

## Education

### **H.B. 8**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Swearingen and Carruthers

**Effective date:** April 9, 2025

#### **Parents' Bill of Rights**

- Requires public schools to adopt a policy by July 1, 2025, that promotes parental involvement in the public school system and establishes requirements regarding sexuality content, school-provided healthcare services, and student mental, emotional, and physical health and well-being.
- Maintains that a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child.
- Entitles the act's provisions regarding parental involvement, sexuality content, student health care services and student health and well-being as the "Parents' Bill of Rights."

#### **Released time religious instruction**

- Requires school districts to adopt a policy authorizing students to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction.
- Requires school districts to collaborate with the sponsoring entity of a released time course in religious instruction to identify a time for the course to be offered during the school day.
- Permits a school district to require a sponsoring entity's instructors and volunteers undergo criminal records checks in a manner determined by the district.

### **H.B. 70**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Fowler Arthur and Gross

**Effective date:** March 20, 2025

- Requires school districts and chartered nonpublic schools to adopt a policy regarding the administration of over-the-counter drugs to students.

## H.B. 147

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Fowler Arthur and A. Miller

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024; conforming amendments effective January 1, 2025

### **School employee misconduct**

- Expands the definition of “license” with regard to school employee misconduct to include pupil services personnel registration, private provider registration under the Autism Scholarship Program, and the authorization for certain unlicensed individuals to teach in high-performing school districts.
- Requires school districts, educational service centers, and chartered nonpublic schools to file a report as follows:
  - With the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding a licensed employee who retires during a disciplinary investigation for misconduct; and
  - When a licensed employee is removed from the list of eligible substitute teachers because it has reasonably been determined the employee committed an act unbecoming to the teaching profession.
- Requires the State Board of Education to revoke the license of an individual who is convicted of prostitution unless the individual was coerced into committing the offense.

### **Special needs scholarship programs**

- Permits qualified credentialed providers under the Jon Peterson Special Needs or Autism Scholarship Programs to offer services virtually.
- Adds certain credentialed professionals to the list of professionals who may provide services under those programs.
- Subjects any registered private provider approved to participate in the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program to a criminal records check and RAPBACK.

### **Participation in interscholastic athletics at a different school**

- Permits a student who is the victim of certain qualifying offenses to participate in interscholastic athletics at a different school.
- Prohibits a district or school, interscholastic conference, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and other organizations from imposing extra fees, rules, penalties, or restrictions on students who participate in interscholastic athletics at a different school under the act.

### **Tickets to school-affiliated events**

- Expands the law regarding cash payments for school-affiliated events by:
  - Prohibiting schools from establishing different ticket prices based on whether a ticket is purchased using cash or any other payment method; and

- Requiring schools to charge students from a school participating in an event a ticket price that is less than the price charged adults.
- Subjects OHSAA and other organizations regulating interscholastic athletics to the law regarding cash payments for school-affiliated events.

### **Base cost calculation for FYs 2024 and 2025**

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to calculate several cost components included in a school district's base cost calculation using the sum of the enrolled ADM of each school district that *reported* the data, rather than that of *every* school district.

### **High School Financial Literacy Fund**

- Requires the Director of Education and Workforce to request, and the Director of Budget and Management to transfer, up to \$1.5 million from the General Revenue Fund to the High School Financial Literacy Fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2025.
- Changes the High School Financial Literacy Fund from a custodial fund to a state treasury fund.

### **Literacy improvement professional development stipend**

- Requires public schools to pay a pre-kindergarten teacher a \$1,200 stipend for completing professional development in the science of reading and evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction.

### **Authorized private before and after school care programs**

- Adds an owner, director, administrator, and employee of an authorized private before and after school care program, a type of licensed school child program, to the existing law requiring criminal records and other background checks for child care providers.

## **H.B. 206**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Click and Robb Blasdel

**Effective date:** April 9, 2025; appropriations effective January 8, 2025

### **Expulsion policies**

- Permits a public school to establish a policy that authorizes the district superintendent, or equivalent administrator, to expel a student for not more than 180 school days for actions that pose "imminent and severe endangerment" to the health and safety of other students or school employees.
- Requires the superintendent to develop conditions for a student expelled for imminent and severe endangerment to satisfy before that student may be reinstated, including an assessment to determine whether the student poses a danger.

