

info@oesca.org • **February 11, 2020**

This February 11, 2020, 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 133rd General Assembly. Bills are organized in order of last action date and include the three most recent status updates 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 from Capitol Square.

Federal Update

Trump Seeks to Slash Education Budget, Combine 29 Programs Into Block Grant

By Andrew Ujifusa Feb. 10, 2020

President Donald Trump's proposed budget would shrink U.S. Department of Education funding by nearly 8 percent in part by consolidating 29 major programs—including Title I aid for disadvantaged students and funding for charter school expansion—into a single, \$19.4 billion block grant.

Trump's spending proposal for fiscal 2021, released Monday, would cut the Education Department's budget by \$5.6 billion, reducing it to \$66.6 billion, a 7.8 percent decrease. Its new Elementary and Secondary Education for the Disadvantaged block grant, meanwhile, would represent a \$4.7 billion cut from the combined current funding levels for the 29 programs that would be merged.

If the proposal were to be adopted, the federal government would no longer guarantee support specifically for the programs and policy areas being folded into the block grant. Most programs authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act would be consolidated into this new block grant, according to the department.

Separately, the budget proposal would boost special education grants to states to nearly \$13 billion, an increase of \$100 million, and would provide a significant increase for current state grants for career and technical education.

Although the new consolidated funding stream is described as a block grant, the administration's budget documents also state that it would distribute the money using the current Title I formulas under the Every Student Succeeds Act, which direct funding districts. Education Department funding for Title I is currently \$16.3 billion.

"Different states will spend their share of the block grant differently, and that's okay," U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos said during a presentation of the spending proposal Monday. "In fact, that's what we hope they will do."

Frank Brogan, the assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education, said that the block grant proposal actually continued a recent decline in the number of specific programs funded by the main federal K-12 law and was not truly a "dynamic and totally new approach."

"We can walk and chew gum on this one. We can provide much greater local control and still have accountability," Brogan said during a presentation of the budget Tuesday.

Other programs whose funding would be merged into this new block grant include Title II grants for educator preparations (which currently gets \$2.1 billion in federal funding); 21st Century Learning Centers, which back after-school programs (\$1.3 billion); and Title IV block grants for academic enrichment and student well-being (\$1.2 billion). Funding for programs that focus on special student populations such as migrant and homeless students, Native Hawaiian and Alaskan students, and rural education and community schools funding, also would be folded into the block grant.

While the administration painted this proposed block grant as a large, flexible program, critics of the budget said it was a way to conceal cuts to important priorities.

Daniel Domenech, executive director of AASA, the School Superintendents Association, said in a statement that, "Once again, unsurprisingly, the president has released a budget proposal that is bad for students, bad for schools, and bad for public education."

Change on Charters

The new block grant would absorb \$440 million for the federal Charter School Program grants. This move would eliminate funding specifically allocated to help charter schools expand. That marks a significant departure from past Trump budget proposals, which have sought to increase funding for the program. Congress has approved increases for the charter grant during the Trump administration. In a statement, Nina Rees, the president and CEO of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, called the Trump budget "chilling."

In a separate interview, Rees said including the charter funding in block grants would "risk diluting the purpose of the program." The grants are particularly useful for small, community lead charter founders who lack start-up capital from larger charter networks, she said.

And, at a time when some states have debated new restrictions on charters, the change could leave the funding susceptible to the political whims of leaders who don't favor the schools.

"When you block grants, you leave it up to states to decide how to spend the money. And in those instances where the state education chief and the governor are charter school friendly, hopefully they will keep a line item for charter schools. If they're not in favor, they're probably going to invest the money in something else," Rees told us. "This administration wants to be known, especially secretary DeVos, wants to be known as the secretary who has promoted school choice. ... So in light of that, it is ironic that they would lump this program into a large block grant with all these other set asides and programs that they normally don't support."

Elsewhere, Trump's fiscal 2021 spending blueprint would provide \$2 billion to career and technical education, which is approximately a \$700 million increase. Trump signed a reauthorization of the federal law for CTE in 2018, which was a priority for his administration on the K-12 front, and he highlighted CTE in his State of the Union address last week when he asked Congress to back his plan "to offer vocational and technical education in every single high school in America."

