



Week of October 23, 2023



Alliance and others testify in support of deregulation and flexibility measure

Dr. **Tony Podojil**, executive director for the Alliance for High Quality Education, provided proponent testimony this week on Senate Bill 168. Podojil was joined by several other

education associations in testimony, which focused on exemptions for high-performing districts, permissive local frameworks for educator and administrator evaluations, and other topics. Meanwhile, several superintendents, including Alliance member **Natasha Adams**, superintendent/CEO of the West Clermont Local School District, also provided proponent testimony to the committee. A summary of the bill's provisions can be [accessed here](#).

Voltolini named interim DEW director

Shortly after a Franklin County judge ruled last week that the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) can legally take effect, Gov. **Mike DeWine** announced **Jessica Voltolini** as DEW's interim director as he resumes his search for a director and deputy directors. **Chris Woolard** remains interim Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Joint property tax committee members named

The following members have been appointed to the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform, which must issue recommendations by Dec. 31, 2024: Sens. **Bill Blessing**, **George Lang**, **Sandra O'Brien**, **Hearcel Craig**, and **William DeMora**, and Reps. **Bill Roemer**, **Tom Young**, **Tracy Richardson**, **Bride Rose Sweeney**, and **Dan Troy**.

Committee action

- [SB 29](#), which modifies educator records and student data privacy laws, was amended during a fourth hearing in the Senate Education Committee.
- [SB 168](#), which contains deregulation and flexibility items, received a second hearing for proponent testimony in the Senate Education Committee.
- [SB 162](#), which requires academic intervention services for students who score "limited" on a state math or English test, received a second hearing for proponent testimony in the Senate Education Committee.
- [HB 140](#), which enacts school bus safety measures, received proponent testimony in the House Transportation Committee.
- [HB 279](#), which requires seat belts to be installed on school buses within five years, received proponent

testimony in the House Transportation Committee.

- [HB 147](#), which revises educator misconduct laws, was passed by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.
- [SB 17](#), which includes capitalism in the financial literacy standards and curriculum, was amended during its third hearing in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.
- [HB 206](#), which creates permissive expulsion authority, received a substitute version of the bill during its fourth hearing in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.
- [HB 214](#), which revises professional standards for school staff, also received a substitute version of the bill during its fourth hearing in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

On Tap – Active Bills Next Week

The House and Senate Education committees will not meet next week. The Senate Ways and Means Committee has not yet announced whether it will meet next week. If the committee does not meet, it casts doubt on the future passage of House Bill 187, the property valuation modification legislation.

Heard around the Statehouse

“For \$15 for a kid to go to a football game, I think, is something we need to look at. It’s really important for our community and for our kids to be able to support your schools.” - House Speaker **Jason Stephens**, [speaking to a reporter](#) about ticket prices at school sporting events.

“Our hope is that by December, by the end of the year, we're able to have the Superintendent of (Public) Instruction in place.” - **Paul LaRue**, president of the State Board of Education, speaking to a reporter on the panel’s goal to select a permanent state superintendent.