



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 16, 2020

This has been a very confused, busy and tense time in the Ohio House and Senate (as well as the federal level!). Jim Wightman and Dawn Shinew and others have worked to make sure our students were not forgotten.

[House Health](#) Tuesday, May 19

(Chair [Lipps, S.](#), (614) 644-6023), Rm. 313, overflow 311, 11:00 am

**HB 484**

**ATHLETIC TRAINING** ([ABRAMS, C.](#), [CARFAGNA, R.](#))

Regarding the practice of athletic training. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

[House Higher Education](#) (Testimony & Documents)

(Chair [Keller, C.](#), (614) 644-5094), Rm. 116, 3:00 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

**SB 40**

**CAMPUS SPEECH** ([BRENNER, A.](#), [MCCOLLEY, R.](#))

To enact the "Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act" regarding free speech on college campuses. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

**HB 595**

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

To require institutions of higher education to release student transcripts regardless of student-owed institutional debt. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

**HB 521**

**PUBLIC SERVICE LOANS** ([SWEENEY, B.](#))

To require the Chancellor of Higher Education and public service organizations to disseminate information regarding the federal public service loan forgiveness programs. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

[House Committee Hearings - Primary & Secondary Education](#)



**HB 322**

**TEACHER RESIDENCY** ([Jones, D.](#), [Manning, D.](#)) To revise the Ohio Teacher Residency Program. CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The panel accepted a substitute version of the legislation offered by Chair [Rep. Don Jones](#) (R-Freeport), the measure's sponsor. (see attached for comparison)

The lawmaker said the [substitute bill](#) renames the Ohio Teacher Residency Program as the Ohio New Teacher Mentorship Program, among other changes. The updated measure requires school districts' local professional development committees to establish mentorship programs that feature teacher observations and reflection on instruction. Mentors must have at least five years of teaching experience under the bill. "The idea is to give the local school district the most control possible and let them decide what is best for their teachers," Rep. Jones said. "The only requirements from the state are the mentorship qualifications. It takes the emphasis off of passing a test and puts it on peer-to-peer mentorship." Colleen O'Connell, a teacher in the Reynoldsburg City School District, said parts of the current resident educator program are "unfair" and "unhelpful." She added she feels a move to focus on mentorship would benefit K-12 education in the state. "Mentorship cultivates authentic growth, reflection, and development," she said. "In addition, I support eliminating measures of progression, specifically the year three summative task, which dilutes the value of the first two years of mentorship." [Rep. Catherine Ingram](#) (D-Cincinnati) asked how the state can ensure beginning teachers receive additional mentorship and professional development support after their first two years. Ms. O'Connell said under the current OTRP, mentorship only occurs in the first two years. She said revising the program would address that weakness. Asked by Rep. Jones whether requiring a mentor to have a current instructional assignment and experience as proposed under the bill would benefit young teachers, Ms. O'Connell said such a mandate would be "incredibly beneficial." While Ms. O'Connell was the lone witness to provide in-person testimony on the bill, four other educators and the Ohio Education Association submitted written testimony in favor of the measure.

**PASSED BY HOUSE:**

**HB 404**

Track

**REMOTE MEETINGS (MANCHESTER, S., SWEENEY, B.)**

To allow the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy allowing the trustees to attend a board meeting via means of electronic communication.

**87-6**



## High Court Upholds School Takeover Law

A divided Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled the legislation creating the state's process for intervening at struggling school systems meets constitutional muster.

The Youngstown City School District Board of Education had argued the legislation ([HB70](#), 131st General Assembly) allows for the unconstitutional stripping of power from elected school boards, a notion rejected by the majority of the court. "The constitutional provision requires that a city's electors be able to decide the number of members of and the organization of a school board but does not require that any specific power or authority be vested in the school board," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor wrote in the [decision](#).

## House Committee Hearings - Higher Education

**SB 181**      **WORKFORCE PROGRAM** ([Coley, B.](#)) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs. CONTINUED (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor [Sen. Bill Coley](#) (R-Liberty Twp.) said the template would be based on a program at the University of Louisville in which students work as package handlers for UPS for a wage and tuition assistance. [Rep. Haraz Ghanbari](#) (R-Perrysburg) asked if the measure included language requiring students who participate to remain in the state for a number of years after they graduate. Sen. Coley said he did not want to include "any shackles" in the legislation. "There's no tricks here," he said. "The trick is you've got to work hard. You can't get fired from this job." [Rep. Mary Lightbody](#) (D-Westerville) said she wonders if now is the proper time to assign additional work to the Department of Higher Education amid a pandemic that has shuttered university campuses. "I would hate to add anything to their burden right now," she said.

## Education Board Cuts Member Pay, Discusses K-12 Reopening Proposal

State Board of Education members have agreed to a pay reduction in response to budget woes linked to the coronavirus pandemic.



The panel voted 16-2 to approve an emergency [resolution](#) waiving 20% of the BOE compensation rate through Dec. 31. The change cuts hourly pay for members from \$32.02 to \$25.62 per hour. District 10 board member [Nick Owens](#), who offered the measure, said the board needs to show leadership as the state faces financial challenges.

The panel at this week's virtual meeting also reviewed a [draft plan](#) for the eventual reopening of Ohio's K-12 school buildings. The document, which is labeled as being for discussion purposes only and not representing the official views of any state entity, calls for local flexibility instead of a "one-size-fits-all" solution for the 2020-21 school year.

Paolo DeMaria, the state superintendent of public instruction, said ODE staff has been working with statewide education associations and practitioners to develop a plan that can be useful to districts facing a variety of differing circumstances. "Ultimately, what we want it to be is a framework," he said. The proposal features dozens of recommendations in four main areas: health and safety, educational considerations, social-emotional concerns and operational issues. Proposed recommendations in the first category include requiring daily temperature checks for students and staff before they arrive, face coverings for everyone on school grounds or transportation, and frequent cleanings for "high-touch" areas. The section on educational considerations notes that school districts may adopt a blended-learning approach, with a mix of in-class and virtual instruction, in the fall. Operational recommendations include alternative food-service practices that allow for social distancing and the cancelation of field trips.

**From: Thomas McGee and Dawn Marie Shinew**

**Subject: One-year temporary licenses now available**

I wanted to reach out and make you all aware that the one-year temporary licenses are now available, as of this morning, in CORE system for applicants to apply. They can be found under the drop down "Temporary (COVID-19 and Military Duty)" when applying for a new license in the system. In addition, the four-year resident educator primary (PreK-5) and primary (PreK-5) intervention specialists licenses are also now available in CORE under the four-year resident educator license option. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

**Thomas McGee**, *Director*  
Office of Educator Licensure

**FYI: PBIS measure on school report cards**



Ohio has [rule](#), [policy](#) and [legislation](#) requiring districts to implement positive behavior intervention and supports (PBIS) on a system-wide basis. Beginning with the 2019 report card, state law required that district implementation of PBIS become a non-graded report card measure. The Ohio Department of Education has posted new resources about this non-graded PBIS report card measure. New resources are available on the Department's [Report Card Resources](#) and [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#) webpages.

**Subject: Invitation to the 2020 Ohio Teacher Leadership Summit**

Dear Colleagues:

The 2020 Ohio Teacher Leadership Summit will be held next month on June 10, 2020. This exciting event will be conducted virtually and bring together teachers and administrators from Ohio K-12 schools, districts and organizations doing innovative work to develop teacher leaders by sharing successes, lessons learned, and strategies for overcoming challenges around teacher leadership implementation. This event is being sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education with assistance from teachers participating in the Ohio Teacher Leader Liaison Network.

We feel that attending the Summit would be an excellent opportunity for faculty at our Ohio colleges and universities who are engaged directly with teacher leaders either through a Teacher Leader Endorsement program or through school/district partnership engagements to hear these teachers speak, experience first-hand their presentation skills, and celebrate their accomplishments as Teacher Leaders.

Summit participants will be asked to attend breakout sessions, engage in creating networks and experience high quality professional learning. Two goals of the Summit are 1) to offer an opportunity for all teachers to envision how they could become engaged as teacher leaders locally; and 2) to highlight best teacher leadership practices that administrators can promote and strengthen in their schools and districts.

Registration is free and contact hour certificates will be provided. More details are available on the Registration page (the breakout session options are still being developed as we work with teacher presenters in our new virtual reality). Register at: [www.thejst.com](http://www.thejst.com). Once you are registered for the event, check back for program schedule updates coming soon (including the breakout session options).

Please feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues.

For any questions or concerns about the Summit, please contact us at [teacher.leadership@education.ohio.gov](mailto:teacher.leadership@education.ohio.gov)



**Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education**

We hope you will join us for this exciting event!

Kind regards,

The Ohio Teacher Leadership Team

Jenny Cardwell, Ed.D., pHCLE