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This June 1, 2017, Legislative e-Update is provided by OESCA to Ohio's ESCs, their client school districts, and other key education stakeholders.

The e-Update provides information on the education bills of interest to Ohio's public education community introduced during the 132nd General Assembly. Bills are organized in order of last action date and include the last three status updates with most recent activity listed first in descending order.

For each bill listed, the long title of the bill is included as well as the current status. There are also links to the state bill page for users to download any bills, analyses or fiscal notes. The document concludes with the latest news from Capitol Square.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING

The following education bill of interest are monitored by OESCA on behalf of the membership and client districts:

- HB200** **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION** (KOEHLER K) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-200>
- HB203** **YOUTH SUMMER JOBS INITIATIVE** (BARNES, JR. J) To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
5/9/2017 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-203>
- HB49** **OPERATING BUDGET** (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.
- Current Status:** 6/7/2017 - Senate Finance, (Tenth Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 6/6/2017 - Senate Finance, (Ninth Hearing)
6/1/2017 - Senate Finance, (Eighth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49>

- HB170** **COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION** (CARFAGNA R, DUFFEY M) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive technology grant program for the 2018-2019 school year; and to make an appropriation.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-170>
- HB176** **SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS** (THOMPSON A) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-176>
- SB154** **OPIOID ADDICTION RESPONSE** (SCHIAVONI J, YUKO K) To provide for the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
- Recent Status:** 5/17/2017 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-154>
- SB151** **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS** (HITE C) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions
- Recent Status:** 5/17/2017 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-151>
- HB246** **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS** (BOCCIERI J, REZABEK J) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2017 - Introduced
- Recent Status:**
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-246>

- HB242** **SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING** (CARFAGNA R) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments.
Current Status: 5/24/2017 - Introduced
Recent Status:
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-242>
- HB8** **PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS** (HAMBLEY S, REZABEK J) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident.
Current Status: 5/24/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-2
Recent Status: 5/24/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
4/26/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-8>
- HB181** **ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS** (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.
Current Status: 5/23/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/10/2017 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-181>
- HB37** **SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES** (ARNDT S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.
Current Status: 5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-37>
- HB235** **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE** (GAVARONE T) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.
Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Introduced
Recent Status:
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-235>
- HB220** **NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS** (LELAND D) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools.
Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
Recent Status: 5/16/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-220>

HB224 RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS (INGRAM C) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging.

Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

Recent Status: 5/16/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-224>

SB8 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (GARDNER R, TERHAR L) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

Recent Status: 5/17/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
5/17/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-8>

SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
4/26/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-3>

SB149 ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS (LAROSE F) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

Recent Status: 5/11/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-149>

HB166 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REVISIONS (REINEKE W, CUPP B) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
3/28/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-166>

HB87 **COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS** (ROEGNER K) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)
2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-87>

HB134 **SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** (HAMBLEY S, KICK D) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/9/2017 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
4/25/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-134>

SB36 **AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION** (HITE C) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

Recent Status: 5/10/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
5/10/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-36>

HB47 **STUDENTS IN MILITARY** (BOCCIERI J) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges.

Current Status: 5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/7/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
2/14/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-47>

HB58 **CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION** (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.

Current Status: 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/29/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
3/1/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-58>

SB82 **SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION** (WILLIAMS S, LEHNER P) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/29/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-82>

SB85 **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION** (HUFFMAN M) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/5/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-85>

SB34 **SCHOOL YEARS** (MANNING G) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
2/15/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-34>

SB104 **PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS** (TAVARES C) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools.