The administration says its latest budget, through the pitch for \$700 million more for CTE, "provides resources to assist students too often forgotten—those who would like to pursue good-paying trades without getting a four-year degree."

And the budget also includes a Trump proposal introduced last year for Education Freedom Scholarships, which rely on \$5 billion in annual federal tax credits designed to support more education options, including vouchers and others.

In addition, the proposed budget would eliminate Public Service Loan Forgiveness, which teachers can use to eliminate federal student loan debt under certain circumstances. Funding for Regional Education Laboratories, which work in ten regions to improve academic outcomes, and State Longitudinal Data Systems, which support states' work to manage, analyze, and use education information, are also eliminated in Trump's budget pitch.

Past Proposals and Rejections

Trump's budget proposal marks the fourth straight time the president has sought to cut the Education Department's budget. Congress has essentially ignored his previous education spending blueprints and approved small increases for the department in each of the past three federal appropriations bills. There's no particular reason to think Capitol Hill would treat this newest proposal much differently.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., the chairwoman of the House appropriations committee, called the newest Trump budget pitch a "disastrous repeat" of previous pitches. "Just as we did last year, House Democrats will write responsible appropriations bills that invest in American families and communities," Lowey said.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., the chair of the Senate education committee, said in a statement that he would "carefully consider" the president's recommendations, but that "it is Congress' job to set spending priorities and pass appropriations bills." He did praise the Education Freedom Scholarships plan for providing "low-income families more of the same choices that wealthier families already have for schooling their children."

Last year, Trump proposed a 10 percent cut to the Education Department that would have shaved 10 percent off the agency's roughly \$71 billion budget. As in past years, the administration proposed eliminating \$2.1 billion in Title II aid for educator training, \$1.2 billion for after-school programs, and \$1.1 billion in Title IV block grants for academic enrichment and student well-being. However, the spending bill Trump signed at the end of 2019 actually increased the department's budget by \$1.3 billion up to \$72.8 billion. None of the 29 programs he sought to eliminate funding for were actually axed. And Title II and Title IV grants actually got increases, as did aid for disadvantaged students under Title I and special education funding for states.

While Capitol Hill might give the cold shoulder to Trump's budget pitch, there's a very good chance it could become a running feature in the 2020 presidential campaign. Democratic candidates, for example, could tie Trump's proposed education cuts to U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (who is remarkably unpopular with Democrats) and use them to argue how Trump does not support struggling schools and students.

Other Agencies

Elsewhere, funding for Head Start under the Department of Health and Human Services would decline by \$58 million \$10.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the proposed budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture would impose new restrictions on the Community Eligibility Program, which allows schools or districts with high enrollments of students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals to serve free meals to all students, without individually enrolling them in the National School Lunch Program. The budget proposes only allowing participation for individual schools where at least 40 percent of students automatically or categorically qualify for the subsidized meal programs.

That would close a loophole under which some districts qualified all of their schools or groups of schools by combining their enrollment and meal data as an aggregate.

BILL MONITORING

The following education bill of interest are monitored by OESCA on behalf of the membership and client districts. Bills are organized according to last action date:

- 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: 2/5/2020 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 88-7, Emergency Clause 92-3
Recent Status: 2/5/2020 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
Categories: Education
Position: Amend
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-89>
- 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: 2/5/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0
Recent Status: 2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
1/22/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)
Categories: Transportation & Infrastructure
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-134>
- SB268 CAPITAL APPROPRIATION** (SYKES V) To modify the purpose of a capital appropriation.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
Recent Status: 2/3/2020 – Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-268>
- SB262 DIRECT PAYMENTS TO SCHOOLS** (WILLIAMS S) To require the direct payment of state funding to community schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools; to require the direct payment of K-12 state scholarships; and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee
Recent Status: 1/27/2020 – Introduced
Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Education, Science & Technology, State Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-262>
- SB34 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE** (KUNZE S) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct.
Current Status: 2/4/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)
Recent Status: 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)
12/3/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-34>

SB253 **STUDENT THREAT OF VIOLENCE** (KUNZE S) Regarding expulsion of a student from a public school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds.

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/4/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
12/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

Categories: Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-253>

HB493 **SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUATION** (WIGGAM S) To permit a child whose parents live in different school districts to continue to attend school in the school district in which the child attended school at the beginning of the school year even if the child moves to a different school district.