- Requires the superintendent to assess the student at the end of the expulsion period to determine whether the student has shown “sufficient rehabilitation” to be reinstated, and permits the superintendent to extend the expulsion for up to 90 additional school days, subject to further reassessment and extensions.
- Requires that cost of the assessment, if done by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist employed or contracted by the district or school, be paid by the district or school.
- Requires that cost of the assessment, if done by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist who is not employed or contracted by the district or school, be referred for payment to the student’s health insurance, with the remainder paid by the district or school.
- Permits a superintendent to develop contingent conditions for a student’s reinstatement and to revoke a student’s reinstatement if those conditions are not met.
- Expressly makes all determinations by a superintendent regarding an expulsion for imminent and severe endangerment subject to the same notification requirements and appeals process as other types of expulsions under continuing law.
- Requires the superintendent to develop a plan for the continued education of a student during the expulsion period within 15 school days of the beginning of the expulsion period for a student who does not have an individualized education program (IEP), or within ten school days for a student who does have an IEP.
- Requires the district or school to specify reasons for which the expulsion period may be reduced and establish guidelines regarding appropriate reinstatement.
- Requires the superintendent to develop a list of alternative educational options for those expelled in accordance with the act.
- Requires boards to provide the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) records of each expulsion made under a policy adopted under the act and any changes to a pupil’s expulsion status.
- Permits a school to which a student with an expulsion record transfers to request the student’s expulsion record from the former school or from DEW, and requires the former school or DEW to provide the requested records.
- Prohibits a school from withholding records related to a student’s expulsion for outstanding debt attributed to the student.
- Requires public schools to include specified demographic data on expelled students and information on those expulsions in the expulsion records submitted to DEW.

### **School choice program administration funding**

- Increases the appropriation earmark for school choice program administration in FY 2025 from up to \$4 million to up to \$8.14 million.

## Community school automatic closure exemptions

- Exempts from closure requirements for the 2024-2025 school year any community school that meets established closure criteria but, for any of the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, or 2024-2025 school years, receives a performance index score on its report card within five points below the score required to receive two stars on its achievement rating.
- Requires an exempted community school to close if it continues to meet the closure criteria in the 2025-2026 school year or if it meets the similar specified criteria in the 2026-2027 school year.

## Storage and use of drugs to treat seizures

- Permits a public or chartered nonpublic school to store a student's prescribed seizure drug in an easily accessible location.
- Permits a student to possess the student's prescribed seizure drug if the school principal or school nurse receives written approval from the student's physician and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent or guardian.
- Permits an authorized school employee, contractor, or volunteer to administer a student's prescribed seizure drug if the individual receives a copy of the written approval from the student's physician or training.

## H.B. 214

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Holmes

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024; conforming amendments effective January 1, 2025

- Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt and post a policy against using statements of commitment to, or soliciting or requiring specified individuals to affirmatively ascribe to, specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles concerning political movements or ideology.
- Requires each school district, community school, and STEM school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students that includes permitting up to three excused absences for religious expression days, and entitles this provision the "Religious Expression Days or R.E.D. Act."

## H.B. 250

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Miranda and Richardson

**Effective date:** August 14, 2024; appropriations effective May 15, 2024; conforming amendments effective January 1, 2025.

## Military seal

- Renames the "Military Enlistment Seal" for high school diplomas to the "Military Seal."
- Establishes new pathways for a high school student to earn the seal.

## Cellular telephone policy

- Requires each public school to adopt a policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt a model policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students for use by public schools.

## Educator licenses

- Permits a licensed educator with a grade band specification given under former law to renew the license in accordance with either that law or the law in effect on the license's renewal date.
- Specifies that a licensed teacher employed by a district or school to teach outside the grade band designated on the teacher's license in accordance with continuing law is a "properly certified or licensed teacher."

## Pupil Transportation Pilot

- Divides the Pupil Transportation Pilot Program into two distinct programs with different requirements.
- Requires an educational service center (ESC) in the Franklin County program to identify students who are struggling with transportation issues as determined by their resident districts, instead of identifying districts, to participate in the program.
- Qualifies for the program students transported by an ESC in the Montgomery County program who are struggling with transportation issues who do not attend their resident school or are students with disabilities.
- Requires the ESCs of both programs to report students transported under the program to the Department of Education and Workforce.
- Permits the participating ESCs to use other approved vehicles for student transportation, rather than only school busses, and to use other authorized individuals in other approved vehicles, rather than only bus drivers.

