

135th OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Summary of education-related bills passing the General Assembly in June

All members of the Ohio House and half of the Ohio Senate will be on the November 5, 2024 ballot this year, and **are not expected to return to the Statehouse for sessions until after the election.** In fact, the **Senate already released its schedule for the fall, and it will hold its next session on November 13, 2024,** and its last session on December 18, 2024. The Ohio House has not released its fall schedule.

Before leaving Columbus on June 26, 2024, lawmakers passed over 70 bills. This includes a number of education-related bills and the Capital Budget, House Bill 2 (Al Cutrona and Terrence Upchurch), which, among its provisions, includes state funds to support infrastructure projects for school districts, institutions of higher education, and the arts. Some of the education bills approved include a hodge-podge of educational policies that were making their way through the legislative process as separate bills.

Which policies didn't make it through the General Assembly on June 26, 2024?

State Board Deficit: The Ohio House added \$4.6 million to Senate Bill 117 Regional Partnerships (Jerry Cirino and Rob McColley) to close the State Board of Education's deficit, but the Senate opted not to take up the bill on June 26, 2024. Senate President Matt Huffman told reporters that the State Board needed to right-size its staff to fit its budget, but added that its deficit could also be addressed by the Controlling Board. [HERE.](#)

On August 19, 2024, the **Controlling Board approved \$4.66 million in emergency funding to close the State Board of Education's deficit for now.** [HERE.](#)

Senate Bill 83: House leadership under House Speaker Jason Stephens also **opted not to bring forward Senate Bill 83, a controversial bill sponsored by Senator Jerry Cirino that would change how public institutions of higher education operate. Among its long list of prohibitions and requirements, SB83 would ban** diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in most cases; require colleges and universities to commit to intellectual diversity and prohibit them from endorsing or opposing controversial beliefs or policies; require the Chancellor of Higher Education to develop faculty evaluations; weaken collective bargaining regarding workload, evaluations, post tenure review policies, tenure policies; and more.

Grade Band Changes: Another issue that **will have to be resolved when the General Assembly returns in November is the controversy about the changes made to grade bands for educator licenses** in House Bill 33, the FY24-25 Operating Budget. House Bill 33 replaced the preK-grade 5 and grades 4-9 licenses with the preK-grade 8 license, and the grades 7-12 license to a grades 6-12 license. Lawmakers passed on June 26, 2024 a provision in SB168 to restore the grades 7-12 license.

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Andy Brenner, received testimony on SB219 Restore Grade Bands (Catherine Ingram) in May. **OAAE Executive Director Jarrod Hartzler submitted written testimony supporting the bill. The bill restores the licenses for teachers to teach in grades preK - grade 5; grades 4-9; and grades 7-12.**

In addition, in May and June the House Higher Education Committee, chaired by Tom Young, received testimony from most Ohio public universities about implementation of the science of reading. He also asked witnesses questions about the impact of the preK-8 license in HB33 on students, educator preparation programs, and teacher shortages.

Most witnesses had concerns about the efficacy of the preK-8 license and how eliminating the grades 4-9 license will make it more difficult to attract middle school teachers, because of the amount of content needed to be a qualified preK-8 educator. Their **testimony is available on the Ohio Channel** May 21 – June 11, 2024, [HERE](#).

Education related bills that passed the House and Senate on June 26, 2024

The following is a **summary of education related bills that lawmakers approved on June 26, 2024 along with the education-related bills that were added to the bills that passed.** These bills have passed both the House and Senate, and have been signed into law by Governor DeWine. Most will become effective on October 24, 2024.

