Member Alert

Reminder: Ohio law requires each business advisory council and its district board of education or educational service center governing board to issue a joint statement by March 1 each year to report progress on work outlined in the council’s plan for that year. The statement also must summarize actions taken and actions pending and specify how the council and board have fulfilled their respective responsibilities under the law.

At a minimum, the joint statement should reference:

- Meetings the council has conducted;
- The council’s plan and implementation progress;
- Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted;
- The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on needed employment skills and curriculum developed to instill those skills;
- The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on economic and job market changes and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available; and
- The nature of the council’s advice and suggestions, if any, for developing working relationships among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel.

Councils and local boards do not have to submit their statements to the Department. However, the Department recommends posting their statements on webpages dedicated to their business advisory councils’ work or in a prominent location on an existing webpage, ensuring the statement is accessible to the public for review.

News Flash

AG Yost to Announce School Violence Prevention Initiative Today

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost will announce new resources to address gaps in preventing targeted violence in K-12 schools today during an 11:00 a.m. press conference at the Ohio Statehouse. Yost will be joined by Dr. Lina Alathari, U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center; Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, Ohio Department of Education; Sheriff George Maier, Stark County; Superintendent Joe Knoll, Marlington Local Schools (Stark County).
**Legislative Tracking Report**

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:

**HB9**  
**COLLEGE CREDITS -- EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS** (JONES D, SWEENEY B) With regard to student degree completion at state institutions of higher education, to modify eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice Scholarship program, to dissolve certain academic distress commissions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:**  
2/20/2020 - , (Tenth Hearing)  
2/19/2020 - , (Ninth Hearing)  
2/18/2020 - , (Eighth Hearing)  
2/17/2020 - , (Seventh Hearing)  
2/15/2020 - , (Sixth Hearing)  
2/14/2020 - , (Fifth Hearing)  
2/13/2020 - , (Fourth Hearing)  
2/12/2020 - , (Third Hearing)  
2/11/2020 - , (Second Hearing)  
1/29/2020 - Senate Appoints Managers; M. Huffman, B. Peterson & T. Fedor Named as Senate Conferes  
1/29/2020 - House Appoints Managers; D. Jones, J. Edwards & P. Robinson Named as House Conferes  
1/29/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Not Concur on the Emergency Clause, Vote 0-96  
1/29/2020 - , (First Hearing)  
1/28/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Emergency Clause 33-0, Bill Vote 26-7  
1/28/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration  
1/22/2020 - Senate Higher Education , (Fourth Hearing)  
1/16/2020 - Senate Higher Education , (Third Hearing)  
10/30/2019 - Senate Higher Education , (Second Hearing)  
10/2/2019 - Senate Higher Education , (First Hearing)  
9/11/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Higher Education  
6/27/2019 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-0  
6/27/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration  
6/26/2019 - **REPORTED OUT** , House Higher Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
5/22/2019 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education  
5/21/2019 - Introduced


**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)

All Bill Status:
1/21/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
10/15/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
10/8/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
10/2/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 85-7
10/2/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
6/18/2019 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
6/11/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/6/2019 - Introduced

Position: Amend


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)

All Bill Status:
1/21/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
12/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
11/13/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 61-31
11/13/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
6/26/2019 - REPORTED OUT, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
3/26/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/25/2019 - Introduced

Position: Undetermined
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB231</td>
<td>FREE EPINEPHRINE PROGRAMS (GREENSPAN D)</td>
<td>To require the Department</td>
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<td>of Education to notify</td>
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<td>public and private schools</td>
<td>of free epinephrine autoinjector programs and to enact the &quot;Allison Rose Suhy Act&quot; with regard to food allergy training for public schools and institutions of higher education.</td>
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<td>1/23/2020 - House Primary</td>
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<td>1/21/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL</td>
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<td>ACCEPTED, House Primary</td>
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<td>5/8/2019 - Referred to</td>
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<td>5/2/2019 - Introduced</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB310</td>
<td>SCHOOL BULLYING AND HAZING (GREENSPAN D)</td>
<td>To enact the &quot;Ohio Anti-</td>
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<td>Bullying and Hazing Act&quot;</td>
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<td>with regard to school</td>
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<td>discipline and bullying</td>
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<td>and hazing policies</td>
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<td>at public schools and</td>
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<td>colleges.</td>
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<td>7/9/2019 - Introduced</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB321</td>
<td>CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (LIPPS S,</td>
<td>With respect to age-</td>
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<td>KELLY B)</td>
<td>appropriate student</td>
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<td>sexual abuse and sexual</td>
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<td>in child sexual abuse</td>
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<td>11/5/2019 - REPORTED OUT,</td>
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<td>House Health, (Third</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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)

**All Bill Status:** 11/6/2019 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
10/9/2019 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
10/8/2019 - Introduced

