

# OASBO

## Legislative Update

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Report created on May 8, 2017

- HB3 DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION** (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at [data.Ohio.gov](http://data.Ohio.gov), to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations.
- Current Status:** 2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
- HB8 PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS** (HAMBLEY S, REZABEK J) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident.
- Current Status:** 4/26/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)
- Position:** Support
- HB21 COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION** (HAMBLEY S) Regarding verification of community school enrollments.
- Current Status:** 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
- Comments:**
- HB 21, sponsored by Rep. Steven Hambley (R-Brunswick), would require community schools to verify a community school student's district of residence. Under current law, each school district is required to conduct monthly enrollment reviews for district students attending community schools and submit verification to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). This legislation eliminates the current process and would instead require each community school to conduct those monthly review and submit verification to the ODE.
- We are opposed to the removal of the district's ability to verify the district of residence for community school students. The process of correctly identifying a district of residence is extremely important given the fact that local funds are deducted from districts and sent to community schools. The bill, as currently drafted, would place the responsibility of assigning a district of residence solely with the community school. Districts would no longer have the ability to verify those assignments or challenge an incorrect identification.**
- Position:** Amend
- HB26 TRANSPORTATION-PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET** (MCCOLLEY R) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.
- Current Status:** 3/31/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Some provisions line-item vetoed, eff. 90 days
- Comments:**
- HB 26 is the biennial budget bill for Ohio's transportation and public safety budget for FY 2018-2019. One provision in the bill requires the Director of Natural Resources to distribute money

received by the state pursuant to federal law (16 U.S.C. 500) from the sale of national forest timber and other national forest products to the applicable county or counties in which the national forest is situated. Each county that receives such money must use 50% of the money received for maintaining county roads and bridges and 50% for the benefit of public schools.

**Position:** Support

**HB37 SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES** (ARNDT S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

**Current Status:** 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

**Comments:** The intent of this bill is similar to that of SB 8 (see below).

**Position:** Neutral

**HB47 STUDENTS IN MILITARY** (BOCCIERI J) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges.

**Current Status:** 5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

**Comments:** OASBO, OSBA and BASA are interested parties in this legislation.

**Position:** Neutral

**HB49 OPERATING BUDGET** (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

**Current Status:** 5/11/2017 - Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, (Fourth Hearing)

**Comments:** For information about the budget bill, click here to go to the state budget page on the OASBO website: <https://oasbo-ohio.org/advocacy/state-budget-school-funding>

**Position:** Amend

**HB58 CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION** (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.

**Current Status:** 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)

**Comments:**

HB 58, sponsored by Reps. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) and Marilyn Slaby (R-Copley), would require districts to offer instruction in printed and cursive handwriting to students in grade kindergarten through five. Districts would be required to ensure that students have the ability to print legibly by third grade and have legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

**This is a local issue that should be decided by local boards of education.** While we understand the importance of the ability to read materials that are expressed in cursive handwriting and the ability to produce one's own signature in cursive format, students' use of these skills have diminished. For instance, technology allows for the conversion of our country's founding documents from cursive to typed text allowing every citizen to read these important materials. Therefore, the priority placed on cursive writing instruction as required in HB58 is unwarranted. We oppose state and federal

mandates that require school districts to devote limited resources and time to such requirements.

**Position:** Interested Party

**HB80**

**SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION** (LATOURETTE S, SMITH K) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

**Current Status:** 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

**Comments:** This bill is similar to one that was passed by the Senate in the last General Assembly (GA) and seriously considered by the House during the lame duck session in December, 2016. OASBO and the other education organizations had worked on improvements to the bill addressing school district liability when outside groups utilize schools' cafeteria facilities and to add authority for districts to charge reasonable fees for wear and tear on equipment in addition to actual costs incurred. The House Education and Career Readiness Committee amended the bill before recommending it to the full House making the provisions in the bill "permissive" for school districts. The Senate has a companion bill (SB 54) that has also received hearings in this GA. It is unclear whether the Senate will accept the House change from mandate to "permissive".

**Position:** Support

**HB87**

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS** (ROEGNER K) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school.

**Current Status:** 3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

**HB89**

**AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY** (PATTERSON J, KELLY B) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes.

**Current Status:** 2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

**HB98**

**CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.

**Current Status:** 3/28/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

**HB102**

**SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM** (BRENNER A) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another.

**Current Status:** 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance

**Comments:** This legislation represents a major change in how Ohio would fund education, creating winners and losers for both school districts and taxpayers. We have no indication the bill is being seriously considered by the full General Assembly. Representative Brenner has indicated he wanted to introduce the bill for purposes of generating discussion about our school funding system.

