



The House and Senate have been on Easter Break and, as they return, the list of bills on the legislative table will occupy their attention for the next weeks. The primary election on May 8 and the November election will also be on their minds.

1. **Sub Bill Still In Works For Education Consolidation Plan:** The wait for the next draft of a controversial plan to restructure the state's education departments will continue at least a little bit longer. A substitute version of the legislation (HB 512) had been slated for consideration by the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee Wednesday, but lawmakers said it's still being sorted out with interested parties. Sponsor Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) said he was working with different groups to ease some concerns. "We're trying to make sure we pay attention to due process and make sure everybody's heard," he said in an interview. The substitute bill is expected sometime after the House returns from its spring break, the sponsor said. As for when the committee will vote on the measure, chairman Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) said a vote "isn't anticipated any time soon."
2. **SB 287: HEALTH EDUCATION (SYKES, V.)** To require the State Board of Education to develop and adopt health education standards for grades kindergarten through twelve and to require only venereal disease education standards and curriculum adopted by the State Board to be approved by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly. Introduced in Senate (3/29/2018). Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) said his bill (SB 287) addresses that shortcoming, adding that health education is the only subject area in Ohio's system without academic content standards. "This legislation would help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle," Sen. Sykes said in a statement. "By not having health education standards, Ohio is missing an opportunity to improve the health of its citizens. Given our state's ongoing opioid crisis, a more thorough health education could certainly help to prevent and curb addiction." The legislator pointed to a Health Policy Institute of Ohio finding that the state ranks 43rd in a composite measure of population health. The state ranks second in opioid death overdoses, he said. "Without the guidance from state standards, health education is often a forgotten content area leading to an outdated and ineffective curriculum. Research has found that about half of health education teachers either have a curriculum that is outdated or is not readily available," Kevin Lorson, Wright State University professor and past president of the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, said in the release issued by Sen. Sykes. "This bill aligns the entire health education curriculum to ensure our students have the skills to make healthy choices throughout their life." Health standards established under the bill would provide a framework for educators to follow when establishing district-specific curriculum that promotes health-enhancing behavior at all grade levels, according to the sponsor. The measure allows schools to opt out, and would not impact current laws governing sexual education, Sen. Sykes said.

3. **SB 216: SCHOOL REGULATIONS** (HUFFMAN, M.). To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs. Passed in Senate (3/21/2018) 32-0 (Amended)
4. **SB 240: TEACHER EVALUATIONS** (LEHNER, P.). With regard to teacher evaluations. Referred in Senate (3/21/2018) Education
5. **HB 98: (Enacted) CAREER INFORMATION** (DUFFEY, M., BOGGS, K.) Regarding the presentation of career information to students, the calculation of Ohio College Opportunity Grant awards, and career/technical educator licenses; to modify degree requirements for interim career-technical teachers; to provide an additional payment to school districts with nuclear power plants in their territories that meet specified criteria; and to modify the earmarked appropriations for certain payments to school districts. HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
6. ODE Seeks Help In **Writing Computer Science Standards**; The Department of Education is looking for volunteers to serve on the Computer Science Standards & Model Curriculum Writing Team. "This is a cross-office effort that is being led by the offices of Curriculum & Assessment, Career-Technical Education, and Innovation. We are seeking content experts from the kindergarten level through higher education," ODE said in a release. "We need team members who are experienced with computer science, and those who can make connections to computer science across content areas." The application window for the project is open through April 18. Volunteer forms are available on the ODE website. The following dates have been scheduled as meeting dates (additional dates may be required, if needed):
 - a. May 2 – 3, 2018 (face-to-face);
 - b. May 17, 2018 (virtual);
 - c. May 30 – 31 (face-to-face);
 - d. June 13, 2018 (virtual);
 - e. June 20 – 21, 2018 (face-to-face); and
 - f. Aug. 28 – 29, 2018 (face-to-face).
7. **Reading Core**: Over the past year, a team of dedicated reading faculty representing all institution types and regions of the state have been involved in the hard work of updating the Reading Core standards. All programs that require the 12 hour Reading Core are expected to revise their core to align to these standards by January 2020. The revisions will be reviewed the next time the entire licensure program goes through state review. No additional review will be required at this time. (from Jessica Mercerhill)
8. Call for Endorsement Revisions Volunteers: The **Gifted Intervention Endorsement and Adapted PE Endorsement standards** are up for review! Faculty in these program are asked to consider volunteering to serve on these committees. Meetings will be held online, via phone, and through email unless the committee members request in person. Qualified faculty should send a CV to jmercerhill@highered.ohio.gov by April 16.
9. State Notes Three Test Options Now Available For **High School Equivalence**. The Department of Education on Tuesday pointed to expanded options for Ohioans to garner a certificate of equivalence to a high school diploma. Stemming from a 2016 law signed by Gov. John Kasich, citizens may now take the HiSET and TASC tests along with the longtime GED standard to achieve equivalence, ODE announced. All three are now official testing options for adult learners.

10. **ODE Unveils Chronic Absenteeism Report Card Indicator:** Schools will have to reduce the number of chronically absent students beginning with this academic year to meet a new indicator on the state report card. The goal is to have as many schools as possible with no more than 5% chronic truancy under a plan presented Monday to the State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement Committee. Districts have been aware the state planned to grade them on absenteeism rates - something that's already shown on report cards - for more than a year because it's part of the state's plan for complying with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. However, the meeting was the first public presentation of the details. To meet the new indicator, which is in addition to about twenty others that schools are already required to meet as part of the report card's academic achievement component, schools must show at least 86.4% of students were not chronically absent this year.
11. Avon Lake school board President Charles Froehlich is joining the **state school board** for the rest of this year to fill out the remainder of former board member Kathleen McGervey's term.
12. **HB 438: ESC BOARDS** (HAMBLEY, S., KICK, D.). To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards, to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions, and to authorize educational service centers to establish local professional development committees. Referred in Senate (3/21/2018) Education