

Alliance for High Quality Education Legislative/System Improvements Committee

Zoom Meeting Summary
Friday, September 26, 2025
10:00 a.m.

In attendance on video conference: Executive Director Tony Podojil, Legislative Consultant William Schwartz and 62 member representatives from Alliance member 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. Governor's Property Tax Work Group.

1. Final Recommendations – 9/25
The final report was issued on September 30. The report is accessible here:
https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHIOGOVERNOR/2025/09/30/file_attachments/3405420/FINAL%20Property%20Tax%20Report.pdf.
2. OEPI Report
Dr. Browning and Dr. Fleeter issued a report on property taxes, covering state policy changes over the past 20 years and property tax relief proposals. The report is accessible here:
http://www.oepiohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/OEPI-Prop-Tax-Analysis.FINAL_.pdf
3. Fair School Funding Plan – Response to Tax Work Group
The Fair School Funding Plan workgroup provided an analysis of school funding to the Governor's working group.

II. Major Bills Under Consideration

1. HB 96 – Biennial Budget Bill
Provisions took effect September 30. Vetoed provisions are still in limbo. One veto was overridden – elimination of school levies.
2. HB 129 – 20-Mill Floor Calculation
Bill expected to pass the House in October.
3. HB 186 – Inflationary Cap on 20-Mill Floor Districts
Bill expected to pass the House in October.
4. HB 309 – County Budget Commissions
Bill expected to pass the House in October.
5. Governor Education Vetoes
 1. **(item 27)** - a provision that would have created an education savings account program for no chartered nonpublic schools
 2. **(item 51)** - a provision that would have prohibited school districts from paying for the employee share of STRS or SERS contributions for superintendents, treasurers, and principals
 3. **(item 53)** - a provision that would have required school board candidates to have a political affiliation on the ballot for elections
 4. **(item 55)** - a provision that would have allowed county budget commissions to reduce property taxes on non-debt levies **(veto override consideration)**
 5. **(item 63)** - a provision that would have established a 40% cap on school carryover balances **(veto override consideration)**
 6. **(item 65)** - a provision that would have included emergency levies, substitute levies, incremental growth levies, conversion levies, and combined school district income tax and property tax levies into the calculation of the 20-mill floor **(veto override consideration)**
 7. **(item 66)**- a provision that would have eliminated replacement levies, fixed-sum emergency levies, substitute emergency levies, and combined school district income tax and fixed-sum property tax levies **(veto override consideration)**

III. **HB 420, HB421, HB422 – Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy**

The package of bills introduced by Rep. Click includes three separate bills addressing a variety of property tax proposals:

House Bill 1: “Discontinuing the Continuum” – eliminates perpetual tax levies and requires voter approval for renewals. All existing levies would expire by 2030.

House Bill 2: “Arresting the Inside Millage” – gives voters the power to reduce the property tax rates local governments can impose without a public vote.

House Bill 3: “Triumph of the Taxpayer” – changes voter approval thresholds for new levies, making it harder to raise taxes.

IV. **ODEW and State Board of Education**

College, Career, Workforce and Military Report Card Component -

There was general support for the two provisions in HB445 (Manning and Bird) related to the College, Career, Workforce and Military Report Card Component. See below.

Post-secondary readiness measure Under continuing law, the post-secondary readiness measure is based on the percentage of students in a school district or school’s four-year adjusted graduation cohort who demonstrate readiness by meeting at least one of several different conditions. Under one of those conditions, a student demonstrates readiness by earning 12 college credits through an advanced standing program, such as the College Credit Plus Program. **The bill permits a student to earn college credit, or the equivalent, toward that goal through a Office of Research and Drafting LSC Legislative Budget Office combination of advanced standing programs and AP exams, IB exams, or college-level examination program (CLEP) exams.** Continuing law permits a student to demonstrate readiness, under a different condition, by earning designated scores on three or more AP, IB, or CLEP exams.¹

New performance measure for CCWMR The bill creates a new performance measure to be factored into the calculation of CCWMR performance ratings. **That performance measure is based on the percentage of students from the prior school year’s four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate who did not demonstrate readiness on the post-secondary readiness measure, but who, within one year of graduating high school, completed one academic year of college credits at an institution of higher education without taking remedial courses.** The bill requires the Department, to the extent possible, to include the students who meet the requirements under the new measure in the calculation of CCWMR. The bill requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to collect and report the data necessary for the Department to calculate the measure. Districts may also report relevant data on each cohort until the date by which the Chancellor must report data for that cohort.²

V. **Other Issues**

VI. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is October 24, 2025, at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 11a.m.