

Legislative Watch – Budget Edition #3
OEA House Bill 33 – Additional Education Policy Review
February 24, 2023

OEA Government Relations staff continued its review of House Bill 33 (Edwards), the state operating budget proposal for State Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. The below contains summaries of various policy changes contained within HB 33 related to public education. For additional information on how HB 33 impacts public education in Ohio, please refer to the budget editions of the Legislative Watch released on February 4, 2023, and February 7, 2023.

Student Wellness and Success Funds

- Requires school districts to expend prior to Jun 30, 2025, all Student Wellness and Success funds allocated in FY's 2020-2023.
- Beginning in FY 2024, requires all Student Wellness and Success funds to be spent by the following fiscal year. Any unspent funds are required to be repaid to the department.
- Allows the Ohio Department of Education to require a corrective action plan if the school district is found to be out of compliance with the spending requirements outlined in the bill.

Literacy

- Provides \$43 million in each fiscal year to reimburse school districts for stipends paid to teachers to complete professional development in the science of reading and evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction.
- By June 30, 2025, school districts shall require all teachers and administrators to complete a course in the science of reading and evidence-based literacy instruction. The course would be provided by ODE. Teachers who already completed similar training are exempt. Stipends would be \$1,200 for K-5 teachers, 6-12 ELA teachers, intervention specialists, EL teachers, reading specialists and instructional coaches. The stipend would be \$400 for teachers grades 6-12 in non-ELA subjects.
- Requires ODE to establish a list of core curriculum and instructional materials in ELA and a list of evidence-based reading intervention programs that are aligned with the science of reading.
- Provides \$64 million to subsidize the cost for school districts to purchase core curriculum and instructional materials in ELA and evidence-based reading intervention programs.
- Beginning not later than the 24-25 school year, each school district shall use core curriculum, instructional materials, and evidence-based reading intervention programs only from the list established by ODE. Using the “three-cuing” approach to teach reading is prohibited in most cases.

- Adds information on reading instruction to the list of information to be entered into the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Specifically, this adds a) the curriculum and instructional materials being used for English language arts in grades pre-K to five, and b) the reading intervention programs being used in grades pre-K to twelve.
- Requires that educator preparation programs ensure that all educators complete coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction.

Dyslexia

- Changes the requirement from the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year to July 1, 2023, that each district teacher who provides instruction for students in kindergarten and first grade, including those providing special education instruction, shall complete the number of instructional hours in approved dyslexia professional development training.
- Allows for any teacher hired by a local, city, or exempted village school district after April 12, 2021, who provides instruction for students in any of grades kindergarten through three, including a teacher providing special education instruction, or who provides special education instruction for students in any of grades four through twelve to complete professional development training by the later of two years after the date of hire or July 1 of the required year, unless the teacher completed the training while employed by a different district.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Education to identify a tier one dyslexia screening measure by January 1, 2024, in order to satisfy the screening requirements in the 2024-2025 school year. This screening measure shall be provided to districts at no cost.
- Requires the dyslexia screening measure to be aligned with the grade level the student is enrolled at the time the screening is administered.

Graduation Requirements

- Adds as a graduation requirement that a student provide evidence of having completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is not required if there is parental opt-out or the district reports circumstances that make it impossible or impracticable to complete the application.

Teacher Preparation and Licensure

- Pre-service teacher licenses:
 - Requires the State Board of Education to establish standards and requirements for obtaining a pre-service teacher permit. The permit is required for an individual to participate in any student classroom teaching or other training experience that involves students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve is required for completion of the program.

- A school district may employ an individual who holds a permit issued under this section as a substitute teacher. The individual may teach for up to the equivalent of one full semester, subject to the approval of the employing district board of education or school governing authority and may be compensated for that service.
- The district superintendent or chief administrator of the school may request that the board or governing authority approve one or more additional subsequent semester-long periods of teaching for the individual. A pre-service teacher permit shall be valid for three years. The department of education, on a case-by-case basis, may extend the permit's duration as needed to enable the permit holder to complete the educator preparation program in which the permit holder is enrolled.
- Teacher Training: Students preparing to become licensed teachers or educational assistants shall not be required to hold an educational aide permit or paraprofessional license for such periods of time as such students are assigned, as part of their training program, to work with a teacher in a school district. Such students shall not be compensated for such services.
- Teacher Apprenticeship Program: Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to develop and implement a newly established Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Under the program, the Chancellor shall establish up to five teacher apprenticeship programs for different teaching licenses. Appropriates \$4 million for apprenticeship (1) program development; (2) program participant support, including payment of tuition, fees, and apprentice salary; (3) stipends for supervising teachers; (4) administrative and technology support; (5) any other expenses necessary to operate the program.
- Computer Science Licensure: The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to create a computer science teaching license for industry professionals to teach computer science to specific grades. The holder of a computer science teaching license for industry professionals shall be limited to teaching forty hours in a week in the subject area of computer science. Licenses shall specify whether the educator is licensed to teach grades pre-kindergarten through five, grades four through nine, or grades seven through twelve.
- Alternative Military Educator License:
 - The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Chancellor of Higher Education, shall adopt rules to establish an alternative military educator license for “eligible military individuals”.