Bills Passing the House and Senate	Sponsor	Other Education Bills Included
House Bill 2 Capital Budget Effective June 28, 2024	Representatives Terrence Upchurch and Al Cutrona	SB288 (Dolan); SB292 (Dolan); and HB629 (Edwards)
HB47 Require AEDs in School Effective October 24, 2024	Representatives Richard Brown and Adam Bird	0
HB147 Education Law Changes Effective October 24, 2024	Representatives Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller	HB440 (Fowler-Arthur and Lear) SB259 (Teresa Gavarone) SB181 (Shane Wilkin) HB311 (Edwards and Pizzulli) SoR Stipend for PreK Teachers
HB214 School Policy on Staff Speech Effective October 24, 2024	Representative Adam Holmes	SB49 (Michele Reynolds)
SB29 Education Records, Student Privacy Effective October 24, 2024	Senator Steve Huffman	0
SB94 Mortgage, Judicial Practices, Towing Effective October 24, 2024	Senator Andy Brenner and A. Landis	HB66 (Pizzulli and Jarrells) House Bill 27 (Matthew and Thomas) Senate Bill 572 (White) SoR Additional Funds
SB112 Ohio Childhood Safety Act Effective October 24, 2024	Senator Michael Rulli	0
SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes Effective October 24, 2024	Senator Michele Reynolds	Ten new provisions were added to the bill by the House Education Committee, including teacher evaluations and supplemental contracts.

The following is a **summary of the changes in law that go into effect this fall. This summary is arranged by section in the Ohio Revised Code.**

**Summary of July 2024 Changes in Education Law
(Most of these laws will become effective October 24, 2024.)**

INCREASE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPETITIVE BIDDING THRESHOLD

- Sections 9.17 and 3313.46: Increases the competitive bidding threshold for school district projects to \$75,000, with subsequent annual increases of 3 percent. This change brings school districts in line with other local government entities.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

SCHOOL TURNAROUND PILOT PROGRAM

- NEW Section 3302.121: Requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to establish and administer the five-year School Turnaround Pilot Program to address chronic low performance in school districts and community schools and establishes a school building selection process.
- Section 3302.121(C): Permits the DEW to select up to 15 percent of school buildings on its comprehensive support and improvement schools designation list, or other low performing schools to participate.
- Section 3302.121(D): Requires the DEW to approve one or more eligible external service providers with expertise in school improvement to work in partnership with districts, schools, community school sponsors, and school support teams in the area.
- Section 3302.121(E): Requires school districts or community schools to elect to participate in the program and choose a service provider approved by the DEW.
- Section 3302.121(F): Allows the pilot program to be funded from existing federal funds.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

**EXEMPTIONS FOR HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS
FROM CERTAIN STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

- Section 3302.151 (A): Allows a district that meets certain state report card benchmarks to be exempt from complying with requirements related to teacher qualification and licensing, mentoring under the Ohio Teacher Residency Program, certain classroom size standards, and any provision of the Revised Code or rule or standard of the department requiring teachers to be licensed specifically in the grade level in which they are teaching, unless otherwise prescribed by federal law. This exemption does not apply to special education teachers. Nor does this exemption relieve a teacher from holding a valid Ohio license in the subject area in which that teacher is teaching and at least some grade level determined appropriate by the district board.
- Section 3302.151(A)(1) Eliminates a provision in current law that exempted school districts from certain teachers qualifications under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. High performing districts are no longer exempt.
- Section 3302.151(D): Extends eligibility for the exemptions from certain requirements in law and rules to any school district that, on its most recent state report card, received a 5-star performance rating on the Progress component, has a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 93 percent, and has a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 95 percent.-Section 3302.151(E): Permits a school district to renew its exemption from certain statutory requirements related to teacher licensure and other topics every three years, as long as the district continues to qualify for the exemption. The current law only permitted the district one three-year term.
- Section 3302.151(E): Requires the Department of Workforce and Education to notify districts that are eligible about this exemption.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN REEMPLOYED STRS AND SERS RETIRANTS

- Section 3307.353 and 3309.345: Requires a board or commission to give 30 days of notice of a State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) or School Employees Retirement System (SERS) member's retirement from a position customarily filled by a vote, before reemploying the member in that position if the board or commission has urgent reasons to fill the position in an expedited manner. (The bill maintains the 60 days of notice under current law if it is not urgent to fill the position). It also removes the requirement that a board or commission give notice if the STRS or SERS member has been retired for at least one year before being reemployed in the position.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

REMOTE SERVICES

- Sections 3310.58(C) and 3310.41(E): Permits remote services for students participating in the Autism and Jon Peterson Scholarship Program by qualified credentialed providers.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller) but originally was included in HB440 Remote Services for Special Needs Scholarship Recipients (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Beth Lear.)

RAPBACK CLARIFICATION

- NEW Section 3310.582: Clarifies that employees and staff of private before-and after-school care programs are subject to records check completed in the Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database (RAPBACK).

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller). A similar provision is included SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

TEACHER EVALUATIONS IN MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Section 3311.80(A): Requires teacher evaluation procedures established by a municipal school district (Cleveland) to have "at least one" formal observation and classroom walk-through, instead of requiring "at least" formal observations and classroom walk-throughs.
- Section 3311.80(A): Requires each municipal school district board of education to endeavor to include in the district's evaluation procedures the development of a professional growth plan or improvement plan and a final summative conference to discuss the results of the evaluation.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

BOARDS OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

- Section 3313.26: Requires that the record of proceedings of a board of education meeting be read at the board's next regular meeting, instead of at the next succeeding meeting.
- Section 3313.48: Clarifies that a school district is not required to hold a separate, individual public hearing on a proposed school calendar, but that the calendar may be addressed as part of another public hearing or meeting.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

STUDENT VICTIMS OF HARASSMENT

- NEW Sections 3313.5313(B) – (G) and Sections 2907.01; 2907.07: Permits victims of abuse or harassment or other "qualifying offenses" at a school to participate in athletics at a different school without "sitting" out for a certain amount of time to be considered eligible. Also prohibits a school district to impose additional fees on qualifying students.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller) and SB259 Regarding Bullying-Interscholastic Sports (Teresa Gavarone).

PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL EVENTS

- Sections 3313.5319, 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24: Expands the law regarding cash payments for school-affiliated events by prohibiting a qualifying school from establishing different ticket prices for an event based on whether a ticket is purchased using cash or any other payment method. Also prohibits requiring a qualifying school to charge a student from a school participating in an event a ticket price that is less than the price charged to an adult for the event. Subjects OHSA and other organizations regulating interscholastic athletics to the law regarding cash payments for school-affiliated events.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller) and Senate Bill181 (Shane Wilkin) and HB311 (Jay Edwards and Justin Pizzulli).

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION EDUCATION

- Section 3313.60(A)(5)(c) and 3313.6011: Changes references from “venereal disease” education to “sexually transmitted infection” education in the law regarding school district health curriculum and instruction in that topic.
- Section 3313.6011(C)(1)(c): Replaces the requirement, in sexually transmitted infection instruction, to teach that “conceiving children out of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child’s parents, and society” with a requirement to teach that “conceiving children at an early age or outside of marriage increases the likelihood of hardship in life.”

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) IN SCHOOLS

- Sections 3313.6023, 3313.717, 3314.16, 3326.11, and 3328.24: Requires all school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to place an Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in each school under its control. The bill revises the law on the placement of AEDs in schools by requiring, rather than permitting, their placement in schools and by expanding the locations to which the law applies.
- Section 3313.6023(A): Requires each district and school to provide training to teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, athletic trainers, other persons that supervise interscholastic athletics, and any other employee subject to in-service training requirements under continuing law. The training must be incorporated into the in-service training. Training may be provided to any other employee.
- Section 3313.6023, 3313.717, 3314.16, 3326.11, and 3328.24. Requires each district and school to adopt an emergency action plan for the use of AEDs, or they may use the model plan developed by the Department of Health.
- Section 755.13(D)(1)(a): With exceptions, the bill also requires the controlling authorities of municipal sports and recreation locations to place an AED in each location under their control.
- Section 755.13(E)(2): Defines “sports and recreation location” as indoor recreation centers and facilities, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and playing fields that are designated, operated, and maintained under existing law that authorizes municipal corporations, townships, and counties to create boards to supervise and maintain parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers.
- Section 755.13(D)(1): Requires each controlling authority to have a sufficient number of staff persons at each sports and recreation location to successfully complete an appropriate training course in the use of AEDs and to adopt an emergency action plan for their use
- Section 755.13(D)(2): Exempts a township or village if the population of the township or village is less than 5,000 from requirements relating to AED placement, training, and emergency action plans in sports and recreation locations.
- Section 3701.851: Requires the Department of Health to develop a procedure by which persons may report violations of the bill’s requirement to place AEDs in sports and recreation locations.
- Section 3701.851: Requires the Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and sports and recreation locations. The model plan must require that the plan be practiced at least quarterly.

