comply with the same standards that are applicable to in-state agencies **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Criminal Justice Committee**

[**SB 93**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_93)OPEN MEETINGS ACT (JONES S) To require that further information be stated in motions to hold executive sessions under the Open Meetings Act, to expand the fees and expenses that may be recovered for violations of the Act, and to make other changes to the Act **STATUS: Referred to Senate State Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

[**SB 96**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_96) HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM (LAROSE F) To require one unit of world history in the high school social studies curriculum **STATUS: Senate Education Committee – Substitute bill accepted & reported out**

[**SB 122**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_122)OFFICE OF REGIONAL SERVICES AND ACCOUNTABILITY (SAWYER T) To create the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB 123**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_123)INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (SAWYER T) To terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB126**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_126)SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDS (SCHIAVONI J) 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: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB127**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_127)PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION-HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN (JORDAN K) To create a property tax and a manufactured home tax reduction for parents of home schooled children equal to the taxes levied by the school district on the homestead of the parent **STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB 142**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_142)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION (SEITZ B) To establish a new default formula for determining the share allocated to each subdivision from the Local Government Fund distribution of each county in which the largest city or township has a population of more than 13,435 and to require minimum annual distributions **STATUS: Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB 159**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_159)PROPERTY TAX ROLLBACK EXEMPTIONS (SCHIAVONI J) To extend the 10% and 2.5% partial property tax "rollback" exemptions to new and replacement levies approved at the 2013 general election and to declare an emergency **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 162**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_162)SCHOOLS-CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS (HUGHES J) To require the State Fire Marshal and the Board of Building Standards to include in the State Fire Code and Ohio Building Code, a requirement that a public or private school must install carbon monoxide detectors **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 167**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_167)SCHOOL POLICIES-INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR (TAVARES C) With respect to school district policies for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 169**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_169)CHARTER SCHOOLS-EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (SAWYER T) To require the Department of Education to conduct a performance review of each chartered nonpublic school participating in the Educational Choice Scholarship Program **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 174**](https://webmail.esc-cc.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=vzR_CwSh_kqdOw-LLppqcXPdkJ1LatBIfitSE3SDRLJ3c-cPST_xFZZWC3f3qPMegP1_r7oSP7E.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.legislature.state.oh.us%2fbills.cfm%3fID%3d130_SB_174)STATE UNIVERSITIES-STUDENT VOTING POWER (SAWYER T) To require the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University to adopt a resolution to grant or not grant to student members voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions **STATUS: Introduced**

[**SB 180**](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_180) HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY (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**

**Ohio Politics/Budget**

[**Sales tax set to rise statewide**](http://www.toledoblade.com/State/2013/08/25/Sales-tax-set-to-rise-statewide-Copy.html) **Toledo Blade**

No customers walking in the doors at Mathews Ford in Oregon have mentioned the fact that the tax on the cars they’re thinking about buying is about to go up. “I just found out today,” salesman Justin Canfield said last week. “It’ll be a great tool [to close a sale] now that I know about it.” A $30,000 car purchased today in Lucas County will cost the buyer $2,025 in sales taxes. If the buyer mulls it over one week and signs the papers on or after Sept. 1, the sales tax bill will climb to $2,100 thanks to the two-year state budget that went into effect on July 1.

[**State's new youth suicide prevention law now in effect for the full school year**](http://statenews.org/story_page.cfm?ID=17564&year=2013&month=8) **Statehouse News Bureau**

As Ohio kids head back to school, the adults they interact with in school will have new training under a law that’s designed to stop teen suicide. Statehouse correspondent Karen Kasler reports.

[**Health care mandate could affect hours of substitutes**](http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20130824/NEWS01/308240023/Health-care-mandate-could-affect-hours-substitutes) **Chillicothe Gazette**

In-demand substitute teachers, who might teach math to high schoolers one day and social studies at junior high the next, will soon be entitled to the same [health](http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20130824/NEWS01/308240023/Health-care-mandate-could-affect-hours-substitutes) insurance options as the people they’re filling in for and that has some districts looking for ways to avoid those new costs. In 2015, the Patient Protection and [Affordable](http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20130824/NEWS01/308240023/Health-care-mandate-could-affect-hours-substitutes) Care Act’s so-called employer mandate kicks in, requiring all employers with 50 or more employees to offer a health insurance plan to their full-time workforce.

