

info@oesca.org • August 21, 2019

*This August 21, 2019 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 breaking news as well as the education bills of interest to Ohio's public education community introduced during the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Bills are organized by last action date and include the current status with most recent activity listed first in descending order. 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 on ESCs and 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:

- HB321**      **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION** (LIPPS S, KELLY B) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.  
**Current Status:** 8/19/2019 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-321>
- SB181**      **WORKFORCE-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS** (COLEY W) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.  
**Current Status:** 8/9/2019 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-181>
- SB4**      **SCHOOL FACILITIES ASSISTANCE** (RULLI M, KUNZE S) To make a capital appropriation for school facilities assistance.  
**Current Status:** 7/23/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee  
**Recent Status:** 7/18/2019 - Informally Passed  
7/17/2019 - Informally Passed  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-4>
- SB168**      **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS** (YUKO K, MAHARATH T) To enact the "Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act" to require schools to provide certain services to students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals.  
**Current Status:** 7/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
**Recent Status:** 6/19/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-168>

- HB12 CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK** (MANNING D, WEST T) To create the Ohio Children's Behavioral Health Prevention Network Stakeholder Group.  
**Current Status:** 7/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid  
**Recent Status:** 6/13/2019 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 86-3  
6/13/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-12>
- HB310 SCHOOL BULLYING AND HAZING** (GREENSPAN D) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and colleges.  
**Current Status:** 7/9/2019 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-310>
- HB305 SCHOOL FINANCING** (CUPP B, PATTERSON J) To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 6/30/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**Recent Status:** 6/26/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-305>
- HB164 STUDENT RELIGIOUS RIGHTS** (GINTER T) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019."  
**Current Status:** 6/26/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-164>
- HB294 SCHOOL BULLYING** (DENSON S, MILLER A) To modify the definition of school harassment, intimidation, or bullying.  
**Current Status:** 6/25/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**Recent Status:** 6/19/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-294>
- HB154 DISSOLVE DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MILLER J, JONES D) To dissolve academic distress commissions and to instead require the creation of community learning centers for buildings in low-performing school districts.  
**Current Status:** 6/25/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/15/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
5/1/2019 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 83-12  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-154>
- HB165 HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS** (LISTON B, GALONSKI T) Regarding the adoption of health education standards.

**Current Status:** 6/18/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 6/4/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-165>

**HB123 SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING** (HOLMES G, MANNING G) With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

**Current Status:** 6/18/2019 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 6/11/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-123>

**SB134 PASSING SCHOOL BUSES** (GAVARONE T) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus, to create a new offense for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault related to improperly passing a stopped school bus, to make an appropriation, and to designate this the School Bus Safety Act.

**Current Status:** 6/11/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce  
**Recent Status:** 4/22/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-134>

**HB43 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY ACQUISITION** (INGRAM C) To eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

**Current Status:** 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-43>

**HB111 SCHOOL RECORD TRANSFER** (INGRAM C) To require that public and private schools transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.

**Current Status:** 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-111>

**HB90 UNBORN CHILD EDUCATION** (ANTANI N) To require the development of an instructional program and educational and informational materials and the dissemination of those materials to protect the humanity of the unborn child.

**Current Status:** 6/4/2019 - House Health, (Sixth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/28/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Health, (Fifth Hearing)  
4/30/2019 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-90>

**SB147**      **OHIO SCHOOL MARSHAL PROGRAM** (HOAGLAND F) To create the Ohio School Marshal Program.

**Current Status:** 6/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs  
**Recent Status:** 5/9/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-147>

**HB231**      **FREE EPINEPHRINE PROGRAMS** (GREENSPAN D) To require the Department of Education to notify public and private schools of free epinephrine autoinjector programs and to enact the "Allison Rose Suhy Act" with regard to food allergy training for public schools and institutions of higher education.

**Current Status:** 5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/8/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
5/2/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-231>

**SB26**      **TAX DEDUCTION-TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES** (KUNZE S) To authorize a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.

**Current Status:** 5/14/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
**Recent Status:** 5/8/2019 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0  
5/8/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-26>

**SB121**      **HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS** (SYKES V, KUNZE S) To require the State Board of Education to adopt health education standards and to require that only statewide venereal disease education standards and curriculum be approved by the General Assembly.

**Current Status:** 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
3/26/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-121>

**SB34**      **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE** (KUNZE S) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct.

