

**OEA Government Relations – State Budget Bill Summary (House Bill 33)**

**As Passed by the Ohio General Assembly – Signed by Governor on July 3, 2023**  
*Fiscal provisions effective immediately; policy provisions effective October 3, 2023*

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***K-12 Education***

**School Funding**

- Updates the base cost inputs for the Fair School Funding Plan from fiscal year (FY) 2018 to FY 2022 to be used for FY 2024 and FY 2025 of the school funding formula and continues the phase-in of the formula at 50% of the phase in FY 2024 and 66.67% in FY 2025. With updated cost components, it is estimated that the average per student base cost will increase from \$7,352 in the current fiscal year to \$8,241 in FY 2024 and FY 2025. This represents a 12.1% increase from the current per-pupil amount. This increases state funding to public schools by nearly \$1 billion over the biennium.
- Guarantees that a district’s funding does not fall below base FY 2020 levels for the “temporary transitional aid guarantee” and below FY 2021 levels for the “formula transition supplement.”
- Increases the formula’s minimum state share percentage for traditional school districts and joint vocational school districts from 5% to 10% in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- Appropriates \$500,000 for an economically disadvantaged student cost study.
- Permits school bus purchase funds awarded in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to be used through FY 2025.
- Requires a district or school to spend any remaining Student Wellness and Success Funds it received in FY 2020 or FY 2021 in accordance with the spending requirements in law prior to September 30, 2021. Allows the department to require districts and schools to report on how such funds are spent.
- Requires districts and schools to spend at least 50% of their Student Wellness and Success Funds for either physical and/or mental health-based initiatives.
- Permits school districts to run a deficit in the special revenue fund established to receive federal relief dollars when the deficit resulted from a temporary delay in the department’s ability to process claims for reimbursement.

**State Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule; Recruitment, Retention & Preparation Provisions**

HB 33 increases the state minimum teacher salary from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Also updates all other steps in the state minimum stepped teacher salary schedule (the stepped teacher salary schedule is based on the teacher's years of service and level of education or training).

The updated state teacher minimum salary schedule is shown below:

Years of Service	Teachers with a Bachelor's Degree		Teachers with Five Years of Training* but no Master's Degree		Teachers with a Master's Degree	
	Minimum Salary	HB 33 Increase	Minimum Salary	HB 33 Increase	Minimum Salary	HB 33 Increase
0	<del>30,000</del>	35,000	<del>31,140</del>	36,330	<del>32,850</del>	38,325
1	<del>31,140</del>	36,330	<del>32,430</del>	37,835	<del>34,290</del>	40,005
2	<del>32,280</del>	37,660	<del>33,720</del>	39,340	<del>35,730</del>	41,685
3	<del>33,420</del>	38,990	<del>35,010</del>	40,845	<del>37,170</del>	43,365
4	<del>34,560</del>	40,320	<del>36,300</del>	42,350	<del>38,610</del>	45,045
5	<del>35,700</del>	41,650	<del>37,590</del>	43,855	<del>40,050</del>	46,725
6	<del>36,840</del>	42,980	<del>38,880</del>	45,360	<del>41,490</del>	48,405
7	<del>37,980</del>	44,310	<del>40,170</del>	46,865	<del>42,930</del>	50,085
8	<del>39,120</del>	45,640	<del>41,460</del>	48,370	<del>44,370</del>	51,765
9	<del>40,260</del>	46,970	<del>42,750</del>	49,875	<del>45,810</del>	53,445
10	<del>41,400</del>	48,300	<del>44,040</del>	51,380	<del>47,250</del>	55,125
11	<del>42,540</del>	49,630	<del>45,330</del>	52,885	<del>48,690</del>	56,805

\* "Five years of training" means at least one hundred fifty semester hours, or the equivalent, and a bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university. ORC 3317.13.

\*\* Please note that districts that exceed the new state minimums as outlined in statute will not be impacted by the change in law.

**Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship Program**

- Establishes the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program to award four-year scholarships for up to \$7,500 per year (\$30,000 total) to a **“qualifying applicant”** (low-income high school seniors or certain school employees) who commit to teach in a **“qualifying school”** operated by their school district for at least four years within six years of completing a teacher training program. The teacher training program may be at a state institution of higher education or a private, nonprofit college or university in Ohio. If a scholarship recipient does not fulfill that obligation, the scholarship is converted into an interest free loan.