Current Status: 2/4/2020 – Introduced

Recent Status:

Categories: Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-493>

HB494 **LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM - TEACHERS** (LIGHTBODY M) To establish a loan repayment program for eligible teachers.

Current Status: 2/4/2020 – Introduced

Recent Status:

Categories: Education, Financial Institutions
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-494>

HB436 **DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN** (BALDRIDGE B) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

Current Status: 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 1/14/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)
12/10/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Health Care
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-436>

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

Current Status: 2/4/2020 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

Categories: Education, Mental Health & Disabilities, Public Safety
Position: Amend

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-123>

HB9

CREDIT TRANSFER-GENERAL EDUCATION (JONES D) With regard to student degree completion at state institutions of higher education and to establish a universal standard for general education courses required by state universities.

Current Status: 1/29/2020 - House Appoints Managers; D. Jones, J. Edwards & P. Robinson Named as House Conferees

Recent Status: 1/29/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Not Concur on the Emergency Clause, Vote 0-96
1/29/2020 - , (First Hearing)

Categories: Higher Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-9>

SB102

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

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

Recent Status: 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Categories: Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-102>

HB459

STUDENT PARTICIPATION - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (MILLER A, MILLER J) To prohibit a coach, director, or supervisor of an extracurricular activity from restricting student participation in other extracurricular activities.

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 12/23/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-459>

HB465

SCHOOL ZONE LOCATIONS (MANNING G) To authorize the creation of school zones around specified preschools.

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 1/14/2020 – Introduced

Categories: Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-465>

HB478

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY (MILLER A, MIRANDA J) To make changes regarding the eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice scholarship program.

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 1/23/2020 – Introduced

Categories: Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-478>

- HB447 SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (JORDAN K) To establish the School Safety Advisory Committee.
- Current Status:* 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
- Recent Status:* 12/12/2019 – Introduced
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-447>
- HB448 SCHOOL CREDIT APPROVAL** (BOYD J) To authorize school credit for approved programs offered at times outside the normal school day.
- Current Status:* 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
- Recent Status:* 12/12/2019 – Introduced
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-448>
- HB409 STUDENT ATTENDANCE - ONLINE SCHOOLS** (KOEHLER K) Regarding student attendance at internet- or computer-based community schools that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools.
- Current Status:* 1/28/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- Categories:* Education
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-409>
- 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:* 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- Categories:* Education, Higher Education
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-310>
- 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:* 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Categories: Education, Health Care, Public Safety
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-231>

HB360 PUBLIC SCHOOLS-WATER STATIONS (CRAWLEY E, HILLYER B) To require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.

Current Status: 1/22/2020 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 11/6/2019 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
10/9/2019 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-360>

SB248 SCHOOL STORM SHELTERS (SCHAFFER T) To extend until November 30, 2022, the moratorium on the building code requirement for storm shelters for school construction projects.

Current Status: 1/22/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review , (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 12/11/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review
12/2/2019 – Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-248>

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: 1/22/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 9/18/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)
5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-126>

SB200 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-DYSLEXIA (LEHNER P, BRENNER A) With regard to professional development for screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

Current Status: 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Categories: Children and Family Issues
Position: Amend
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-200>

- SB147** **OHIO SCHOOL MARSHAL PROGRAM** (HOAGLAND F) To create the Ohio School Marshal Program.
- Current Status:* 1/21/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 11/6/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
6/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-147>
- SB225** **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (LEHNER P) To require public schools to post signs with a child abuse reporting telephone number.
- Current Status:* 1/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
10/16/2019 – Introduced
- Categories:* Children and Family Issues, Education
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-225>
- 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:* 1/21/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 11/5/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Health, (Third Hearing)
10/15/2019 - House Health, (Second Hearing)
- Categories:* Crime & Punishment, Education
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-321>
- 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:* 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 1/21/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
12/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
- Categories:* Education, Religion
- Position:* Undetermined
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-164>
- HB322** **TEACHER RESIDENCY** (JONES D, MANNING D) To revise the Ohio Teacher Residency Program.
- Current Status:* 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

10/29/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Categories: Education, Occupations & Professions

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-322>

HB367 **SCHOOL COUNSELOR HIRING PRACTICES** (MIRANDA J, MANCHESTER S) To require the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselors and to designate at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison.

