



## **Week of March 3, 2025**

### **House budget committee testimony nears end; Alliance head testifies**

This week marked the end of testimony in the House Education Committee on the state budget bill, [House Bill \(HB\) 96](#). The Alliance's executive director, Tony Podojil, provided testimony on the budget which can be [accessed here](#). Superintendents from several Alliance districts also testified on the bill over the past few weeks, including Loveland City, Olentangy Local, and Milford Exempted Village.

As the March 14 House budget deadline nears, the final House testimony will take place next week in the Finance Committee on Tuesday and Wednesday. The House will then unveil its first round of changes, including changes to the funding formula, on April 1, followed by a second round of changes on April 8 and a vote by the full chamber on April 9.

The Senate's budget schedule is as follows:

- Committee testimony on the budget during the weeks of April 28, May 5, and May 12
- Public testimony in the Finance Committee on May 27 and 28
- First round of changes during the week of June 2 and a Senate budget vote on June 12.

### **Education committee hears bills**

After hearing [a presentation on school transportation laws](#) from the Department of Education and Workforce, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on [a bill to ban diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools](#) and [another bill to require schools display certain historical documents](#), including the Ten Commandments.

The committee is not scheduled to meet next week but its House counterpart [has six bills on the agenda for sponsor testimony, including a bill on College Credit Plus, a bill to require the Pledge of Allegiance, and a bill to require schools grant excused absences for 4-H and FFA programs.](#)

### **Property tax proposals, others considered in committee**

A bill that would substantially impact the financial health of hundreds of school districts across the state received testimony this week from school organizations and taxpayer-affiliated organizations. [Senate Bill 66](#), which would include substitute levies, emergency levies, school district income tax levies, and inside millage into the calculation of the 20-

mill floor, received a hearing this week in the Senate Ways and Means Committee featuring proponents and opponents alike.

Meanwhile, bills that would eliminate replacement levies and require school district approval of the creation of residential community reinvestment areas received first hearings for sponsor testimony this week.

#### **Heard around the Statehouse**

"DEI does not stand for diversity, equity, and inclusion it stands for division, exclusion, and indoctrination. It is unconstitutional, unfair, and directly contradicts the vision of Martin Luther King Jr. We must stand against these policies and ensure that our schools teach students to rise based on their abilities, not their racial identity." - Sen. **Andrew Brenner**, testifying in support of his bill to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools.