

Legislative Update for OACTE, OAPCTE, and SUED

March 15, 2024

General Assembly timeline

Lawmakers will not return to Columbus for work until April as they campaign for the March primary election, which is being held on March 19. Committee hearings are expected to resume the week of April 8.

DEW continues implementation of Science of Reading laws

The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) held its bimonthly meeting on March 14 to provide an overview of the state's literacy implementation efforts and discuss pending administrative rules. Led off by opening remarks from Director Steve Dackin, Chief of Literacy Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrner outlined the results of the survey released last week on school districts' use of instructional materials, professional development, and literacy coaches. She also discussed the timeline for approved intervention materials and additional professional development opportunities. A copy of the meeting materials is accessible here:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/About/DEW-Public-Meetings/031424-DEW-Public-Meeting-Presentation.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>.

State Board of Education holds monthly meeting

The State Board of Education held its monthly meeting on March 11 during which it continued discussions on the multi-million-dollar shortfall facing the panel. In a veiled reference to Senate President Matt Huffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction Paul Craft told board members that the panel was "accused of vastly expanding" the agency's staff. Huffman has previously stated that, while a licensure fee increase was not necessary, the agency's staffing could instead be addressed by eliminating or outsourcing staff. Craft and the board continue to advocate for the legislature to provide \$10 million to the panel before it departs for summer recess in June.

Educators and a representative from the Ohio Education Association testified before the board urging it not to raise fees and pursue a legislative solution. The board's May meeting is potentially the meeting in which a licensure fee hike may occur.