



To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: November 16, 2012

State Activity

This Week's Committees

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met on Wednesday and heard sponsor testimony on [House Bill 543](#) from Rep. Anielski (R-Walton Hills). This legislation would require public schools to train staff in youth suicide awareness and prevention. The following individuals offered testimony in support of the bill.

- Tandra Rutledge, The Jason Foundation
- Clark Flatt, The Jason Foundation
- Melissa Thomas
- Debra Clancy, American Society of Suicide Prevention Cincinnati Chapter
- Jane Campbell Lewins, American Society of Suicide Prevention
- Rev. Mary Robin Craig, Volunteer Field Advocate with the American Society of Suicide Prevention

Tuesday's House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday and held their first hearing on [House Bill 555](#) with Rep. Stebelton (R-Lancaster) offering sponsor testimony. House Bill 555 would do the following:

- Replaces the current academic performance rating system for school districts, individual buildings of districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools with a phased-in letter grade system under which districts and schools are assigned grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" based on 13 measures to reflect the performance profile of each district or school
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop an alternative academic performance rating system for community schools serving primarily students enrolled in dropout prevention and recovery programs
- Establishes criteria for closing dropout prevention and recovery community school based on their academic performance
- Requires the Department of Education to review additional information included on report cards and submit to the Governor and General Assembly recommendations for revisions
- Establishes a new evaluation process for determining which community school sponsors may sponsor additional schools
- Delays implementation of the new sponsor evaluation system until the 2015-2016 school year
- Renames the Ohio Accountability Task Force as the Ohio Accountability Advisory Committee and alters its membership and duties

- Requires the State Board to submit to the General Assembly recommendations for a comprehensive statewide plan to intervene in and improve the performance of persistently poor performing schools and school districts
- Specifically permits educational service centers to partner in the development of STEM schools
- Permits an educational service center to sponsor a new start-up community school in any challenged district in the state, instead of just its service territory, so long as it receives approval to do so from the Department of Education

The committee also heard testimony on [House Bill 397](#) (Antonio, D-Lakewood) which would specify that school districts and chartered nonpublic schools may excuse from high school physical education students who play rugby in a school club. Jessica Wagner with the Lakewood girls' rugby team offered proponent testimony.

The committee also held its first hearing on [House Bill 519](#) with Rep. Patmon (D-Cleveland) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would require public schools to install metal detectors in all classroom buildings unless they obtain a waiver from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Wednesday's House Education Committee

The House Education met on Wednesday and held its second hearing on [House Bill 555](#) (Stebelton, R-Lancaster) which would make changes to Ohio's accountability system. The following witnesses offered proponent testimony.

- Michael Kerrigan, Bio-Med Science Academy
- Ron Iarussi, Superintendent Mahoning County Educational Service Center
- Dave Cash, Charter School Specialists
- Ann Sheldon, Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- John Gubera, College Board

The committee also held a third hearing on [House Bill 462](#) (Pelanda, R-Marysville) with respect to a school district's withholding or transfer to another district or school of the records of a child who is alleged or adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child. No witnesses were present to testify on the bill.

Thursday's House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Thursday and held their third hearing on [House Bill 555](#) (Stebelton, R-Lancaster) which would make changes to Ohio's accountability system. Bill Sims with the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools offered proponent testimony.

Next Week's Committees

There will be no committee meetings next week.

Federal Activity

There is no federal update this week.