**Current Status:** 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-34>

**SB102**      **DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM** (BRENNER A, LEHNER P) To establish the Dyslexia Screening Program for school districts and other public schools.

**Current Status:** 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-102>

**SB89 CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION (HUFFMAN M)** With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones.

**Current Status:** 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/19/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-89>

**SB126 CRISIS ASSESSMENTS-SUICIDAL YOUTH (MANNING N)** To authorize a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment, without parental consent, to a minor who is or is believed to be suicidal and to make an appropriation to support the employment of social workers or mental or behavioral health professionals at educational service centers.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid  
**Recent Status:** 4/9/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-126>

**SB128 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS (HUFFMAN M)** To make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
**Recent Status:** 4/9/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-128>

**HB23 F-1 VISA SCHOOL ATHLETICS (ANTANI N)** To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics.

**Current Status:** 4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-23>

**SB109 WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (SCHURING K)** To establish the Workforce Scholarship Program, to terminate the provisions of the Scholarship Program on December 31, 2023, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Scholarship Program and their employers, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 4/24/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
3/13/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-109>

- SB110**      **ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MANNING N) To modify the operation of academic distress commissions in certain school districts.  
**Current Status:** 4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-110>
- HB127**      **DISTRESS COMMISSION MORATORIUM** (SMITH K, HAMBLEY S) To prohibit the creation of new academic distress commissions.  
**Current Status:** 4/9/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-127>
- HB132**      **SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS** (MANNING D) Regarding notice of school child immunization requirements and exemptions.  
**Current Status:** 4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
3/12/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-132>
- SB104**      **INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT** (HILL B) Regarding funding for students enrolled in community schools, STEM schools, and other districts through interdistrict open enrollment.  
**Current Status:** 3/27/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
**Recent Status:** 3/13/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-104>
- HB121**      **TAX CREDIT-CLASSROOM MATERIALS** (SCHAFFER T) To allow a credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials.  
**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
3/5/2019 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-121>
- HB118**      **SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION** (MANNING D) Regarding student transportation to and from school.  
**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
3/4/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-118>

**HB122**

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

**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
3/5/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-122>

**SB85**

**SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS (MAHARATH T)** To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Recent Status:** 3/6/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-85>

**SB81**

**PROHIBIT USE OF SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS (MAHARATH T)** To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.

**Current Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**Recent Status:** 3/6/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-81>

**HB105**

**SCHOOL BUS STOP (BROWN R, SCHERER G)** To enhance the penalty for failing to stop for a school bus that is picking up or dropping off school children when the offender has a prior violation within a five-year period.

**Current Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**Recent Status:** 2/26/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-105>

**HB83**

**SCHOOL BUS PHOTO EVIDENCE (BROWN R, SCHAFFER T)** To allow images captured by a camera installed on a school bus to be used as corroborating evidence for the offense of failing to stop for a school bus.

**Current Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**Recent Status:** 2/19/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-83>

**HB89**

**FAILURE TO STOP-SCHOOL BUS (ANTANI N)** To enhance the penalties for failing to properly stop for a school bus, to establish requirements related to informing the public about that prohibition, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**Recent Status:** 2/20/2019 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-89>

- HB22 OFCC ODE-SCHOOL BUILDING AMENITIES** (ANTANI N) To require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding certain school building amenities.
- Current Status:** 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/12/2019 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-22>
- HB44 SNAP FEDERAL FUNDING** (HOLMES G, MILLER A) To make an appropriation to continue to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children contingent upon a lapse in federal funding
- Current Status:** 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health
- Recent Status:** 2/12/2019 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-44>
- HR11 HOUSE RULES ADOPTION** (HOUSEHOLDER L) Relative to the adoption of the House Rules for the 133rd General Assembly.
- Current Status:** 2/6/2019 - **ADOPTED BY HOUSE**; Vote 97-0
- Recent Status:** 2/6/2019 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HR-11>
- SR24 SENATE RULES** (HUFFMAN M) Adopts the rules of the Senate for the 133rd General Assembly.
- Current Status:** 2/6/2019 - **ADOPTED BY SENATE**; Vote 29-0
- Recent Status:** 2/6/2019 - Introduced
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SR-24>

## Capital Square in Review

Friday, Aug. 16, 2019

### BALLOT ISSUES

The campaign to overturn energy subsidy bill HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) suffered a setback Monday when Attorney General Dave Yost rejected Ohioans Against Corporate Bailouts' (OACB) petition language for a proposed ballot referendum scheduled for fall 2020. Yost said the submission was not a "fair and truthful" summary of HB6 provisions, citing organizers' confusion over the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and Ohio Air Quality Development Authority's (OAQDA) roles in controlling consumer payments to the fund and setting subsequent billing credits to generation plants, among other "inaccuracies or omissions." The campaign group said it would revise the summary and submit a new one within days.