Current Status: 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 3/21/2017 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-104>

HB80 **SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION** (LATOURETTE S, SMITH K) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

Current Status: 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
Recent Status: 3/15/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 90-4
3/15/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-80>

- SB54** **SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS** (BROWN E, LEHNER P) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.
- Current Status:** 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 3/22/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)
3/8/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-54>
- SB79** **STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE** (JORDAN K) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.
- Current Status:** 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 3/15/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-79>
- HB129** **SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR** (SMITH K, KELLY B) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.
- Current Status:** 3/28/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 3/21/2017 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
3/14/2017 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-129>
- HB102** **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM** (BRENNER A) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another.
- Current Status:** 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
- Recent Status:** 3/1/2017 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-102>

HJR3 SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS REFUND (BRENNER A) To conditionally authorize the issuance of state obligations to refund pending school district obligations, to conditionally waive, beginning in 2020, the requirement that schools levy property taxes to pay debt charges on their obligations, and to conditionally authorize a treasury fund that is restricted exclusively to educational purposes.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance

Recent Status: 3/1/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HJR-3>

SB39 COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (SCHIAVONI J) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools.

Current Status: 3/1/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
2/8/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-39>

HB21 COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION (HAMBLEY S) Regarding verification of community school enrollments.

Current Status: 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
2/1/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-21>

SB17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALLOCATION (TAVARES C) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund each month.

Current Status: 2/1/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

Recent Status: 1/31/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-17>

Committee Updates

HOUSE EDUCATION AND CAREER READINESS

Wed., May. 31, 2017

Rep. Brenner: 614-644-6711

HB170

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (CARFAGNA R, DUFFEY M) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive technology grant program for the 2018-2019 school year; and to make an appropriation.

Chairman Brenner announced a delay in the planned amendments and vote on the bill until next week because of the number of members absent from the day's hearing.

Written testimony was submitted by Ron Barnes, representing Google; and jointly by Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials and Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

HB176

SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (THOMPSON A) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations.

Numerous people provided proponent testimony on the bill.

Lisa Johnson, a Geauga County resident, noted testimony she'd given a few years previous about her experience in New York schools with the Common Core standards and said she'd hoped Ohio would avoid entanglement with those standards.

Johnson said as a member of a state panel reviewing Ohio's social studies standards, she'd witnessed how social and emotional learning is embedded in the standards, which she said is a matter of concern for many parents. She also said while state law does not require local schools to adopt state model curricula on state standards, local schools are required to administer assessments that are closely aligned to that model curriculum. She also expressed concern about the extent to which student information is collected and shared, among other objections to state education policies.

Rep. Ryan Smith said he's realized in the past couple years from talking with teachers the degree to which children are visual learners because of the ubiquity of technology. He asked about finding the balance between supporting digital education and protecting student information. Johnson said technology is a wonderful thing, but said not all children are visual learners, and it's best to leave decisions about how to incorporate technology to local decisionmakers.

Rep. Henne said he believes in school choice but asked how parents will have enough information to make good choices without some common standards to compare schools. Johnson said she doesn't advocate eliminating testing, but is concerned about the manner of assessments, saying she's not for high-stakes testing.

Rep. Ingram asked if the education system can be fixed "without throwing everything out." Johnson said the system cannot be fixed while the Common Core standards are in effect. She said the standards were written "to be tested and taught in a certain way" and are not developmentally appropriate.

Rep. Fedor asked if local schools and the state would save money under the bill. Johnson said she's heard that's the case but can't speak authoritatively on the matter.

Jenna Beadle, state policy director for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF), spoke in favor of certain bill provisions that align to the organization's policy book, adopted by farm bureau members at an annual meeting. She said OFBF supports repeal of Common Core standards, given concern from members about the amount and makeup of testing under the standards, as well as the way the testing limits what teachers can teach and the way it crowds out courses like consumer sciences and shop. She said OFBF also supports local control of education, saying it creates strong communities and allows people to be directly engaged with the education their children receive.

Paul Mittermeier, a Hillsdale College graduate student, said HB176 "affords the children of Ohio ... a unique and long-overdue respite from the infringements upon the quality and access of their learning and the violations of their privacy that have proliferated in the draconian, high stakes, post-Race to the Top educational landscape."