- Appropriates \$5 million in FY 2024 and \$10 million in FY 2025 to fund the Grow Your Own Teacher Program.
- A **“qualifying school”** is a school building that has been:
  - Identified as “high need” by the Chancellor of Higher Education.
  - Has difficulty attracting and retaining classroom teachers who hold valid educator licenses; and
  - Is operated by the same school district from which the scholarship recipient graduated high school or was employed.
- A **“qualifying applicant”** must be either:
  - A “low-income” high school senior who must receive a high school diploma to be awarded the scholarship; or
  - A school employee at a qualifying school who holds any of the following:
    - i. An educational aide permit.
    - ii. An educational paraprofessional license.
    - iii. A substitute teacher license.
- Permits a qualifying school employee to complete coursework associated with a teacher training program on evenings or weekends as necessary while maintaining employment at a qualifying school.
- Permits a teacher training program to grant credit to a qualifying school employee who has commensurate work experience at a qualifying school for completion of a teacher training program.
- Application process: Requires the Chancellor and DEW to develop an application process for awarding scholarships under the program, including appointing a highly qualified and diverse application committee to assist in the selection of scholarship recipients. Applicants must not have been convicted of, plead guilty to, or adjudicated a delinquent child for any violation listed under continuing law.
- Promissory note: Requires any Grow Your Own Teacher scholarship award recipient to sign a promissory note payable to the state if the recipient either does not satisfy the four-year teaching commitment within six years of completing the teacher training program or if the scholarship is terminated.
  - Amount payable under the note is the total amount of scholarships accepted by the recipient under the program.
  - Each recipient is awarded up to \$7,500 at the beginning of each school year in which the recipient begins or maintains qualifying employment. Upon completion of that school year, the amount the recipient received at the beginning of the year is forgiven.
  - Failure to complete a full school year of employment converts the above award into a loan to be repaid. Requires that the loan to be repaid be the amount of the award made at the beginning of that school year.

- Requires that an award be forgiven if the recipient dies, becomes totally and permanently disabled, or is unable to complete the commitment as a result of a reduction in force at the recipient’s school of employment before the end of the academic year.
- For any scholarship that is converted to a loan, the bill specifies that the Chancellor and the Attorney General must collect payment on the loan in accordance with continuing law but may not charge an interest rate on such payments.

**Termination of Grow Your Own Teacher scholarship:** A scholarship is considered “terminated” if a recipient withdraws from school or fails to meet standards as determined by DEW and the Chancellor. The scholarship is then converted to a loan to be repaid with no interest.

### **K-12 Education Governance**

- Renames the Department of Education the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).
- Transfers most of the powers and duties of the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to DEW.
- DEW is a new cabinet agency under the Governor. A Director of Education and Workforce is appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. The Director has supervision of department employees and may appoint, terminate and determine the salary of DEW employees.
- There will be two divisions of DEW: primary and secondary education, and career-technical education. Each division will be headed by a deputy director appointed by the DEW Director with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- The SBOE retains powers and duties regarding educator licensure, licensee disciplinary actions, school district territory transfers and certain other areas.

### **Vouchers and Charter Schools**

- Expands eligibility for income-based EdChoice vouchers to all K-12 students.
- A full voucher (\$6,165 for K-8 and \$8,407 for high school) is provided to any student with a family income up to 450% of poverty (\$135,000 for a family of four). Establishes a sliding scale for smaller voucher amounts for higher family incomes. The minimum voucher amount is 10% of the full voucher amount.
- Eliminates a requirement for a private school to waive any additional tuition above the voucher amount for a student with a family income at or below 200% of poverty.
- Requires DEW to develop a student growth measure for EdChoice students by July 1, 2025.
- Delays the application deadline for EdChoice vouchers to October 15 for a full voucher amount with prorated amounts thereafter.

- Eliminates the priority order for awarding EdChoice expansion scholarships if the number of eligible students who apply exceeds the scholarships available based on the appropriation.
- Permits a student residing in the Cleveland Municipal school district to attend any chartered private school under the Cleveland voucher program.
- Increases Jon Peterson voucher amounts for all categories.
- Increases by \$1,250 per pupil the Quality Community (Charter) Schools Support Fund and adds independent STEM schools to the list of who may qualify.
- Increases the per-pupil charter school facilities funding from \$500 to \$1,000 per pupil.
- Provides a temporary equity supplement of \$650 per pupil for each site-based charter school. Excludes this supplement from the formula's phase-in provisions but includes it in the calculation of a school's transitional aid.
- The estimated allocation of foundation aid for charter and STEM schools in FY 2024 is \$1.14 billion and in FY 2025 is \$1.19 billion.
- Requires the DEW Director to establish extended testing windows of 10 weeks in duration in the fall and spring so DOPR schools may administer assessments in closer proximity to when students complete related coursework.

### **Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

- Ends mandatory student retention based on test scores for third grade students. Instead, permits the student to be promoted if the student's parents, in consultation with the reading teacher and building principal, request the student be promoted. Requires the student to continue receiving reading intervention services until reading at grade level.
- Requires promotion of a student retained for the 2023-24 school year based on the score on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA test to be promoted unless the student's parents request they be retained. Requires a student promoted under this provision receive intensive reading instruction.
- Requires schools to provide reading intervention services to students reading below grade level which includes high-dosage tutoring aligned to the science of reading.

### **Literacy**

- Requires DEW to compile a list of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials in ELA and intervention programs that are aligned with the science of reading no later than the 2024-25 school year.
- Defines science of reading as explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. Specifically prohibits models based on meaning, structure and syntax, and the "three-cueing approach."
- Requires all teachers and administrators to complete a professional development course aligned with the science of reading by July 30, 2025, except any teacher and administrator that have previously completed similar training, as determined by

DEW. Provides up to \$43 million each fiscal year to reimburse districts for stipends paid to teachers who are required to complete professional development in reading. Teachers who are exempted from completing similar training will not qualify for a stipend for their previously completed training. However, we will need to see final Department guidance on whether a teacher who is exempt from completing the training can receive a stipend if they opt into the training. Requires schools to pay a stipend of \$1,200 to teachers in grades K-5, ELA teachers in grades 6-12, intervention specialists and instructional coaches. All other teachers receive a \$400 stipend.

