

# Education

July 9, 2021



Bill #	Summary	Status
<a href="#">HB1</a>	Create new school financing system	<b>2021-02-04 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Finance</a>
<a href="#">HB6</a>	Modify laws governing certain professions due to COVID-19	<b>2021-05-14 / Passed</b> Effective 5/14/21 - Sections 3 and 4 effective October 9, 2021
<a href="#">HB49</a>	Reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee	<b>2021-02-04 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB54</a>	Dissolve academic distress commissions	<b>2021-02-04 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB67</a>	Seek waiver from federal testing requirements	<b>2021-03-20 / Passed</b> Effective 3/20/21
<a href="#">HB73</a>	Regards educational testing, assessment, and retention	<b>2021-02-10 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB82</a>	Eliminate required assessment for high school graduation	<b>2021-09-30 / Passed</b> Effective 9/30/21
<a href="#">HB99</a>	Regards persons authorized to go armed within school safety zone	<b>2021-02-10 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Criminal Justice</a>
<a href="#">HB100</a>	Dissolve existing academic distress commissions	<b>2021-02-10 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB105</a>	Regards age-appropriate child sexual abuse instruction	<b>2021-06-16 / Engrossed</b> <a href="#">To Senate Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB110</a>	Creates appropriations for FY 2022-2023.	<b>2021-06-30 / Passed</b> Effective 6/30/21 - Operating appropriations effective June 30, 2021. Other provisions generally effective September 30, 2021. Some provisions subject to special effective dates.
<a href="#">HB151</a>	Replace Ohio Teacher Residency program with local mentorship	<b>2021-02-24 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB170</a>	Provide assistance to schools and other entities	<b>2021-06-02 / Passed</b> Effective 6/2/21 - Certain sections effective September 1, 2021
<a href="#">HB200</a>	Revise the state report card and school accountability system	<b>2021-03-16 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>
<a href="#">HB203</a>	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	<b>2021-03-16 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House State and Local Government</a>
<a href="#">HB205</a>	Enact Collin's Law: The "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act"	<b>2021-03-16 / Introduced</b> <a href="#">To House Primary and Secondary Education</a>



<a href="#"><u>HB240</u></a>	Enact Parents Right to Know Act	<b>2021-04-14 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB244</u></a>	Regards educational opportunities/enrollment military kids	<b>2021-06-28 / Enrolled</b> Concurred in Senate amendments
<a href="#"><u>HB290</u></a>	Express intent for school funding formula	<b>2021-05-11 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Finance</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB298</u></a>	Change voting membership - State Board of Education	<b>2021-05-12 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Government Oversight</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB322</u></a>	Regards the teaching of certain current events, race, and sex	<b>2021-06-10 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To House State and Local Government</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB327</u></a>	Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts	<b>2021-06-10 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To House State and Local Government</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB1</u></a>	Regards teaching financial literacy in high school	<b>2021-05-19 / Engrossed</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB37</u></a>	Revise 2020-2021 Education Law due to COVID-19	<b>2021-02-03 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB111</u></a>	Provide assistance to schools and other entities	<b>2021-06-24 / Enrolled</b> Passed - Amended
<a href="#"><u>SB126</u></a>	Enact Collin's Law: The Ohio Anti-Hazing Act	<b>2021-06-28 / Enrolled</b> Concurred in House amendments
<a href="#"><u>SB131</u></a>	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	<b>2021-03-17 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To Senate Workforce and Higher Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB135</u></a>	Regards state institutions of higher education and free speech	<b>2021-06-22 / Engrossed</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Higher Education and Career Readiness</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB145</u></a>	Revise the state report card system	<b>2021-03-24 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB166</u></a>	Regards career-technical education	<b>2021-06-22 / Engrossed</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Economic and Workforce Development</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB178</u></a>	Reform function, responsibilities of state education offices	<b>2021-05-12 / Introduced</b> <a href="#"><u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB181</u></a>	Regards student religious expression in athletics, activities	<b>2021-06-16 / Engrossed</b> <a href="#"><u>To House Primary and Secondary Education</u></a>

**Friday, July 9, 2021**

**Article 3**

## **Board of Education To Revisit Race, Equity Issues**

A year-old State Board of Education resolution condemning racism and requiring implicit bias training for Department of Education staff is set to spur additional debate at the panel's July meeting.

A proposed **resolution** asking **Attorney General Dave Yost's** office for a formal opinion on the "legal authority or lack thereof" regarding the 2020 measure is one of 24 items on BOE's Tuesday **voting agenda**.

The new proposal, which is being put forward by District 8 board member John Hagan, also asks for a pause in any actions mandated by the prior resolution until the attorney general weighs in.

Mr. Hagan was one of five board members to vote against the 2020 resolution during a virtual meeting that wrapped up shortly before midnight due to lengthy debates over the appropriateness of the measure and its wording. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, July 15, 2020**)

The resolution also directs ODE staff to review state K-12 standards, model curricula and mandated student assessments for bias.

Mr. Hagan's proposal, which comes in the wake of a nationwide push by conservative lawmakers and groups to oppose the teaching of what they deem "critical race theory," calls the previously approved measure "an affront to students, teachers, administrators, parents and the general populace of the State of Ohio."

BOE President Laura Kohler, who proposed the 2020 resolution, said at the time Ohioans must "learn about how racism impacts society and how to recognize and eliminate racism, perhaps even in our own hearts."

The advocacy group Protect Ohio Children announced it will present testimony opposing "critical race theory" to the board Tuesday morning ahead of a Statehouse press conference.

Critical race theory – a previously obscure academic concept examining the role of racism in the American legal system – has become a hot topic in conservative media in recent months and the subject of legislation in several state legislatures, including Ohio.

Two bills (**HB 322 & HB 327**) that would bar schools from teaching that any race is superior to another or that any person is inherently racist, among other prohibitions, are currently under review in the **House Primary &**



**Secondary Education Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2021)**

Critical race theory has also become a popular topic for candidates in GOP primary races, with U.S. Senate candidate Bernie Moreno and former Congressman and gubernatorial candidate Jim Renacci issuing campaign emails on the topic on Friday alone.

**Other Action:** The board's Teaching, Leading & Learning, Performance & Impact, Emerging Issues & Operational Standards, and Integrated Student Supports committees are set to meet Monday morning.

Superintendent Paolo DeMaria, who last week announced his planned retirement in September, is scheduled to brief the panel on planning efforts for the 2021-22 school year and recently approved revisions to the state's report card accountability system in the afternoon. **(Time Schedule)**

His remarks are set to be followed by a legislative update and a meeting of the board's Executive Committee.

# Proponents Push Case For Bills Addressing Racism Education

Conservative advocacy groups and parents opposed to the teaching of what they deem "critical race theory" urged lawmakers to move forward with two proposals restricting how topics related to race can be taught in Ohio schools.

About three dozen witnesses offered in-person or written testimony Wednesday to the House State & Local Government on measures (HB 322 & HB 327) that would bar schools from teaching that any race is superior to another or that any person is inherently racist, among other prohibitions.

Proponents called for state action to prevent schools from teaching critical race theory – an academic concept examining the role of racism in the American legal system that has become a popular topic of conversation in conservative media in recent months.

David Randall, director of research at the National Association of Scholars, said in written testimony the organization "believes that instruction in Critical Race Theory and 'action civics' is harmful at any educational level."

"Critical Race Theory and 'action civics' together educate students to be community organizers committed to the belief that the main purpose of education is to liberate America from 'systemic oppression,' he said. "The NAS believes that this improperly politicizes our education system."

Stanley Kurtz, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said children should not be taught they are guilty of oppression based on the color of their skin or their gender.

"We do not want them taught that they bear the onus of hatred, whether they are conscious of it or not," he said. "Nor do we want them taught that citizens should receive special status or entitlement simply by virtue of identity-group membership."

John Michael LaRue, pastor of First Baptist Church Miamisburg, said critical race theory "originally held that the law and legal institutions are inherently and systemically racist."

"CRT has further been expanded to infer that all social institutions are inherently and systemically racist and operate to promote the interests of the racially defined oppressor class against the racially defined oppressed class," he said.

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) repeatedly asked witnesses whether they have examples of "critical race theory" being taught in Ohio schools.

Mr. LaRue said he could not give specific examples but said efforts to redefine racism and oppression are "prevalent" in the state, adding that it can be difficult to obtain curriculum.

Ex-State Board of Education member Lisa Woods said in written testimony the bills are needed in the wake of the BOE's decision to pass a resolution mandating implicit bias training for Department of Education employees and requiring a review of K-12 standards, model curricula and mandated student assessments for bias.

"Five members of the board stood against this resolution and the resolution set off a fire storm of controversy that continues to this day, necessitating the need for thoughtful and reasoned legislation to put a stop to the barrage of mistruths, disproven theories and outright mistruths to be thrust upon our Ohio school children," she said in prepared testimony.

Current BOE member Jenny Kilgore said critical race theory makes assumptions about individuals based on skin color.

Rep. Sarah Fowler Arthur (R-Rock Creek), one of the primary sponsors of HB327, asked if discussions on race at the higher education level "trickle down" into primary and secondary education.

Ms. Kilgore, who has a background in teacher training, said many young educators are being taught through that lens.

"These young people are being grounded in critical race theory," she said.

Several residents from across the state submitted in-person or written testimony backing the bills as needed to combat critical race theory.

Hamilton County resident Dan Salcido called the measure "a necessary remedy to a growing, misguided and repressive educational curriculum that is finding its way into our state's schools."

"This CRT-influenced curriculum does not challenge our students to think critically, but rather discriminatorily," he said. "CRT attempts to imbue them with the notions that they are either the oppressed or the oppressor and have a predisposition, consciously or unconsciously, to be a racist and sexist. —simply by the color of their God-given skin or gender."

Deb Giehl of Loveland said children do not separate people based on race unless they are taught to do so.

"CRT indoctrinates all children to look at everything through a 'race first lens,' she said. "White children are asked to examine their "whiteness" and 'check their privilege.' It is an anti-American doctrine that has no place in any Ohio school."

Raymond Gaier of Maineville said some proponents of CRT are anticapitalist.



"This is especially troubling as the United States has as its foundation capitalism," he said. "We have gone to multiple wars to protect our Constitution and our form of government."

Jacob Cain, a recent graduate of Rocky River schools, said he was told by a diversity instructor in school that "only white people can be racist."

"I remember it, not just because of the confusion it caused amongst my classmates, but because of how backwards and misleading this idea is," he said.

Asked by Rep. Marilyn John (R-Shelby) how often students in the district received diversity training, Mr. Cain said he took it freshman year, although the school system may be expanding to lower grades.

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