Included in HB47 Require AEDs in School (Richard Brown and Adam Bird)

INTRADISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

- Section 3313.984(B)(1): Fixes the intradistrict open enrollment date changed in the budget. Requires school districts that conduct an open enrollment lottery to conduct it by the second Monday of June

prior to the school year for which a student is seeking enrollment. The district must notify parents of students who reside in the district of the lottery date prior to that date, and post on the district's website information about the lottery, including how and when it will be conducted.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Section 3314.015(B) (2)(b): Permits a community school sponsor that was rated "exemplary" on its most recent evaluation to sponsor up to 200 community schools.
- Section 3314.03(D)(3): Removes a requirement that each sponsorship contract require the sponsor to report on an annual basis the results of the academic and fiscal performance and organization and operation evaluation, but retains the requirement to monitor and evaluate those measures.
- Section 3314.11(A) and (G): Eliminates the requirement that community schools conduct monthly reviews of the residency of enrolled students. However, the bill retains the requirement that community schools verify annually to the DEW the school district in which a student is entitled to attend upon the student's enrollment.
- Section 3314.20 Repealed: Removes restrictions on e-schools from exceeding enrollment limits. Current law limits the percentage by which an e-school may increase its enrollment.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

OPTIONS FOR RENEWING LICENSES

- Section 3319.079: Permits a person who holds a license on or before the bill's effective date (October 24, 2024) to renew that license with either the grade bands of the current license or with the new bands established under the bill. The holder of the license will receive a grade band specification that includes one or more of the grades the holder was authorized to teach under the prior license.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

- Section 3319.0811(B): Allows districts to enter into supplemental contracts with teachers assigned to teach classes outside of the normal school day as long as the teacher voluntarily agrees to a regularly occurring schedule outside of the normal school day; the teacher's total daily hours do not exceed a normal school day; and the teacher is otherwise in compliance with the applicable requirements of the district's collective bargaining agreement.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

- Sections 3319.111 and 3311.80: Permits school districts to develop and use their own frameworks for teacher evaluations, instead of using a framework developed by the State Board of Education under 3319.112 ORC.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller) and in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSES

- Section 3319.22(B): Requires an applicant for a senior professional educator license or lead professional education license to hold at least a bachelor's degree. Current law requires applicants to hold at least a master's degree.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

GRADE BANDS CHANGE BACK TO GRADES 7-12 LICENSE

- Section 3319.22(A)(1): Changes the grade band specification for an educator license from grades 6-12 to grades 7-12.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

- Section 3319.22(F): Permits a professional development committee to grant as credit towards continuing education requirements a professional development training required by statute to an

individual seeking to renew any educator license. Continuing education credit is limited to one completed professional development course per licensure renewal period. In order to qualify for continuing education credit, the bill requires that a professional development course be completed during the time in which an individual holds a valid educator license. Under current law, school districts and chartered nonpublic schools must establish local professional development committees to establish standards for completion of professional development courses and training for educator licensure renewal.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

CONSISTENTLY HIGH PERFORMING TEACHER AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Section 3319.22(H): Qualifies a teacher or school counselor as a “consistently high-performing teacher or school counselor” if the teacher or counselor receives the highest level of performance rating in the teacher or counselor’s evaluation for at least four of the past five years and, for at least three of the five years of the current licensure cycle, the teacher or counselor **meets at least one or any combination of the following**:
 - Holds a valid senior or lead professional educator license
 - Holds a locally recognized educational leadership role that enhances educational practices by providing professional learning experience at district, regional, state, or higher educational level
 - Serves in a leadership role for a national or state professional academic education organization
 - Serves on a state-level committee supporting education or
 - Receives a state or national educational recognition or award
- Section 3319.22(H): Exempts consistently high-performing school counselors from additional coursework or professional development requirements for licensure renewal.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

OUT OF STATE EDUCATORS

- Section 3319.2210: Codifies an administrative rule that permits the State Board to issue an educator license to certain qualified out-of-state educators.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