## High school financial literacy

- Transfers administrative authority over the High School Financial Literacy Fund from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Director of Education and Workforce.
- Requires the Department, instead of the State Board, to incorporate academic concepts of free market capitalism into the standards and model curriculum for high school financial literacy.

## Corrective change

- Changes an incorrect reference from the "State Board of Education" to the "Director of Education and Workforce" in the school psychologist law.

## Programs for parents of blind or visually impaired children

- Requires Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services to consult with the Department of Children and Youth in carrying out its educational program for parents of blind or visually impaired children.

## Adoption grants

- Increases the FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations for the Adoption Grant Program by \$19 million each year, and reappropriates the program's unexpended, unencumbered balance at the end of FY 2024 to FY 2025.

## H.B. 432

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Jones

**Effective date:** Emergency: sections related to student data privacy and access of school-issued devices effective December 9, 2024; other sections effective March 10, 2025

## Career-technical educator licenses

- Permits an individual without an offer for employment in a school district to directly apply for an initial career-technical workforce development educator license.
- Permits an applicant with an offer of employment to enroll in one of two alternative licensure programs in lieu of a career-technical workforce development educator preparation program that meets continuing law requirements.
- Requires the State Board of Education to issue a career-technical educator license to qualifying individuals who are already validly licensed educators.

## Student data privacy

- Clarifies that the State Board's authority to take licensure action against an individual who uses or releases confidential student information for purposes other than student instruction applies if the use is committed *purposely* or the release is committed *intentionally*, and violates the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators.
- Revises the terminology in the student data privacy law.

## Access of school-issued devices

- Removes the requirement that a school district provide advance notice prior to accessing school-issued devices for an educational purpose.
- Permits a school district to access school-issued devices subject to a subpoena.
- Limits the 72-hour parental notice of electronic access requirement to one of the following:
  - The access is under judicial warrant or subpoena or related to a missing or stolen device, and the school district initiates responsive action; or

- The access is to prevent or respond to a threat to life or safety and the school district initiates action in response to specified events.
- Removes the requirement to give notice 72 hours after a threat to life or safety has ceased when the notice itself would pose a threat to life or safety.
- Requires a service contract between a school district and a county board of developmental disabilities, educational service center, information technology center, or other school district to indicate which contracting party is responsible for providing parental notice of access.

### **STEM Program of Excellence designation**

- Requires a STEM Program of Excellence to serve all students for whom the program is designed, rather than serve all students in the grade for which the program is designed or only gifted students.
- Maintains the requirement that a STEM Program of Excellence’s curriculum emphasize design thinking but eliminates the requirement that it be a “school-wide approach.”

### **Corrective changes**

- Makes several corrective changes to the education law.

## **S.B. 17**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Wilson

**Effective date:** June 12, 2024

- Requires that academic concepts of free market capitalism be incorporated into the state standards and model curriculum for financial literacy and entrepreneurship for grades 9 through 12.
- Permits students to fulfill the financial literacy instruction requirement for high school graduation by successfully completing AP Microeconomics or AP Macroeconomics.
- Permits math teachers to teach financial literacy without a financial literacy license validation.

## **S.B. 29**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. S. Huffman

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024

### **Use of educational records by technology providers**

- Specifies that educational records created, received, maintained, or disseminated by a technology provider that has contracted with a school district are solely the district’s property.

- Generally prohibits a technology provider from selling, sharing, or disseminating educational records or using those records for a commercial purpose.
- Requires that each contract between a technology provider and a school district ensure appropriate security safeguards for educational records.
- Requires each school district to provide parents and students with notice of any curriculum, testing, or assessment technology provider contract affecting a student's educational records.
- Permits a school district or a technology provider to electronically access or monitor a student's activity on a school-issued device only in limited circumstances and requires the school district to notify parents of any permitted access.

### **Educational support services data**

- Prohibits any person from releasing or permitting access to educational support services data concerning any student attending a public school for any reason.
- Requires that educational support services data be made available to the state Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities agency.
- Exempts educational support services data from Ohio's Public Records laws.

### **Licensure penalties for release of confidential information**

- Permits the State Board of Education to refuse to issue a license to, or limit, suspend, or revoke the license of, an individual who uses or releases student information that is confidential under state or federal law for purposes other than student instruction.

