



State Board of Education

Laura Kohler, *President* Charlotte McGuire, *Vice President*
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Weekly Legislative Update November 22, 2019

Education-Related Bills Introduced this Week:

Legislative Developments this Week:

- The Report Card Study Committee likely will meet on Wednesday, December 4th, however time and day are still being confirmed. An official notice will be sent by the co-chairs' offices once finalized.

This Week's Committee Schedule:

- Senate Education Committee did not meet.
- Report Card Study Committee did not meet.
- **Tuesday**
 - **House Primary and Secondary Education Committee met.**
 - [House Bill 111](#) (Ingram) – Transmit transfer student records within five school days – Fourth hearing, all testimony. Reported by Committee 15-1.
 - [House Bill 322](#) (Jones and D. Manning) - Revise Ohio Teacher Residency Program – Second Hearing, proponent testimony.
 - [House Bill 367](#) (Miranda and Manchester) - Recommend school counselor job description/designate liaisons – Second hearing, proponent testimony.
 - [House Bill 310](#) (Greenspan) – Enacts Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act – Removed from agenda and not heard.
- **Wednesday**
 - **House Finance Committee met.**
 - [House Bill 305](#) (Cupp and Patterson) - To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation – Sixth hearing, testimony on categorical funding to support students who are disabled, gifted, English learners or economically disadvantaged.

Upcoming Week's Committee Schedule

- House Primary & Secondary Education Committee will not be meeting.
- Senate Education Committee will not be meeting.
- Report Card Study Committee will not be meeting.

Follow-Up from November State Board Meeting Legislative Update

The following update is to address questions raised during the legislative update during the November board meeting.

- [Senate Bill 34](#) (Kunze) – Regards school employment, educator licensure, and conduct.

- The provisions of Senate Bill 34 strengthen the educator disciplinary process and bring the state of Ohio into compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act which **requires states to have laws in place to prevent school employees from helping an individual get a job at a school if there is reasonable cause to believe the individual committed a sex offense involving a student.** Further, Senate Bill 34 makes it **easier for schools to learn of educator misconduct** reports filed with the Ohio Department of Education.

The bill also contains provisions to **close loopholes in the current licensure system** that allow educator misconduct to go undiscovered by a school. One such provision requires **educational service contractors** engaged by a school or district to hold the same Department-issued licenses they would be required to hold if they were employed directly by the school.

Schools often contract with outside organizations or businesses for certain educator services. Currently, certain education service professionals who perform *direct services* with children under a contract between a school and an outside entity could avoid licensure requirements. These could include contractors serving as physical therapists, occupational therapists, or educational aides.

Requiring contractors who provide student services to hold a license ensures that the contracted employee has **no prohibited criminal activity in his/her background** and the person is enrolled in the state's Rapback system. The Rapback system provides real-time updates on a person's arrest or convictions notifying the Department of a violation taking place as soon as it is entered into the system.

The new provision regarding contractors also allows the Department to take disciplinary action to ensure student safety in cases where a licensed educator engages in misconduct or criminal activity. Further, it would prevent a person whose license has been revoked for professional misconduct from taking a job with a third-party contractor to continue working in schools and providing services to students.

The provision does not impact contractors who do not provide services to students such as electricians, plumbers, and lawn care maintenance people.