Rep. Ramos noted Mittermeier and other witnesses have spoken in favor of local control, and asked if this bill should also include restoration of local control to communities like Lorain and Youngstown that are under control of a state oversight panel. Mittermeier said he generally views policies that bring power and decision-making to centralized authorities as destructive to local control.

Rep. Patterson asked how the state can balance local control with the need to ensure the quality of education is consistent across a large and diverse state. Mittermeier said regardless of what system is used, parental authority must be retained. He said while the state might have benevolent intent in changing the system, it's best to let parents and local decisionmakers drive the process.

Michael Goldstein, director of government relations for eGeneration Foundation, said he's worked with technical personnel in communications, aviation, nuclear energy and other fields throughout his career and it's his opinion that Common Core standards do not prepare students to become top-notch mathematicians, engineers, physicians and scientists. He said most of the unfavorable factors affecting education have come from federal intrusion into locally directed education. Goldstein said he fears American students under Common Core will fall behind their counterparts around the world and be displaced in college by international students who come to the country to take advantage of technical university programs in the U.S and then return home, or who will fill positions here for which U.S graduates will be unqualified.

Rep. Henne objected to Goldstein's argument, saying the people graduating college in the timeframe Goldstein mentioned would have graduated under previous standards.

Nicki Gordon-Coy, a teacher in Sandy Valley Local Schools, said her experience as an educator has changed "drastically" over 14 years as the education system was "turned on its head." She said state standards have been spelled out "to the point of minimal opportunities for minimal creativity," and the teacher evaluation system's reliance on student test performance forces a "relentless pace" of teaching to cover all the content covered by the tests. "As I am concluding the first half of my career, I see Common Core drastically changing the narrative on teachers," she said.

Rep. Ingram said it's interesting the bill proposes to use pre-2010 Massachusetts standards when Massachusetts itself opted to adopt Common Core. Gordon-Coy said Massachusetts was highly rated among states for education before it was "fiscally incentivized" to adopt Common Core.

Lynn Anderson, a retired vocational instructor from Carroll County, said the emphasis on additional math and English instruction under Common Core led to a loss of vocational

instruction in schools. "Clearly, this created an additional void in the ability to prepare students for the work force," Anderson said.

Tony Orr, superintendent of Hamilton City Schools, said he's seen major changes since inception of state testing that demonstrate the law of unintended consequences. He said he supports the bill's elimination of state teacher and principal evaluation systems, elimination of the punitive aspects of the third grade reading guarantee, and the overall intent to restore local control. But he said he does not support moving away from the "stability" of Common Core standards, saying schools can't have another "moving target."

Rep. Fedor asked Orr to elaborate on remarks he made about the A-F state report cards. Orr said it's not appropriate to measure with a one-size-fits-all approach because of how students' backgrounds differ. He also said a student who fits into multiple student subgroup populations will count for or against a district's rating under the current system. He also shared stories of students who'd lost family members to heroin overdoses right before it was time for state testing, saying those students won't be focused on performing well on those tests.

Chairman Brenner asked how the state would measure performance to ensure the money it's spending on education is being used well. Orr urged him to trust teachers.

Rep. Patterson asked Orr what had led to the current state of the education system. Orr referenced Sputnik, the "A Nation at Risk" report and subsequently tests that compare the U.S. to other countries. He said the difference is that the U.S. teaches all students, whereas students in some other countries are tracked into certain vocations or training programs or universities based on test results at a younger age.

Patrick Manley, an architect from Columbus, said Common Core standards, by their nature, follow rigid and linear steps designed around the idea that the education system must be standardized in order to compare students to one another. He contrasted this against the skills needed in construction projects, which he said require creative problem-solving backed by precise math and science. "Can anyone in this room name a single federal education program since 1965 that has resulted in better educated children across the nation? We know the answer. The problem is not that we simply have not found the right program. The problem is that it is impossible for a federal program to succeed because the needs of students vary so dramatically from state to state, county to county, school district to school district, school building to school building, and often desk to desk," he said.

Rep. Koehler asked Manley if Common Core and classical education can both be in the public schools. Manley said they are diametrically opposed, saying it and predecessor reform initiatives discouraged rote memorization, while he finds memorization techniques to be useful and valuable.

Patty Russo, a parent from Loveland City Schools, described how her son who had always loved math learned to hate it because of changes implemented in math courses under the Common Core standards. "I work with engineers so I have a perspective on what leads to success in that field. In middle school, my son expressed interest in engineering. But with the introduction of integrated math, any engineering spark was extinguished, and I blame Common Core," Russo said.

Rep. Ramos described how in his 1980s-era education, he didn't learn much history past the Civil War, and asked how the state would ensure students are learning important topics without some kind of state standards.

"How did we do it before?" Russo said, saying if parents feel a school isn't teaching a subject sufficiently, they can go to the local board to raise concerns. She said she's not suggesting there should not be some type of standards or foundation, but said what's happening now

isn't working as well as what came before.

Chris Moll, a Waynesville parent representing the Sandy Valley Elementary Parent Teacher Association, expressed support for elimination of numerous state assessments, prohibition of using Common Core standards and for restoring local control in the areas of academic standards, teacher evaluations and assessments. Moll said it's increasingly frustrating for the PTA to try to schedule and sponsor field trips because the school can't schedule anything else in March, April or early May because of testing.

Testimony from Deborah Kruse Guebert addressed the dangers of "utopian ideologies" and the lessons history teaches about centralized planning. "The utopian 'progressive' dream of using the power of government to condition the next generation to accept conformity and groupthink is alive and well in Ohio, aided and abetted by our legislators and the Ohio Department of Education," Guebert said. Guebert shared personal experience with "centrally-controlled educational systems" from having been born and raised in Japan. "Despite extremely high academic standards and achievement, initiative and creativity were crushed by the uniformity demanded of all students."

Jack Kangas, a ninth grade student from Maineville who is home schooled, described how he was shocked at what a fellow Boy Scout in his troop had shared about instruction in the public schools about the American Revolution. "He said he learned the American Revolution wasn't actually revolutionary because in England the rich people were in power and after the revolution rich people were still in power. But that wasn't what the revolution was about at all. The American Revolution was about freedom from a tyrannical government that was destroying the basic rights of their people and the formation of a new government that would protect these rights. What shocked me most was the emphasis on class division," Kangas said.

Richard Wahl, a board of education member from Pandora Gilboa Local Schools, said Common Core standards are poor policy and should be replaced. He said the federal government has no role in education policy, which should be left to the state. He said he believes HB176 addresses the problems of Common Core standards and over-testing in a positive way. He said he's seen good and bad in local control of education, but ultimately local school board members are elected by and accountable to local residents, who also can exert influence on levy elections. He said federal funding covers less than 1 percent of the district's budget, while state funding is slightly less than half the budget. He said people in Pandora-Gilboa feel strongly the federal government should butt out of dictating what it doesn't fund.

Rep. Kent Smith said as a former local board of education member he agreed with much of what Wahl said, but disagreed with Wahl's remarks on the federal government. Smith noted sex discrimination laws in Title IX and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as positive interventions by the federal government. Wahl said he believes the federal government oversteps every time it treads on state's constitutional rights. He said he's seen some benefits from those policies, but believes most of those changes would have come about at the state level. He said the problem is that when the federal government steps in with a program, it often is not paying the bill for it.

To Wahl's point about local citizens' influence over local education, Koehler said his hometown of Springfield recently saw a levy passed with a very small slice of the population, and asked if Wahl believe local voters are actually paying attention. Wahl said even if they don't vote, many of them are paying attention. He speculated that the low turnout indicated there was no particular scandal at the time to motivate voters to turn out in opposition.

Wahl told Rep. Hambley in his district when people are upset about something they tell him about it.

Ramos said if the bill passed today, it still wouldn't undo existing federal mandates. He asked Wahl if his board has written to the presidential administration or the local congressional representatives. Wahl said he has contacted U.S. Rep. Latta about the issue.

Rep. Patterson said in one of his last years of teaching, his district accepted Race to the Top funding because it needed it to scrape by. He said if the state wants to wean itself from federal money, he wonders if the state has the fortitude to come up with its own plan to fund school districts. Wahl said he'd rather pay more to the state than to the federal government. He said he'd go to his district's voters to sell a levy to make up the difference in lost funding if it will keep the federal government out.

Thea Shoemake testified about people she knows who've decided to opt for home schooling, saying they tell her local school board members say their hands are tied by Columbus, while the State Board of Education said they're free to do as they want. She also said she's heard concerns about the way certain content is taught now, and about the use of student data.

Heidi Huber, who described herself as a concerned citizen, said the bill is similar to previous legislation from Rep. Thompson but updated for the current political environment. She said the analysis of the bill does not get to the heart of what it intends, which is to repeal existing mandates, not prohibit use of Common Core standards. She also elaborated on why the bill proposes to use Massachusetts' pre-Common Core standards, among other comments.

HB200 **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (KOEHLER K)** To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Providing proponent testimony, most of it in writing, were Ezra Escudero of the LIBRE Initiative; Chad Aldis of the Fordham Institute; Larry Keough of the Catholic Conference of Ohio; Kaleigh Lemaster of School Choice Ohio; and Chris Steinmann and Marquae Calhoun of Lutheran East High School. Some of the testimony was similar to that the witnesses provided in the Senate Education Committee on companion legislation, SB85 (Huffman). (See *The Hannah Report*, 4/25/17.)

Steinmann, principal of Lutheran East, said about 250 of his school's 275 students receive the EdChoice or Cleveland vouchers, and the programs are "incredible blessings" for parents and students. He said one of the problems with current voucher programs are that they hurt economic mobility, as moving can jeopardize families' eligibility. He said HB200 would address this problem.

Rep. Patterson noted the shortfall in the budget and said he supports what Steinmann's school is doing, but asked how he can go back to his district and tell his schools he is supporting vouchers when he also has to tell them they are losing money from the state. Steinmann said decisions should be made in the best interests of the students. "That is the first decision that should be made, not the last."

Patterson followed up by asking if he should vote for local control or if his responsibility is to all the students of the state. Steinmann said he would argue that all the students need to be taken care of.

Rep. Ramos said the state has never had a fully funded college savings program, and asked if Steinmann believes the portion of the bill that allows students to carry scholarships through college is essential. Steinmann said he thinks the savings account can be essential to creating competition among private schools, but he said carrying it through college is probably not essential.

Calhoun, a 2017 graduate of Lutheran East, discussed how School Choice had a positive effect on his life. He said Lutheran East offered a very different environment from the school he attended previously, where he said fighting other students was necessary to avoid being picked on.

HB154 TRUCK DRIVER STUDENT AID (SMITH R, MANNING N) To establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.

Submitting proponent testimony were Tony Balzer of the Ohio Trucking Association; Ed Nagle of Nagle Toledo; Kimberly McConville of the Ohio Soft Drink Association; and Tom Walsh of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

Balzer described the trucking industry as the "lifeblood of the U.S. economy," as nearly 70 percent of freight tonnage moves by truck. He said the industry has struggled periodically with a shortage of drivers, most recently since the economy began to recover from the recession. He said if current trends hold, the shortage could increase from 48,000 in 2015 to nearly 175,000 by 2024. "The need for this bill is simple. In this country we will give scholarships, grants and loans to go to college to pursue a degree in any number of disciplines but there is no financial aid for truck driving school," he said.

He said the bill could assist with the education of up to 1,000 drivers. Addressing the issue of job turnover in the industry, he said it is like other industries with a limited number of new entrants, where qualified drivers with good safety records can easily move into new positions. "Churn is not a bad word; churn tells me that people are gaining experience and getting better jobs," Balzer said.

He told committee members that they do want requirements for the grants and loans, and do not want to give it to anyone who wants to go, as they want people who will be employable.