**Position:** Oppose

- HB108**      **INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT ACT** (HAGAN C, MCCOLLEY R) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act."
- Current Status:** 3/28/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- Comments:** This bill was considered during the last General Assembly. OASBO and the other education groups raised questions about the implications of an additional mandate for students and districts.
- Position:** Monitor
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- HB110**      **COLLEGE CREDIT APPRENTICESHIPS** (HAGAN C, DEAN B) To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs.
- Current Status:** 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
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- HB124**      **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TAX LEVY** (BRENNER A, CARFAGNA R) To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory.
- Current Status:** 5/2/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
- Comments:** This bill is in response to a 4-3 Ohio Supreme Court decision regarding a renewal tax levy for the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) that passed in 2015. The Delaware County Board of Elections failed to distribute the ballot language to the surrounding counties whose residents would be subject to the tax. The tax commissioner is refusing to certify the levy because of the mistake by the elections board even though the number of voters in the election from those counties would not have changed the outcome of the levy. The decision means the DACC would have to put a new issue on the ballot (with no Homestead and Rollback payments) to replace the funds from the renewal levy. OASBO, OSBA and BASA submitted a friend of the court brief to the Supreme Court in support of DACC in the original case. DACC has now filed an appeal for reconsideration by the Court and the three organizations are preparing a brief in support of the reconsideration. This bill would allow the issue to be placed on the ballot in just the omitted counties. The votes would be added to the votes from Delaware County in the November 2015 election.
- Position:** Support
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- HB129**      **SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR** (SMITH K, KELLY B) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.
- Current Status:** 3/28/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
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- HB134**      **SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** (HAMBLEY S, KICK D) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.
- Current Status:** 5/9/2017 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
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- HB176**      **SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS** (THOMPSON A) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations.
- Current Status:** 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

**Comments:** This proposal removes the state's ability to utilize the Common Core Standards and removes ODE's ability to provide model curriculum and makes other changes to the education system.

**HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS** (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

**Comments:** This bill eliminates the Common Core Standards and specifies the type of testing that can be utilized. It also makes other changes to Ohio's education accountability system.

**HB200 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION** (KOEHLER K) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

**Current Status:** 5/2/2017 - Introduced

**SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

**Current Status:** 4/26/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE;** Vote 33-0

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 3 was introduced by Senators Bill Beagle(R-Tipp City) and Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), adding changes to the Governor's workforce development system.

- It requires each region to offer on one-stop "OhioMeansJobs" center.
- It authorizes the creation of STEAM schools, equivalents and programs of excellence - science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics schools. STEAM schools are to be authorized to offer all-day kindergarten programs.
- Requires the Department of Jobs and Family Services to offer option for career-technical students to participate in pre-apprenticeship training programs.
- Permits public and chartered nonpublic schools to integrate academic content from two or more subjects and to offer academic credit for all subject areas that are integrated into that course, based an end-of-course exam.
- Requires ODE to develop a framework for grant credit to students who demonstrate competency through work-based learning experiences, internships or cooperative education.
- Requires ODE to establish an OhioMeansJobs-Ready Certificate to be awarded to student who meet the requirements.
- Requires ODE to develop a regional workforce career counseling collaborative model.
- Designates the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

**We generally support the recommendations of SB 3 related to primary and secondary education. They should serve to make parents and teachers more aware of job opportunities, clarify the requisite skills needed to be successful and open additional opportunities.**

**Position:** Monitor

**SB8 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY** (GARDNER R, TERHAR L) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

**Current Status:** 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 8, introduced by Sens. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati), requires the School Facilities Commission to establish a program that would allow a school district to apply for state funding to make infrastructure improvements specifically for technology and or safety and security. In order to qualify for funding under this proposal a district must not have already received assistance under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). The bill requires the School Facilities Commission to establish guidelines and procedures for participation in the program including the method for determining funding amounts and whether or not the funding should be related to the district's state share of the basic project cost.

We are aware that Senator Gardner has been working on changes to the bill and a substitute version is expected soon. It is our understanding the new version will allow for additional uses of this new alternative OFCC program.

**We are supportive of an alternative program to the traditional CFAP that focuses on safety and security enhancements for public school districts. This new proposal will benefit districts that may not be eligible for a significant state share and otherwise have little chance of state funding through the traditional CFAP program.**

**Position:** Neutral

**SB9 AUGUST TAX HOLIDAY** (BACON K) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes.

**Current Status:** 3/28/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)

**SB34 SCHOOL YEARS** (MANNING G) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day.

**Current Status:** 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 34, introduced by Sen. Gayle Manning (R- North Ridgeville), would require schools to open after Labor Day unless the school board adopts a resolution allowing the school to open earlier. The school board would also be required to hold a public hearing at least 30 days before adopting the resolution.

**We are opposed to this legislation because it proposes to strip away local control. We believe that locally elected boards of education are in the best position to determine a school calendar that meets the needs of**

their students and their communities. Furthermore, this bill does not address the state assessment schedule. If enacted, this bill would reduce the amount of time available for instruction prior to assessments for districts starting after Labor Day.

**Position:** Oppose

**SB36**

**AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION** (HITE C) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type.