- Requires each district to report its ELA curriculum and instructional materials.
- Earmarks \$64 million to subsidize costs to purchase approved core curriculum, instructional materials and intervention programs.
- Provides \$18 million over the biennium for coaches to provide literacy supports to public schools with the lowest rates of proficiency in ELA assessments.

### **Teacher Preparatory Programs – Literacy Instruction Strategies**

- Requires that metrics for educator preparation programs ensure specific coursework and preparation in effective literacy instruction and strategies aligned with instructional materials selected by the Department of Education and Workforce.
- Requires the Chancellor to do all of the following:
  - Consult with, instead of working jointly with, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in establishing metrics for educator preparation programs.
  - Develop an auditing process that clearly documents the degree to which each institution of higher education offers educator training programs in alignment with the above literacy requirements.
  - By December 31, 2023, complete an initial survey of educator preparation programs, establish metrics for audits, and update standards to reflect these new requirements. Grant a one-year grace period to all institutions of higher education to meet the new standards and requirements on begin on January 1, 2024. Requires the Chancellor to then begin conducting audits on January 1, 2025.
  - In conjunction with ODE, complete and publicly release summaries of these audits by March 31 of each year; identify a list of approved vendors who can provide professional development experiences consistent with the science of reading; and develop a public dashboard that reports first time passage rates of students on the Foundations of Reading Licensure test.

### **Dyslexia**

- Changes from July 1, 2023, to “at the start of the school year”, the deadline for teachers who provide instruction for students in grades K and one to complete their professional development training.

- Changes from July 1, 2024, to September 15, 2024, the deadline for teachers who provide instruction for students in grades two and three to complete their professional development training.
- Changes from July 1, 2025, to September 15, 2025, the deadline for teachers who provide instruction for students in grades four through 12 to complete their professional development training.
- Requires school districts and schools to administer dyslexia screenings and interventions to students in grades K-6 that transfer into the district or school midyear within 30 days after the student's enrollment or after a parent or guardian's request. Requires dyslexia screenings to be aligned to the grade level in which the student is enrolled at the time the screening is administered.
- Exempts a district or school from administering a tier one dyslexia screening measure to a transfer student who received a screening in the same school year at the student's original school.

#### **Academic Distress Commissions**

- Prohibits the establishment of new Academic Distress Commissions for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.
- Dissolves the Lorain City School District (Lorain CSD) academic distress commission (ADC) and academic improvement plan. Requires, upon dissolution of the ADC, the chief executive officer (CEO) to relinquish management and control of the school district to the district board of education and district superintendent.

#### **Career-Technical Education**

- Provides \$100 million over the biennium to support the purchase of career technical appropriation to support career technical education equipment.
- Provides a \$200 million one-time appropriation to support construction projects that establish or expand career-technical education programs.
- Eliminates a requirement for the Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent, to develop and, if appropriate, implement a statewide plan permitting high school students to receive college credit for approved career-technical courses in a manner comparable to the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program.
- Clarifies that dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) programs operated by school districts and other public schools, in addition to career-technical education (CTE) programs as under continuing law, must receive approval (either by the lead district of the applicable career-technical planning district or DEW) to qualify for state CTE funds.
- Permits two or more-member school districts of the same compact career technical education provider that exists on the provisions effective date to enter into an agreement creating a career-technical cooperative education district for the purposes of funding the career-technical education of students enrolled in those school districts in grades 7-12.



## **School Transportation**

- Removes the standard of “consistent or prolonged period of noncompliance” for determining whether penalties apply for noncompliance with student transportation requirements. Instead, it defines “out of compliance” as period of time of five consecutive school days or more than 10 school days within a school year in which any of the following occur for each of those days: (a) students arrive more than 30 minutes late to school, (b) students are picked up more than 30 minutes after the end of the school day, (c) students do not receive any transportation at all due to the failure of the bus to arrive, and (d) noncompliance with any other student transportation requirements under continuing law. Exempts days in which inclement weather caused any of the above to occur from counting towards the period of noncompliance. Specifically prohibits bus operators from delivering students to school late.
- Requires DEW to (1) notify a district if it is found to be out of compliance with its student transportation responsibilities and requires the district to create a creative action plan to be submitted to DEW within one week of its first notification of noncompliance, (2) withhold 25% of a district's daily state transportation payment amount for each day a district is determined to be out of compliance for the next three subsequent determinations of noncompliance in the same school year, (3) on the fifth determination of noncompliance in the same school year, withhold 100% of a district's daily state transportation payment amount for each day a district is determined to be out of compliance, and (4) resets the noncompliance count to zero at the beginning of the school year.
- Requires DEW to resolve any disputes over determinations regarding transportation noncompliance received after December 31, 2023, within 30 days of receiving notice of the dispute or within 45 days if DEW notifies all affected parties in advance that the determination will be delayed.
- Requires school districts to provide transportation as a related service to students with disabilities who live in the district but attend a nonpublic school if the school district is provided with supporting documentation in the student’s IEP or ISP.
- Establishes a pilot program beginning in the 2024-2025 school year under which selected ESCs will voluntarily participate to provide transportation to charter and chartered nonpublic school students, in lieu of the students receiving transportation from their resident school district.

