



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
2022

April 19, 2022,

This has been a very confused, busy, and tense time in the Ohio House and Senate. Redistricting remains a major issue for the Commission. With the involvement of the Ohio Supreme Court, redistricting is a “hot button” issue. Also on the agenda: gun issues, reproductive rights issues, freedom of speech issues, and, of course, CRT!

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The Week Ahead...House Bill 616

Though the Ohio Statehouse is on break until the week of May 9th, Honesty for Education and our partners are continuing the fight against HB 616.

HB 616 is Ohio's third educational gag order that censors honest education and discussion about race, racism, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Taking its cues from HB 322, HB 327, Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill, and other copycat bills across the country, HB 616 prohibits the teaching of sexual orientation and gender identity, Critical Race Theory, and the 1619 Project, among other "divisive and inherently racist concepts".

Introduced

HB 619

Mental Health Days

Blackshear, W. Miranda, J.

To allow school districts to permit students to take up to three mental health days away from school each school year.

Delivered to the Governor

SB 135

Higher Education

Cirino, J.

With regard to the operation of state institutions of higher education, free speech in public universities and colleges, the Second Chance Grant Program, high school career advising, apprenticeships, and energy project education relationships, and to make an appropriation.

ODE announced earlier this month the seven candidates for Superintendent of Schools selected for initial interviews at the board's two-day April meeting are:

- Stephen Dackin, the board's former vice president who most recently served as Columbus State Community College's superintendent of school and community partnerships.
- Larry Hook, superintendent of southwest Ohio's Springboro Community City School District.
- Thomas Hosler, superintendent of northwest Ohio's Perrysburg Exempted Village School District.
- Finn Laursen, an educational consultant with the Christian Educators Association International.
- David Quattrochi, superintendent of eastern Ohio's Carrollton Exempted Village School District.
- Kimberly Richey, president of RealignEd and former acting assistant secretary with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.
- Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent of New Jersey's Pennsauken Public Schools.

State Board President Seeks To End Dyslexia Guidebook Gridlock

The leader of the [State Board of Education](#) is hoping to cross off a lingering item the legislature added to the panel's to-do list last session. By the conclusion of the board's regular April meeting, members had not yet voted to approve a dyslexia guidebook as required by a law ([HB436](#), 133rd General Assembly) that mandates dyslexia screenings for certain public school students starting in 2022-23. The measure also created the Ohio [Dyslexia Committee](#) Track and required it to develop the guidebook by the end of 2021, with final approval granted to the BOE ahead of distribution to schools in the

Ms. McGuire said it's time for board members to consult their consciences, constituents and available research to make a final call on the much-debated document. "We need to decide up or down, you know. I'm just going to keep it real," she said. "That's the way I am. We need to make some decisions." One divisive issue regards the law's charge that the guidebook "the best practices and methods for universal screening, intervention, and remediation ... using a multi-sensory structured literacy program." Emily Rodgers, a professor of reading and literacy at Ohio State University, told the BOE in prepared testimony in March that *structured literacy* is "a catch all phrase" and that available evidence does not support the use of a multisensory approach. "We need to avoid a situation down the road in which we have a list of approved commercial programs that teachers are required to get training in and all children are supposed to receive, for which we have no evidence," she said. "Our young students and our teachers are promised evidence-based programs, by law, and that's what they deserve." Ms. Rodgers said the proposed guidebook's focus on structured literacy

creates "the strong impression that some instructional approaches are banned in the state." Ms. Hessler asked the board not to "weaken" the document via edits, which drew pushback from District 11's [Meryl Johnson](#), one of multiple board members who have taken issue with the document's the focus on structured literacy over other approaches.

Senate Committee Hearings - Primary & Secondary Education

[SB 240](#)

Community School Network ([Peterson, B.](#)) Authorizes the merger of one or more community schools and a nonprofit operator into a community school network. CONTINUED (4th Hearing - All Testimony)

Tom Goodney, superintendent of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, said the measure's proposed statewide tutoring option is "directly aligned with the goals of the ESC."

"The legislation, if passed, would provide an important tutoring and remedial education option for schools, districts, teachers and students to leverage in order to combat the adverse impact that COVID has had on student learning loss," he said.

"Under the bill, the ESC of Central Ohio will play an important role in coordinating and implementing the statewide tutoring program in collaboration with the state superintendent of public instruction and the regional ESC network," he continued. "The ESC of Central Ohio is fully equipped to establish the tutoring training course within 60 days of the bill's effective date and has the capacity to quickly administer the tutoring program as the designated coordinating service center as proposed in SB306."

[SB 306](#)

Tutoring And Remedial Instruction ([Brenner, A.](#)) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish a program in tutoring and remedial instruction and to earmark an appropriation. CONTINUED (2nd Hearing - Proponent and Interested Party Testimony)

Chad Aldis, vice president for Ohio policy at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, said the measure would make it easier for charter schools to share staff between buildings and eliminate redundancies.

"All schools should endeavor to operate with these efficiencies, but it's critical for charter schools," he said. "Despite some recent increases in charter school funding, which this body deserves credit for, charters still receive twenty-five percent less taxpayer support per student than traditional public schools."

Mr. Aldis said language in the bill, including a provision requiring at least half of the schools joining a network to meet the state's definition of a community school of quality "continues to ensure strong accountability measures for charter schools."

[HB 583](#)

Substitute Teachers ([Bird, A.](#), [Jones, D.](#)) Regarding educator licenses for substitute teachers and to declare an emergency. CONTINUED (1st Hearing - Sponsor Testimony *Pending Referral*)

Sponsor [Rep. Adam Bird](#) (R-Cincinnati) said at the informal hearing on the legislation that the proposal would give schools the ability to hire substitute teachers without bachelor's degrees for the next two school years.

"The manpower challenges for school districts continue to cause issues in providing uninterrupted teaching and instruction for students," he said. "This current school year has seen K-12 students forced into remote learning or cancelled class days because of a lack of substitute teachers."

Sponsor [Rep. Don Jones](#) (R-Freeport) said the measure also includes an appropriation of \$338 million in federal School Lunch Program funds.

"After all, if the kids are staying in the classroom we must feed them," he said.

[Sen. Vernon Sykes](#) (D-Akron) asked how local educational requirements for substitutes could differ from state requirements.

Rep. Bird said the pre-pandemic statewide requirement was a bachelor's degree. He said the goal of the legislation is to get substitutes who have "relevant life experience" but lack a degree into the classroom to prevent the cancellation of school days.

After Chair [Sen. Andy Brenner](#) (R-Delaware) questioned why the bill sunsets after two years, Rep. Jones said it was the result of a compromise with House Democrats.

House Committee Hearings - Higher Education & Career Readiness

[SB 135](#)

Higher Education ([Cirino, J.](#)) Regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and regarding free speech in public universities, colleges, and schools. REPORTED-AMENDED (7th Hearing - All Testimony - Possible Amendments and Vote)

The panel reported the bill after adopting an [amendment](#) that mandates previously permissive language requiring the superintendent of public instruction, the chancellor of higher education and the director of the Department of Job and Family Services to include stakeholders in the development of a statewide apprenticeship program proposal.

The revision also requires the group to submit the proposal to the General Assembly and the governor instead of the [State Board of Education](#).

Bruce Johnson, president of the Inter-University Council of Ohio, in prepared testimony applauded the committee for previously adopting substitute legislation to "narrow the focus of the bill and several of the more problematic and unworkable provisions."

[Rep. Catherine Ingram](#) (D-Cincinnati) asked if any remaining language in the bill "may haunt us" even after the committee adopted changes deemed improvements by IUC.

"You're absolutely right. This bill has come a very, very long way," she said.

Mr. Johnson said multiple provisions in the bill "came so far that we're very supportive of them."

HB 353	Religious Expression (Click, G. , Miranda, J.) To enact "The Testing Your Faith Act" to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations. REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony) (3rd Hearing - All Testimony - Possible Amendments and Vote)
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The committee reported the measure after adopting an [amendment](#):

--Allowing students to be absent for reasons of faith or religious belief under an institution of higher education's policy for up to three days per semester, instead of three days per academic year.

--Clarifying that the legislation's provisions apply to spiritual as well as religious belief systems.

--Clarifying that institutions are not limited to providing accommodations solely for holidays on a list of celebrations established by the chancellor of higher education.

HB 514	Student Financial Aid (Cross, J. , Denson, S.) To authorize tax incentives for higher education intern and graduate wages, to make other changes regarding higher education student financial aid, and to make an appropriation. CONTINUED (See separate story) (2nd Hearing - Proponent Testimony)
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Education

Topic Report

April 14, 2022



Bill #	Summary	Status
<u>HB1</u>	Create new school financing system	2021-02-04 / Introduced <u>To House Finance Committee</u>
<u>HB6</u>	Modify laws governing certain professions due to COVID-19	2021-05-12 / Passed Effective 5/14/21 - Sections 3 and 4 effective October 9, 2021
<u>HB49</u>	Reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee	2021-02-04 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB54</u>	Dissolve academic distress commissions	2021-02-04 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB67</u>	Seek waiver from federal testing requirements	2021-03-17 / Passed Effective 3/20/21
<u>HB73</u>	Regards educational testing, assessment, and retention	2021-02-10 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB82</u>	Eliminate required assessment for high school graduation	2021-06-25 / Passed Effective 9/30/21
<u>HB99</u>	Regards persons authorized to go armed within school safety zone	2021-11-30 / Engrossed <u>To Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee</u>
<u>HB100</u>	Dissolve existing academic distress commissions	2021-02-10 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB105</u>	Regards age-appropriate child sexual abuse instruction	2021-06-16 / Engrossed <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB110</u>	Creates appropriations for FY 2022-2023.	2021-07-01 / Passed Effective 6/30/21 - Operating appropriations effective June 30, 2021. Other provisions generally effective September 30, 2021. Some provisions subject to special effective dates.
<u>HB151</u>	Replace Ohio Teacher Residency program with local mentorship	2021-02-24 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>HB170</u>	Provide assistance to schools and other entities	2021-05-26 / Passed Effective 6/2/21 - Certain sections effective September 1, 2021
<u>HB200</u>	Revise the state report card and school accountability system	2021-03-16 / Introduced <u>To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>

HB203	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	2022-04-12 / Introduced Reported - Substitute: State and Local Government
HB205	Enact Collin's Law: The "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act"	2021-03-16 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB240	Enact Parents Right to Know Act	2021-04-14 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB244	Regards educational opportunities/enrollment military kids	2021-06-28 / Passed Effective 10/13/21
HB290	Express intent for school funding formula	2021-05-11 / Introduced To House Finance Committee
HB298	Change voting membership - State Board of Education	2021-05-12 / Introduced To House Government Oversight Committee
HB322	Regards the teaching of certain current events, race, and sex	2021-06-10 / Introduced To House State and Local Government Committee
HB327	Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts	2021-06-10 / Introduced To House State and Local Government Committee
HB403	Require reports of teachers retiring under investigation threat	2022-03-23 / Introduced Reported: Primary and Secondary Education
HB477	Prevent expulsion, termination based on COVID vaccination status	2021-11-01 / Introduced Introduced
HB497	Eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee	2021-12-07 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB529	Requires online posting of school curricula	2022-01-25 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB582	Regards nomination and election of boards of education	2022-03-01 / Introduced To House Government Oversight Committee
HB597	Regards capital reappropriations; certain classroom facilities	2022-03-30 / Passed Effective 7/1/22
HB616	Regards promotion, teaching-divisive, inherently racist concepts	2022-04-04 / Introduced Introduced
SB1	Regards teaching financial literacy in high school	2021-10-06 / Passed Effective 1/27/22 - Section 4 effective October 28, 2021

<u>SB37</u>	Revise 2020-2021 Education Law due to COVID-19	2021-02-03 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>SB111</u>	Provide assistance to schools and other entities	2021-06-24 / Enrolled Passed - Amended
<u>SB126</u>	Enact Collin's Law: The Ohio Anti-Hazing Act	2021-06-28 / Passed Effective 10/7/21
<u>SB131</u>	Require occupational license if experienced in another state	2021-03-17 / Introduced <u>To Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee</u>
<u>SB135</u>	Regards state institutions of higher education and free speech	2022-04-06 / Enrolled Concurred in House amendments
<u>SB145</u>	Revise the state report card system	2021-03-24 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>SB166</u>	Regards career-technical education	2021-12-15 / Passed Effective 3/23/22 - One emergency provision effective immediately, 12/22/21
<u>SB178</u>	Reform function, responsibilities of state education offices	2021-05-12 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>SB181</u>	Regards student religious expression in athletics, activities	2022-02-09 / Passed Effective 5/30/22
<u>SB209</u>	Regards mask mandates for schools and businesses	2021-09-08 / Introduced <u>To Senate General Government Budget Committee</u>
<u>SB214</u>	Requires instruction in Asian American history	2021-09-08 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>SB229</u>	Regards use of blended learning during 2021-2022	2021-12-08 / Passed Effective 12/14/21 - Emergency, effective immediately; one provision effective 1/27/22
<u>SB233</u>	Regards school nurse licensure and state retirement	2021-09-22 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>
<u>SB306</u>	Require Higher Ed Chancellor establish tutoring, remedial program	2022-03-02 / Introduced <u>To Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee</u>