



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 25, 2020

This has been a very busy and tense time in the Ohio House and Senate (as well as the federal level!). The House has begun meeting and has set up a protocol for how committees will operate. I have attached the document. COVID-19 still holds center stage at the state and federal level.

SB 1

REGULATIONS ([McColley, R.](#), [Roegner, K.](#)) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions. Committee in recess until 9:30 am Wednesday. On House calendar for Wednesday, May 6 (Pending committee report) (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Introduced in House:

Higher Education

HB 595

Track

STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS ([SWEENEY, B.](#), [CROSSMAN, J.](#))

To require institutions of higher education to release student transcripts regardless of student-owed institutional debt.

HB 603

Track

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST ([INGRAM, C.](#), [LIGHTBODY, M.](#))

To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to waive interest rates and suspend payments on state student loan programs for up to sixty days, to require the Chancellor to conduct a study to assist institutions of higher education and students during the COVID-19 outbreak, and to declare an emergency.

SB 181

Track

WORKFORCE PROGRAM ([COLEY, B.](#))

To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

Primary & Secondary Education

HB 549

Tracked



CHARTER SCHOOLS (CROSSMAN, J., MANNING, G.)

Regarding the operation, management, and accountability of community schools.

HB 577

Tracked

ACADEMIC COMMISSIONS (MILLER, J., LIGHTBODY, M.)

To dissolve existing academic distress commissions, to place a moratorium on the creation of academic distress commissions, to establish the School Transformation Board, and to declare an emergency.

HB 585

Tracked

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (PATTERSON, J., ROBINSON, P.)

To waive certain primary and secondary education requirements to account for school closings in compliance with the Director of Health's order due to the implications of COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

HB 587

Tracked

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM (ROBINSON, P., PATTERSON, J.)

To suspend all performance-based Educational Choice scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year, to make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the expansion of that program for the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, and to declare an emergency.

HB 612

Tracked

SCHOOL PROJECTIONS (SOBECKI, L., MILLER, J.)

To delay the requirement for public schools to submit a new five-year projection of operational revenues and expenditures and to declare an emergency.

SENATE RECEDES FROM ITS AMENDMENTS

HB 16

COLLEGE TUITION (Perales, R.)

To grant residency status for in-state college tuition to active military service members and their spouses and dependents.

33-0



Governor Announces \$775M In Spending Cuts

Planned state spending will be cut by \$775 million prior to June 30 in light of the economic downturn prompted by the coronavirus pandemic, [Gov. Mike DeWine](#) announced Monday.

In making the announcement, the governor said he would avoid drawing down rainy day funds for the next two months in favor of making cuts in an effort to balance a budget currently \$776.9 million below estimates as of the end of April.

"We are going to need that money, that rainy day fund, for next year and possibly the year after," he said.

During his daily briefing, the governor said the spending cuts will be implemented over the next two months and will target:

- Medicaid spending (\$210 million),
- K-12 foundation payments (\$300 million),
- Other education line-items (\$55 million),
- Higher education (\$110 million),
- All other state agencies (\$100 million).

OBM Fleshes Out Details On Cuts To Education, State Agencies

State Budget [Director Kimberly Murnieks](#) Wednesday provided details on the administration's \$775 million budget reduction plan.

The Office of Budget and Management also released preliminary figures showing overall tax receipts finished the month of April \$866.5 million or 35.3% below estimates.

A day after Gov. Mike DeWine announced the broad strokes of his reduction plan, Director Murnieks released specifics on how the spending cuts over the next two months will impact school districts, higher education institutions and state agencies.

(See attached files)

FEDERAL NOTIFICATIONS:

Two notices appeared in the Federal Register in April, which also promote voucher-like ideas. The first proposes to prioritize State Personnel Development Grants (a \$38 million IDEA funded program) for stipends to individual special educators so they may purchase their own individual professional development. The second, similarly, prioritizes funds under the Education Innovation and Research program (part of ESSA) to develop and implement teacher-directed professional learning projects, rather than "one-size fits all professional development activities often funded by school systems." Both proposals are open for public comment—the IDEA program until May 26 and the ESSA program until May 13. Links to respond are below.



Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

[“Microgrant” initiative with CARES Act funds](#)

Federal Register: [ESSA/EIR proposal for voucher-like professional development](#) –
Comments due May 13.

Federal Register: [IDEA State Personnel Development grants proposal for voucher-like professional development](#) – Comments due May 26.