- NEW Section 3319.264: Requires the State Board to issue an alternative resident educator license to an individual who holds a master’s degree and passes an exam in the subject area to be taught rather than authorizing a school district, community school or STEM school to employ a person with a master’s degree under certain conditions. Also requires the holder of an initial alternative license to complete a pedagogical training institute to renew the license.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY/ADMINISTRATOR LICENSE

- Section 3319.273(A): Permits the Department of Education and Workforce to establish alternative pathways for bachelor’s degree holders to obtain an educator license to work as an administrator or superintendent.
- Section 3319.273(B): Requires the State Board of Education to issue an educator license to work as an administrator or superintendent to an individual who completes one of those pathways.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

MISCONDUCT HEARING/RETIRING TEACHER

- Section 3319.31(A): Amends this section to include in the definition of “license,” pupil services personnel registration, private provider registration under the Autism Scholarship Program, and the authorization for certain unlicensed individuals to teach in high-performing school districts.

- Section 3319.313(B)(3), (B)(4) and (E): Requires school districts, educational service centers, and chartered nonpublic schools to file a report with the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding a licensed employee who retires during a disciplinary investigation for misconduct. The bill closes a loophole in law that allowed a teacher who is being investigated for misconduct to avoid an investigation by retiring. If that teacher then decided to go back to work, the employing district would not be aware of the investigation. According to sponsor testimony, this scenario happens all too often.
- Section 3319.31(C) also requires the State Board of Education to revoke the license of an individual who is convicted of prostitution unless the individual was coerced into committing the offense.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller).

RAPBACK

- Section 3319.316 and 3319.391: Specifies that unlicensed persons who are employed in or contracted for a position with a school district, educational service center, or chartered nonpublic school must be enrolled in the Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database (RAPBACK) only when the district, service center, or school reasonably determines the position may involve routine interaction with a child or regular responsibility for the care, custody, or control of a child.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds). A similar provision is included in HB147.

EDUCATION RECORDS, STUDENT PRIVACY

- NEW Sections 3319.325(A) – (E): Provides boards of education with clear guidance on the types of data regulated for collection and storage, with allowances for aggregate data that do not personally identify individual students. Currently tablets, laptops, Chromebooks, and other technology that schools have distributed to students to facilitate learning or support remote learning, include surveillance software that allows teachers and administrators to track these devices even after the school day has ended. **The changes in law do the following:**
 - Defines a “school issued device” as any devices or accounts provided by a school district to a student for the student’s dedicated personal use.
 - Prohibits using personally identifiable student information except for legitimate educational purposes, and with few, limited, and distinct exceptions.
 - Provides full transparency regarding what information is collected, which entities have access to that information, and under what circumstances. Requires each school district to provide parents and student with notice of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student’s educational records.
 - Permits a school district or a technology provider to electronically access or monitor a student’s activity on a school-issued device only in specific limited circumstances and requires the school district to notify parents of any permitted access.
- Sections 3319.326(A) - (F): Acknowledges that data captured and stored by providers and third parties belongs to the school or school district, not the provider or third party.
- Section 1347.12 Not in the bill: Mandates procedures for what occurs in the event of a data breach, including notice to impacted students, parents and guardians.
- Section 3319.326(C): Requires that data and records be deleted or turned over by third party providers when a contract or agreement expires or otherwise ends. Prohibits a third party from selling, sharing, or disseminating education records or using records for a commercial purpose.

Included in SB29 Education Records, Student Privacy (Steve Huffman).

SCHOOL POLICY ON STAFF SPEECH

- NEW Sections 3319.614 (A), 3314.03 and 3326.11: Requires school districts to adopt a policy within 90 days of the effective date of the law, against using statements of commitment to, or soliciting or

requiring specified individuals to affirmatively ascribe to specific policies, beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements and ideology.

Prohibits using statements of commitment to political or ideological beliefs or affiliations to evaluate employees, applicants for employment, or employees seeking career progression or benefits or as part of the academic evaluation of students.

