

AUGUST 2023

Enacted Legislation

Gov. Mike DeWine signed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 43](#), which modifies the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran. SB 43 will take effect on Oct. 26, 2023.

Governor's Announcement

Governor DeWine recently announced the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program. This program looks to address the teacher shortage Ohio faces as well as create opportunities for those who already work in our schools — like paraprofessionals, library specialists, or bus drivers — to transition to teaching. Candidates participating in the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program are also eligible for the new Grow Your Own Teacher scholarships. Additional information on the New Teacher Apprenticeship Program can be found [here](#).

New Legislation

- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 134](#), extends the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.
- [SB 136](#), reduces property taxes on qualifying owner-occupied homes and names this act the Property Tax Relief and Local Government Support Act.
- [House Bill 250](#), revises the Military Enlistment diploma seal.
- [House Bill 254](#), expands and enhances the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.
- [House Bill 257](#), which would authorize certain public bodies to meet virtually.

State Board of Education

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released information and a timeline for the transition of roles and responsibilities from ODE to the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The State Board of Education (SBOE) and ODE has developed a transition plan. DEW is to be a cabinet level agency with a director who is appointed by the Governor. The SBOE will still exist and retain some responsibilities which includes finding and confirming a new superintendent of public instruction, however with different responsibilities. An article from ODE containing more in-depth information can be found [here](#).

Tutoring Program

Governor DeWine announced this week that the state would be using a little over \$26 million dollars from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief dollars (GEER), which was appropriated by Congress for the Covid-19 pandemic, to fund tutoring services at

no cost to schools and districts. Districts and schools may apply for tutoring services from six approved vendors for the 2023-2024 school year. To learn more about this tutoring program click [here](#).

Auditor of State Levy Guidance

The Auditor of State (AOS) issued final levy guidance for schools and local governments. The guidance explains what AOS considers to be permissible under Ohio Revised Code Section 9.03 for districts conducting campaigns. The document, composed of frequently asked questions on levy and bond issues and best practices in response to those questions, can be found [here](#).

Submitted by John Skerl