## **Bus Driver Flex Career Path Model:**

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to develop the Bus Driver Flex Career Path Model to create a pathway for bus drivers to work as educational aides or student monitors at districts and schools.
- In developing the model, DEW must do all of the following: 1) Ensure that bus drivers work an eight to 10 hour shift by doing either a morning or afternoon bus route and

spend the remainder of the work day working as an educational aide or student monitor at a school; 2) Make recommendations on how to seamlessly implement the model, including who would be responsible for paying wages in the most efficient way, whether proportional share or not; and 3) Ensure that the model does not adversely impact a bus driver's pension.

#### **Nine-passenger vehicles:**

- Authorizes a school district to use a vehicle designed to carry nine passengers or less (not including the driver) to transport students to and from a chartered nonpublic school and a charter school for regularly scheduled school sessions if both of the following apply: 1) Number of students transported is nine or less; and 2) District regularly transports students to that chartered nonpublic school or charter school. (Currently, the nine passenger vehicles described above cannot be used routinely for regularly scheduled school sessions, except for transporting preschool children, special needs children, homeless children, foster children, children who are inaccessible to school buses, students placed in alternative schools, or for work programs.)

#### **School Meals**

- Requires DEW to provide reimbursements to make school breakfasts and lunches free for all students eligible for a reduced-price breakfast or lunch at public, chartered nonpublic special education programs operated by county boards of developmental disabilities, and facilities offering juvenile day treatment services.
- Requires public and private schools to provide a meal at no cost to a student who is eligible for a reduced-priced meal.
- Increases the School Meal Programs funding line item by \$8.4 million over the biennium.

#### **Licensure**

##### **Governance:**

- Retains the State Board of Education's and State Superintendent's powers and duties regarding educator licensure, licensee disciplinary actions, school district territory transfers, and certain other areas.

##### **Preservice Teacher Permits:**

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing a new three-year pre-service teacher permit for students enrolled in educator preparation programs.
- Requires such students to obtain the permit to student teach, participate in other training experiences, and serve as substitute teachers.
- Permits a permit holder to substitute teach for up to one full semester and be compensated for that service.

- Permits the district or school employer to approve one or more additional subsequent semester-long periods of teaching for the permit holder.
- Permits DEW, on a case-by-case basis, to extend the permit's duration to enable the permit holder to complete the educator preparation program in which the permit holder is enrolled.
- Subjects permit holders to criminal records checks, RAPBACK enrollment, and disciplinary action in the same manner as other educators.
- Repeals prohibitions against (1) requiring students preparing to be educational assistants to hold an educational aide permit or paraprofessional license, and (2) those students receiving compensation for working in a school district.

**Teacher License Grade Band Specifications:**

- Changes the grade band specifications for resident educator, professional educator, senior professional educator, or lead professional educator licenses from grades preK-5, 4-9, or 7-12 to grades preK-8 and 6-12.
- Permits a school district or charter school to employ an educator to teach not more than two grade levels outside of the grade band designated on the educator's license for not more than two school years at a time, subject to renewal.

**Ohio Teacher Residency Program (OTR) and Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA):**

Makes the following changes to the Ohio Teacher Residency (OTR) Program, which is an entry-level program for teachers that must be completed to qualify for a professional educator license:

- Permits the required mentoring under OTR Program to be conducted online or in person.
- Requires DEW to provide participants and mentors with no-cost online access to professional development resources and sample videos of Ohio classroom lessons submitted for the resident educator summative assessment (RESA).
- Requires DEW to provide each participant who does not receive a passing score on the RESA with a no-cost opportunity to meet online with an instructional coach to discuss the participant's results, improvement strategies, and professional development.
- Permits participants who have not taken the RESA to meet with instructional coaches if the participant's district or school pays the costs associated with the meetings.
- Prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting the number of attempts participants have to successfully complete the RESA.
- Permits individuals to submit the RESA between the first Tuesday of October and the first Friday of April of the individual's second year of the program.
- Requires the results of each RESA to be returned within 30 days unless a new assessor is contracted, in which case results must be returned within 45 days.

- Reduces the alternative resident educator license from four to two years and, accordingly, reduces from four to two the number of years that an individual must teach under that license before receiving a professional educator license (these changes comport with the reduced duration of the resident educator license and OTR program made by HB 442 of the 133rd General Assembly). Also makes the license generally renewable without requiring the holder to advance to a professional educator license.

#### **Alternative Military Educator License:**

- Requires the State Board, in consultation with the Chancellor of Higher Education, to establish an alternative military educator license that permits eligible military individuals to receive an educator license on an expedited timeline. The State Board must allow eligible military individuals to apply leadership training or other military training toward requirements for college coursework, professional development, content knowledge examinations, and other licensure requirements.
- An “eligible military individual” includes: 1) An active-duty member of any branch of the U.S. armed forces; 2) A veteran of any branch of the U.S. armed forces who separated from service with an honorable discharge; 3) A member of the National Guard or a member of a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces; or 4) A spouse of an eligible member or veteran. The bill permits the Department of Education to 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.
- Under current law unchanged by the bill, an unlicensed veteran may teach a non-core course at a school district if the veteran has meaningful teaching or other instructional experience.

