

March 2023 Sponsor Update

Senate passes ODE overhaul bill

On March 1, the Ohio Senate passed legislation (S.B. 1) to restructure the Ohio Department of Education -- and rename it the Department of Education and Workforce -- and make significant changes to the responsibility of the State Board of Education. The legislation was passed in a party line vote with Republicans supporting it and Democrats in opposition. The bill now moves to the House where deliberations will continue.

Legislative hearings on state budget bill underway

Earlier this month, Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Stephanie Siddens and Budget and School Funding Chief Aaron Rausch



presented Ohio Department of Education highlights of the state biennial budget bill (H.B. 33) to members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education.

Dr. Siddens' overview focused on four key areas:

Literacy funding:

- To increase the number of low-income 3- and 4-year-old children participating in early childhood education programs;
- Stipends for educators to complete professional development in the science of reading;
- To subsidize schools' purchases of high-quality core curricula and instructional materials in reading;

- To support 100 additional literacy coaches focusing on schools with the lowest reading proficiency rates; and,
- For dyslexia screenings.

Learning acceleration funding

- Statewide Mathematics and Literacy Tutoring Grant Program (a partnership between K-12 schools and higher education); and,
- Tutor Ohio Kids (in partnership with educational service centers).

Workforce readiness funding

- To expand access to career-technical education;
- To promote career awareness and exploration;
- For schools that help students earn industry-recognized credentials in priority industry sectors;
- To support additional College Credit Plus teacher credentialing grants; and,
- To expand the Ohio Military Veteran Educator Program to support veterans (and their spouses) in entering the teaching profession or work in Ohio's public schools.

Student wellness and safety

- A requirement for districts and schools to spend existing student wellness and success funds by the end of FY25; and,
- Building-level funding for up to 4,300 public and nonpublic schools to hire school resource officers or subsidize those they already employ.

Aaron Rausch's overview included:

- The DeWine-Husted budget plan recommends state appropriations totaling \$10.5 billion in FY24 (an increase of 6.9%) and \$10.7 billion in FY25 (an increase of 1.9%);

- A drop in overall funding to \$15.1 billion in FY24 (a decrease of 5.6%) and \$13.6 billion in FY25 (an additional decrease of 10.4%) – generally reflecting the expiration of one-time federal COVID relief funds;
- Continued phase-in of the new (Cupp-Patterson) funding formula introduced in 2021;
- Funding for the EdChoice Expansion Program (increasing the income threshold for eligibility from 250% to 400% of federal poverty guidelines);
- An increase in annual per pupil funding for quality community schools (\$3,000 for each low-income student and \$2,250 for all other students);
- Allocation of \$30 million, annually, in new funding for schools based on preliminary estimates of revenue in the Sports Gaming Profits Education Fund; and,
- Funding to increase cyber security supports, expand disaster recovery capabilities, subsidize building connectivity, and renew the 10-year leases connecting each ITC to OARnet.

Stronger Connections Grant application now available

On June 25, President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) which provides \$1 billion in funding for state educational agencies (SEAs) to be distributed under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The BSCA specifies that SEAs must make competitive subgrants to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs), as determined by the SEA, for activities to support safe and healthy students. Ohio received BSCA grant funding of more than \$35 million.



The Ohio Department of Education will award grants competitively to schools that meet selected criteria indicating that they are “high need” for student health and safety. Schools are encouraged to begin consulting with local stakeholders and community partners to determine needs and plan for use of funds.

Additional information can be found [here](#) and in [CCIP Note 521](#). The application window is March 1 to April 1 at 11:59 P.M.

AG offers School Safety Grants

The Ohio Attorney General is accepting applications for FY23 School Safety Grants in the amount of \$2,500 or \$5.50 per student, whichever is greater. The funds can be used for school safety and security efforts including but not limited to: support of school resource officer certification training; active shooter and school safety training or equipment; educational resources; training to identify and assist students with mental health issues; school supplies or equipment related to school safety or for implementing the school’s safety plan; and, any other training related to school safety. The application deadline is March 31. Use the following link to access the Ohio Grants Portal; select “funding opportunities,” then select “Ohio Attorney General’s FY23 School Safety Grant.”

<https://grants.ohio.gov/fundingopportunities.aspx>

Important threat assessment reminder!

Last year, the Office of School Sponsorship (OSS) provided information on HB 123 (133rd General Assembly) and its requirements. The [Safety and Violence Education Students \(SAVE Students\) Act](#), addresses school security and youth suicide awareness education and training requirements.