- Sections 3319.614 (B) Specifies that it does not affect a school district, community school, or STEM school's ability to offer an established character education program and does not limit an educator's academic freedom; ability to research or write publications about specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements, ideology, or social action.
- Sections 3319.614(C): Requires school districts and schools to make publicly available all policies, guidance, and training materials used for students, educators, and staff on all matters regarding specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements and ideologies. States that the bill cannot be construed to require districts and schools to make protected legal communications or guidance publicly available.

Included in HB214 School Policy on Staff Speech (Adam Holmes).

RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION DAYS

- NEW Sections 3320.04 (A), 2214.03; 3326.11 and 3328.24: Requires each public school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students.

Included in HB214 School Policy on Staff Speech (Adam Holmes) and Senate Bill 49 Religious Expression Days or R.E.D. Act, sponsored by Senator Michele Reynolds.

POLICIES ON RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHNIC HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION

- NEW Sections 3320.05, 3320.06, 3320.07, 3345.011, 3345.12, 3345.13, 3320.08, 3333.80, 3333.801, Section 8, Sections 381.10 and 381.565 ORC: Requires state institutions of higher education and private for-profit colleges to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation that includes related training, complaint procedures, the creation of an anti-hate task force, and collaboration to increase security. Private nonprofit institutions of higher education are required to adopt a policy on racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution.

Private nonprofit institutions of higher education are required to adopt a policy on racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution.

Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation to develop a model policy, guidance, best practices, and recommendations for further action for policies adopted by state institutions and private for-profit colleges.

- Sections 3 and 4 amend Sections 381.10, 381.220, and 381.565 of 135-HB33 and appropriate \$4 million to the Ohio Department of Higher Education to support the Campus Security Support Program; the Campus Student Safety Grant Program; and the Campus Community Grant Program.

Included in SB94 Mortgage, Judicial Practices, Towing (Andy Brenner and A. Landis).

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION – AFTERSCHOOL

- Section 3327.021: Prohibits the Department of Education and Workforce from determining that a school district is noncompliant with transportation requirements and the requirement to pick up students for transportation not more than 30 minutes after the end of the school day, if the school provides school supervised academic services to the affected students promptly after school for no more than 60 minutes after the end of the school day.
- Section 3327.021: Requires that any student pickup that occurs more than 60 minutes after the end of the school day be considered noncompliant with school transportation requirements.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

SURVEY OF HOW TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS ADDRESS MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Section 3333.0419 and Section 4: Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to conduct a survey of each undergraduate and graduate educator preparation program to determine the kind of instruction and programs that are provided to students in mental and behavioral health, behavior management and classroom management, including how they are incorporating education on adverse childhood experiences and trauma.

The survey will be conducted with the Department of Education and Workforce. The Department of Higher Education and the Department of Education and Workforce will develop a report that analyzes the survey's findings and include recommendations for evidence-based strategies, practices, and content to address identified needs and equip educators to support student academic success and well-being from early childhood education through twelfth grade. Appropriates \$150,000 to the Department of Higher Education to support this requirement.

Included in SB94 Mortgage, Judicial Practices, Towing (Andy Brenner and A. Landis).

FUNDING FOR THE SCIENCE OF READING AUDITS

- Sections 3333.0419 and Sections 3 and 4, which amend Section 381.10 of 135-HB33: Increases the appropriation for Educator Preparation Programs by \$2 million in FY25 to support the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's additional responsibilities related to educator preparation programs and the science of reading, including developing an auditing process that clearly documents the degree to which every program is effectively teaching the science of reading to preservice teachers. Beginning January 1, 2025, the Department of Higher Education will conduct audits of each institution with an educator preparation program to assess the implementation of the science of reading.

Included in SB94 Mortgage, Judicial Practices, Towing (Andy Brenner and A. Landis).

GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM

The program was authorized by HB33 the FY24-25 Operating Budget. It awards four-year scholarships for up to \$7,500 per year to high school seniors and school employees who commit to teach for at least four years within six years of completing a teacher training program. If a scholarship recipient does not fulfill that obligation, the scholarship converts to a loan.

