



Week of July 10, 2023

State Board of Education

In its first meeting since the law change that transferred most of its duties to a new state agency, the State Board of Education met this week to delve into the future of the panel, select members of the Educator Standards Board, and hear presentations on third-grade reading scores.

The provisions creating the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) take effect in early October, at which point DEW staff have an additional 90 days to finalize the transfer of duties and powers from the State Board to DEW. Gov. **Mike DeWine**, however, told reporters this week he anticipates quick decisions to be made on selecting directors and that different people have been discussed for the senior positions. The law requires the governor to appoint a director of DEW, deputy director of K-12 education, and deputy director of career-technical education, all of whom must be approved by the Ohio Senate.

Staff with the Department of Education tell us that guidance on key issues like literacy professional development, curriculum reimbursements, third-grade reading guarantee retention exemptions are all forthcoming. We will share more information when we have

it.

Meanwhile, the Board laid out a plan to select a new state superintendent, which will conclude with a selection on Nov. 15 under the proposed timeline.

Huffman eyes facility funding for private schools

Senate President **Matt Huffman** is exploring a plan to provide state funding to private schools to build new school buildings or to expand into areas without private schools, [a Columbus Dispatch article this week revealed](#).

"The capacity issue is the next big issue on the horizon for school choice," Huffman told the Dispatch. "If there's no place for you to go, then there's no school choice."

No details are available on the plan. Besides a standalone bill, the proposal could become part of either the capital budget bill, which is developed in the spring of 2024, or the next operating budget bill in the spring of 2025.

Heard around the Statehouse

"You can't use public money to ask the public for more of their money. And our rule is if it's an elected official or public employee, (do it) on your own dime, on your own time." - Auditor of State **Keith Faber**, [speaking to elected officials](#) in Greene County regarding upcoming guidance from his office on permissible and impermissible levy activities.

"When I started down my school choice stuff 15 years ago, one of the big opposition groups were rural Republicans. But they watched what was going on during COVID and these culture wars. I think they're now on my side." - Senate President **Matt Huffman** in a Dispatch article on the future of private school funding.

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