#### **Substitute Teachers:**

- Makes permanent a provision set to expire after the 2023-2024 school year that permits a school district, charter school, STEM school, chartered nonpublic school, or ESC to hire a substitute teacher that does not hold a post-secondary degree, provided that the teacher is of good moral character, meets the district's or school's own set of educational requirements, and passes a background check.

#### **Out-of-State Educator Licenses:**

- Exempts an applicant for a one-year nonrenewable out-of-state teaching license who passes Ohio's Foundations of Reading Exam on the first try from having to complete at least six of the required 12 hours of coursework in the teaching of reading.

#### **Computer Science Educator Licensure:**

- Permits industry professionals to teach 40 hours a week in computer science without taking a content examination.
- Requires all computer science licenses to carry a grade band designation of K-12, pre-k-5, 4-9, or 7-12.
- Extends through the 2024-2025 school year an exemption that permits a public school to permit a licensed teacher to teach computer science in any of grades K-12, provided the teacher completes a specific professional development course.
- For purposes of that exemptions, extends the grade bands for which a license holder must be licensed to teach from any of grades 7-12 to any of grades K-12.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with DEW, to administer the proposed "Teach CS" grant program to fund coursework, materials, and exams for existing teachers who qualify to teach computer science through supplemental licenses, endorsements, and continuing education and individuals who complete the alternative resident educator license.

#### **Financial Literacy License Validation:**

- Exempts all chartered nonpublic schools from the general requirement that teachers who provide high school financial literacy instruction have a financial literacy license validation.
- Disqualifies chartered nonpublic schools from receiving reimbursement for costs associated with financial literacy license validation for teachers. (Individual teachers are eligible for financial literacy license validation cost from the High School Financial Literacy Fund, a custodial fund outside the state treasury supported by a transfer of up to \$1.5 million of unclaimed funds.)

#### **School Counselors**

- Requires the Department of Education and the Workforce (DEW) to designate at least one DEW employee to serve as a liaison to school counselors across the state. Requires the Superintendent to give preference to DEW employees with a valid pupil services license in school counseling.
- Codifies the State Board of Education's rules establishing eligibility requirements for the issuance of an initial professional pupil services license in school counseling and adds a new requirement that an applicant complete 6 hours of training about the building and construction trades that must be completed at a construction site or a trade training facility. Permits an applicant for an initial school counselor license to count the 6 hours of training toward meeting the 600- hour internship requirement for the license.
  - Requires these training hours to count toward professional development requirements for licensure renewal.
  - Requires the State Board of Education to enter into an agreement with a construction trades organization, such as Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT)

Ohio, to develop a training program to educate school counselors about job opportunities and available apprenticeships for various trades.

- Requires a licensed school counselor that serves students in grades 7-12 to complete four hours of the training described above every five years but permits an individual who is in the last two years of the individual's five-year renewal period to complete this training during the next renewal period.
- Requires local professional development committees to incorporate the training into independent professional development programs for school counselors that serve students in any of grades 7-12.
- Permits members of the building and construction trades to conduct and approve the continuing education required for renewal of a pupil services license in school counseling.
- Requires participating building and construction trades to ensure ample opportunities for school counselors to complete the required training and require any participating trades and training facilities or the trade organization to bear all costs associated with this training.

#### **College Credit Plus**

- Allocates up to \$7,500,000 in each fiscal year for ODE, in consultation with ODHE, to provide awards to support graduate coursework for high school teachers to receive credentialing to teach College Credit Plus courses. Requires the creation of an application process and criteria for the awards, with priority given to economically disadvantaged high schools in which there are limited or no teachers currently with such credentials.

#### **Use of Online Instruction During School Closures**

- Repeals the process under which school districts, charter schools, and chartered nonpublic schools may use "blizzard bags" or lessons posted online for school closures and replaces it with a procedure under which those school closures are made up through a virtual education delivery model.
- Requires school districts that do not operate using a blended learning model to adopt a plan by August 1 of each school year to provide instruction via online delivery in order to make up hours when school is closed, up to the equivalent of three school days.
- Requires the plan to contain certain information, including a statement that the school, to the extent possible, will provide real time synchronous learning on a virtual learning platform, the school's attendance requirements, a description of how equitable access will be ensured, and written consent of the applicable teacher's union.
- Permits the board of education of any JVSD to include in its plan other options to make up any number of additional hours missed as a result of one or more of its schools being closed.

- Specifies that a district or school that implements a compliant plan will not be considered to have failed to comply with the minimum number of hours requirement with respect to the number of make-up hours for which the plan is used.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Support**

- Requires the Department of Higher Education to establish a statewide system for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) support teams to help with FAFSA completion and college access programing.

### **Seizure Action Plans**

- Requires all public and chartered nonpublic schools to create an individualized seizure action plan for each student with an active seizure disorder diagnosis (In general, the plans provide parental consent for a school nurse or other authorized staff to administer medications prescribed for a seizure disorder and information on the student’s medication, including instructions for administration).
- Requires districts and schools to provide training every two years to ensure that at least one employee other than a school nurse is trained on the implementation of seizure action plans.
- Provides qualified immunity in a civil action for claims arising from performance under these provisions unless the performance constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

### **Department of Children and Youth**

- Creates the Department of Children and Youth to provide a greater state focus on supporting children in the early years.
- Shifts certain funding line items from Education, Health, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, Mental Health and Drug Addiction, and Job and Family Service agencies to the new department.
- Funds Part C Early Intervention at \$23.4 million in each year of the biennium.
- Funds early childhood education at \$130.3 million in each year of the biennium.