Rep. Kent Smith noted the LSC analysis that applicants have to have an expected family contribution of \$2,190 dollars or less and asked what that means. Balzer said he is not sure and would have to follow up on that. Rep. Ramos interjected that the number is set under the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

Nagle said as a board member for both the Ohio Trucking Association and for Owens State Community College, he sees how lack of financial aid is one of the biggest challenges for students interested in pursuing CDL training. "Most of these students are simply looking for a better life and all of the traditional means of financial aid have turned their backs on them," Nagle said.

Nagle said it takes a couple years for new drivers to reach full productivity, so even having enough new entrants to match the rate of driver retirements will not address the shortage. He noted the trucking workforce is aging, and said the bill is one of the best investments the state can make.

He recommended a possible amendment that schools that receive grant and scholarship students can't charge a finder's fee to trucking companies that hire a graduate who received the funds. He later told Patterson that the limitation on finder's fees is not currently in the bill, and said he urges the General Assembly not allow schools to charge those if they receive scholarship funds.

McConville likewise addressed a shortage in qualified drivers, who she said are "the most critical part" of the distribution process for her organization's member businesses. She said even though they offer jobs where the drivers stay locally, they still have trouble filling jobs. She also noted that her industry is one of the remaining industries that don't require a college degree, and see it as a different path for students.

Walsh, the vice president of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, called the bill common sense, and said the CDL program can be completed in six to eight weeks. Despite this, he said many perspective students walk away from the opportunity to complete the program because they cannot afford it.

Answering Smith's question to Balzer, Walsh said the expected family contribution is based on a variety of factors, and in Ohio is used to determine Pell and Ohio College Opportunity grant eligibility. He said \$2,190 is the maximum EFC to qualify for Pell. He told Smith there is no family income criteria, and said those receiving the grants are low- and middle-income households.

Jo Alice Blondin, president of Clark State, provided written testimony after not being able to stay. She said in her testimony her college's CDL program is strategically located near major interstates and state routes. Blondin said Clark State trains about 100 students per year, and has to turn away about 150 students annually because of capacity and funding issues, not to mention those who can't afford the training. She said most traditional financial aid programs do not cover CDL training, so HB154 can help remove the financial barrier that keeps some from pursuing the training.

Wilson and Rosacco, respectively director of the Transportation Center and vice president of government relations and community outreach for Cuyahoga Community College, submitted written testimony in favor of the bill, citing the demand they see for the college's training program.

Capitol Square in Review

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Students from eight STEM high schools from around the state recently shared their solutions to help end the opioid crisis here in Ohio. The "Opioid Student Solutions Showcase" held at Battelle grew out of a challenge last fall from Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria and the Ohio STEM Learning Network to the students. Throughout this school year, more than 1,200 students accepted the challenge and developed hundreds of ideas to fight opioid abuse.

The Third Frontier Commission has made good on a proposal in Gov. John Kasich's latest State of the State (SOS) speech by awarding \$20 million to strengthen the opioid battle with breakthrough technologies. The Ohio Opioid Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Technology Initiative, approved by the commission Wednesday, will award \$12 million to accelerate the commercialization of drug-related diagnostics, devices, pharmaceuticals and health technologies. Another \$8 million will fund competitive grants and prizes for new technologies to fight the opioid crisis.

BALLOT ISSUES

The Ohio Attorney General's Office Monday certified the petition for a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would change the process for congressional redistricting in Ohio, saying supporters had both the necessary 1,000 valid signatures from registered Ohio voters and a "fair and truthful" summary of the proposed amendment. Earlier in May, the Fair Congressional Districts for Ohio campaign had resubmitted the "Bipartisan Congressional Redistricting Reform Amendment" constitutional amendment for review.

The opposition group to a proposed law that would prohibit Ohio from paying more for prescription drugs than the lowest price the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays for the same drug launched Tuesday with a list of more than 30 organizations opposing the Drug Price Relief Act including three former Ohio Medicaid directors.