- Sections 3333.393 and 3333.394: Changes references from a "qualifying school" to a "qualifying school district."
- Sections 3333.393(A)(4) and 3333.393(A)(4): Defines "qualifying school district" as a school district, educational service center, community school, STEM school, chartered nonpublic schools and non-chartered nonpublic schools that is identified as "high need" by the Chancellor of Higher Education, has difficulty attracting and retaining classroom teachers who hold a license to teach in a public school, and either employs a scholarship recipient or is the district or school from which the recipient graduated high school.
- Sections 3333.393(A)(5) and (6): Expands eligibility for a Grow Your Own Teacher scholarship to:
 - Any individual who is employed at a qualifying school district
 - A high school senior who either graduates from a school in which at least 25 percent of the students are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch or who completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and receives a Student Aid Index of 25,000 or less.
- Section 3333.393 (C): Permits the Chancellor of Higher Education to prioritize scholarship applicants with the most financial need if there are insufficient funds available to fund all qualifying applicants.
- Section 3333.393(D)(2): Permits a qualifying employee who is awarded a scholarship to terminate or suspend their employment to complete the student teaching requirements of the teacher training program.
- Section 3333.393(E): Eliminates a provision that authorized a teacher training program to grant credit for completion of the program to a qualifying employee who has commensurate work experience at a qualifying school district.

- Section 3333.393(G): Permits a scholarship recipient to complete the required teaching commitment at a different qualifying school district that has difficulty attracting and retaining classroom teachers if the qualifying school district from which the recipient graduated from high school or was employed is unable to hire the recipient.
- Section 3333.394(A)(1): Requires all scholarship recipients to sign a promissory note payable to the state, rather than only if a scholarship is terminated or if the recipient does not satisfy the service requirement. Specifies that the promissory note only takes effect if either of those two events occur.
- Section 3333.394(A)(2) and (3): Identifies circumstances under which a portion of a promissory note is forgiven under the program.
- Section 3333.394(A)(4): Eliminates a prohibition against a total scholarship award amount from exceeding the total cost of a qualifying employee's loans for a teacher training program.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

TRANSPARENCY/COLLEGE COSTS

- Section 3345.026: Requires public colleges and universities to provide a financial cost and aid disclosure form to qualifying students with the student's initial financial aid packet.

Included in SB94 Mortgage, Judicial Practices, Towing (Andy Brenner and A. Landis).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/TEACHER PREPARATION

- Section 3345.205(B): Requires an institution with an early childhood teacher preparation program to permit a student of that program to complete required student training as a paid employee of an early learning and development program that participates in the state's tiered quality rating and improvement system.
- Section 3345.205(C): Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education and Department of Children and Youth to collaborate with industry stakeholders to develop strategies to assist employees of early learning and development programs in completing student training. included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

Provisions in temporary law

DEBT LIMIT FOR NONREQUIRED LOCALLY FUNDED INITIATIVES

- Section 10: Provides a temporary increase on the cap on the net debt limit a school district may exceed for nonrequired locally funded initiatives from 50 percent of the local share of the basic project cost to 75 percent, set to expire December 31, 2027. Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

SCHOOL FUNDING BASE COST CALCULATION

- Sections 6 and 3317.011 to 3317.026 (Not in the Bill): Corrects a problem with the state funding formula calculation of base cost that led to an overpayment in state aid for some school districts and voucher programs and an underpayment for other districts this school year.

Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to calculate school district academic co-curricular activities costs, supplies and academic content costs, athletic co-curricular activities base costs, and building and operations costs for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 based on the sum of the enrolled ADM of every school district that reports relevant data, as opposed to every school district, as otherwise required under continuing law.

In addition to funding calculations for each city, local, and exempted village school district, the cost components affected by the act also are used to calculate funding for joint vocational school districts, community schools, and STEM schools. They also are a factor in determining increases in the scholarship amounts of some state scholarship students attending chartered nonpublic schools.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller) and in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

HIGH SCHOOL LITERACY FUND

- Section 14: Requires the Director of Education and Workforce to request, and the Director of Commerce to transfer, up to \$1,500,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the High School Financial Literacy Fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2025.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds). A similar provision is included in HB147.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPONSOR EVALUATION

-Section 8(A): Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to develop a comprehensive framework for determining community school sponsor performance and to engage a facilitator to work with community school stakeholders in developing that framework.

