

## JANUARY 2023

### Governor activity

Gov. DeWine announced that the School Safety Center (OSSC) has finalized the state training requirements for school staff to be armed on school grounds.

Gov DeWine signed the following bills into law:

[-HB 45](#). The bill would allow the state tax commissioner to administer a two-month amnesty program in 2023 with respect to delinquent state, local sales and use taxes and also certain fees. The bill also would provide approximately \$1.7 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) appropriation authority to schools, as requested by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE); would increase the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) phase-in for fiscal year 2023 from 14% to 33.33%; and provides \$112 million for additional grants under the School Safety Grant Program. Additionally, the bill would increase certain weights to calculate transportation payments for school districts using miles driven for school bus service; would restore the ability of school districts to conduct a raffle, fixing the change included HB 110; and would prohibit the Board of Building Standards from requiring the installation of storm shelters in school buildings operated by public or private schools which are undergoing or about to undergo construction, alteration, repair, or maintenance, among other changes.

[-HB 554](#). The bill requires the State Board of Education to issue two-year temporary educator licenses to applicants with expired professional teacher's certificates and professional educator licenses as long as certain requirements are met. The bill also includes provisions from [Senate Bill \(SB\) 356](#), which increases the eligibility age from six to nine regarding the education of children experiencing developmental delays and state operating funding for districts and schools educating such children. Finally, the bill allows children of a military family who participate in College Credit Plus courses to either complete the courses remotely or withdraw without academic or financial penalty if the military family has to relocate, among other changes.

[-SB 33](#). The bill would expand the income tax deduction allowed for contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings plan and would include contributions to 529 plans established by other states. Additionally, the bill was amended in committee to include provisions of [HB 123](#), which would modify community reinvestment areas (CRAs) by increasing the threshold to exempt school district approval from 50% to 75%. The bill also would establish a revenue-sharing agreement for income over \$2 million and annually index the amount to inflation. Finally, the bill would allow limited home rule townships to use CRAs.

-[HB 66](#). The bill would require the state's tax expenditure report to include information on property tax exemptions and require a periodic review of each property tax exemption.

-[HB 458](#). The bill would eliminate the August special election, except in instances when the August special election is to nominate or elect candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives or if a school district is under a fiscal emergency. The bill also would allow a school district whose entire territory is located within the congressional district that is on the August ballot to put certain levies on the August ballot. The bill also would make changes to election law, including voter identification, absentee voting, in-person voting and drop boxes.

-[SB 288](#). The bill would update employment laws as they pertain to Head Start agencies, along with other changes. The bill was amended on the House Floor to include [HB 105](#), which would require public schools to provide developmentally appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and require in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention. The bill also allows parents to opt their children out of the abuse prevention and dating violence prevention education.

-[HB 501](#). The bill would extend to townships the use of the municipal tax increment financing laws and allow townships to create a redevelopment tax increment equivalent fund for payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT), both of which may have an impact on school district local revenue. The bill also clarifies that counties, townships and municipal corporations can regulate small solar facilities and allows the use of general funds to support broadband expansion, among other changes.

-[SB 131](#). The bill would require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a person seeking a license through an already preapproved licensure compact would use the compact method. Earlier in the week, the bill was amended in committee.

-[HB 462](#). The bill would prohibit swatting.

-[HB 281](#). The bill would change terminology in the Ohio Revised Code as it pertains to people with mental illnesses and disabilities.

**State Board of Education**

- The State Board postponed selecting a search firm to assist in hiring a state superintendent of public instruction by an 11-4 vote.
- Additionally, the State Board passed an amended resolution by a 10-7 vote regarding the proposed federal changes to Title IX.
- The State Board of Education voted 11-7 to elect Paul LaRue as president and 11-7 to elect Martha Manchester as vice president.

**Ohio Department of Education**

The Ohio Department of Education released the following cost studies which were required under SB 310 to be completed by the end of 2022.

- [Special Education in Ohio](#)
- [Gifted Funding Accountability Recommendations](#)
- [Rural Gifted Education Incentives Study](#)
- [English Learner Cost Study](#)
- [Educational Service Center Study](#)
- [Community Schools Funding Study](#)
- [E-School Cost Study](#)
- [College Credit Plus Cost Effectiveness Study](#)
- [Funding Pilot Program for Online Dropout Recovery and Prevention Schools](#)

**Submitted by John Skerl**