

## Monday, July 12, 2021 Gongwer Reports

### Article 2

## Ed Board Members Question Department's Role In Vaccination Push

A handful of State Board of Education expressed concern Monday after the state superintendent of public instruction stated that the Department of Education would help advocate for COVID-19 immunizations.

Superintendent Paolo DeMaria's presentation on planning efforts for the 2021-22 school year contained a reference to efforts to "promote vaccinations for students."

"If any of you are seeing television commercials and public service announcements about promoting vaccinations, that's an ongoing effort that all state agencies and local health departments and the health industry, generally, are promoting," he said.

The brief reference led to questions from some of the panel's more conservative members.

District 2's Kirsten Hill asked how the agency would promote vaccinations and why.

Beyond backing PSAs, Mr. DeMaria said ODE reached out to schools to offer to connect them with groups that could help run immunization clinics after vaccines received approval for people 12 and older.

"I think we all know that at some point there will be a vaccine coming forward for younger students, as well, and at that time we'll continue with those efforts," he said.

The superintendent said the department recognizes state law allows parents to opt out of required vaccinations for religious and conscientious reasons.

District 10's Brendan Shea questioned why the superintendent brought up exemptions when the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory under state law.

A measure (HB 244) that would bar public schools from requiring students to receive vaccines that have not been fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration is currently awaiting a veto decision from Gov. Mike DeWine. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2021)

John Richard, Ohio's deputy state superintendent of public instruction, said the board member was correct in that the inoculations in question are not required in statute and

## Ed Board Members Question Department's Role in Vaccination Push

A handful of state board of education trustees expressed concern Monday after the state superintendent of public instruction stated that the Department of Education would help administer COVID-19 immunizations.

State board member P. John Longwell said that the department's role in administering the vaccine was unclear and that the department should be more involved in the process.

"If you're not the state board of education, then you're not the state board of education," Longwell said. "If you're not the state board of education, then you're not the state board of education."

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As Introduced

134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022

H. B. No. 374

Representatives Howse, Hicks-Hudson

Cosponsors: Representatives Lepore-Hagan, Ingram, Galonski, Brent, West,  
Crossman, Robinson

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**A BILL**

To enact section 182.01 of the Revised Code to  
create the Loving State Index and the Loving  
State Index Commission regarding student  
academic success.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 182.01 of the Revised Code be  
enacted to read as follows:

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**Sec. 182.01.** (A) For purposes of this section:

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"Political subdivision" means any county, township,  
municipal corporation, public school, city or general health  
district, alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services  
board, or other body corporate and politic that is responsible  
for government activities in a geographic area smaller than the  
state.

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"Public school" means a school district created under  
Chapter 3311., community school created under Chapter 3314.,  
STEM school created under Chapter 3326., or college-preparatory  
boarding school created under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code.

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(B) There is hereby created the loving state index 18  
commission. The commission shall do all of the following: 19

(1) Establish a system to evaluate and rank municipal 20  
corporations in this state regarding critical supports that are 21  
vital to student academic success in order to identify gaps in 22  
opportunity for low-income individuals and minority individuals. 23  
The system shall be known as the loving state index. 24

(2) Establish criteria to evaluate the following factors 25  
for purposes of division (B)(1) of this section: 26

(a) Early childhood education participation; 27

(b) Preschool suspension alternatives; 28

(c) Gifted classes offered for kindergarten through grade 29  
eight; 30

(d) Suspension and expulsion alternatives for kindergarten 31  
through grade twelve; 32

(e) Advanced high school curriculum; 33

(f) Advanced placement curricula; 34

(g) Anti-bullying; 35

(h) School-to-prison alternatives; 36

(i) Well-resourced schools; 37

(j) Experienced teachers; 38

(k) In-school support staff; 39

(l) Economically integrated schools; 40

(m) Access to health insurance; 41

(n) Prenatal health services; 42



<u>(o) Access to mental health services;</u>	43
<u>(p) Access to healthy food;</u>	44
<u>(q) Clean air environments;</u>	45
<u>(r) Access to parks;</u>	46
<u>(s) Youth safety;</u>	47
<u>(t) Access to public transportation;</u>	48
<u>(u) Affordable housing;</u>	49
<u>(v) Livable wages;</u>	50
<u>(w) Civic participation;</u>	51
<u>(x) Banking.</u>	52
<u>(3) Use data from the primary or largest school district</u>	53
<u>in each municipal corporation in which multiple school districts</u>	54
<u>exist.</u>	55
<u>(4) Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter,</u>	56
<u>publish and submit to the members of the general assembly a</u>	57
<u>report containing the commission's evaluation and ranking of</u>	58
<u>municipal corporations. The report shall be available online via</u>	59
<u>the web sites of the departments of education, health, commerce,</u>	60
<u>natural resources, environmental protection services, and</u>	61
<u>transportation, JobsOhio, and the governor's office of faith-</u>	62
<u>based and community initiatives. The report shall contain</u>	63
<u>information regarding the scoring strategy, data, and analysis</u>	64
<u>the commission used.</u>	65
<u>(C) The commission consists of the following eight</u>	66
<u>members:</u>	67
<u>(1) The superintendent of public instruction or the</u>	68

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