### **SERS Retirement Benefits**

- Includes provisions of House Bill 146 (Bird) to establish a contribution-based benefit cap (CBBC) for retirements under the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). This is an anti-spiking provision requested by the SERS Board. It would take effect August 1, 2024.

### **Home Education**

- Requires parents to provide notice to the child’s school district of residence within five calendar days of beginning home education, moving into a new district, withdrawing from a school and by August 30 each year of home education. Requires written acknowledgement by the superintendent within 14 days of receipt.
- Requires DEW Director to rescind rules regarding excuses from compulsory attendance for the purposes of home education.

## Other

- Requires a parent/guardian's approval to create new social media accounts starting in January 2024 for anyone under the age of 16.
- Establishes the Ohio Computer Science Promise Program beginning with the 2024- 2025 school year. Allows an Ohio resident in grades 7-12 to enroll tuition-free in one computer science course not provided by the student's school per academic year, and to receive high school credit for that course.
- Includes HB 82, which requires coaches at public and private schools to complete an approved student mental health training course each time the individual applies for or renews a pupil activity program permit. Permits the individual to complete the training at any time within the duration of the individual's new or renewed permit.
- Requires each public school and chartered nonpublic schools, by June 30 of each school year, to provide a student's parents with the student's score on any state assessment administered to the student in that year.
- Requires a district or school to mail or email the scores to the student's parent or post them in an accessible, secure portal on the district's or school's website.
- Eliminates the State Report Card Review Committee, which was required to be established on July 2, 2023.
- Appropriates \$598,000 in each fiscal year to support instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillator requirements for high school students.
- Includes SB 66, which requires public or chartered nonpublic schools to transmit a transferring student's school records within five school days upon receiving such a request from the student's new school. Defines "school records" as any academic records, student assessment data, or other information for which there is a legitimate educational interest.
- Permits a school district or school to withhold a student's school records if there is \$2,500 or more of outstanding debt attributed to the student. Requires the transmission of records once that debt is paid.
- Requires each school district to report to the Education Management Information System (EMIS) the number of students attending a school within the district other than the one normally assigned.
- Requires any school district that uses an enrollment lottery for intra-district enrollment to conduct the lottery on the second Monday of June in the school year prior to the school year for which the student is seeking enrollment.
- Requires each school district, other public school, and chartered nonpublic school that enrolls girls in grades 6-12 to provide free feminine hygiene products to those students. Appropriates \$5 million over the biennium to reimburse school districts for the installation of dispensers and products.



- Requires school districts and chartered nonpublic schools that participate in athletic events to permit an individual to pay cash for a ticket to an event or activity the school conducts, sponsors, or participates in. Further, requires a cash option for concessions.
- Adds a new exception to the current-law prohibition against members of school district boards having a financial interest in a contract into which the district enters when the contract is with a private institution of higher education that employs a board member. Requires the board member to recuse themselves from voting on and discussing the contract and to file an affidavit stating the member's employment status.
- Provides \$15 million in funding over the biennium for school-based health centers in high needs counties as determined by the Department of Health and Department of Education and Workforce.

## ***Taxes***

### **Property Tax**

- Requires DEW and Auditor of State to label the projections in the five-year forecasts submitted by school districts regarding property tax allocations (which accounts for reimbursements received from the state for property tax rollbacks, the homestead exemption, and tangible personal property (TPP) tax losses) as "State Share of Local Property Taxes."
- Allows a county auditor to submit, within 15 days after the provision's effective date, certain corrected school district property tax information for the 2021 tax year and requires DEW to use that information to compute state foundation aid for the district. Prohibits such a correction from affecting any property taxes charged and payable for the 2021 tax year.
- Adjusts the homestead exemption for inflation each year, beginning in 2023 for real property and 2024 for homes subject to the manufactured and mobile home tax. Applies the adjustment to both the standard \$25,000 exemption and the enhanced \$50,000 exemption for disabled veterans and spouses of public service officers killed in the line of duty.
- Exempts from property tax a portion of the value of land subdivided for residential development for up to eight years.
- Extends, from 13 months to 16 months, the time during which the voters of a school district must approve bond and tax levies related to a school facilities project after OFCC grants conditional approval of the project.
- Creates the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform, a 10-member legislative committee, responsible for (1) reviewing the history and purpose of all aspects of Ohio's property tax law, including the forms of levies, exemptions, and local subdivision budgeting, (2) holding hearings on pending legislation related to property taxation, and (3) producing a report by December 31, 2024, describing the activities and findings of the Committee and making recommendations on reforms to Ohio's property tax law.

- Allows a city to extend the life of a pre-2006 TIF incentive district by up to 15 years, provided notice is given to the affected school board and the school board either: (1) approves the exemption on the basis of a mutually acceptable compensation agreement; (2) receives compensation equal in value to the amount of taxes that would be payable to the district if the improvements exempted from taxation had not been exempted for the additional period; or (3) waives its right to approve exemptions from taxation.