FY18-19 BUDGET

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-Canton), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Thursday released the committee's hearing schedule as it moves into the final weeks before the full chamber votes on HB49 (R. Smith), the FY18-19 budget bill. That vote, according to Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), is expected around Wednesday, June 21.

EDUCATION

Proposed state standards for computer science would take effect later but be supplemented by model curriculum under a new version of legislation rolled out Tuesday in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee. The substitute version of HB170 also changes credentialing requirements for teachers of computer science courses and sets some limits on the bill's proposal to allow the courses to fulfill graduation requirements for math or science.

Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio (ABC) teamed up with the Boston-based Beacon Hill Institute on Thursday to release a study finding that project labor agreements add significantly to the cost of school construction projects. ABC's Bryan Williams, a former state legislator, said the report bolsters his organization's position that neutrality should be codified for all state and local public works construction so project labor agreements can neither be required nor forbidden for bidding on government contracts.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) this week asked the appellate judges hearing its case against the state to block any attempts by the Ohio Department of Education to reclaim the school's funding while the lawsuit is proceeding. The online charter school, Ohio's largest, filed for an injunction Wednesday against the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the State Board of Education to prevent them from moving to recover \$60 million in 2015-2016 state funding.

The Realeyes education program reached its one-millionth student recently, according to its sponsor, the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA). Realeyes is a classroom-based education program which instructs children in grades pre-K through eight on eye health and safety. The program is a public-private partnership funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Health's Save Our Sight fund and administered by the OOA.

The Foundation for Excellence in Education released a report Monday that addresses how states can expand the use of competency-based education models, something Ohio and the Kasich administration have pursued recently. The full report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/kyr48gj>.

ELECTIONS

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that North Carolina officials wrongly engaged in racial gerrymandering. In the process, justices addressed a key question that arose when Ohio drew its most recent congressional maps: the degree to which federal voting rights laws compel lawmakers to develop majority-minority districts.

A report released Friday by Secretary of State Jon Husted shows 153 voting irregularities identified by counties in the 2016 general election. There were a total of 52 cases of suspected fraud with 30 cases referred for further investigation by counties and 22 originating from Husted's office involving voters who may have voted in two different states.

ELECTIONS 2018

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) announced he is running for the 5th Senate District seat currently held by Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), who is term-limited. Huffman, in his second term in the House, is a physician and former Miami County coroner.

Beth Ellis, a Sabine farmer, announced she will seek the 91st House District seat in 2018 and has received the backing of the current seat holder, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), who is term-limited. Ellis and her husband co-own Cherrybend Pheasant Farm, where she manages day-to-day operations.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) endorsed Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel for U.S. Senate in 2018, encouraging Republicans to unify behind Mandel's candidacy.

Constance Gadell-Newton, a Columbus attorney who ran unsuccessfully for the Ohio House in 2016, announced this week that she will seek the Green Party nomination for governor in 2018.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

Ohio's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in April, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) said Friday, down from 5.1 percent in March and unchanged from April 2016. ODJFS said Ohio's nonagricultural wage and salary employment decreased by 5,700 over the month, from a revised 5,518,500 in March to 5,512,800 in April 2017. The number of workers unemployed in Ohio in April was 288,000, down 5,000 from 293,000 in March. The number of unemployed has increased by 5,000 in the past 12 months from 283,000, ODJFS said.

ENERGY

The state could miss out on 13,000 jobs and more than \$4.2 billion in local economic activity if Ohio's wind turbine setback law isn't revised, according to a new report from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). Ohio's setback law was changed from approximately 550 feet to about 1,300 feet after the enactment of 130-HB483 (Amstutz). During a Statehouse press conference releasing the report, industry representatives and local business development officials decried the policy, which they said was one of the most restrictive in the country.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) announced legislation that they said would lift a cap on funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities to help get more Ohioans treatment for opioid addiction. Under current law, Medicaid funding for residential mental health or substance abuse treatment goes to facilities with just 16 beds or less, which the senators said prevents many Ohioans from getting the help they need. The bill would lift the cap so more Ohioans can access services at the inpatient facilities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The portraits of seven former Ohio House speakers were revealed during a dedication ceremony in the Statehouse Rotunda Tuesday. The portraits are of former speakers Charles Kurfess, A.G. Lancione, Vernal Riffe Jr., Larry Householder, Jon Husted, Armond Budish and William Batchelder. Current House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said all of the former speakers told him they didn't want their images hanging in the Statehouse. However, he said it is important for their families and Ohio's children to see paintings of the state's leaders from the past.