The law requires schools serving grades 6-12 to create threat assessment teams which may include school administrators, mental health professionals, school resource officers, and other necessary personnel. If a school has an active school safety team, its members may serve as the threat assessment team if they meet all requirements. The implementation deadline is March 24, 2023.

The Ohio School Safety Center, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Education and the Attorney General, are required to develop and maintain a list of approved training programs for completion by school threat assessment teams, one of which must be free to schools. Programs must be evidence-based standards and meet the curriculum requirements specified in H.B. 123. See more information on the Ohio School Safety Center website [here](#).

Educational service centers are offering free Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) training to all schools for the remainder of this school year only.

STRS board divided over confidence in executive director

Members of the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) deadlocked in a 5-5 vote over confidence in the leadership of Executive Director William Neville (with a new member abstaining). The issue was raised at the first meeting of the board since the auditor of state's office released its audit of the fund which identified no wrongdoing but offered recommendations for improvement in several areas. Several members elected with support from the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, which has alleged fiscal mismanagement, voted against a motion in support of Neville. The board chair and two other elected members were joined in support of Neville by members appointed by the House speaker and Senate president and a representative of the interim superintendent of public instruction.

Ohio to join Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Project

Ohio is one of 14 states selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to join the Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Project in the 2023-2024 school year, bringing the total number of participating states to 39. Households that receive Medicaid will automatically qualify for free or reduced-price school meals for their school-age children. The program, which began in 2012 with just seven states, will increase student access to nutritious meals and ease the burden of paperwork. The Ohio Department of Education estimates that, as of October 2022, more than 677,600 children qualified for free or reduced-price meals.

Ohio Lottery and ODNR sponsor giveaway

The Ohio Lottery and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) are partners in a Teacher Appreciation Week Field Trip Giveaway, with one lucky

Ohio teacher winning a field trip to learn and experience the outdoors – at state parks, forests, nature preserves, wildlife areas or other areas -- for every student in their class. Teachers nominated for the Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education Teacher of the Month through March 2023 will automatically be included in the giveaway drawing. The Partners in Education program recognizes students, teachers and schools for outstanding performance and achievement. Based on nominations submitted online by the 10th of each month, one teacher and one student from every region are recognized monthly, September through May, as an Academic All Star or Teacher of the Month. Learn more online [here](#).

OSS academic review meetings to continue through March and April

The Office of School Sponsorship (OSS) is currently conducting virtual annual special education file reviews. Upon completion of these review, OSS will schedule school academic review meetings – with principals, lead teachers and staff on school academic teams, OSS consultants, and Dr. Kim Fuller to discuss the school's academic program; review of student data; and follow up to the special education file reviews.

Look for academic review meeting invitations in the coming weeks and schedule your leadership and staff to participate. Contact Dr. Fuller with any scheduling accommodations.

Transportation – notification to districts must be made by April 1

Schools that use district transportation must provide notification to the district(s) no later than April 1st of this year.



Notification requirements for community schools using district transportation include:

1. A board resolution regarding approval of the school calendar days/start and end times for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Letter on school letterhead advising the district that the governing authority of the community

school anticipates obtaining transportation services for students enrolled in the school during the 2023-2024 school year. The letter should include start and end times and a list of names and address of students that the school expects to need transportation services from the district. Advise the district that the school is still enrolling students, and the list will change based on enrollment.

3. Include the name of the school's transportation coordinator, principal and/or superintendent and contact information for further discussion.

The school should retain copies of the letters and emails as evidence of how the correspondence was sent prior to the required deadline of April 1. If there are questions, please contact your OSS consultant.

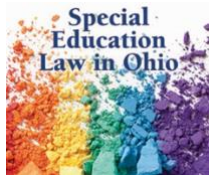
Paper testing resolution deadline – May 1

State law allows schools to administer paper or online third grade state assessments. Superintendents and test coordinators were sent a secure link from Cambium Assessment to complete a survey and submit board-approved resolutions for third grade students to take the assessment in paper format for English language arts, mathematics or both.

If a school's governing authority has decided to administer paper tests in 2023-2024, school personnel must upload a PDF version of the board-approved resolution via the secure link by May 1, 2023. Learn more online [here](#).

Special education rules under review

Special education operating standards rules are currently under review and subject to updates by the Ohio Department of Education. There will also be updated special education model policies that each school must adopt to ensure compliance with Ohio law. Model policies should be finalized by May for school review and adoption. Final rules will become effective July 1. Please place review/approval of updated model policies on school board meeting agendas in May or



June as they should be adopted prior to July 1, 2023. Look for additional information on the rules and updated policies as it becomes available.