- "Eligible military individuals" includes active-duty member or veteran with honorable discharge of any branch of the United States armed forces; a member of the national guard or a member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces; or a spouse of a member or veteran described above.
- The rules shall ensure that eligible military individuals can obtain an educator license to work as a teacher in a public school on an expedited timeline.
- Allows eligible military individuals to apply leadership training or other military training toward requirements for college coursework, professional development, content knowledge examinations, or other licensure requirements. ODE may work with the credential review board to determine the types of military training that correspond with the educational training needed to be a successful teacher.

Career-Technical Education

- Authorizes school districts to contract with an "Ohio Technical Center" (a center that provides adult technical education services and is recognized by the Chancellor of Higher Education) in any of grades seven to twelve who are enrolled in a career-technical education program at the district but cannot enroll in a course at the district for reasons such as lack of offering or capacity.
- School districts shall apply to ODE for approval if they propose to contract with an Ohio Technical Center. Approved districts shall award a student high school credit for completion of any career-technical education course at an Ohio Technical Center and pay the Ohio Technical Center the course cost for each student participating.
- An individual who holds an adult education permit issued by the State Board of Education and is employed by an Ohio Technical Center may provide instruction to a student in grades seven through twelve who is taking a course at an Ohio Technical Center under this section.

Ohio Computer Science Council

- Creates the Ohio Computer Science Council to encourage participation in computer science through afterschool programs, summer camps, and other enrichment partnerships.
- Charges the Council with the following:
 - Surveying the computer science resources and needs of the state and
 - Developing a plan to encourage participation in computer science and fund grants for programs.
- Requires the Council to receive and administer any funds granted by the federal government and any donations regarding computer science.

Ohio Computer Science Promise Program

- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, permits any students in grades 7-12 to enroll at no cost in one computer science course per academic year that is not offered by the resident district.

- Requires the student to receive high school credit.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Computer Science Education, to approve courses and providers of the computer science coursework.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Education to annually publish a list of approved providers and courses.
- Requires the Office of Computer Science to determine rules regarding payment rates and other terms of the program.
- Prohibits charging a student enrolled in the program tuition and other fees, including textbooks.

Office of Computer Science

- Creates the Office of Computer Science Education within the Ohio Department of Higher Education. This Office serves as the center of all computer science education related matters in the state.
- Requires the Office to assist colleges and universities in the integration of computer science standards and curriculum into a pre-service teaching program.

Teach Computer Science

- Creates the “Teach CS” grant program to fund coursework, materials, and exams to support increasing the number of teachers who qualify to teach computer science through supplemental licenses, endorsements, and continuing education. The grant will also be used to support individuals who complete the alternative resident education license.

Higher Education

- Appropriates \$13.5 million over the biennium from the Mentorship Scholarship Program. Under the program, community-based organizations shall establish mentorship programs to provide mentors and supports to participants. Community-based organizations are required to work with public and nonpublic schools instructing students in grades 6-12 to identify mentees for recruitment. Participating mentees who enroll in qualifying institutions may qualify for a scholarship.
- Establishes the Office of Apply Ohio within the Ohio Department of Higher Education to support and coordinate efforts of Ohioans wishing to pursue a post-secondary education after graduating high school.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Ohio Department of Education to establish a direct admissions pilot program beginning in the 2024-2025 school year for high school seniors at participating high schools if the student has met the admissions criteria for post-secondary institutions.
- Requires 4-year colleges and universities to develop a program to prepare students interested in public service careers that provides knowledge-based civics instruction to

help high school and undergraduate students learn about local and state governments. Any student in grades 9-12 can participate and may earn high school and college credit through the College Credit Plus Program.

- Requires by December 1, 2023, the board of trustees at each state institution of higher education to consider and adopt a resolution determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding.

Ohio Schools for Deaf and Blind

- Proposes joining the Ohio School for the Deaf and Ohio School for the Blind into one institution.