[**Officials push for law on day-care, preschool vaccinations**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/08/24/officials-push-for-law-on-day-care-preschool-vaccinations.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

When disease finds its way into day-care centers, it can spread quickly, infecting children, caregivers and the people who live with them at home. Some of that is unavoidable, but not all. An effort is underway in Ohio to better ensure that the state puts up the best defense against illnesses that can be prevented with vaccines, its backers say. Ohio is the only state that doesn’t have a law with vaccine requirements for kids in preschool and day care. Depending on the state, there are various exemptions, including for medical or religious reasons.

[**Income, Sales Tax Changes Take Effect Sept. 1**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193873) **Hannah**

On Sunday, Sept. 1 two major tax changes enacted in the FY14-15 budget (HB59) go into effect: the state sales tax increases .25 percent to 5.75 percent and the state income tax is reduced by 8.5 percent. Regarding the sales tax, because all local Ohio jurisdictions impose a local sales and use tax in addition to the state rate, the Ohio Department of Taxation has provided a database of local sales and use tax rates called the "Finder" on the department website at <https://thefinder.tax.ohio.gov/StreamlineSalesTaxWeb/Default.aspx>. Included on the page are tables showing the sales and use tax rates by county as well a calculator which identifies the tax by zip code and/or address.

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

[**State launches new report card system**](http://statenews.org/story_page.cfm?ID=17559&year=2013&month=8) **Statehouse News Bureau**

The state has officially changed the way it evaluates school districts around Ohio. An “A” through “F” system replaces the one which used terms like “Excellent” and “Excellent with Distinction.” The state’s top education official tells Statehouse correspondent Andy Chow that this new system gives parents a better idea at just how their district is performing.

[**Ohio voucher program expands to include more students**](http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130824/NEWS0102/308240027) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

For eight years, Ohio’s Educational Choice scholarships have been marketed as an escape for children whose public schools persistently fail state standards. With an EdChoice voucher, students with little choice but to attend a failing school can instead enroll in any of several hundred private schools, with taxpayers picking up all or most of the bill. This school year, for the first time, EdChoice is helping a different kind of student, those who live in low-income homes but who don’t attend or live near poorly performing public schools. This expanded EdChoice program will give vouchers to students whose family income is at or below twice the 2012 federal poverty line, or $46,100 for a family of four.

[**Schools developing art, gym, music tests to judge teachers**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/08/24/schools-developing-art-gym-music-tests-to-judge-teachers.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

While some Ohio teachers face new job reviews based on their students’ standardized test scores, others will be graded this year in part on how well their students can clap a rhythm or how fast they can run a mile. State exams will play a big role in determining whether math and reading teachers are successful –– students in grades four through eight already take exams in those subjects each year. Their scores will now factor into their teachers’ reviews. But most subjects don’t have state tests. For other areas, the state has created a complex patchwork of tests to measure student growth and, in turn, whether their teachers are considered effective.

[**After report cards, confusion about charter schools' fates**](http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130827/NEWS0102/308270023?nclick_check=1) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

Charter school critics and supporters alike agree the tough new Ohio report cards are a step in the right direction to raise the bar on charter school quality in the state. Except nobody’s really sure what that will look like. It’s not clear, for example, whether it will be easier or harder for failing charter schools to stay open. That’s because the academic measures and the state’s closure laws have changed. Schools that might have been closed this year because of academic performance may get a temporary pass.

[**Some local charter schools are among state's best charters, according to state report cards**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/08/some_local_charter_schools_are.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Northeast Ohio has some of the state's charter school stars, according to the new state report cards.

[**Kasich Appoints Former Clinton-Massie Superintendent to State School Board**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193907) **Hannah**

Gov. John Kasich announced Thursday that he has appointed Ronald W. Rudduck of Wilmington to the open State Board of Education 10th District seat that was vacated when Jeff Hardin died earlier this year. Hardin died in March after attending a board meeting, where he was among those who cast a vote for Dick Ross as superintendent. Hardin had been elected to represent the 10th District in 2008 and won re-election in 2012.

[**Federal Education Officials Point to ODE for Social Media Outreach Tips**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193905) **Hannah**

Ohio education officials' efforts to reach out on social media have drawn the attention of their federal counterparts, who recently held out local efforts in a case study. "The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is one of the leading state agencies embracing and experimenting with social media. ODE is moving beyond the traditional methods of communication like newsletters and mainstream media to leverage and expand on the opportunities social media offers," notes a July report from the Reform Support Network, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education as a means to assist Race to the Top grantees in implementing changes.