**Position:** Undetermined


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)

**All Bill Status:** 12/10/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
11/18/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
11/13/2019 - Introduced

**Position:** Undetermined


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)

**All Bill Status:** 12/10/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health
12/4/2019 - Introduced


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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Status: Current</th>
<th>Status: All Bill</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB448</td>
<td>SCHOOL CREDIT APPROVAL (BOYD J) To authorize school credit for approved programs offered at times outside the normal school day.</td>
<td>BOYD J</td>
<td>1/28/2020</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-448">Link</a></td>
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<td>HB493</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>WIGGAM S</td>
<td>2/11/2020</td>
<td>2/4/2020</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-493">Link</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HB494  **LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM - TEACHERS** (LIGHTBODY M) To establish a loan repayment program for eligible teachers.

*Current Status:* 2/11/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

*All Bill Status:* 2/4/2020 - Introduced


HB520  **LOAN FORGIVENESS - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES** (SWEENEY B) To establish a pilot program to assist public service employees in applying for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 2/20/2020 - Introduced


HB521  **LOAN FORGIVENESS INFORMATION AVAILABILITY** (SWEENEY B) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education and public service organizations to disseminate information regarding the federal public service loan forgiveness programs.

*Current Status:* 2/20/2020 - Introduced


HB523  **STEM DEGREE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM** (PATTERSON J, CARFAGNA R) To establish the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program, to authorize a refundable tax credit for employers who make payments on student loans obtained by a graduate to earn a STEM degree, and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 2/21/2020 - Introduced


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)

*All Bill Status:* 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)

12/3/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)

4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

3/19/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

2/27/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

2/13/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

2/12/2019 - Introduced

*Position:* Undetermined
SB89  CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION -- EDCHOICE (HUFFMAN M) With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones, to make changes regarding STEM school report cards, to prohibit the use of value-added data for evaluations of career-technical educators, to revise the law on community school fiscal officer liability, to make changes regarding school financing studies by the Department of Education, to revise the eligibility and operation of the Educational Choice Scholarship program, to dissolve existing academic distress commissions, to place a moratorium on the creation of academic distress commissions, to establish the School Transformation Board, to rename the income-based expansion of the Educational Choice Scholarship program as the Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship program, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 2/12/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments; Emergency Clause 7-24, Senate Does Not Concur

All Bill Status: 2/12/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments
2/5/2020 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 88-7, Emergency Clause 92-3
2/5/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
2/4/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
1/30/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
1/29/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
1/28/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
1/21/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
10/23/2019 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 31-0
10/23/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
10/15/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/19/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
3/6/2019 - Introduced

Position: Amend

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)

*All Bill Status:* 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)
- 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
- 10/15/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
- 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
- 3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
- 3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
- 3/12/2019 - Introduced

*Position:* Undetermined


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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:* 2/19/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Third Hearing)

*All Bill Status:* 1/22/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)
- 9/18/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)
- 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid
- 4/9/2019 - Introduced

*Position:* Undetermined


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SB134  **PASSING SCHOOL BUSSES** (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

*All Bill Status:* 2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
- 1/22/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)
- 10/9/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Third Hearing)
- 10/2/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)
- 9/17/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate
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)
- **All Bill Status:** 11/6/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
  
- **Position:** Undetermined

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)
- **All Bill Status:** 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
  
- **Position:** Amend

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)
- **All Bill Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
  
- **Position:** Undetermined

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

- **Current Status:** 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Current Status</th>
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<th>Position</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
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<tr>
<td>SB225</td>
<td>CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (LEHNER P)</td>
<td>To require public schools to post signs with a child abuse reporting telephone number.</td>
<td>1/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)</td>
<td>10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-219">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-219</a></td>
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<td>SB262</td>
<td>DIRECT PAYMENTS TO SCHOOLS (WILLIAMS S)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee</td>
<td>10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-262">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-262</a></td>
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OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 11
**SB268**  
**CAPITAL APPROPRIATION** (SYKES V) To modify the purpose of a capital appropriation.

**Current Status:** 2/25/2020 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
**All Bill Status:** 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
2/3/2020 - Introduced  


**Capitol Square in Review**

**CENSUS**

Over 73,600 Ohioans are at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census according to a report by the Urban Institute, "which will spell big trouble for the Buckeye State," says the Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC). To address that, OCAC awarded 45 mini-grants to community organizations in Hamilton, Franklin and Cuyahoga counties to support "census get-out-the-count" efforts to reach hard-to-count communities.

**CHILDREN/FAMILIES**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) said Thursday it will invest nearly $1 million in an emergency response fund to help county children services agencies struggling with historically large caseloads, caseworker burnout and turnover, and unprecedented challenges caused by the drug epidemic.

