

Alliance for High Quality Education
Legislative/System Improvements Committee

Zoom Meeting Summary
Friday, October 24, 2025
10:00 a.m.

In attendance via video conference: Executive Director Tony Podojil, Legislative Consultant William Schwartz and 64 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

II. Major Bills Under Consideration

1. HB 129 – 20-Mill Floor Calculation
Bill expected to pass the House in October. Bill would remove districts from the floor and remove the inflationary cap due to not being at the floor.
2. HB 186 – Inflationary Cap on 20-Mill Floor Districts
Bill expected to pass the House in October.
HB 186 is expected to be referred to the Senate Local Government Committee, where it will begin to receive hearings as soon as next week. The bill, along with other property tax measures, could be sent to the governor before the year’s end.
3. HB 309 – County Budget Commissions
Bill expected to move quickly over the next four weeks.
4. HB 420, HB421, HB422 – Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy
5. HB 473 – Prohibit STRS/SERS Employer Contribution Payments
HB 473, which prohibits school districts and other public employers from paying employee contributions on an employee’s behalf to STRS, received proponent testimony this week and is up for all testimony on Wednesday at 10am next week.
6. 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. HB455 - Reps. Manning and Bird - Regards the operation of public schools and the DEW

- IV. SB93 - Sen. Brenner – Declare intent – New School Financing System**
– a new school funding proposal from Sen. **Andrew Brenner** that would eliminate all local property taxes, raise the state sales tax, and fund students on a per-pupil basis across public and private schools.^[1]_[SEP] This bill is not expected to receive serious consideration in the General Assembly.

V. 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

VI. Other Issues

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is November 17, 2025, at Hilton Luncheon.
The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.