### **Income Tax**

- For tax year 2023, reduces to three brackets. Establishes income tax rate of 2.75% (income of \$26,050 but not more than \$100,000) 3.688% (more than \$100,000 but not more than \$115,300), and 3.75% (more than \$115,300). Individuals earning \$26,050 or less will continue to pay nothing.
- For tax year 2024, and after, reduces to two brackets. Establishes income tax rates of 2.75% (up to \$100,000 annually) and 3.5% (above \$100,000 annually). Individuals earning \$26,500 or less will pay nothing.
- Suspends indexing of income tax brackets and exemptions for inflation for tax years 2023 and 2024.
- Estimated state revenue loss over the biennium at approximately \$1.8 billion because of the income tax changes.

### **Sales Tax**

- Creates an expanded sales tax holiday starting in 2024 and any year in which at least \$60 million in surplus is available after the Rainy-Day Fund target is met.
- During the expanded sales tax holiday, exempts all items priced at \$500 or less, other than motor vehicles, watercraft, alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco and vapor products, from state and local sales taxes.
- Exempts child diapers, creams and wipes, car seats, cribs, and strollers from the sales tax, beginning October 1, 2023.

### **Rainy-Day Fund**

- Increases the cap on revenue that can be put into the Rainy-Day Fund from 8.5% to 10% based on the preceding year's GRF revenue. As of June 2, this fund has a cash balance of \$3.48 billion.

### ***Higher Education***

- Prohibits each state institution from charging a guaranteed amount of tuition and fees for students entering in the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 academic year that is more than 3% above what was charted to prior academic year's cohort.
- Increases from an expected family contribution of \$2,190 or less to \$3,750 or less the income eligibility threshold for all students eligible to receive an Ohio College

Opportunity Grant (OCOG) award making more students eligible than under previous law.

- Creates the Governor’s Merit Scholarship beginning in FY 2025, that will provide renewable \$5,000 scholarships to every student in the top five percent of their high school graduating class as determined by the state to attend an Ohio college or university. Requires eligible students to receive an award for up to the equivalent of four academic years at a public or private, nonprofit institution of higher education, contingent on satisfactory academic progress.
- Repeals a requirement (ORC 3333.167) that required a statewide plan permitting high school students to receive college credit for approved career-technical courses in a manner comparable to the College Credit Plus (CCP) program.
- Establishes the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program, under which the Chancellor must award up to \$3,000 to eligible students enrolled in a qualified program. Prohibits a student from receiving a grant for more than six semesters or the equivalent of three academic years.
- Establishes the Salmon P. Chase Center at the Ohio State University, the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at the University of Toledo Law School, and a center for civics, culture, and society at Cleveland State University, Miami University, and the University of Cincinnati. Appropriates \$24 million over the biennium for these centers.
- Requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education to formally consider and adopt a resolution determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding by December 1, 2023.
- Requires each institution of higher education to make explicitly clear on its website that students have a right to access transcripts for purposes of seeking employment regardless of or if that student owes an institutional debt.
- Permits a member of a technical college or community college board of trustees whose term has expired to continue in office until the trustee’s successor takes office. Additionally, states that a majority of the sitting board members at the time of a meeting constitutes a quorum.

**Line Items**

<u>State Share of Instruction</u>	FY 2024 – \$2.08 billion – 1.2% increase FY 2025 – \$2.12 billion – 1.1% increase
<u>Ohio College Opportunity Grant</u>	FY 2024 – \$200 million – 77.95% increase FY 2025 – \$200 million – Flat Funded
<u>Governor’s Merit Scholarship</u>	FY 2024 – NA FY 2025 – \$20 million – New

<u>Central State Supplement</u>	FY 2024 – \$12.0 million – 3.0% increase FY 2025 – \$12.4 million – 3.0% increase
<u>Shawnee State Supplement</u>	FY 2024 – \$9.0 million – 66.38% increase FY 2025 – \$9.0 million – Flat funded
<u>GRF Total (State Funding)</u>	FY 2024 – \$2.879 billion – 4.85% increase FY 2025 – \$2.957 billion – 2.70 % increase
<u>All Funds</u>	FY 2024 – \$3.047 billion – 8.34% increase FY 2025 – \$3.027 billion – 0.69% decrease

***Developmental Disabilities***

- Permits county boards of developmental disabilities to establish policies that allow board members to attend meetings of the county board via means of electronic communication.
- Specifies that a board member who attends a meeting via means of electronic communication is considered present at the meeting, is counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, and may vote at the meeting.
- Beginning on July 1, 2025, does all of the following: (1) requires an appointing authority, when appointing members of a county board of developmental disabilities, to place emphasis on specified criteria for making appointments; (2) requires a board of county commissioners to appoint at least one individual with developmental disabilities and one individual who is a family member of an individual with developmental disabilities to serve on a county board; (3) requires a senior probate judge to appoint at least one individual with developmental disabilities or an individual who is a family member of an individual eligible for residential services or supported living and specifies that a judge's appointment of an individual with a developmental disability satisfies a board of county commissioners' requirement to make such an appointment; and (4) specifies that an appointing authority's unfulfilled vacancy does not prohibit it from filling other vacancies on a county board.

