

Alliance for High Quality Education
Legislative/System Improvements Committee

Zoom Meeting Summary
Friday, June 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.

In attendance on video conference: Executive Director Tony Podojil and Legislative Consultant William Schwartz and member representatives from 30 school districts.

Tony convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update Alliance members regarding the most recent legislative activity listed below:

I. MAJOR BILLS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- a. HB 2 Capital Appropriations Bill
The General Assembly passed House Bill 2 prior to summer recess. It contains more than \$4 billion in funding for construction, renovation, and one-time community projects.
- b. HB 8 Parents Bill of Rights
The bill is still pending a committee vote in the Senate. The Senate Education Committee amended the bill prior to summer recess and is expected to pass the bill in the lame duck legislative session.
- c. HB 70- Required Policy on OTC Drugs
The bill was passed by the Senate and received a first hearing in the Senate in June.
- d. HB 147 Educator Misconduct and Literacy Stipends
The bill is still pending a committee vote in the Senate. The Senate Education Committee amended the bill prior to summer recess and is expected to pass the bill in the lame duck legislative session.
- e. HB 178 – Discrimination Policies for Race-Related Traits
The bill, which passed the House in June, is still pending a first hearing in the Senate.
- f. HB 183 - The Bathroom Bill
Despite no action on the bill itself, Rep. Adam Bird amended the bill into Senate Bill 104 on the House floor. That bill was subsequently passed by the House and returned to the Senate for a final concurrence vote. The Senate, however, adjourned for the summer recess and will not return until after the November general election.
- g. HB 230- Required Instruction in Fentanyl Education
The bill passed the House and is now pending in the Senate.
- h. HB 344 – Replacement Levies and Property Tax Complaints
The bill passed the House Ways and Means Committee but did not receive a House vote prior to summer recess.
- i. HB 407 – Private School Accountability and Transparency
The bill has received three hearings in the House and is pending a committee vote.
- j. HB 432 – Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility
The bill passed the House in June and received a first hearing in the Senate on June 26.
- k. HB 445 – Required Religious Release Time Policy
The bill received sponsor and proponent testimony in the House. It has yet to receive a third hearing for opponent testimony.
- l. SB 29 Student Technology Records
The bill was passed by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and is expected to pass the House and receive a Senate concurrence vote and then advance to Gov. DeWine on June 26.
- m. SB 112 – Inspection and Repair of Protective Door Assemblies
The bill was passed by a House committee and is set to pass the House and receive concurrence by the Senate on June 26, thereby sending it to Gov. DeWine for his signature.
- n. SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility
The bill was heavily amended and passed on June 25 in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. The bill will be on the House’s agenda on June 26 with a potential Senate concurrence vote that same day.

- o. SB 205 – Drug Prevention Education
The bill was amended in Senate committee last week and awaits a fourth hearing and vote in the committee, which will not happen before the summer recess.
- p. SB 208 – Open Enrollment for Military Children
The bill passed the Senate in June and is awaiting a first hearing in the House.

II. RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS

- a. HB 557 (Mathews) - Criminal Liability for Teachers Pandering Obscenity
- b. HB 623 (Dobos/Jones) - Computer Science Courses
- c. HB 629 (Edwards) – Capital Appropriations Bill
- d. SB 265 (Ingram) - Right of First Refusal for School Property Sales/Leases
- e. SB 271 (Blessing/Craig) - Property Tax Circuit Breaker
- f. SB 287 (DeMora) - Property Tax Freeze
- g. SB 288 (Dolan) - Capital Appropriations Bill
- h. SB 292 (Dolan) - Capital Appropriations Bill
- i. SB 293 (Reynolds) - Required Religious Release Time Policy

III. DEW/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- a. Ohio AI Task Force
- b. Tony and members continue to engage in conversations with the AI Taskforce, DeWine-Husted administration, state agency partners, and other stakeholders.
- c. DEW Lawsuit
A Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge granted Gov. Mike DeWine’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce. The decision effectively ends the litigation unless an appeal is filed.
- d. Deputy Director Confirmation
Jeremy Varner was confirmed by the Ohio Senate in June as the Deputy Director of Career-Technical Education of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.
- e. Licensure Fees
There is still no confirmation on whether the State Board of Education will raise licensure fees pending a legislative appropriation.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- a. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform
The committee held its final meeting for public testimony in May. Next steps are not yet known. A report with recommendations is due December 31, 2024.
- b. USDOE Title IX -TRO
Several states, including Ohio, have filed lawsuits challenging the Biden Administration’s new Title IX regulations. A temporary restraining order has been issued temporarily halting those rules’ implementation in Ohio and other states.
- c. Funding Formula Overpayment
The Department of Education and Workforce identified a funding overpayment to schools and districts for fiscal year 2024 that will be addressed beginning in fiscal year 2025 via a legislative change. A funding claw back will not be in place.
- d. STRS
The entity continues to be the subject of controversy as consulting entities terminate their agreements, members resign, and the panel is without a permanent leader.

V. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is TBD.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.