### FY20-21 BUDGET



A recent analysis of both Ohio's transportation budget, HB62 (Oelslager), and its operational budget, HB166 (Oelslager), by Washington, D.C. nonprofit the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) found that low- and middle-income earners will experience tax increases, while the highest earners will have their taxes cut. According to a release on the figures from nonprofit Policy Matters Ohio, ITEP "modeled the increases in fuel taxes and changes in the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in the transportation budget, along with the operating budget's cuts in rates and brackets of the state income tax, the suspension for one year of indexing income tax brackets and personal exemptions to inflation, and new requirements for online retailers to collect the sales tax."

Ohio's Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released the revenue figures for July 2019, which saw the state collect a total of \$1.7 billion in taxes. This was nearly \$29.5 million or 1.8 percent up over July 2018 revenues of nearly \$1.7 billion. The combined auto and non-auto sales tax accounted for nearly

\$956.4 million of that total, with the non-auto sales tax bringing in nearly \$811.2 million and the auto sales tax, \$145.2 million. OBM noted that the non-auto sales tax was up \$24.7 million or 3.1 percent over July 2018, while the auto sales tax came in just over \$11.0 million more than at this same time in 2018. This brings the combined sales taxes to nearly \$35.8 million or 3.9 percent higher than in 2018.

The August OBM Monthly Financial Report indicates that the state ended FY19 (on June 30, 2019) with an unencumbered cash balance of \$1.1 billion. Subtracting the \$168.8 million required by Ohio Revised Code Sec. 131.44 to be carried over to the next fiscal year, the state had \$977.5 million in what OBM termed the "actual surplus ending balance."

## **CENSUS**

Gov. Mike DeWine named a wide spectrum of government officials, legislators, interest group leaders and community leaders to serve on the state's complete count committee leading up to the 2020 Census. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a complete count panel develops and implements a 2020 Census awareness campaign based on its members' knowledge of the local community.

## **EDUCATION**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently announced the grantees awarded federal funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program. The program creates or expands community learning centers that provide academic enrichment and youth development opportunities for students who attend predominantly high-poverty and low-performing schools. A total of 34 new award recipients were selected from more than 244 applications through a peer review process. Priority was given to programs that serve students in rural schools. In addition, 185 grantees received continuation funding based on prior year grant awards.

The accountability system for Drop-Out Recovery and Prevention (DRP) schools needs a thorough review, including a specific analysis of the effectiveness of the report card's measures, members of a State Board of Education (SBOE) workgroup said Monday. Lauren Monowar-Jones, director of the Legislature's Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC), joined the SBOE workgroup to discuss how best to approach reforming the assessment of these specific charter schools.

The Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) announced Jarrod S. Hartzler of Wooster as the organization's new executive director. Hartzler has served as executive and artistic director of the Tuesday Musical Association in Akron since 2013, and will succeed Tim Katz, who has accepted a senior level position with the United States Peace Corps after five years of service as executive director.

The Ohio Academy of Science announced Tuesday the selection of 54 Ohio schools and 556 teachers as recipients of the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for their accomplishments during the 2018-2019 school year. Each school will

receive a special Governor's Award certificate, and each teacher will receive a complimentary membership to the Ohio Academy of Science.

The state's lawsuit against Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) founder William Lager looks likely to stretch at least through the first half of 2020, after the judge presiding in the case agreed with the parties that an earlier discovery deadline was unworkable. Judge Kimberly Cocroft of Franklin County Common Pleas Court approved an order earlier this month to stretch the discovery deadline from the end of August to the end of January 2020. Under Cocroft's amended case schedule, dispositive motions would be due March 16, 2020, with a status conference to follow on May 11. No new trial date has been set at this point.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) announced recently the availability of the Early Learning Standards Alignment Guide which was created in response to requests from providers of early care and education in Ohio. Specifically, the document presents a crosswalk between the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF).