Wednesday's House session included passage of SB9 (Bacon), which extends the back-to-school sales tax holiday for another year; HB132 (Dever-McColley), addressing fantasy sports contests; HB63 (Hughes), enhancing penalties for assaults resulting in disfigurement; and HR85 (Young), urging the federal government to eliminate E-check emissions requirements.

Wednesday's Senate session included passage of HB32 (Seitz), which allows casino employees to gamble at unaffiliated properties; SB131 (Dolan), allowing job-creation tax credits for employees who work at home; and concurred with House changes to SB9 (Bacon), the sales tax holiday bill.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) announced it will provide a total of \$248,000 to 23 campuses for projects designed to prevent sexual violence as part of ODHE's Changing Campus Culture Initiative. The funding was appropriated in the FY16-17 biennial budget, which charged ODHE with developing model best practices for preventing and responding to campus sexual assault. A total of \$2 million was allocated in the budget.

Ohio State University's Max M. Fisher College of Business has been recognized with the President's "E" Award by the U.S. Department of Commerce for efforts to explore and expand global trade and exports in Ohio, the university said. Ohio State was one of just three universities represented among the 32 winners at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Kent State University's Institute for Applied Linguistics received a grant for \$1 million from the Gawlicki Family Foundation of Hartford, CT, to fund the development of a state-of-the-art distance learning translation studies program, the university said. The institute is a research and education program affiliated with the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State.

Wright State University said recently that it will eliminate the positions of about 71 employees and roughly 107 additional vacant positions as part of a plan to balance the university's FY18 budget. The proposed budget, which begins July 1, also includes significant cuts to university operations.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Ohio's move to expand Medicaid has been a critical factor in helping local efforts prevent and reduce homelessness, according to a new report from the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). It found that Medicaid covered only 36 percent of single adults accessing homeless services in 2013 in 83 of Ohio's 88 counties. By 2016, two years after the state expanded Medicaid eligibility to adults with no dependent children, that percentage had increased to 80.2 percent. Increased Medicaid coverage coincided with a significant decrease in the rate of homelessness in Ohio.

Home sales in April were nearly flat compared to figures from a year ago, dipping 0.3 percent, according to the Ohio Association of Realtors (OAR). The average price of \$170,318 rose 5 percent, however, from the \$162,228 seen a year earlier. April sales of 152,322 were lower than March's 156,096, a 2.4 percent reduction.

MARIJUANA

Ohio should legalize recreational marijuana, release all non-violent pot offenders and use the tax revenue gained to build a "world-class" state-run mental health network to treat opioid addicts, according to Ohio Supreme Court Justice William O'Neill. "What we are doing is making no sense," O'Neill said during a speech to the Wayne County Democratic Party, the full text of which he posted on his Facebook page. "The time has come for new thinking. We regulate and tax alcohol and tobacco and imprison people for smoking grass -- which is substantially less addictive, less dangerous and less fatal."

MEDICAID/MEDICAID REFORM

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) released a report recently on how managed care has affected delivery of Medicaid long-term services and supports. OAHP President and CEO Miranda Motter said that Ohio is "falling behind" in this area, despite being on the cutting edge of overall Medicaid reform in recent years. Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) programs have been used by an increasing number of states, according to OAHP, and they improve quality of life and services for seniors and persons with disabilities while also managing Medicaid costs through care coordination and improved health outcomes.

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This report is intended to provide updated information on the legislative issues of interest to Ohio's Educational Service Centers, their client OESCA members & interested parties.