[**The lack of overall grades in new state report cards poses a new challenge for high-performing charter schools and Cleveland's Transformation Alliance**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/08/the_lack_of_overall_grades_in.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

A stack of signs advertising the Entrepeneurship Preparatory School (E-Prep) as "Rated Excellent!" sits in the school's office. Once destined to be posted on lawns to attract potential students, they're now destined for the trash. The signs aren't accurate anymore, since E-Prep -- like every other school in Ohio -- has no state rating at all. The state is skipping overall ratings for districts and individual schools until 2015, while it phases in new standards for students and a new report card style. That change will pose a challenge for schools and districts seeking to advertise their performance to voters -- or, in the case of high-performing charter schools like E-Prep, to families of their student customers.

**Early Learning**

[**Capitol Square by the Numbers: Early Education in Ohio**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193869) **Hannah**

**$75 billion** - The amount proposed this year by President Barack Obama as an additional investment over the next 10 years to make early childhood education available to all four-year-olds in the United States, according to the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio (CDF-Ohio).  
**$30 million** - The amount the FY14-15 Ohio budget invests in publicly-funded early childhood programs for children whose families earn less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, says the Annie E. Casey Foundation/CDF-Ohio report, *Ohio's Kids Count*.

[**Study: Preschool Rating Systems Disconnected from Child Outcomes**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2013/08/study_preschool_rating_systems_disconnected_from_child_outcomes.html) **Education Week**

Preschools that are highly ranked by state evaluation systems produce outcomes for children that are not significantly better than lower-ranked programs because those systems may be including too many indicators, according to a study released this month in the journal Science. Researchers wanted to study the connection of student learning to Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, which have been created as a way to evaluate preschools and share those rankings with the public. The federal investment in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grants, as well as funding from states and foundations, have prompted widespread adoption of these systems, which Education Week explored in an June [article](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/06/12/35preschool.h32.html). Nearly every state has, or is developing, a QRIS.

[**Ed. Dept. Releases Snapshot of U.S. Child-Care Arrangements**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/early_years/2013/08/ed_dept_releases_snapshot_of_us_childcare_arrangements.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EarlyYears+%28Early+Years%29) **Education Week**

A majority of the 21.9 million children from newborns to age 5 in the United States spent at least one day a week in the care of someone other than a parent, and most parents say that the learning activities offered by that care provider are very important to them, according to a [survey](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013029.pdf) conducted by the federally funded National Center of Education Sciences. A nationally representative sample of about 8,000 families were surveyed between January and August 2012 to give a snapshot of the care arrangements for young children not yet enrolled in kindergarten. The survey also provides information on what parents find important in a care provider.

**College and Career Readiness/Preparation**

[**Local colleges welcome more women than men on campus**](http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130826/NEWS/308250073) **Cincinnati Enquirer**

As tens of thousands of students pour onto college campuses around Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky this week, most of them will be women. “I think every college and university would like to see it equal, but the reality is it’s closer to 60-40,” said Peggy Minnich, admissions director at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Delhi Township. For several generations, women have enrolled in college at a higher rate than men, and once they get there, more of them stay there.

[**GED test going up in price**](http://starbeacon.com/local/x1253329954/GED-test-going-up-in-price) **Ashtabula Star Beacon**

Time is running out for those General Education Diploma  (GED) test-takers hoping to avoid a more expensive test and a more challenging exam. In January, not only will the test become more difficult, aligning with new Common Core Standards, but the cost for the exam will increase from $40 to $120.

[**Regional colleges' costs rise, but not at national pace**](http://thecourier.com/Issues/2013/Aug/26/ar_news_082613_story1.asp?d=082613_story1,2013,Aug,26&c=n) **The Findlay Courier**

The cost of tuition, room and board at regional colleges and universities is rising, but not at the pace seen elsewhere in the nation. Nationally, community colleges have the highest increase in tuition costs, at an average of 6 percent this school year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education. But that is not the case at Owens Community College, where tuition increased about 2 percent, or about $3.57 per credit hour, since last school year. A full-time in-state student taking 12 credit hours at $149.60 per hour can expect to pay $1,795.20 per semester for tuition this school year.

[**LinkedIn expands for high-school students**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2013/08/26/linkedin-expands-for-high-school-students.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Hoping to attract younger users, the career-oriented social network LinkedIn announced last week that it’s adding a feature for universities to promote themselves and will allow students as young as 14 to open accounts. “This is a way we can engage kids in their future,” said LinkedIn product manager Christina Allen. “We’ve done a huge amount of research with parents and universities, and we saw how powerful it is to give these insights to students.”