Current Status: 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

10/29/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Categories: Education, Local Government, Occupations & Professions, Public Employees, State Government

Position: Oppose

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-367>

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: 12/3/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Categories: Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-121>

HB305 **SCHOOL FINANCING** (CUPP B, PATTERSON J) To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 11/20/2019 - House Finance, (Sixth Hearing)

Recent Status: 11/13/2019 - House Finance, (Fifth Hearing)

11/7/2019 - House Finance, (Fourth Hearing)

Categories: Education

Position: Amend

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-305>

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: 11/19/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 11/12/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

Position: Monitor

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-111>

SB181 **WORKFORCE-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS** (COLEY W) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

Current Status: 11/6/2019 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0

Recent Status: 11/6/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
10/30/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Higher Education , (Third Hearing)

Categories: Economic & Workforce Development, Higher Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-181>

HB375 **EXTRACURRICULAR TAX CREDIT** (BROWN R) To authorize a refundable income tax credit for individuals who pay an extracurricular activity fee on behalf of a student from a low-income family.

Current Status: 11/5/2019 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
10/22/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Education, Taxation

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-375>

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: 10/31/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
2/19/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education

Position: Monitor

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

SB224 **PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING** (THOMAS C) To provide an additional school funding payment for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for school districts that were subject to the cap that restricted increases in aggregate funding in fiscal year 2019 and satisfy other criteria.

Current Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

Recent Status: 10/16/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-224>

SB226 **REQUIRE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION** (WILLIAMS S) To require school districts to provide transportation for students in grades 9-12, to have the pupil transportation formula operate for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

Recent Status: 10/21/2019 – Introduced
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-226>

SB219 APPRENTICE PROGRAM (WILLIAMS S) To establish a career pathways apprentice program.

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
10/15/2019 – Introduced
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-219>

SB218 SCHOOL START TIME (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit public schools from beginning the school day earlier than eight-thirty a.m.

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
10/15/2019 – Introduced
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-218>

SB216 SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES (ROEGNER K) To allow school districts to exempt recipients of the existing homestead exemption from additional school district taxes.

Current Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
Recent Status: 10/10/2019 – Introduced
Categories: Taxation
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-216>

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: 10/8/2019 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/24/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-109>

SB81 PROHIBIT USE OF SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS (MAHARATH T) To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
3/6/2019 – Introduced
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined

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

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: 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 7/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
6/19/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-168>

HB336 REINSTATE JEOC (SOBECKI L, ROBINSON P) To reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, make an appropriation, and declare an emergency.

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 9/24/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
9/17/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Education

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-336>

HB154 DISSOLVE DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MILLER J, JONES D) To revise the law on interventions for low-performing school districts and schools, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 9/24/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 9/18/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
9/17/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Categories: Education

Position: Amend

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-154>

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: 9/17/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
3/6/2019 – Introduced

Categories: Transportation & Infrastructure

Position: Undetermined

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

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: 9/10/2019 - House Health, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health
2/12/2019 – Introduced
Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Children and Family Issues, Federal Issues
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-44>

SB4 SCHOOL FACILITIES ASSISTANCE (RULLI M) 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
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-4>

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
Categories: Education, Mental Health & Disabilities, Public Safety
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-294>

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)
Categories: Education, Health Care
Position: Monitor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-165>

HB239 REDUCE TESTING (MANNING G, CRAWLEY E) To reduce the number of end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation and to require each school district to form a work group to evaluate the amount of time students spend on testing.

Current Status: 6/11/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, 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)
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-239>

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

Categories: Education, Land Use

Position: Undetermined

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-43>

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)

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education

Position: Neutral

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-90>

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

Position: Undetermined

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

Categories: Arts, Sports & Entertainment, Education, Immigration

Position: Neutral

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-23>

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
Categories: Education
Position: Monitor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-127>

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)
Categories: Education
Position: Monitor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-110>

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
Categories: Education, Health Care, Public Safety
Position: Undetermined
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
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
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
Categories: Education, Occupations & Professions, Taxation
Position: Undetermined
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
Categories: Education, Transportation & Infrastructure
Position: Monitor
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
Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-122>

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
Categories: Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure
Position: Monitor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-105>

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
Categories: Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure
Position: Monitor
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
Categories: Construction, Education
Position: Undetermined

Capitol Square in Review

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

More than \$2 million in grant funding has been awarded to local law enforcement entities to help combat drug trafficking and enhance their role in substance abuse awareness, prevention and recovery, Gov. Mike DeWine announced Monday.