Thousands of Ohio school children are heading back to school now and in the coming days. For many of these students their day starts and ends by riding a school bus. The safety of the students riding to and from school and to school-sanctioned events is a top priority for the administration of Gov. Mike DeWine. From 2016 through 2018, 3,962 traffic crashes involved school buses in Ohio. During this time, four fatal crashes occurred killing four and injuring 1,268. None of those killed were on a school bus.

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) recently announced the nomination of Scott Huddle, president of the Mad River Local Schools Board of Education in Montgomery County, as the organization's president-elect. Huddle has been a member of the Mad River board since 1999, where he has served as vice president and president for multiple terms.

## **ELECTIONS**

Saying they've found more than 4,000 discrepancies while reviewing voter information on Ohio's "Registration Reset" list, a group of voting rights advocates are calling on Secretary of State Frank LaRose to delay plans to cancel inactive voter registrations on Friday, Sept. 6. Pointing to the recent discrepancies found by the Ohio Secretary of State's Office during a financial audit, All Voting is Local Ohio State Director Mike Brickner said he and other advocates are worried that more voters could be potentially harmed by the state's process of removing inactive voters from the rolls. Brickner was joined at a Columbus press conference by League of Women Voters Executive Director Jen Miller, NAACP Ohio State Conference President Tom Roberts and Campus Vote Project Ohio State Coordinator Dylan Sellers.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced Thursday that his office will begin sending postcards later this month to unregistered voters instructing them on how to register. The mailing will be sent beginning Monday, Aug. 26 to 168,395 Ohioans who have been identified by LaRose's office as unregistered but eligible to vote. LaRose's office said the initiative is in coordination with the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a nonprofit organization that assists participating states in the effort to improve the accuracy of their voter rolls and increase access to voter registration. ERIC's members include 28 states and Washington, D.C.

## **ELECTIONS 2020**

With the backing of the previous two occupants of the seat as well as Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), former Medina County Commissioner Sharon Ray announced she will run for the 69th House District in 2020. The seat's current occupant, Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick), announced earlier that he would run for Medina County commissioner, his old position, rather than seek re-election.

Mahamud Jama, a small business owner, announced he is running for the 25th District for the Ohio House. The seat is currently held by Rep. Bernadine Kennedy Kent (D-Columbus), who is in her second term and is eligible to run again. Kent has been feuding with the House Democratic Caucus on a number of issues, including accusations by Kent that she was mistreated by caucus staff.

Zach Stepp, a Sheffield Village Democrat, announced Tuesday that he will run for the 55th House District. The seat is currently held by Rep. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), who is expected to run for re-election. Stepp has a political science degree from the University of Chicago. He has managed a congressional campaign and works in federal government consulting.

Brunswick Mayor Ron Falconi said Monday that he will be running for the Republican nomination for the 22nd Senate District in 2020, a seat that will be open after term limits force Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) out of the chamber. Falconi made his announcement at a Medina County Republican Party event. In addition to his role as mayor, Falconi also is an attorney. Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield), who is also term-limited, announced last month that he is running for Obhof's seat.

Pickaway County Commissioner Brian Stewart announced this week that he will be running for the Republican nomination in the 78th House District in 2020. The seat is currently held by Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville), who is term-limited. Stewart is an Iraq War veteran and previously served as a councilman for the village of Ashville.

A member of the State Board of Education and an attorney who serves on the Geneva Schools Board of Education said they are running for the 99th House District seat currently held by Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson), who is term-limited. They include Sarah Fowler, who is a third-term state board member who now serves as the chairman of the Teaching, Leading and Learning Committee, and Richard Dana, who serves on the Geneva Schools board. Fowler is seeking the Republican nomination while Dana, the Democratic nomination.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- Justice Democrats endorsed Morgan Harper in the Ohio 3rd Congressional District Democratic primary.
- U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Warrensville Heights) endorsed U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) for president.

## **ETHICS**

The former White House Counsel under President Richard Nixon said Wednesday that he sees common links between the Watergate investigation that ultimately led to Nixon's resignation and the current report written by Robert Mueller. "We didn't learn from history," Dean told a Columbus Metropolitan Club forum Wednesday. "We just repeat it," albeit with some differences.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

Wendy Zhan, a 24-year veteran of the Legislative Service Commission, will take over as director in September, succeeding Mark Flanders, who will retire. House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), who chairs the commission, announced the transition Thursday.

