

MCECSC Administrators Meeting

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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STATEHOUSE NEWS

- ▶ The legislature has been in recess since June 30th
- ▶ Several education related bills were passed just before the recess
 - ▶ To get a lot accomplished in the short time the legislature met, several bills were amended into other bills that were going to pass
 - ▶ Governor DeWine signed these bills into law in late July (effective in 90 days; late October)
- ▶ Politics is playing a role in the activities at the statehouse
 - ▶ The current House Speaker and the Senate President are competing for the 2025-2026 Speakership
 - ▶ This has resulted in fewer session days and its influenced which bills were finalized in the first half of the year
 - ▶ No session days are scheduled between now and the November General Election
 - ▶ The results of the November election may help determine who becomes Speaker

Bills Passed and Signed

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text centered on a white background.

SB 29

- ▶ Aimed at protecting student privacy (including student data)
 - ▶ Sets out criteria for vendor contracts related to the collection and maintenance of student data
 - ▶ Generally prohibits districts from accessing and monitoring students' activity on school-issued devices with certain exceptions
 - ▶ Allows regular monitoring for prevention purposes as long as the district provides annual notice to parents
 - ▶ If an incident with a student's device is triggered, the district has 72 hours to notify the parents

The bill's effective date is October 21, 2024

SB 112

- ▶ Dubbed the “Ohio Childhood Safety Act”
 - ▶ Requires that school building protective doors comply with the safety standards that were in effect at the time the door assembly was installed
 - ▶ Protective door assemblies will need to be inspected annually by a qualified inspector
 - ▶ Districts can be issued a citation for non-compliance after 18 months, but no penalty
 - The citation would need to be posted on the district’s website

The bill’s effective date is October 21, 2024

SB 168

- ▶ Districts permitted to develop their own evaluation framework for teachers and administrators instead of using the state board-approved version
- ▶ For evaluation purposes and the exemption from additional coursework or PD for licensure renewal, adds school counselors to those qualifying as “consistently high-performing”
- ▶ Requires the State Board to issue an alternative resident educator license to an applicant who holds a master’s degree and passes a content exam
 - ▶ However, the holder of the new alternative license must complete a pedagogical training institute to renew the license
- ▶ Requires an applicant for a senior or lead professional educator license or lead to hold at least a bachelor’s degree
 - ▶ Current law requires applicants to hold at least a master’s degree
- ▶ Gives DEW permission to establish alternative pathways for bachelor’s degree holders to obtain an educator license to work as an administrator (principal) or superintendent

SB 168, cont.

- ▶ Changes the current grade band specification for an educator license from grades six through twelve to seven through twelve
 - ▶ This was proposed because of required literacy coursework for sixth grade teachers
- ▶ Subjects RAPBACK requirements to only unlicensed persons who the district, service center, or school reasonably determines may involve routine interaction with a child or regular responsibility for the care, custody, or control of a child
- ▶ Allows LPDCs to grant an individual renewing an educator license to count the completion of a statutorily required PD training toward the required CEUs
 - ▶ The renewal applicant can count one PD course per licensure renewal period
- ▶ Districts would no longer be required to provide a supplemental contract for teachers assigned to teach classes outside the typical school day if:
 - ▶ The teacher voluntarily agrees to a regularly occurring schedule, and
 - ▶ The teacher's total daily hours do not exceed a normal school day
 - ▶ Also, it may not be in conflict with the district's collective bargaining agreement

SB 168, cont.

- ▶ Changes the term “venereal disease” education to “sexually transmitted infection” education
 - ▶ Also, changes terms within the required abstinence education from, conceiving children ~~“outside of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child’s parents, and society”~~ to “outside of marriage increases the likelihood of hardships in life”
- ▶ Modifies the transportation compliance laws to prohibit DEW from determining a district is non-compliant if a student is picked up within 60 minutes of the end of the school day if the student is receiving academic services from the school after the regular school day (rather than the 30 minute window under current law)
- ▶ The bill requires each eligible institution with an early childhood teacher preparation program that results in a credential or associate’s degree or higher in early childhood education, to permit a student of that program to complete required student training as a paid employee of an early learning and development program
- ▶ Corrects a technical error in the calculation of the Fair School Funding Plan from HB 33, the biennial budget bill

SB 168, cont.