FY20-21 BUDGET

Tax revenues beat expectations by nearly \$45 million in January and are 1 percent ahead of estimates for the fiscal year so far, according to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Preliminary revenue figures show a 3.1 percent overperformance in sales taxes, outweighing a 1.6 percent lag in personal income tax collections.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

Gov. Mike DeWine Wednesday released the Children's Services Transformation Advisory Council's Initial Findings Report, summarizing the state's efforts regarding foster care reform since DeWine took office, along with common themes the council heard during their recent forums held throughout the state.

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Equality Federation -- a national organization that advocates for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people -- has specifically named Ohio as one of two states it will focus on in 2020 as the General Assembly continues to consider anti-discrimination legislation in both chambers.

The General Assembly should move to ensure that children who are "different" are legally protected against harassment and bullying from adults at school, 11-year-old transgender girl Sean Miller told the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday. Miller was joined by LGBTQ rights advocates, business leaders, attorneys, realtors and others in providing in-person proponent testimony on the Ohio Fairness Act, HB369 (Hillyer-Skindell). Committee Chairman Steve Hambley (R-Medina) said he plans to hold another hearing for proponents who wish to speak in person, but noted the committee will give due consideration to the hundreds of pieces of written proponent testimony it has also received.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With the press of a light up "Like" button, Gov. Mike DeWine joined local and Facebook officials to celebrate the opening of Facebook's new data center in New Albany, which economic development

officials touted as a \$1 billion investment in Ohio. The project was announced by former Gov. John Kasich and others in 2017, with it being billed as the second largest capital investment in Ohio since JobsOhio was formed under the Kasich administration. With the opening of the new data center, Facebook officials announced they weren't done and plan to add a 970,000 square-foot expansion of the data center, making it a 2.5 million square-foot campus.

EDUCATION

The House sent a new school voucher plan to the Senate Wednesday that would convert the EdChoice system to one based only on family income going forward, with some opportunity for siblings of current students to keep getting performance-based vouchers. Changes to SB89 (Huffman), a career-tech omnibus that became an education catch-all throughout the day, also included a House floor amendment to repeal academic distress commissions. The Senate had planned on holding a concurrence vote on Wednesday night, but the House sent its clerk home without delivering the message to the upper chamber, Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said during a late floor speech. The Senate's attempt to address the EdChoice controversy is already pending in the Conference Committee on HB9 (Jones- Sweeney). The two chambers had tried to negotiate an EdChoice compromise last week but couldn't reach one, instead attaching a 60-day delay in the application process to another bill, SB120 (Rulli-McColley), which addresses performance audits of colleges and universities. The delay prompted a lawsuit from Citizens for Community Values and numerous families, who argue the General Assembly didn't take the proper steps to put the delay into effect immediately, and that students have a vested right to the vouchers based on an eligibility list published in November.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is looking for nonprofit agencies across the state to participate in the 2020 Summer Food Service Program as meal site hosts or sponsors, according to a news release.

Parents responding to a new poll on state report cards expressed support for the type of letter grade system used now versus alternatives like star ratings or descriptors. In the poll commissioned by Ohio Excels, a business coalition focused on education and workforce issues, letter grades won plurality support in comparison to other methods, and large majorities of respondents expressed that A-F grades are understandable and appropriate as a way to convey school performance.

The Stark County Board of Elections must review a petition seeking to transfer part of the village of Hills and Dales to a different school district to determine if it can make the March 17 ballot, even though the filing deadline has passed, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled this week. The ruling is the justices' third in the saga of several village residents' quest to have their homes transferred from Plain Local Schools to Jackson Local Schools under a new territory transfer law enacted in the biennial budget, HB166 (Oelslager).

ELECTIONS

Campaign strategist Wes Farno has been tapped to lead the Ohio Strong Action PAC as executive director. The PAC is chaired by Cleveland-based politician and attorney Mike Gibbons, who sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate in 2018 but ultimately lost the nomination to former U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci.