Senate Republicans will take applications until 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23 for those interested in replacing Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland), who will resign at the end of August to take a position with the Ohio Department of Transportation's Office of Jobs and Commerce.

## **GOVERNOR**

Gov. Mike DeWine has revealed new details regarding his September business development trip to Japan, the state's top international investor and the fifth-largest export market for Ohio products in 2018. The trip was previously discussed at a meeting of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board. DeWine will be joined by JobsOhio President and CIO J.P. Nauseef and Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) Director Lydia Mihalik.

## **GUNS**

Gov. Mike DeWine's "red flag" protection order proposal is "much improved" over former Gov. John Kasich's similar proposal to temporarily remove guns from individuals found to be dangerous to themselves or others, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters following a non-voting session Friday.

Stressing that they were "very different" from the failed "red flag" proposal backed by former Gov. John Kasich, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted told reporters he thought there was a "very good chance" the General Assembly would pass the DeWine administration's 17 proposals on gun safety following the Dayton mass shooting.

Ohio Gun Owners Executive Director Chris Dorr's recent social media post saying Gov. Mike DeWine's gun law reform proposals could lead to "political bodies laying all over the ground" does not amount to a crime, Ohio State Highway Patrol Staff Lt. Craig Cvetan told *Hannah News*. "The Ohio State Highway Patrol has reviewed the video. At this time a criminal investigation has not been initiated due to the fact circumstances so far have not met the elements of a criminal offense," Cvetan said.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

With another school year starting, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reminds parents that the number of providers with a star rating in the state's child care quality rating system continues to climb. "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) recognizes child care programs that go beyond minimum standards to promote children's learning and development," ODJFS Director Kimberly Hall explained. "Hundreds of providers throughout Ohio have stepped up to provide quality care for children." By July 1, 2020, all Ohio child care programs that receive state funding must participate in Step Up To Quality. To date, more than 3,600 publicly funded providers across the state are rated with at least one star on the five-star scale.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

When he became the Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor, Randy Gardner set a goal of visiting the campuses of at least 75 Ohio colleges and universities this year; when he recently sat down for an interview with *Hannah News*, he was up to 32. "Perhaps the strongest asset these institutions bring is the diversity of what they offer. Ohioans and out-of-state prospective students have so many options to choose from in Ohio, which I just think has an even greater strength than I even realized," Gardner said.

The new hospitality and cultural arts building at Columbus State Community College (CSCC) will not only be a boon to the program and college, it will help revitalize the Cleveland Avenue corridor and provide much-needed workers for the growing industry, speakers said at the building's dedication ceremony Monday. CSCC President David Harrison opened the event by saying it was a recognition of the dedication of both the building and "a lot of committed people" working to transform the community by helping students launch successful careers.

The Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) recently announced it is establishing a leadership academy for community college administrators and faculty seeking to promote student success. The OACC Leadership Academy for Student Success hosted 47 fellows representing all 23 of OACC's affiliated colleges for the first time in July for professional development sessions on how they can strengthen their college's ability to sustain pathways for students.

Wilberforce-based Central State University recently announced it has received a more than \$7 million donation -- the largest gift ever received by the historically black college. It will be used for multiple campus projects. The \$7.1 million gift was donated by philanthropist and founder/CEO of Columbus-based University Housing Solutions, as well as SodexoMAGIC, Central State's food service provider.

The University of Akron (UA) Wednesday announced that its Board of Trustees selected Gary Miller as the institution's 18th president. Miller has served as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay since 2014 and will assume office on Oct. 1, 2019. He has previously served as chancellor of the University of North Carolina Wilmington, provost and vice president for academic affairs and research at Wichita State University and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of the Pacific.

Edward Jennings, who served as the 10th president of Ohio State University (OSU) from 1981 through 1989, died Saturday, Aug. 10 at the age of 82. During his tenure at the university, Jennings worked to bring the university out of a period of financial distress and led the university's first private fundraising campaign.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

After two of the more controversial rule proposals were pulled off the agenda by their respective agencies, all remaining items cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) without testimony or questions. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) placed its rule prohibiting the restraint of children in the prone position in all situations in "to be refiled" (TBR) status. The committee had expected opponent testimony from children's services agencies in Trumbull County, which still use the "transitional hold" position. JCARR Executive Director Larry Wolpert announced late last week that the Ohio Board of Pharmacy's (OBP) placed its proposed rule classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance into TBR status. Opposition testimony was also expected on that rule.

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