## **S.B. 94**

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Brenner and Landis

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024; appropriations effective July 24, 2024

### **Campus accountability and modernization**

#### **Policy on harassment and intimidation**

- Requires state institutions of higher education and private for-profit colleges to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation.
- Requires private nonprofit institutions of higher education to adopt and enforce a policy on racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation.
- Requires that each institution's policy include related training, complaint procedures, creation of an anti-hate task force, and collaboration to increase security.

#### **Committee on combating harassment and intimidation**

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation.

## **Harassment and intimidation reports**

- Requires each institution of higher education to submit an annual report to the Chancellor of all harassment and intimidation reports submitted to the federal government consistent with the federal Clery Act.

## **Time, place, and manner restrictions**

- Requires each state institution to publicize any time, place, or manner restrictions it places on its students' expressive activities.

## **Campus programs**

- Requires the Chancellor to establish and administer the Campus Student Safety Grant Program to award grants to institutions of higher education to enhance security measures and increase student safety.
  - Appropriates \$1 million in FY 2025 to support the program.
- Requires the Chancellor to establish and administer the Campus Community Grant Program to award grants to institutionally sanctioned student organizations to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institutionally sanctioned student organizations.
  - Appropriates \$1 million in FY 2025 to support the program.
- Establishes the Campus Security Support Program under which the Chancellor must distribute funds to institutionally sanctioned student organizations affiliated with communities at risk for increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment to enhance security measures and increase student safety.
  - Appropriates \$2 million in FY 2025 to the program.

## **Act title**

- Entitles this portion of the act the Campus Accountability and Modernization to Protect University Students "CAMPUS" Act.

## **Financial cost and aid disclosure form**

- Requires state universities and community colleges to provide a financial cost and aid disclosure form to newly admitted students.

## **Educator preparation programs**

- Requires the Chancellor, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Workforce, to conduct a survey of educator preparation programs and to issue recommendations via a report.
  - Appropriates \$150,000 to pay for the survey.
- Increase the Department of Higher Education's appropriation to cover the cost of its duties regarding educator preparation programs by \$2 million in FY 2025.

## **Electronic filing of pleadings in common pleas court**

- Requires the clerk of a common pleas court to determine whether the filing of pleadings or documents in electronic format may be accomplished by email or through an online platform.
- Prohibits the clerk from doing the following:
  - Requiring that any fee for electronic filing be paid before the filing, unless the clerk has provided for an electronic payment system; or
  - Requiring a fee for electronic filing that exceeds the applicable fee for filing pleadings or documents on paper.
- Stipulates that these provisions do not apply to probate or juvenile courts.

## **Filing of pleadings in municipal or county court**

- Provides that, beginning not later than July 21, 2025, pleadings or documents may be filed with the clerk of a municipal court or the clerk of a county court either in paper or electronic format.
- Stipulates that documents created by the clerk in the exercise of the clerk's duties may be created in an electronic format.
- Requires the clerk of a municipal court or county court to determine whether the filing of pleadings or documents in electronic format may be accomplished by email or through an online platform.
- Prohibits the clerk from doing the following:
  - Requiring that any fee for electronic filing be paid before the filing, unless the clerk has provided for an electronic payment system.
  - Requiring a fee for electronic filing that exceeds the applicable fee for filing pleadings or documents on paper.

## **Clerks of court authorization**

- Removes the requirement that funds for the computerization of municipal and common pleas court clerks' offices be authorized and disbursed by the court, and instead permits the clerk to do so if the clerk has been elected.
- Removes the requirement that funds for the computerization of county court clerks' offices be authorized and disbursed by the court, and instead permits the clerk to do so.
- Specifies that, in a county in which the clerk of the court of common pleas is appointed, the county executive must authorize and disburse those funds.

## **Municipal and county court additional fee increase**

- Permits municipal and county courts to increase the maximum amount of their additional fees from \$10 to \$20 to cover the computerization of the clerk's office.

## Liquor control laws

### A-3a liquor permit: manufacturing limit

- Revises the limit on the number of gallons of spirituous liquor that a micro-distillery (A-3a liquor permit holder) may manufacture each year as follows:
  - Increases the amount from less than 100,000 gallons to any amount, if the micro-distillery was issued an A-3a permit before October 24, 2024 (the act's effective date), regardless of whether the permit premises location or the premises ownership is transferred and the permit holder is issued a new A-3a permit after that date.
  - Retains the 100,000-gallon limit for a distiller that begins manufacturing spirituous liquor under an A-3a permit on and after October 24, 2024.

