



THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES FOR TEACHER
EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MARCH 10, 2019

While the budget is the primary focus for the Legislature, the next couple of weeks should continue to be interesting. It is a new year and the slate has been wiped clean (sort of).

1. **Dear Ohio Teacher Education Deans, Directors and Chairs,**

The Advocacy Committee of OACTE will be sponsoring the annual **Day on the Square** event in Columbus on Wednesday, May 15th (see attached flyer). ***Unlike previous years, this year we will hold the event separately from the OCTEO conference, although there will be sessions at the OCTEO conference to prepare ourselves for this event.*** This is an opportunity for leaders from your college, in collaboration with school partners and teacher education students, to meet legislators, learn about their priorities for education and teacher preparation, and share stories of your outstanding work to produce high-quality K-12 teachers. In these times of rapidly changing educational policy, it is important to forge strong relationships with state lawmakers so they are aware of the outstanding work we do. The attached "OACTE Legislative Platform" document directly addresses our legislative priorities.

Our goal, as always, is to have representation from all state Educator Preparation Providers. Please register for the event at the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/PiMP1IEtn5DXMxNe2>

Please complete the form as soon as possible, no later than February 15. This information will help us to communicate with you before and after the event, to ensure that we are reaching the appropriate legislators, to coordinate our activities, and to track our participation afterwards.

The Advocacy Committee looks forward to seeing you there and working together to get the word out!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly at b.yusko@csuohio.edu or 216-875-9774.

2. **Proposed Legislation:**

HB 122 EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program. Introduced in House (3/5/2019)

SB 34 SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT (Kunze, S.) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 88 COLLEGE SPEECH (ANTANI, N.) To enact the "Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act" regarding free speech on college campuses. (Referred to Civil Justice) *See SB 40 referred to Senate Education Committee)*

HB 90 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS (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 and to make an appropriation. (Referred to Health)



HB 114 TAX CREDIT (SKINDELL, M., CRAWLEY, E.) To remove the income restriction on the earned income tax credit and to make the credit refundable. (Referred to Ways & Means)

SB 81 SCHOOL SECLUSION (Maharath, T.) To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools. (Introduced in Senate)

HB 123 SCHOOL SECURITY (HOLMES, G., MANNING, G.) With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

HB 127 ACADEMIC COMMISSIONS (SMITH, K., HAMBLEY, S.) To prohibit the creation of new academic distress commissions.

3. Senate Committee Hearings - Education

SB 40 CAMPUS SPEECH (Brenner, A., McColley, R.) To enact the "Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act" regarding free speech on college campuses. CONTINUED (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Of Note: Sen. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said in sponsor testimony the measure is a "redraft" of legislation (HB758, 132nd General Assembly) he sponsored in the House last General Assembly. The lawmaker said the measure is intended to "protect expressive activities" such as peaceful protest, speeches and the display of signs on college campuses. He said the legislation addresses what he sees as efforts to silence conservative viewpoints. "Our students are being taught what to think instead of how to think. In particular, it has been conservative ideologies that have been stifled by the administrations of colleges and universities due to bias, fear, or both," he said.

Rep. Brenner said the measure also would prohibit the creation of "free-speech zones" on college campuses, ban groups from using the "heckler's veto" to shut down legal expression and allow individuals or organizations to file suit against schools for damages if they violate the bill.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Middletown) said the University of Chicago's policy is that it is not the school's place to shield students from viewpoints they may find disagreeable or offensive. He asked if universities in Ohio disagree with that stance.

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), the measure's co-sponsor, said he believes some universities in the state have violated that school's policy "through their actions or their omissions."

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron), who has taught at Kent State University and the University of Akron, said he wants the sponsors to provide examples of Ohio universities violating students' and speakers' right to free expression. "I just have not witnessed these accusations that you're making," he said.

Sen. Brenner said the sponsors intend to bring witnesses before the committee who will speak to improper actions by schools in the state.

4. **Governor's Appointments:** The committee recommended full Senate confirmation of Randy Gardner, Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education; David Brinegar, Cindy Collins, Mark Lamoncha and Michael Toal, State Board of Education and Gary Cates, Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission.



