

Alliance for High Quality Education
Legislative/System Improvements Committee

Zoom Meeting Summary
Friday, September 27, 2024
10:00 a.m.

In attendance on video conference: Executive Director Tony Podojil and Legislative Consultant William Schwartz and member representatives from 37 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 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.
- b. HB 230- Required Instruction in Fentanyl Education
The bill passed the House and is now pending in the Senate.
- c. HB 407 – Private School Accountability and Transparency
The bill has received three hearings in the House and is pending a committee vote.
- d. 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.
- e. 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. A third hearing could occur in November or December. There is intense interest among majority party members to enact this in lame duck or through the budget process.
- f. SB 29 Student Technology Records
The bill was signed by Gov. DeWine on June 26. Revisions to the law are expected in lame duck.
- g. SB 104 CCP and the Bathroom Bill
The bill was amended on the House floor to include the provisions of HB 183 – the Bathroom Bill. It is likely to be passed by the legislature and signed into law in lame duck
- h. SB 308 – Emergency and Substitute Levies and Inside Millage
The bill is pending a first hearing in Senate committee.

II. RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS

- a. HB 655 (Patton) - Property Tax Freeze
- b. HB 657 (Pavliga/Richardson) - Posting of Pledge of Allegiance Policy
- c. SB 295 (Brenner) - School Closure for Public and Charter Schools
- d. SB 304 (Romanchuk) - ESAs for Non-chartered Non-public Schools
- e. SB 308 (O'Brien) - Emergency and Substitute Levies and Inside Millage
- f. SB 309 (Wilson) - Community Foundations and School Districts
- g. SB 311 (O'Brien) - Supplemental Voucher Eligibility for Students
- h. SB 313 (Reynolds) -Require Wearable Panic Alert System

III. DEW/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- a. DEW Budget Priorities
DEW will continue its investments in literacy improvement. They are likely to propose career planning, computer science education, and principal apprenticeship programs.
- b. Controlling Board Appropriation
The State Board of Education received \$4.66 million from the State Controlling Board, filling its multi-million-dollar budget shortfall.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- a. Pupil Transportation – CCS Lawsuit
Lawmakers are evaluating school transportation laws amid Attorney General Dave Yost’s lawsuit regarding Columbus City Schools’ transportation of charter and private school students.
- b. Funding Formula – Association Planning Meetings
Tony continues to engage with the statewide associations on continuation and amendment of the Fair School Funding Plan.
- c. 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 scheduled for October 25, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.