### Tasting samples of spirituous liquor

- Requires tasting samples of spirituous liquor, when provided at a liquor agency store, to be provided for free, rather than requiring at least a 50¢ charge for each tasting sample as under former law.

### Grains of paradise as adulterated alcohol

- Removes grains of paradise from the substances that are prohibited for use in and considered an adulterating agent to spirituous liquor, alcoholic liquor, or beer.

## Recorded documents and electronic modernization

- Requires counties to provide an electronic means of recording instruments and of accessing recorded instruments by June 30, 2026.
- Allows county recorders to charge a document preservation surcharge.
- Increases the recording fee for living wills, health care powers of attorney, and instruments related to personal property.
- Appropriates \$6 million for the Office of the Treasurer to distribute funds to reimburse counties to implement the act's provisions.

## Powers of attorney

- Modifies requirements regarding powers of attorney utilized for the execution of real property instruments.

## Mortgage subrogation

- Allows a mortgage that was used to satisfy a previous mortgage to be subrogated to the priority of (have the same priority as) the previous mortgage if certain conditions are met.
- Prohibits a mortgage lender seeking subrogation from being denied subrogation for specifically enumerated reasons.
- Provides that the holder of a subordinate mortgage or lien retains the same subordinate position had the previous mortgage or lien not been satisfied.

## **Rental property owner's agent**

- Allows a rental property owner's agent to file the owner's contact information with the county auditor.

## **Community reinvestment areas**

- Clarifies a law that allows political subdivisions that enter into a community reinvestment area (CRA) property tax exemption agreement to claw back exempted taxes if the property does not comply with the agreement.

## **Stock state banks**

- Expands the reasons a stock state bank can amend its articles of incorporation to include reasons permitted under Ohio Corporation Law.

## **Law enforcement tows**

- Expands the law enforcement entities that may order the towing of a motor vehicle to include university campus police departments, park district police forces, and natural resources officers and wildlife officers of the Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).
- Grants a university campus police department, a park district police force, and ODNR the authority to dispose of an unclaimed towed motor vehicle or an abandoned junk motor vehicle.
- Emphasizes that the owner or lienholder of a motor vehicle towed by law enforcement is responsible for any expenses and charges incurred in towing and storing the vehicle.

## **Documentary service charges**

- Increases the maximum documentary service charge that may be imposed as part of the sale or lease of a motor vehicle.
- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles annually to determine an updated maximum charge based on the cumulative percentage change to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since July 2006.
- Requires the Registrar to publish the updated maximum charge on a website maintained by the Department of Public Safety.
- Retains law that limits the charge to 10% of the sale or lease price.

## **Lender-provided certificate of title**

- Repeals a requirement that a lender provide the purchaser of a motor vehicle with a physical certificate of title following full payment of the loan, at no extra cost to the purchaser.
- Waives unpaid fines for violations of that requirement.
- Requires a lender, instead, to send a written notice, including through electronic communication, to the vehicle owner referring them to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles

(BMV) website for information on titling options, either when the owner takes out the loan or discharges it.

- Requires BMV to include titling options, including fees, on its website for owners to reference after their motor vehicle loan is discharged.

## **Public depositories**

- Eliminates the prohibition against a financial institution that is subject to a cease-and-desist order from serving as a public depository.
- Requires a public depository to notify the governing board if the depository becomes party to an active prompt corrective action directive.
- Specifies that institutions are ineligible to serve as public depositories while under a prompt corrective action directive unless authorized by a governing board.
- Relieves certain public officials from liability for loss of public moneys deposited in a failed public depository.

## **S.B. 104**

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Cirino and Brenner

**Effective date:** February 25, 2025

### **College Credit Plus Program**

- Revises the operations of the College Credit Plus Program.

### **Single-sex facilities and accommodations**

- Requires public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers (ESCs), and institutions of higher education to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use of students of either the male or female biological sex.
- Prohibits schools and ESCs from permitting members of one biological sex to use a student restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is designated for the other biological sex.
- Prohibits institutions of higher education from knowingly permitting members of one biological sex to use a student restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is designated for the other biological sex.
- Prohibits schools and ESCs from permitting a member of one biological sex to share overnight accommodations with a member of the other biological sex.
- Entitles this portion of the act the “Protect All Students Act.”