A day after a technical issue kept the results of the Democratic Iowa presidential caucuses from being released, bringing new scrutiny to the process, two political party leaders in Ohio said the time for caucuses to be used to pick the president has passed. Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper

and Ohio Republican Party Vice Chairman Bryan Williams spoke at the Ohio Associated Press' annual legislative preview session Tuesday and were asked about Iowa and its relevance in Ohio.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose Wednesday said that 80 of 88 counties had met the 34-point checklist aimed at improving election security that he ordered last year, and only one - Van Wert County - had not taken significant steps to come into compliance. That county, he announced, will now be under administrative oversight of his office.

A bill introduced by Reps. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) and Kent Smith (D-Euclid) requiring the release of presidential candidates' tax returns was amended in its first hearing in the House Federalism Committee Wednesday by Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) to also require the release of presidential candidates' birth certificates.

ELECTIONS 2020

The filing deadline for campaign finance reports on activity in the last half of 2019 showed hefty advantages for Republicans in the General Assembly. The Republican campaign committees each reported raising around \$1.8 million, far surpassing their Democratic counterparts, but Democrats stressed that they would ensure competitive races and noted they'd raised more than in past years as well.

In Ohio Supreme Court races, incumbent Justice Judith French heavily outraised her opponent, 10th District Court of Appeals Judge Jennifer Brunner. French's campaign received \$437,747.82, spent \$75,568.39 and has \$371,318.69 on hand, while Brunner received \$59,851.63, spent \$6,972.32 and has \$52,963.76 on hand. Incumbent Justice Sharon Kennedy similarly outraised her challenger, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge John O'Donnell. Kennedy took in \$662,838.86, spent \$102,222.39 and has \$601,649.11 on hand, while O'Donnell raised \$15,395, spent \$4,278.09 and has \$19,564.80 on hand.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted reported nearly \$1.4 million raised, spending \$37,165.83. They have nearly \$1.8 million on hand, and also received \$735,483.86 in in-kind contributions. The campaign still owes \$4 million that DeWine personally lent the campaign during the 2018 election cycle.

Rep. J. Todd Smith (R-Germantown) announced Friday that he would not be seeking reelection for his 43rd House District seat due to family commitments but will continue to serve out his current term. Smith was appointed as a representative in July 2018 and won in the subsequent general election after a recount.

Former Ohio Secretary of State and sitting 10th District Judge Jennifer Brunner is launching a grassroots arts campaign as part of her Ohio Supreme Court bid that calls Ohioans to the goal of "respecting one another amidst our great diversity."

Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) will not have a Democratic opponent on the November ballot after the Athens County Board of Elections voted to disqualify Katie O'Neill because she didn't meet residency requirements. The *Plain Dealer* reported that the board voted unanimously on Friday to disqualify O'Neill for not meeting residency requirements. The board had previously split on the vote, but it re-voted after receiving new information.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose will serve as vice chairman of the Republican Secretaries of State Committee (RSSC) for the 2020 cycle, the group announced Thursday. RSSC is a caucus of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC).

Democratic members of the Franklin County Ohio House delegation sent a letter to Secretary of State Frank LaRose Thursday asking him to break a tie vote by the county board of elections over whether to continue a public information campaign on voting to Franklin County residents.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Aside from action on the EdChoice program, Wednesday's House session included passage of HB412 (Clites-Ginter), which creates the Rare Disease Advisory Council, and SCR4, designating Feb. 11 as "James Buster Douglas 42:1 Odds Day."

Wednesday's Senate session included passage of SB314 (Gavarone), which would increase penalties for improperly passing school buses, and SB163 (Kunze), which would create the "ALS Awareness" license plate.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) is offering living history performances each Tuesday at noon throughout February -- Black History Month -- in the Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse.

Three of Ohio's four legislative leaders said Tuesday that school districts must have predictable state funding from one biennium to the next to provide the personnel, programs and facilities kids need to compete with peers in other states. The House speaker and minority leaders from both chambers took up the funding formula during panel discussions hosted by the Associated Press (AP) on a range of policy questions including gun reforms, capital punishment, statutes of limitations and school choice.