**EDUCATION**

The Conference Committee on HB9 (Jones-Sweeney) continued hearing testimony on how to address the pending expansion of Ohio's EdChoice program to several hundred more school buildings. In total, the conference committee has spent dozens of hours hearing from more than 400 witnesses since it began taking testimony on Feb. 11 including a rare Saturday hearing and an all-day hearing on Presidents' Day -- a state holiday. Witnesses included a whole range of public and private school officials, parents and students. However, there is little indication of any compromise on the horizon with Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) commenting this week that there is still plenty of time for lawmakers to work out a fix before April 1 -- the extended deadline lawmakers gave themselves in SB120. He added that a majority of his Senate colleagues agree that the current performance-based vouchers should not be eliminated. Meanwhile, Speaker of the House Larry Householder (R-Glenford) said it's time to put an end to performance-based vouchers. Gov. Mike DeWine has said he plans to meet with both leaders because it is clear they are far apart and this issue needs to be settled.

Leaders of Ohio's seven independent STEM schools announced Friday the formation of the Ohio Alliance of Independent STEM Schools (OAISS) to educate lawmakers and the public on the importance of a strong independent STEM school network, and to advocate for policies that foster their growth and success.
School sports referees kept pressing Thursday for legislation to levy stiffer penalties on those who would attack them during games, detailing numerous assaults perpetrated in the several months since the bill was last heard. Meanwhile, the House Criminal Justice Committee revised HB208 to impose the tougher, felony-level charge only for a repeat offense.

The Ohio Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Learning Network has three programs accepting applications now. Applications will close soon for many of the spring 2020 opportunities, according to a release from the network. Applications and scholarships are reviewed on a rolling basis with priority application due Thursday, April 30, 2020. Educators can be nominated as well. Applications are available at https://tinyurl.com/t6tvuls. For more information about Code.org, go to https://tinyurl.com/wkmvepu.

**ELECTIONS 2020**

Absentee voting, both in-person and by mail, began Wednesday, Feb. 19 for the March 17 Primary Election. In-person voting runs through Monday, March 16 at local county boards of elections at the following times:
- Weekdays, Feb. 19 through March 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Final week, March 9 through March 13 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, March 15 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Ohio House Democratic Caucus (OHDC) announced Friday that it had received a nearly $20,000 contribution from the National Democratic Redistricting Political Action Committee, which also gave over $13,000 to the campaign committee of House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron). The national group, led by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, said the 2020 state legislative races "are our last chance to ensure a fair redistricting process in 2021." It also is making contributions in the North Carolina and Texas legislative races.

The Ohio Supreme Court Tuesday refused to restore Democratic candidate for House District 25 Tiffany White to the ballot after the Franklin County Board of Elections refused to accept three signatures that it had rejected upon further review.

The following endorsements were made over the week:


- The campaign of U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) announced the endorsement of the Ohio AFL-CIO.

**FEDERAL**
U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said Tuesday that Smart Columbus represents "the most innovative transportation hub" in the country and discussed how the city is also home to training programs for artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous vehicles. Portman toured one of those locations, Accenture's Innovation Hub, and met with business leaders and students in an apprenticeship program there.

Accenture began its apprenticeship programs in Columbus in 2018, where it developed a partnership with Columbus State Community College (CSCC). It also recently announced a joint effort with Ohio State University (OSU) on data and analytics.

HIGHER EDUCATION

For the first time in over 30 years, Wright State University (WSU) has announced its plans to create a new college focusing on health. The new college, which is planned to launch in 2021, will include all of the programs that currently reside in:
- Nursing
- Professional Psychology
- Teacher Education
- Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations
- Social Work
- Human Services
- Kinesiology and Health.

JUDICIAL

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) announced that U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Norah McCann King had issued a strong recommendation for approval of a final settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit over special education services. *Doe v. Ohio*, filed in federal court in 1993 as part of another education-related lawsuit, addresses the level of resources Ohio schools -- and specifically 11 districts -- provide to give students special education and related services in the least restrictive environment. Those districts are Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, East Cleveland, Lima, Zanesville and Toledo.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Cleveland-based think tank Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) announced Tuesday the selection of Hannah Halbert, the group's policy liaison and project director for the last 10 years, as its new director. She succeeds founding executive director Amy Hanauer who left in January to head up the Washington-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy and Citizens for Tax Justice.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Secretary of State Frank LaRose Thursday announced 12,069 new businesses filed here in Ohio in January, an increase of 2,998 from December.

WORKFORCE

The third round of applications for the new TechCred program, which offers state reimbursement for businesses that upskill current employees, will open on Monday, March 2 and run through the end of the month, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced Wednesday. The first round closed on Oct. 31 and led to 234 employers approved to provide 1,576 credentials. The second round closed on Jan. 31 and those applications are still being reviewed, with awards expected later in February.
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.