[**Colleges are toughening up on student borrowing**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/25/colleges-student-loan-defaults/2666173/) **USA Today**

So far, the speakers at new-student orientation at New River Community and Technical College on this afternoon have been upbeat and supportive. Now comes financial aid director Trish Harmon. The tone darkens. "Caution! Student Loans *must be paid back*!" screams the headline of the flier she hands out. It lists the consequences — a dozen in all — for borrowers who default: Garnished wages. Bad credit reports. Collection agencies at the door.

[**Colleges to add exit test for students nearing graduation**](http://www.19actionnews.com/story/23260105/colleges-to-add) **19Action News**

Students going to college take a variety of tests every year. Now, yet another test will be added for students. Next spring, 200 colleges across the country are going to launch a new test for college students nearing graduation. It's called a college exit exam.

[**Case Western ranked 4th in national survey**](http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/312095/45/Case-Western-ranked-4th-in-national-survey) **WKYC Cleveland**

Case Western Reserve University is basking in the glow of some good press. The school was ranked number four in a national survey of colleges by Washington Monthly Magazine, beating out some historic [academic](http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/312095/45/Case-Western-ranked-4th-in-national-survey) giants. The first day of classes at Case came with national kudos for the [school](http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/312095/45/Case-Western-ranked-4th-in-national-survey), but the people there say it's about time.

[**How to Close the Youth 'Skills Gap': South Carolina's 'Secret Sauce'**](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/businessdesk/2013/08/how-to-close-the-youth-skills.html)  **PBS NewsHour**

President Obama is embarking on a bus tour today to explain **his plan** to make college more affordable. Unfortunately, his near exclusive focus on college leaves little room for apprenticeships and other pathways to rewarding careers that are more cost-effective for millions of young people. We've written recently about two related problems: **high youth unemployment** and a **scarcity of skilled labor**. While two out of every five young adults have no job at all, executives complain of the labor market being short of machinists, computer numerical controllers, electricians, welders, healthcare technicians and dozens of other categories of middle-skilled people.

[**Ashland University slashes 2014 tuition by $10,000**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/public/2013/08/27/Ashland_University_lowers_tuition_.html) **Columbus Dispatch**

Ashland University leaders hope prospective students will breathe easy when they see the school’s sharply lower new tuition rate. In an effort to lessen sticker shock and entice more students to Ashland, the private university 80 miles northeast of Columbus will slash the cost of tuition for the 2014-15 academic year by $10,000, officials announced yesterday.

[**Study: Postsecondary Transition Programs Lack Effectiveness Evidence**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2013/08/study_postsecondary_transition.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+OnSpecialEducation+%28Education+Week+Blog%3A+On+Special+Education%29) **Education Week**

Compared to their same-age, typically developing peers, students with disabilities are less likely to take postsecondary classes (60 percent versus 67 percent) and be living on their own eight years after leaving high school (45 percent versus 59 percent) But, despite the emphasis on transition planning in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, relatively little research on transition programs meets What Works Clearinghouse standards for evidence of effectiveness, according to a report released this month, [*"Improving Post-High School Outcomes for Transition-Age Students with Disabilities: An Evidence Review."*](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20134011/pdf/20134011.pdf)

[**529 Plan Savings Can Be Used for High School Dual-Enrollment Tuition**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2013/08/529_plan_savings_can_be_used_for_high_school_dual_enrollment_tuition.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+edweek%2FBVuj+%28Education+Week+Blog%3A+College+Bound%29) **Education Week**

When families sock away money in 529 plans, they can use the funds to pay for college-related expenses, but they don't have to wait until their child is in college. The tax-advantaged savings accounts can be used to pay for the cost of college courses that students take in high school if the district doesn't cover it. As long as students are getting college-level credit and are enrolled as students at a college, there is no age requirement about when families can start using savings from their 529 plans, according to Joseph Hurley, founder of Savingforcollege.com in Pittsfield, N.Y.

**Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

[**State school board member, lawmakers from Akron area questioning Common Core school standards**](http://www.ohio.com/news/state-school-board-member-lawmakers-from-akron-area-questioning-common-core-school-standards-1.424568)  **Akron Beacon Journal**

Nationally endorsed education standards known as the Common Core are coming under fire in the Ohio legislature and state school board as schools begin implementation this year. Endorsed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Common Core sets rigorous benchmarks for Ohio and 45 other states, with the goal to raise the quality of education and student performance. However, critics — some of them strange bedfellows — are raising concerns about an invasion of personal privacy, an attack on states’ rights, a federal takeover, an unfunded mandate and a tool that could be used against teachers unions.