In the first full week of Black History Month, members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) put a spotlight on their sponsored priority bills, which Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland) said were designed "to help build up the black family" by reforming policies in the areas of criminal justice, education, health care, economics and voting rights. Those bills include HB434 and HB435, aimed at maternal and infant mortality; HB91, regarding family leave insurance; SB232, regarding insulin price controls; SB121, regarding health education standards; SB186, regarding automatic voter registration; and SB149, barring employers from asking applicants about their income histories.

The Sunset Review Committee heard from nine agencies at its Tuesday meeting. Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson), who recently took over as chair, told *Hannah News* the committee will be ramping up the number of agencies testifying during each meeting in an effort to finish reviewing agencies before the summer recess.

In other legislative action, House Health Committee reported out HB151 (Carfagna), to create the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program; Senate Education Committee reported out SB34 (Kunze), regarding school employee licensure; House Commerce and Labor Committee reported out HB263 (Koehler), regarding occupational licensing and criminal convictions, and HB199 (Patton), requiring licensure of roofing contractors; Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee reported out SCR8 (Roegner-Peterson), urging Congress to permanently extend daylight saving time; Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee reported out SB236 (S. Huffman), regarding the Ohio Department of Health's Radiation Control Program; and Senate Judiciary Committee reported out HB236 (Smith-Plummer), regarding hospital police.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), which represents Ohio's alcohol, drug addiction and mental health boards, held its annual awards luncheon Friday, presenting its 2019 annual awards to individuals from throughout Ohio who have been working to ensure that community mental health and addiction services and supports are available for all Ohioans. Awardees included House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and RecoveryOhio Director Alisha Nelson.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Butler County General Health District and Miami University announced Sunday that test results from two students at Miami University for the 2019 novel coronavirus are negative.

The Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee voted 7-5 Wednesday to report out SB148 (Schuring), regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on dental care services.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced Wednesday that it is monitoring a new person for a potential novel coronavirus infection, just days after clearing two Miami University students when their tests came back negative.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The House Civil Justice Committee scheduled then nixed plans to hear legislation that would open Ohio State University (OSU) to civil lawsuits over the sexual abuse claims against former university sports physician Dr. Richard Strauss, after House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) said he was losing patience with the school.

Data is often at the heart of science -- researchers track velocities, measure light coming from stars, analyze heart rates and cholesterol levels and scan the human brain for electrical impulses. But according to researchers, sharing that data with other scientists -- or with peer-reviewed journal editors, or funders -- is often difficult. The software might be proprietary, and prohibitively expensive to purchase. It might take years of training for a person to be able to manage and understand the software, or the company that created the software might have gone out of business. A research team out of Ohio State University (OSU) has developed an open-source data-management system that the scientists hope will solve all of those problems. The researchers outlined their system in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Smaller governments in Ohio, particularly townships, spend less per capita and are less likely to be placed under fiscal distress, research consultant Wendell Cox of Demographia told reporters Thursday after completing a report prepared for the Ohio Township Association's (OTA) winter conference. The report, *Ohio's Townships: Spending, Taxing & Borrowing Less*, is an update to a 2012 document Cox wrote for OTA with similar findings and used data collected by the auditor of state's office from 2015.

MEDICAID/MEDICAID REFORM

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is soliciting a second round of feedback as part of its process to bid out new managed care contracts, asking potential vendors and other stakeholders for input on how to achieve a more individualized care system. Contracts with other vendors in addition to the managed care organizations (MCOs) are contemplated in the solicitation, including an overarching pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) and someone to oversee services of multi-system youth.

TECHNOLOGY

State and local government agencies are being attacked by cyber criminals nearly every single day, Auditor of State Keith Faber said Tuesday. "In my little over a year in office, I've reached the conclusion that Ohio and Ohio government right now is facing at least as much, if not more of a threat of loss from cyber fraud than we are from certain public official or public employee dishonesty," Faber said during an Associated Press forum featuring the auditor, Attorney General Dave Yost, Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Treasurer of State Robert Sprague.

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

The Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) Program has awarded seven grants totaling almost \$7 million for replacing 29 aging diesel transit buses with newer, cleaner diesel technology or alternative fuel technology. Nine of the new buses will be electric, 11 will be powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) and nine are powered by cleaner diesel technology.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) announced a major expansion of its Safety Grants program Friday as board directors approved another \$30 million for FY20-21 and took their first look at the latest, 13 percent proposed rate cut for private employers in the coming fiscal year.

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

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.