- ▶ The bill clarifies that boards of education need not hold a special meeting for the required calendar hearing; the hearing can be part of another public hearing or board meeting
- ▶ Requires that the record of proceedings of a board meeting be read at the board's next regular meeting (instead of the next succeeding meeting as under current law)
- ▶ Allows districts to provide 30 days of notice (rather than the current 60-day notice) of reemployment of an STRS or SERS member, if it is urgent the board fill the position. The requirement of notice is removed from law if the STRS or SERS member has been retired for at least one year
- ▶ Increases the competitive bidding threshold for school districts to \$75,000 and increases that amount annually by 3%
- ▶ The bill temporarily increases the cap on the amount of net indebtedness a school district may exceed for nonrequired locally funded initiatives from 50% of the local share of the basic project cost and the cost for site acquisition to 75% of that cost. The cap returns to 50% on December 31, 2027

The bill's effective date is October 21, 2024

HB 47

- ▶ Makes mandatory the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in all school buildings (current law is permissive)
- ▶ Somewhat modifies the list of employees who will be required to undergo AED training
- ▶ Districts will be required to adopt emergency action plans for the use of AEDs (the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model plan)
- ▶ Also, districts will be required (rather than permitted as in current law) to hold informational meetings regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students or youth athletes before the start of each athletic season

The bill's effective date is October 20, 2024

HB 147

- ▶ Introduced to close loopholes related to licensed employees under investigation for misconduct
- ▶ Amended to include:
 - ▶ SB 181, a bill to require school districts and the Ohio High School Athletic Association to charge the same price for event tickets for those purchased online and those bought with cash
 - ▶ A fee for purchasing tickets electronically/digitally is allowed
 - ▶ Ticket prices for students must be less than the price for adult admission
 - ▶ SB 259 permits a student who has been subject to bullying, violence, misconduct by a school employee/official, etc., to participate in interscholastic athletics at another school or district (while still being educated in their original setting)
 - ▶ Superintendent of receiving district must approve
 - ▶ This applies to any student who is home schooled, in a public school, a STEM school, a community school or a private school
 - ▶ The student in this situation will not be required to sit out for a year before they can participate.
 - ▶ Requires public schools to pay a pre-kindergarten teacher the \$1200 stipend for the required professional development training in the science of reading.

The bill's effective date is October 21, 2024

HB 214

- ▶ Requires a board of education to adopt a policy that states the district must not solicit or require employees or students to affirmatively ascribe to, opine about, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principals concerning political movements or ideology.
 - ▶ The policy must also state that the district won't use individuals' beliefs, etc., against them.
- ▶ The policy cannot:
 - ▶ Prohibit or limit a district or school's authority to require a student or employee to comply with federal or state law (including anti-discrimination laws),
 - ▶ Interfere with:
 - ▶ An educator's academic freedom,
 - ▶ Their ability to research or write about specific beliefs, etc., or
 - ▶ The district's ability to consider an applicant's scholarship, teaching, or subject matter expertise in a given academic field, or
 - ▶ The district's authority to offer an established character education program.

HB 214, cont.

- ▶ SB 49 was inserted into HB 214:
 - ▶ Requires districts to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students regarding exams, other academic requirements and absences for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system
 - ▶ Students will be permitted up to three religious expression days as excused absences.
 - ▶ Those absences will not count toward the HB 110 parent notification requirements.
 - ▶ Under current law, they will be counted for purposes of the district's chronic absenteeism rating
 - ▶ Accommodations must be made for students missing exams or other academic requirements if:
 - ▶ Within the first 14 days of school year, the parent provides the school principal with written notice of up to three requested dates for alternative accommodations.
 - ▶ Additionally, the policy must permit students to participate in interscholastic or other extracurricular activities on days during which the student is otherwise absent for a religious expression day

The bill's effective date is October 23, 2024

What's Next?

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Outstanding Issues; Possible for Lame Duck

- ▶ SB 8 ~ The so-called parental rights bill
- ▶ SB 104 ~ Makes changes to the College Credit Plus program
 - ▶ Now includes HB 183, the “Bathroom Bill”
- ▶ SB 295 ~ Recently introduced to “declare intent to revise school closure requirements”
- ▶ HB 432 ~ Would make it easier to become a career tech teacher
- ▶ HB 445 ~ A bill to require districts to allow “Religious Instruction Release Time” during non-core class time

Upcoming in 2025

- ▶ 2025 will be a new General Assembly (the 136th) and time for the next biennial budget bill
- ▶ All indicators are showing that revenues will be much tighter than in previous budgets
 - ▶ Could make it difficult to fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan (years 5 & 6 of the phase-in)
 - ▶ Particularly the updating of current input data
 - ▶ However, increases in property values could offset gains

Questions?

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