## S.B. 112

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Rulli

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024

- Requires protective door assemblies in certain school buildings to comply with the standards of the National Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) developed by the National Fire Protection Association in effect at the time the protective door assembly was installed or the building code standards in effect at the time of installation.
- Requires school governing authorities to verify compliance by causing an annual inspection to be conducted by a qualified inspector.
- Requires school governing authorities to maintain records of those inspections.
- Requires the authority having jurisdiction to annually inspect those records to monitor compliance with the act's requirements.
- Requires the authority having jurisdiction to issue a citation if a protective door assembly in a school building remains noncompliant for more than 18 months after the first failed inspection, or more than 180 days following a subsequent failed inspection.
- Prohibits a citation if the school governing authority is taking steps to achieve compliance.
- Prohibits assessing a civil penalty or fine with the citation, but requires the school governing authority to post the citation on its website.
- Allows a school governing authority to appeal a citation in the same manner as other Ohio Fire Code citations and penalties.
- Specifies that a temporary door-locking device in compliance with rules adopted by the Fire Marshal is compliant for the purposes of the act, regardless of any contrary standards of NFPA 101.
- Requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules necessary to implement the act's requirements.
- Names the act the "Ohio Childhood Safety Act."

## S.B. 168

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Reynolds

**Effective date:** October 24, 2024; conforming amendments effective January 1, 2025

### **Exemption from statutory requirements**

- Permits a school district to renew its exemption from certain statutory requirements related to teacher licensure and other topics every three years, rather than one three-year term only.

- Permits a school district to qualify for an exemption if, on its most recent state report card, it received a performance rating of five stars on the Progress component, a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 93%, and a five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of at least 95%.
- Eliminates an exemption from statutory requirements regarding teacher qualifications under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce annually to notify eligible districts about this exemption and their eligibility for it.

## **Teachers and other school employees**

- Permits school districts to develop and use their own frameworks for teacher evaluation, instead of using the framework developed by the State Board of Education.
- Designates a teacher or school counselor as “consistently high-performing” if the teacher or counselor receives the highest level of performance rating in their evaluation for at least four of the past five years and meets at least one other requirement.
- Exempts consistently high-performing school counselors from additional coursework or professional development requirements for license renewal.
- Requires each municipal school district (currently only the Cleveland Metropolitan School District) and its teachers’ labor organization to endeavor to include in the district’s evaluation procedures the development of a professional growth plan or improvement plan and a final summative conference to discuss the evaluation results.
- Requires the State Board to issue an alternative resident educator license to an individual who holds a master’s degree, and passes an exam, in the subject area to be taught.
- Permits the Department to establish alternative pathways for bachelor’s degree holders to obtain an educator license to work as an administrator or superintendent, and requires the State Board to issue a license to an individual who completes one of those pathways.
- Requires the Department to submit to the General Assembly by February 21, 2025, a proposal for an apprenticeship program for school principals.
- Codifies an administrative rule permitting the State Board to issue an educator license to qualified out-of-state educators.
- Changes the grade band specification for an educator license from grades 6 through 12 to grades 7 through 12.
- Exempts districts from entering into supplemental contracts with teachers assigned to teach classes outside the normal school day if the teacher agrees to a regular schedule outside the school day, the teacher’s total daily hours do not exceed the normal school day, and requirements of the collective bargaining agreement are satisfied.

- Modifies the public notice and meeting requirements that apply when a board or commission seeks to employ in certain positions retired members of the State Teachers Retirement System or the School Employees Retirement System.
- Limits which unlicensed employees of a school district, educational service center, or school must be enrolled in RAPBACK to those whose employer reasonably determines their position may involve routine interaction with a child or regular responsibility for the care, custody, or control of a child.

### **Board of education meetings**

- Clarifies that a school district board of education is not required to hold a separate, individual public hearing on a proposed school calendar, but that the calendar may be addressed as part of another public hearing or meeting.
- Requires that the record of proceedings of a board of education meeting be read at the board's next regular meeting, instead of at the next succeeding meeting.

### **Remote administration of state assessments**

- Requires the Department to establish a pilot program for the 2024-2025 school year to test the feasibility of remotely administering and proctoring the state assessments.

### **Sexually transmitted infection education**

- Changes references from "venereal disease" education to "sexually transmitted infection" education in school district health education curriculum.
- Changes the requirements regarding conception and marriage in the sexually transmitted infection education in schools to teach that conceiving children at an early age or outside of marriage increases the likelihood of hardship in life.

### **Tutoring and remedial education program**

- Modifies payment and tutor registration procedures for the Tutoring and Remedial Education Program.

### **Intradistrict open enrollment**

- Requires a school district that conducts an intradistrict enrollment lottery to employ certain deadline and notice procedures.

### **Student transportation – afterschool time**

- Prohibits the Department from determining a school district noncompliant with transportation requirements when a school provides school-supervised academic services to the affected students promptly after school for no more than 60 minutes.

## School turnaround pilot

- Requires the Department to administer a five-year School Turnaround Pilot Program to address chronic low performance in school districts and community schools, and establishes a school building selection process.
- Requires the Department to approve one or more eligible external service providers to partner with districts, schools, community school sponsors, and school support teams.
- Requires districts, community schools, and service providers to report data regularly to the Department, and requires the Department to conduct an annual evaluation of the program.

## Community schools

- Permits a community school sponsor that was rated “exemplary” on its most recent evaluation to sponsor up to 200 community schools.
- Eliminates the requirement that community schools conduct monthly student residency reviews.
- Eliminates e-school enrollment limits.
- Eliminates from a sponsorship contract the requirement that a sponsor annually report the results of a community school’s academic and fiscal performance evaluation.
- Prohibits the Department from evaluating community school sponsors for the 2024-2025 school year, unless a sponsor elects to be evaluated.
- By March 31, 2025, requires the Department to provide legislative recommendations for a comprehensive community school sponsor performance evaluation framework.
- Permits the Director of Education and Workforce to reallocate excess funds in FY 2024 and FY 2025 for other purposes in state foundation aid to fully pay supplemental funding for dropout prevention and recovery e-schools.

## School district competitive bidding

- Increases statutory competitive bidding thresholds to \$75,000 for school districts for 2024, and subsequently increases the amount annually by 3%, to match that of other governmental entities.

## Debt limit for nonrequired local initiatives

- Temporarily increases the cap, until December 31, 2027, on the amount of debt a school district may exceed for nonrequired locally funded initiatives, from 50% of the local share of the basic project cost to 75% of that cost.

## **Base cost calculation for FYs 2024 and 2025**

- Requires the Department to calculate several cost components included in a school district's base cost calculation using the sum of the enrolled ADM of each school district that *reported* that data, rather than the enrolled ADM of *every* school district.

## **High School Financial Literacy Fund**

- Requires the Director of Education and Workforce to request, and the Director of Budget and Management to transfer, up to \$1.5 million from the General Revenue Fund to the High School Financial Literacy Fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2025.

## **Student training at early learning and development programs**

- Requires institutions with early childhood teacher preparation programs to permit students who are employed by an early learning and development program to complete required student training as paid employees of their program.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education and the Department of Children and Youth to collaborate with industry stakeholders on strategies to assist employees of early learning and development programs to complete student training.

## **Grow Your Own Teacher Program**

- Expands the types of schools that may participate in, expands scholarship eligibility for, and makes other changes to, the Grow Your Own Teacher Program.

## **Removal of obsolete provisions**

- Eliminates several policies and programs from the laws governing the Department of Education and Workforce, the State Board of Education, and schools more generally that have expired or no longer apply.

# **S.B. 208**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Roegner

**Effective date:** April 9, 2025

## **Open enrollment for military children**

- Requires school districts that prohibit open enrollment, or accept open enrollment only of students from adjacent districts, to permit military children who are not residents of the district to open enroll.

## **Instruction on interactions with peace officers**

- Eliminates law requiring instruction on proper interactions with peace officers to high school students and in beginning driver training.

## **Sexual abuse prevention training**

- Makes permissive, rather than mandatory, for public schools to use law enforcement officers or prosecutors to provide employee in-service training on child sexual abuse.

## **Pre-service teacher permits**

- Permits a pre-service teacher permit to be for one year in duration.

## **Virtual services under special needs scholarships**

- Permits educational aides or assistants and instructional assistants to provide services under the Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarships virtually.

## **Technological equipment**

- Requires each school district and educational service center to seek to meet the varying and unique needs of students and teachers and consider certain factors when purchasing technological office equipment.

## **Regional Partnerships Program**

- Establishes the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-Secondary Regional Partnerships Program to support early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships.

## **Home education learning pods**

- Defines home education learning pod as a voluntary association of parents who direct their children's education through home education.
- Exempts home education learning pods from child care regulations.
- Prohibits a county or township from restricting or limiting the location of home education learning pods within any district/zone in the county or township.
- Prohibits a county or township from imposing additional or more stringent zoning regulations on a building or residence based solely on its association with or use by a home education learning pod.