5. **Lawmakers Raise Questions About ODE's Model Curriculum Process**

House and Senate education committees this week raised concerns about the pace of change and the qualifications of educators involved in the process for adopting new model curricula. The comments came during Department of Education's separate briefings to both chambers' education committees as mandated under state law. The presentations were in advance of the State Board of Education's upcoming adoption of new model curricula for financial literacy, science and social studies. Superintendent Paolo DeMaria said the process was initiated by the BOE's approval for revised standards in the subjects in early 2018. The revised code requires the adoption of model curricula after standards are updated, which led ODE to establish volunteer "writing teams" to work on drafts that were posted for comment in September and revised last fall. Mr. DeMaria said the curricula, which are expected to be approved by the BOE in the coming months, serve to support but not replace the development of local curricula, which school districts ultimately control. The science and social studies writing teams both featured more than 140 Ohio teachers – 75% of which had never worked with ODE before – who met more than 15 times. The financial literacy team featured 37 teachers – 92% of which had never worked with ODE before – who met nine times. "We always pride ourselves in trying to bring in new teachers who have not been involved," Mr. DeMaria said, adding that the department works toward assembling teams that represent the demographics of the state. Rep. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton) repeatedly questioned Mr. DeMaria and Brian Roget, interim director of ODE's Office of Curriculum and Assessment, on whether the state is doing enough to make sure writing team members are qualified. She asked why the department does not require letters of recommendation from applicants' administrators before teachers can join the teams.

Other lawmakers raised concerns about the public comment process for the curricula.

While ODE received 691 responses – the vast majority coming from primary and secondary school teachers – and 691 comments on the clarity of the model curricula, it only received 340 comments on the effectiveness of the curricula. Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) said she wants the department to look into why the amount of feedback on the two questions differed so dramatically. Another aspect of the public comment process that drew a question was the limited number of respondents who identified themselves as "K-12 teachers for diverse learners" – 2% of the total. Sen. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked the superintendent if that was acceptable. Mr. DeMaria said he "would love for there to be more," adding that some of those teachers for diverse learners may have simply identified themselves as K-12 educators – 73% of the total respondents.

Rep. Joe Miller (D-Amherst), a former social studies teacher, said he is concerned the frequency of the updates to curricula and standards causes problems for less wealthy districts. Mr. DeMaria said the state tends to update standards every five to six years. He said it's reasonable to debate whether the changes are occurring too frequently or not often enough. "There's no magic secret to doing that perfectly right," he said, adding that much can change within subjects such as science in a few years.



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6. Hello Ed Prep Colleagues, It was just brought to my attention that **new Ohio Social-Emotional Learning Standards** are out for public comment - due March 11. These standards are likely to be folded into OAEs as they get updated over the years, and your completers will need to use them. Please take some time to review and submit any comments by Monday.
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Standard-Revision-Overview/Social-Emotional-Learning-Standards>.

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Ohio Department of Higher Education

Legislation Summary:

Bill	Status	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
HB122	Intro	Create Opportunity Scholarship Program; eliminate pilot programs	2019-03-05 Introduced
SB89	Intro	Regards career-technical ed and JVSD in enterprise zones	2019-03-06 Introduced
HB123	Intro	Regards school security and youth suicide awareness/training	2019-03-06 Introduced
HB88	Intro	Enact Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act	2019-03-05 [Hearing: Mar 12 @ 3:00 pm] To House Civil Justice Committee
SB40	Intro	Enact the Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act	2019-02-20 To Senate Education Committee
HB90	Intro	Spread information to protect humanity of unborn child	2019-03-05 [Hearing: Mar 12 @ 11:00 am] To House Health Committee



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Bill	Status	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
SB69	Intro	Regards community college career programs-grants/credit	<u>2019-03-06</u> To Senate Higher Education Committee
SB34	Intro	Regards school employment, educator licensure, and conduct	<u>2019-02-13</u> To Senate Education Committee
SB26	Intro	Permit income tax deduction for certain teacher expenses	<u>2019-02-20</u> To Senate Ways and Means Committee
SB81	Intro	Prohibit use of seclusion in public schools	<u>2019-03-06</u> Introduced
HB121	Intro	Allow tax credit for teacher purchase of instructional materials [Detail][Text][Discuss]	<u>2019-03-05</u> Introduced