**Line Items**

<u>Multi System Youth</u>	FY 2024 – \$5.0 million – 75.0% increase FY 2025 – \$5.0 million – 0.0 % increase
<u>Technology First</u>	FY 2024 – \$3.2 million – New FY 2025 – \$3.2 million – 0.0 % increase

<u>Employment First</u>	FY 2024 – \$2.7 million – 1.8% increase FY 2025 – \$2.7 million – 0.0 % increase
<u>GRF Total (State Funding)</u>	FY 2024 – \$903.9 million – 32.4% increase FY 2025 – \$1.04 billion – 16.15 % increase
<u>All Funds</u>	FY 2024 – \$4.5 billion – 26.0% increase FY 2025 – \$5.1 billion – 12.19% increase

**STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS (SCOPE)**

**Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC)**

<u>Institution Education Services</u>	<u>Education Services</u>
FY 2023 \$37.0 million	FY 23 \$4.6 million
FY 2024 \$41.2 million	FY 24 \$4.6 million
FY 2025 \$45.3 million	FY 25 \$4.6 million

**Earned Credit Release Time – Expands Maximum Credit (ORC 2967.193, 2967.194)**

- In the law that, effective April 4, 2024, increases the maximum credit a prisoner may earn for participating in a DRC-approved program from 8% to 15% of the prisoner’s sentence, specifies that if a prisoner has met the 8% cap as of the bill’s effective date, or reaches the 8% cap between that effective date and April 3, 2024, the cap is 15% of the prisoner’s sentence.
- Stipulates that this change applies only with respect to the time the prisoner is confined between the bill’s effective date and April 4, 2024, and the 15% cap that takes effect April 4, 2024, will apply only with respect to the time a prisoner is confined on or after that date.

**Adult Education Programs**

- Adult Education Programs: Earmarks up to \$6,900,000 in each fiscal year (FY 24 and FY 25) to make payments for the 22+ Adult High School Program to participating entities, including state correctional institutions. Funds are allocated through the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) General Revenue Fund (GRF) Administrative Line Item (ALI) 200572, Adult Education Programs.
  - Lowers the minimum age to participate in the Adult Diploma Pilot Program from 20 to 18. Requires a portion of Adult Education Program funding to be used for payments to institutions and/or reimbursing test costs for students participating in the Adult Diploma Pilot Program. If funds for the Adult Diploma Program are insufficient, permits the OBM Director, upon the request of the Superintendent and the approval of the Controlling Board, to transfer available appropriation

from GRF ALI 200550, Foundation Funding - All Students, to support Adult Education Programs.

- Earmarks up to \$2,500,000 in FY 2024 from GRF ALI 200572, Adult Education Programs, to support the Competency-Based Diploma Pilot Program (see next bullet) and reappropriates the available balance of the earmark at the end of FY 2024 for the same purpose in FY 2025.
- Competency-based diploma pilot program: Requires Department of Education & Workforce (DEW – new name of ODE, which is now a cabinet-level agency under authority of the Governor) to operate a competency based diploma pilot program in FY 2024 and 2025 for students who are at least 18 years old, but under 22 years old that is aligned to the rules and standards for the 22+ Adult High School Diploma Program. Requires DEW to issue a report on the pilot program by July 30, 2025, and post the report on its web site. (Temporary Law Section 733.50)

**Department of Youth Services**

Education Services

Education

Vocational Education

FY 23 \$2.6 million

FY 23 \$1.3 million

FY 23 \$1.5 million

FY 24 \$3.7 million

FY 24 \$1.3 million

FY 24 \$1.5 million

FY 25 \$3.9 million

FY 25 \$1.05 million

FY 25 \$1.5 million

- Requires Education Services line-item to be used to fund the operating expenses of providing educational services to youth supervised by DYS, including teachers' salaries, maintenance costs, and educational equipment.
- Establishes procedures by which Ohio youth who have been assigned to a participating residential treatment center are enrolled in an approved educational program in or near the facility.

**Deaf and Blind Education Services (Combination of Deaf and Blind Schools)**

Operations

FY 24 \$33.3 million

FY 25 \$33.7 million

- Establishes Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services and places the State School for the Deaf and the State School for the Blind under it.
  - The Ohio Legislative Service Commission states that the Ohio School for the Blind and Ohio School for the Deaf have worked together for over more than a decade to consolidate fiscal services, maintenance and custodial services, human resources, health care services, food services, security, and information technology services.

- Abolishes the superintendent positions for both schools and creates one superintendent for Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services appointed by the State Board of Education. (The two schools have shared a superintendent since 2018.)
- Requires the Office of Budget and Management Director to transfer \$1,274,194 in each fiscal year from the Public Library Fund to the Library for the Blind Fund.
- Requires State Library Fund for the Library for the Blind to be used for the statewide Talking Book Program to assist the blind and disabled.

**Ohio State Library**

FY 23    \$26.6 million

FY 24    \$24.9 million (reduction from FY 23 based on drop in federal funds)

FY 25    \$24.9 million

- Requires the Office of Budget and Management Director to transfer \$1,274,194 in each fiscal year from the Public Library Fund to the Library for the Blind Fund.
- Requires State Library Fund for the Library for the Blind to be used for the statewide Talking Book Program to assist the blind and disabled.