**Current Status:** 5/10/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 36 was introduced by Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findley). Events have led to rapidly accelerating land valuations and higher taxes for farmers. This bill recommends changes to the current methodology used to calculate the Current Agricultural Use Values (CAUV) for farmlands and woodlands.

The bill prescribes in statute that the method used to compute CAUV values must employ a capitalization rate that excludes factors expressing land value appreciation and equity buildup. It places a ceiling on the taxable value of CAUV land if the land is also used for conservation purposes by requiring the land to be valued as though it included soil of the least productive type.

**We oppose piecemeal changes to the manner of calculating CAUV values. Under the existing school foundation formula, changes in the land valuation of any district result in changes to all districts, regardless of the mix between agricultural and residential land. Reductions in agricultural land values and taxes leads to increases in residential taxes. We support looking at the formula for CAUV calculations in a comprehensive manner as opposed to piecemeal changes.**

**The House included a phased-in version of SB 36 in their version of the biennial budget bill, HB 49. We continue to oppose the provision.**

**Position:** Oppose

**SB39**

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION** (SCHIAVONI J) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools.

**Current Status:** 3/1/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 39, introduced by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), seeks to increase oversight and provide additional transparency for online charter schools in order to fully account for their attendance and reporting. The bill specifies that an e-school, not sponsored by a school district, must keep a record of the number of hours in which each student is actively participating in learning opportunities during a consecutive 24-hour period. Attendance records then must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education(ODE) on a monthly basis and posted on the department's website. If an e-school student fails to participate in learning opportunities for ten consecutive days, the school is required to notify ODE, parents (guardians), and the student's resident district.

The bill specifies when an Auditor issues a finding for recovery on a charter school, the money is returned to the traditional public school district. SB 39 also would require e-school governing board meetings to be live-streamed with public notice. In addition, any e-school advertisement purchased with public funds must include a disclaimer with the school's most recent state report card grade. The bill also includes additional requirements such as a provision that requires an evaluation by the student's parent/guardian, teachers and principal on whether the student should continue with the e-school should the student's performance decline and a requirement for e-schools to report their student mobility rate on their report cards.

**We support increased oversight, accountability and transparency for online charter schools and the public tax dollars used to support them. Stronger attendance records are necessary to ensure that these students are actually provided learning opportunities and not just offered the opportunity to learn. Unfortunately, far too many of Ohio's e-schools are failing some of our most vulnerable students.**

**Position:** Support

**SB54 SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS** (BROWN E, LEHNER P) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

**Current Status:** 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)

**Comments:** See notes under "HB 80" above.

**Position:** Neutral

**SB82 SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION** (WILLIAMS S, LEHNER P) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse.

**Current Status:** 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

**SB85 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION** (HUFFMAN M) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

**Current Status:** 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

**Comments:**

Senate Bill 85, introduced by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), will expand voucher eligibility to all families regardless of where they live or the performance of their local schools. Families with household incomes at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (roughly \$96,000 for a family of four) would be eligible for a portion of the full voucher amount. The voucher amounts, as proposed in this legislation, would increase to \$5,000 for students in grades K-8 and \$7,500 for high school.

In addition, the legislation proposes the introduction of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). The ESA would include any unused portion of the voucher that will be retained by the state under the student's name and may be used later towards future private school tuition or for college tuition at an Ohio school. Lastly, the proposal ends the practice of deducting the funding from the local public district and directly funds this new voucher from the state.



We are opposed to any expansion of Ohio's school voucher system. SB 85 would further divert public taxpayer dollars away from traditional public school districts to be used for private and parochial school tuition. Ohio should not enact a policy that undermines the public-school system in favor of privatization. The fact remains that state dollars are public dollars and school districts rely heavily on our state's school funding system to provide a high-quality education for our students. Private entitlements provided by SB 85 is bad public policy and further drains funding from public schools.

We hope members will take the opportunity to educate their representatives and senators on the range of choice options currently available to students in your districts. Highlight special programs, including STEM, the arts, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate programs, career-technology or other curricula, that promote educational achievement.

**Position:** Oppose

**SB104 PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS** (TAVARES C) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools.

**Current Status:** 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**SB111 SCHOOL ZONE SIGN LIGHTS** (TAVARES C) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 4/26/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

**SB123 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PROCESS** (COLEY W) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located.

**Current Status:** 5/3/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

**Comments:** This legislation mirrors a bill from the last General Assembly. It would prohibit school district boards of education from challenging property values on properties they believe are valued too low. Instead, the County Recorder and the property owner would be the only persons permitted to challenge the values set by the County Auditor. If a property owner files a claim to lower property values, school districts could become a party in the claim.

**We oppose this legislation as it takes away one component of the current checks and balances system.**

**SB133 STUDENT DISCIPLINE-VIOLENT BEHAVIOR** (LAROSE F) To require the Education Management Information System to include information regarding persons at whom a student's violent behavior that resulted in discipline was directed and to require the Department of Education to submit a one-time report to the General Assembly regarding that information.

**Current Status:** 4/26/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education