



Week of May 27, 2024

DEW publishes model policy on cellphones in schools

A model policy on smartphones in schools was published Wednesday by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). That policy, [accessible here](#), is in response to the legislative requirement in [House Bill \(HB\) 250](#), which was signed into law on May 15. HB 250 requires school districts to adopt a policy governing student cell phone use that emphasizes limiting cell phone use to the greatest extent possible. Districts may create their own policy that adheres to the new law's requirements or adopt DEW's model policy. DEW also published a toolkit that includes resources and tools for administrators, teachers, parents, and students. That toolkit is [accessible here](#).

Court judge dismisses DEW lawsuit

A Franklin County judge on May 24 ruled that plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit challenging the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce and transferring to it most of the powers of the State Board of Education lack standing and dismissed the case. The decision from Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge **Karen Phipps** effectively grants the motion to dismiss requested by Gov. **Mike DeWine** in the case.

Special legislative session couples Biden fix and foreign money ban

In response to a call from Gov. **Mike DeWine**, the Ohio General Assembly met this week and sent two separate bills to DeWine during a rare, special legislative session: [HB 1](#), which prohibits foreign nationals from making campaign contributions, and [HB 2](#), which places President **Joe Biden** on Ohio's ballot for the November presidential election. Notably, 31 House Republicans voted no on HB 2, while only one Senate Republican voted against HB 2. HB 1 and HB 2 are now pending Gov. DeWine's signature.

Heard around the Statehouse

"Diet Coke foreign money ban." - Rep. **Brian Stewart**, referring to an initial House proposal that banned foreign nationals' campaign contributions but did not extend that prohibition to green card holders. A floor amendment to include green card holders was later included in the bill, though House Republican leaders opposed such move and warned its inclusion could open the bill up to litigation and thus stall the impact of the legislation.

"I obviously support this bill because I want to have a job when I wake up in the morning." - Sen. **William DeMora**, a Democrat referring to his support of House Bill 2, which authorizes the placement of President **Joe Biden** on Ohio's ballot for the November presidential election.