**Research**

[**CDC Releases 2012 School Health Policies, Practices Study Results**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=193868) **Hannah**

School districts nationwide are showing improvements in measures related to nutritional policies, physical education and tobacco policies, according to the 2012 School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which was released Monday. SHPPS is the largest and most comprehensive survey to assess school health policies. "Schools play a critical role in the health and well-being of our youth," CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., said in a statement. "Good news for students and parents – more students have access to healthy food, better physical fitness activities through initiatives such as ‘Let’s Move,’ and campuses that are completely tobacco free."

**Grant Opportunities**

***Federal***

[**Race to the Top District (RTT-D)**](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-district/index.html)  **US Department of Education (Deadline: October 3, 2013)**

This year, the Race to the Top-District competition seeks to build on the innovative strategies already employed in classrooms across the country. This year's competition invites applicants to demonstrate how they can personalize education for all students and is aimed squarely at classrooms and the all-important relationship between teachers and students. The competition will encourage transformative change within schools, providing school leaders and teachers with key tools and support in order to best meet their students' needs. Applicants from all districts are invited to apply. The Department plans to support high-quality proposals from applicants across a variety of districts, including rural and non-rural as well as those already in a State with a Race to the Top grant and districts that are not. These 4-year awards will range from $4 million to $30 million, depending on the population of students served through the plan.

***Private***

[**FirstEnergy Accepting STEM Grant Applications From Educators**](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/community/education/educational_grants.html) **First Energy Corp (Deadline: September 16, 2013)**

FirstEnergy Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Classroom Grants are awarded for creative individual classroom projects in grades pre-K-12. Any creative project in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics will be considered. Grants may be used to compensate experts who come to work with students but not to pay teachers or staff. The resources requested should be an integral component of a well-planned classroom project/lesson plan and important to its success.

[**National Science Teachers Association Accepting Entries for Shell Science Lab Challenge**](http://www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/) **National Science Teachers Association (Deadline: December 20, 2013)**

The National Science Teachers Association, with support from Shell Oil Company, is accepting entries for the fourth annual Shell Science Lab Challenge. The challenge invites middle and high school science teachers (grades 6-12) in the United States and Canada (with special attention to urban and underrepresented groups) to illustrate replicable approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources.

[**GTECH Seeks Proposals to Create After-School Computer Labs for At-Risk Youth**](http://www.gtech.com/about_gtech/proposal_guidelines.asp) **GTech (Deadline: Rolling)**

GTECH's After School Advantage Program provides nonprofit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs designed to give inner-city children between the ages of 5 and 15 a safe, meaningful, and fun learning experience during afterschool hours. The program provides up to $15,000 in computers, online technology, computer software, and volunteer hours to afterschool programs in inner-city communities where the online gaming company has an office. GTECH employees will work with each agency and school to design and develop a fully operational computer center.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Berea***

[**Joint chamber luncheon features Berea superintendent's State of the School address**](http://www.cleveland.com/middleburg-heights/index.ssf/2013/08/joint_chamber_luncheon_feature.html) **Sun News**

***Brooklyn***

[**Brooklyn schools tax failure recount request will cost cash-strapped district $440**](http://www.cleveland.com/brooklyn/index.ssf/2013/08/brooklyn_schools_request_levy.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Cleveland Heights-University Heights***

[**Cleveland Heights - University Heights schools graded high for growth on state report cards, but struggle in other areas**](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2013/08/cleveland_heights_-_university.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Independence***

[**Independence schools retain high marks on 2013 Ohio school report card**](http://www.cleveland.com/independence/index.ssf/2013/08/independence_schools_retain_hi.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***North Royalton***

[**North Royalton schools struggle in educating disabled students but perform better in other categories**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-royalton/index.ssf/2013/08/north_royalton_schools_struggl.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Shaker Heights***

[**Shaker Heights High School students to receive 'Missing' grade, rather than zero, on assignments not turned in**](http://www.cleveland.com/shaker-heights/index.ssf/2013/08/shaker_heights_high_school_stu_1.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Westlake***

[**Westlake High School aims to be best in Ohio**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20130828/westlake-high-school-aims-to-be-best-in-ohio) **Lorain Morning Journal**