



### **Week of March 24, 2025**

#### **Budget bill update**

The House Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 1 to accept a substitute version of the biennial budget bill, House Bill 96. Public testimony will follow on Wednesday and Thursday that week. Budget documents from the Legislative Service Commission summarizing the House changes and simulating the House's school-funding plan will be available later on Tuesday and will be shared with members.

#### **House passes energy, labor notice bills**

The House passed House Bill 15 by a vote of 90-3. The bill, which deals with energy generation incentives, also reduces the assessment rate on various tangible personal property (TPP), including electric generation, transmission and distribution, and pipeline property. The House also passed HB 94 by a vote of 74-20. The bill allows employers, including schools, to post labor law notices on the internet.

#### **Committees review DEI ban, increase in school hours, and directory information**

The following bills received hearings this week:

- Senate Bill 19, which requires academic intervention services for students. The bill also underwent the following changes via a substitute bill:

- Requires DEW to create a universal K-3 diagnostic assessment for math and reading

- Requires DEW to review core math curricula and create a list of high-quality materials
- Require schools to report K-8 math curricula and instructional materials
- Require DEW include on a district's report card whether the schools' reading and math curricula are high quality
- Requires seventh graders who score "accomplished" or "advanced" in math to enroll in eighth-grade Algebra I
- Requires math proficiency to be assessed for new applicants for education licenses

- HB 114, which modifies the start date for kindergarten to be the first day of the academic year

- HB 145, which increases the number of school hours in a year by 53 hours for all-day kindergarten through 12th grade

- HB 127, which allows schools to withhold directory information

- SB 113, which prohibits DEI in public schools

- SB 144, which restores the grade band system to three separate bands, rather than the current two bands

- HB 30, which sets a flat state income tax rate of 2.75%

- HB 79, which increases the penalty for assaulting a school official

- HB 88, which requires public schools to provide instruction on the dangers of fentanyl to students in grades K-12.

### **JCARR approves report card Readiness measure**

The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review approved the Department of Education and Workforce's proposed rule changes to the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness measure. This action marks the final hurdle the new measure must clear in order for it to be rated on the report card for the 2024-25 school year.

### **On tap for next week**

The following bills are up for hearings next week:

- House Education Committee

- HB 62 – College Credit Plus changes (proponent testimony)

- [HB 164](#) – reinstate Joint Education Oversight Committee (sponsor testimony)
- [HB 165](#) – required implicit bias training for educators (sponsor testimony)
- [HB 119](#) – required exit orientation at high schools (sponsor testimony)
- [HB 57](#) – required school policy on overdose reversal drugs (sponsor testimony)
- House Transportation Committee
- [HB 3](#) – School Bus Safety Act (all testimony)
- House Local Government Committee
- [HB 154](#) – required school district approval of CRAs (sponsor testimony)
- House Ways and Means Committee
- [HB 186](#) – limit property tax increases for 20-Mill floor districts (sponsor testimony)

### **Heard Around the Statehouse**

“We have the ability to give \$600 million to the (Cleveland Browns), but we can't afford to feed our kids? That doesn't make sense to me if we believe we are a moral society.” -

**Nick Bates**, director of the Hunger Network in Ohio, speaking in regards to the organization’s budget request for universal school meals and adequate funding for foodbanks.