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**State Board
of Education**

Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: February 8, 2013

State Activity

Introduced Bills

House Bill 30 (Johnson, McDermott), regarding letters of admonishment to licensed educators

House Bill 32 (Hayes, R-Harrison Township and Patmon, D-Cleveland), to establish a minimum school year for school districts, STEM schools and chartered nonpublic schools based on hours, rather than days of instruction.

Budget Update

The Governor introduced his budget on Monday with the release of the [blue book](#). Also this week, preliminary disbursement charts were released sorted [by district](#) and [by county](#) and for [joint vocational school districts](#). The Board will receive an update on the budget Tuesday morning during a presentation by Kelly Weir.

This Week's Committees

House Finance and Appropriations Committee

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee met on Tuesday, February 5 at 10:00 am in Room 313 of the Statehouse and held their first hearing on the budget bill. The committee heard presentations from the Office of Budget and Management and the Legislative Service Commission.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday, February 6 at 5:00 pm in Room 313 of the Statehouse. The committee heard the following presentations:

- Tom Gunlock, Vice President, Ohio State Board of Education will provide the committee with an update on the role of the State Board of Education and outline the full board process in adopting policy for the Ohio Department of Education. Mr. Gunlock will also provide the members with an approximate timeline and process for implementing the new school report cards.
- Michael Sawyers, Acting Superintendent, Ohio Department of Education will update the committee on the implementation of the revised reading guarantee, common core standards for English language arts and mathematics, the new assessment system beginning in 14-15 and the evaluation system for teachers and principals

Next Week's Committees

Joint Meeting of the Senate Education, Public Safety, Local Government and Veteran's Affairs Committees

The joint committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm in the Senate Finance Hearing Room. During this meeting, they will hold a hearing on school safety with a focus on prevention and mental health issues.

House Finance and Appropriations Committee

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 13 at 9:00 am and hear testimony on the education provisions of the budget from the Governor's office, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 13 at 5:00 pm in Room 121 to hear a presentation from Auditor Yost regarding his findings pertaining to the school attendance investigation.

Federal Activity

Senate HELP Committee Holds Hearing on ESEA Waivers

On Thursday, February 7, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a full committee hearing entitled *No Child Left Behind: Early Lessons from State Flexibility Waivers*. The committee heard from U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan; Kentucky Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday; New York Commissioner John King; Andrew Smarick of the Bellwether Education Partners; and Kati Haycock, the President of the Education Trust. The full committee hearing can be viewed [here](#). The link also provides access to the witness testimonies and the opening statements from Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander.

House Education and the Workforce Holds Hearing on Challenges facing Schools and Workplaces

On Tuesday, February 5, the House Education and the Workforce held a full committee hearing entitled *Challenges and Opportunities Facing America's Schools and Workplaces*. Witnesses included Utah Governor Gary Herbert; National Association of Manufacturers CEO Jay Timmons; and Virginia Secretary of Education Laura Fornash. The committee hearing can be viewed [here](#). The link provides access to the witness testimonies and opening statements from Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller.

Upcoming Hearings

House Education and the Workforce (Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education)

- February 14, 2013: Hearing Entitled *Raising the Bar: How Education Innovation Can Improve Student Achievement*
- Witnesses not yet announced

Sequester Update

This week, President Obama urged Congress to pass legislation to deal with the pending sequestration, which would require \$85 billion in spending cuts starting March 1. The Administration has warned that the automatic cuts will hurt the improving economy and potentially impact employment by up to \$1 million jobs. The President suggested passing legislation to put off or delay the automatic cuts until a more comprehensive deficit reduction plan could be reached. He noted that any short-term deal should include more revenue (i.e. taxes) to balance any such delay in cuts. While House and Senate leaders have been discussing ideas of dealing with the pending sequester, neither the House nor the Senate has yet to come up with a detailed plan to replace the automatic cuts required until the sequester. The parties have differences ranging from whether there should be increased revenue (or tax increases); the amount of spending cuts; which programs would be exempted from the cuts; whether entitlement

programs will be part of the reductions; and how much of the current sequester should be replaced if at all. During the end of the last session, the House approved measures to remove the automatic reductions to defense and certain non-defense spending, while leaving the cuts to certain mandatory spending in place. At the beginning of the year, the President signed into law, a two-month delay of the pending sequestration. Without any Congressional action, the automatic spending cuts will begin March 1. The cuts for fiscal year 2013 are estimated to be \$85 billion evenly divided between Defense and non-defense spending (including education programs) and \$1.2 trillion over ten years.