- Section 8(B): Requires the framework to:
 - -Provide meaningful differentiation of performance by community school sponsors
 - -Include specific academic and operational performance indicators, metrics, and standards
 - -Specify the frequency with which sponsors should be assessed
 - -Include recommendations for consequences for consistently underperforming sponsors
- Section 8(C): Requires the DEW to provide a copy of the framework and its legislative recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and community school stakeholders by March 31, 2025.
- Section 8(D): Prohibits the DEW from evaluating community school sponsors for the 2024-2025 school year, unless a sponsor elects to be evaluated. If a sponsor elects to be evaluated for the 2024-2025 school year, qualifies the sponsor for any benefits established under state law based on that evaluation.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

- Section 9: Requires the Department of Education and Workforce, within 120 days of the bill's effective date, to develop and recommend to the General Assembly a proposal for an apprenticeship program for school principals. Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

SCIENCE OF READING STIPEND

- Section 8 amends Section 265.330 of HB33: Provides a professional development stipend of \$1,200 to pre-K teachers who are not an intervention specialist, English learner teacher, reading specialist, or instruction coach and who completes a professional development course in the science of reading provided by the Department of Education and Workforce. These educators were left out of the science of reading stipend program.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller).

DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY E-SCHOOLS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

- Section 11, which amends Section 265.270 of HB33 as amended: Permits the Director of Education and Workforce to reallocate excess funds for other purposes in state foundation aid to fully pay supplemental funding for dropout prevention and recovery internet- or computer-based community schools ("e-schools"), instead of requiring the Director to prorate the payments, if the amount earmarked for those payments is insufficient. HB33 earmarks \$4.5 million in each of FY24 and FY25 to support the supplemental payments to dropout prevention and recovery e-schools.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

ADMINISTERING REMOTE ASSESSMENTS

- Section 13: Requires the DEW to establish a pilot program for the 2024-2025 school year to test the feasibility of administering and proctoring state assessments remotely.

Representatives from online charter schools have been requesting that the law be changed to allow students who attend school online to take required state exams online. A provision to do that was included in SB168, but was removed when issues were raised. Instead lawmakers proposed this pilot program.

Included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL LITERACY FUND

- Section 14: Requires the Department of Education and Workforce and the Office of Budget and Management to transfer \$1.5 million to the High School Financial Literacy Fund to support training financial literacy teachers.

Included in HB147 Misconduct Hearing/Retiring Teacher (Sarah Fowler Arthur and Adam Miller). A similar provision is included in SB168 Education Regulation Law Changes (Michele Reynolds).

Recently introduced bills

- **HB655 Property Tax Freeze for Owner Occupied Homes** (Tom Patton) To authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.
- **HB657 TIPA Act TIPA ACT** (Gail Pavliga and Tracy Richardson) To enact the Transparency in Pledge of Allegiance "T.I.P.A." Act to require each school district to post its Pledge of Allegiance policy.
- **HB659 Water Safety Education** (Adam Mathews and Brian Lorenz) To require certain public and chartered nonpublic schools to provide information about water safety education.
- **SB293 Regarding Schools Religious Instruction** (Michele Reynolds) Regarding school district policies for released time courses in religious instruction.
- **SB295 Declare Intent-Revise School Closure Requirements** (Andrew Brenner) To declare the General Assembly's intent to revise the closure requirements for poor-performing community schools and school buildings operated by a school district.
- **SB304 Establish Nonchartered Educational Savings Account Program** (Mark Romanchuk) To establish the Nonchartered Educational Savings Account Program.
- **SB308 Limit Reallocation-School District Tax Millage** (Sandra O'Brien) To limit the ability of school districts to reallocate unvoted property tax millage and to include emergency levies and substitute levies in the calculation of a school district's effective millage floor.
- **SB309 Reclassify Charitable Funds-Public Schools** (Shane Wilson) To permit community foundations to be trustees of endowments and other charitable funds received by public schools and to classify some funds held by community foundation trustees as institutional funds.
- **SB311 Allow Multiple Scholarships-EdChoice Pilot Project** (Sandra O'Brien) To permit students to concurrently receive an Educational Choice scholarship or Pilot Project scholarship and either an Autism or Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship.