



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 9, 2023

The Senate met Wednesday afternoon, while the House takes another week off as strife continues to paralyze the Republican majority caucus. The reorganization of the Department of Education and the Backpack Bill are the focus for discussion, but the budget is taking the spotlight at this time.

- Funding for K-12 schools: how fast and how fully will the Legislature fund the equitable plan developed by educators and parents and adopted after a harrowing policy struggle in the past biennial budget? The key bill to watch is HB 33. HB 1 would cut income and property taxes and \$1.2 billion in funding to local schools. The Backpack Bill (HB 11) would make every Ohio student eligible for vouchers for private education or home schooling.
- Governor DeWine's proposal to allocate \$174 million to improve children's literacy. Literacy expert Kelly Butler, CEO of the Barksdale Reading Institute in Mississippi, was called in as part of a panel addressing state legislators last week about how to do it. BRI helped Mississippi raise its 4th grade reading proficiency from worst in the nation to above the national average.
- Senate Bill 1, to take away the authority of the elected Ohio School Board over curriculum and most other policy, has passed the Senate. Also moving are Senate Bill 1, passed by the Senate last week, and House Bill 12, up for a hearing this week, which would each shift **control over most aspects of K-12 education**, including what can and cannot be taught in schools, from the elected Board of Education to a political appointee of the Governor. The push to consolidate control over schools comes after some groups objected to diversity and anti-racism efforts at the Board and following a failure to enact anti-CRT legislation in the last General Assembly.
- On Thursday, an Ohio House committee will hold the first hearing on the first of two new bills targeting trans youth. Sponsor Jena Powell will testify in House Higher Education in support of House Bill 6. Separately, Rep. Gary Click has reintroduced his bill (HB 68) to deny **gender-affirming care** to transgender youth. The bill has been assigned to a committee for future hearings. **House Bill 68 - Gender Transition** - regards gender transition services for minors and to name this act the Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

- Both chambers are considering a number of bills focused on limits and control over what is taught in Ohio schools. [House Bill 8](#), up for sponsor testimony in House Primary & Secondary Education tomorrow requires **parental notification** about educational content of a sexual nature as well as about any observed changes in a student's mental, emotional physical health.
- Also tomorrow is a second hearing on a plan ([HB1](#)) to lower and flatten **Ohio's income tax**, primarily benefiting the rich and ending the progressive nature of Ohio's tax system. A new estimate from the Legislative Services Commission puts the price tag of the bill at \$1.7 billion in the first year and growing over time, while forecasting corresponding tax losses for schools and local governments.
- A federal judge in Florida partially blocked a law championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis designed to limit the discussion of racism and privilege in schools and workplace training. In a 139-page order issued Thursday, Tallahassee U.S. District Judge Mark Walker excoriated the Republican-led bill and blocked it from taking effect in the state's public universities.
- **Teacher Licensure**: Ohio will move to two-year resident educator licenses starting April 12. Four-Year resident educator licenses will not be issued, extended or renewed starting on that date. Teachers with four-year licenses that expire June 30, 2023, may request to transition to the new two-year license if they need additional time to complete the Resident Educator Program. More information about the change is available on [ODE's website](#).

House and Senate Calendar



Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, March 14

[House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education](#)

Chair [Richardson, T.](#) 614-466-8147 TBA [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education

Chair [Manning, G. 614-466-8147](#) 3:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- IUC Member Presidents
- OACC
- Ohio Library Council
- DRC

Wednesday, March 15

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education

Chair [Richardson, T. 614-466-8147](#) TBA, 12:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- Broadcast Educational Media Commission
- Public Testimony

Thursday, March 16

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education Track

Chair [Richardson, T. 614-466-8147](#) TBA [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

Tuesday, March 21

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education

Chair [Richardson, T. 614-466-8147](#) TBA, 12:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

Senate Session

Chair [Huffman, M. 614-466-4900](#) Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm [Webcast](#)

House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education

Chair [Manning, G. 614-466-8147](#) 3:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- AICUO Member Presidents
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. For Autism

- **OACTE**, OACTS, ACCCTS
- OMACCS

Tuesday, March 14

[House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education](#)

Chair [Richardson, T.](#) [614-466-8147](#) TBA [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

[House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education](#)

Chair [Manning, G.](#) [614-466-8147](#) Rm. 113, 3:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- IUC Member Presidents
- OACC
- Ohio Library Council

[HB 33](#)

Operating Budget

[Edwards, J.](#)

To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

[5th Hearing - Invited Testimony](#)

Thursday, March 16

[House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education](#)

Chair [Richardson, T.](#) [614-466-8147](#) TBA [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

Tuesday, March 21

[House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education](#)

Chair [Richardson, T.](#) [614-466-8147](#) TBA, 12:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

[House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education](#)

Chair [Manning, G. 614-466-8147](#) 3:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- AICUO Member Presidents
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. For Autism
- **OACTE**, OACTS, ACCCTS
- OMACCS

Thursday, March 23

Senate Session

Chair [Huffman, M. 614-466-4900](#) Senate Chamber, 11:00 am [Webcast](#)

- If Needed.

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education

Chair [Richardson, T. 614-466-8147](#) TBA, 12:00 pm [Webcast](#)

- Public Testimony

Education Topic Report



March 9, 2023

Bill #	Summary	Status
HB6	To enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.	2023-02-16 / Introduced To House Higher Education Committee
HB8	To require public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content.	2023-02-16 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary

		Education Committee
<u>HB27</u>	To require state institutions of higher education to provide financial cost and aid disclosure forms.	2023-02-16 / Introduced To House Higher Education Committee
<u>HB33</u>	Budget Bill	[Hearing: Mar 9 @ 10:00 am in Room 313] 2023-02-15 / Introduced Introduced
<u>HB46</u>	To enact section 3319.225 of the Revised Code regarding notation of an educator's district or school of employment on license applications and notice of educator disciplinary actions and consent agreements.	2023-02-15 / Introduced Introduced
<u>HB63</u>	To require public and chartered nonpublic schools to provide conflict resolution instruction to students in grades kindergarten through twelve.	2023-02-28 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
<u>HB71</u>	To establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program and to make an appropriation.	2023-02-28 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

<p><u>HB82</u></p>	<p>To require school athletic coaches to complete mental health training and to revise the renewal requirements for pupil-activity program permits and to amend the version of section 3319.303 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on December 29, 2023, to continue the change on and after that date.</p>	<p>2023-02-28 / Introduced To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee</p>
<p><u>SB1</u></p>	<p>To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.</p>	<p>2023-03-07 / Engrossed Introduced</p>
<p><u>SB5</u></p>	<p>To establish the Workforce Voucher Program, to terminate the provisions of the Voucher Program two years after the bill's effective date by repealing sections 122.157, 122.158, and 3313.473 of the Revised Code on that date, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Voucher Program, and to make an appropriation.</p>	<p>2023-01-17 / Introduced To Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee</p>
<p><u>SB11</u></p>	<p>To enact the Parent Educational Freedom Act to expand eligibility for Educational Choice scholarships, to cease the operation of the Pilot Project Scholarship Program on July 1, 2023, and to increase the income tax credit for homeschooling expenses.</p>	<p>2023-01-17 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee</p>
<p><u>SB14</u></p>	<p>To expand eligibility for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to be employed as teachers without licenses.</p>	<p>2023-01-17 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee</p>

<u>SB17</u>	To incorporate free market capitalism content into the high school financial literacy and entrepreneurship standards and model curriculum.	2023-03-08 / Engrossed Passed
<u>SB27</u>	To ratify the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.	2023-02-08 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee
<u>SB29</u>	To amend section 149.43 and to enact sections 3319.324, 3319.325, and 3319.326 of the Revised Code regarding education records and student data privacy.	2023-02-08 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee
<u>SB49</u>	To enact the Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act to require each kindergarten through 12 public school to adopt a policy providing students, teachers, and staff with religious accommodations.	2023-02-08 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee
<u>SB79</u>	To amend section 3314.017 and to enact sections 3301.0727, 3314.381, and 3314.382 of the Revised Code regarding dropout prevention and recovery community schools	2023-03-08 / Introduced To Senate Education Committee