Access free resources to curate book collections

The Ohio Collection Analysis Initiative provides dedicated space, time and resources for educators and library staff to pause and evaluate their collections of books for children and young adults. Participants receive free tools and materials that will help them reflect upon the books they provide for their students. Available through the State Library of Ohio, this initiative is available to staff – who set their own goals and progress at their own pace -- working in all types of schools and libraries. Resources provided by the program include unlimited access to the Collection Analysis Toolkit and a vetted collection of materials about books for children and young adults and their authors. Learn more online [here](#).

Video series focuses on RIMP

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has created a series of short support videos for the Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP) intervention EMIS codes that address explicit intervention in: comprehension; decoding; phonemic awareness; sight word recognition; vocabulary; fluency; and language and communication. The series also includes videos on multi modal approach to structured literacy and small group scaffolding of complex texts. Access the videos online [here](#).

EMIS training opportunities

The Ohio Department of Education is pleased to offer a series of Education Management Information System (EMIS) trainings online with Microsoft Teams. Descriptions of, and links to, trainings are available on the [New EMIS Coordinator Training](#) webpage.

New EMIS Coordinator Training

This session is for individuals in their positions for 3 or fewer years (and others interested in a refresher). Each

topic will be offered once with recordings posted after all sessions have concluded.

- *EMIS Communications & Resources - April 12, 1-3 p.m.*
- *Data Collector - April 14, 9-11 a.m.*
- *Ohio District Data Exchange (ODDEX) - April 17, 1-3 p.m.*
- *Report Portal: Secure Data Center (SDC) - April 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*
- *Data Review & Appeals - April 19, 1-2 p.m.*
- *Pulling It All Together - April 21, 9-11 a.m.*

EMIS training was recently conducted for OSS sponsored schools. There is a three-part recording. Part 1 is available [here](#) and [here](#). Contact your OSS consultant for Part 3.

Important reminder on dyslexia screening requirements

As elementary schools sponsored by the Office of School Sponsorship (OSS) plan for the 2023-2024 school year, it is important that they integrate student screening and teacher training requirements.

Student Screening:

- Tier 1 screenings must be administered to all K-3 students; however, the kindergarten screener cannot be administered until AFTER January 1, 2024.
- Universal screeners can be administered for students in grades 4-6 if requested by a parent or teacher (with parental consent).
- A multidisciplinary team to administer/oversee screening and analyze results and oversee intervention measures must be formed. Team members shall include trained personnel and a stakeholder with expertise in the identification, intervention, and remediation of dyslexia requirements.

Teacher training:

- All teachers assigned to grades K-3 and all intervention specialists must complete dyslexia training. A free training is provided and available on the ODE website.

For more information, click [here](#). OSS training is available [here](#).

*Office of Ohio School Sponsorship
March 2023*

Schools encouraged to participate in Ed Steps training

Last month, the Office of School Sponsorship (OSS) published deadlines for Cohort 1-3 schools and shared the Ed Steps newsletter with a link to sign up for direct emails. The Educator Equity Lab is scheduled for March 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. To register, send an email to kara.putinsky@education.ohio.gov. Ed Steps Cohort 1 & 2 webinars are scheduled for April 13, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Use the training and registration tile in the OH|ID portal to register.



3/20-22	Register for 2023 OAASFEP Title I/Federal Programs Spring Conference
3/28	Complete Kindergarten Survey available here
3/31	Submit Ohio Teacher of the Year nominations
3/31	Alt-OELPA administration window closes
3/31	OCALICONLINE 2023 call for proposals closes
3/31	1% Alternate Assessment district justification portal closes
4/1	Deadline to apply for Stronger Connections Grant
4/12	Transition to Two-Year Resident Educator licenses
4/13	Register for ED STEPS Cohort 1 and 2 Webinar
4/14-16	Register for Ohio Association of School Nurses conference
4/15	Register for Principal Chat
4/15	Behavioral Health Careers Education & Careers Awareness Market Analysis survey closes
4/20	Register for “ All Students Can Read ” learning series
4/21	Complete career-technical education awareness campaign surveys
4/24	Apply to Teaching English in Taiwan Program
4/21	Submit entries to 2023 Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest
4/27	Register for Federal Programs Monthly Topic Session
5/26	Second Dropout Recovery Program Renaissance Star testing window closes
