

# Education

## H.B. 16

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Perales

**Effective date:** September 15, 2020

- Qualifies any active duty military service members, regardless of residency or where they are stationed, and their spouses and dependents, for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education.

## H.B. 123

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. G. Holmes and G. Manning

**Effective date:** Emergency: e-school pilot program authorization and earmark effective December 21, 2020; all other provisions effective March 24, 2021

### **Anonymous reporting programs**

- Requires each school district and other public school to register with the SaferOH tip line or enter into an agreement with another anonymous reporting program.
- Requires each anonymous reporting program provider annually to submit to the Departments of Education and Public Safety the number of reports and the method by which they were received.
- Requires each district and school annually to submit specified data concerning anonymous reports to the Departments.
- Specifies that data collected by the SaferOH tip line or an anonymous reporting program or reported to the Departments are security records and not public records.

### **School threat assessment teams**

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Attorney General, by March 24, 2023, to develop and maintain a list of approved training programs for school threat assessment team certification.
- Requires each public school serving grades 6-12, by March 24, 2023, to create a threat assessment team, but permits an existing school safety team to serve as a threat assessment team if each member undergoes an approved training program.
- Requires each member of a team to complete a threat assessment training program from the approved list maintained by the Department of Public Safety.
- Provides qualified civil immunity for schools, school districts, and their employees related to decisions regarding the duties of school threat assessment teams.

## **Model school threat assessment plan**

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Attorney General, to develop by March 24, 2023, a model threat assessment plan that may be utilized in a building's emergency management plan.

## **Suicide awareness and prevention; social inclusion instruction**

- Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Public Safety and Mental Health and Addiction Services, to maintain a list of approved training programs for instruction in suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention.
- Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, to maintain a list of approved training programs for instruction in social inclusion.
- Specifies that the staff training programs on youth suicide awareness and prevention developed by the Department of Education satisfy the biennial professional development requirements on that subject required by law.
- Requires each school district, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, to provide annual student instruction in (1) suicide awareness and prevention, (2) safety training and violence prevention, and (3) social inclusion.

## **Student-led violence prevention clubs**

- Permits public schools to designate student-led violence prevention clubs in buildings serving grades 6-12.

## **Emergency management plans**

- Transfers from the State Board of Education to the Director of Public Safety the responsibility to adopt rules pertaining to comprehensive school emergency management plans.
- Requires each school building administrator to incorporate a school threat assessment plan and a protocol for the building's threat assessment team into the building's existing emergency management plan.

## **School safety training grants**

- Adds educational service centers to the identified types of the schools that may apply for school safety grants.
- Encourages the Department of Education, the Attorney General, and the Department of Public Safety to apply for any federal or other funding available for the purposes of increasing school safety.

## **Pilot funding for dropout recovery e-schools**

- For FY 2021, establishes a pilot program to provide additional per pupil funding for certain internet- or computer-based community school (e-schools) operating dropout prevention and recovery programs for students in grades 8-12.
- Permits the Department of Education to (1) require certain participating e-schools to establish a plan to improve the reporting of enrollment and (2) create a debt reduction plan for each e-school that chooses to participate in the pilot program.
- Requires certain participating e-schools to provide to the Department a meaningful plan for increasing student engagement and all participating e-schools to implement programming or protocol which documents enrollment and participation in learning opportunities.
- Requires the Department to issue a report upon completion of the pilot program by December 31, 2021.
- Earmarks an appropriation for the pilot program.

## **Act title**

- Entitles the act as the “Safety and Violence Education Students Act,” or the “SAVE Students Act.”

## **H.B. 231**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Greenspan

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

## **Epinephrine autoinjectors in schools**

- Requires the Department of Education to compile an annual list of organizations and companies that offer free and reduced cost epinephrine autoinjectors and make that list available to each school district, other public schools, and chartered nonpublic schools.

## **Food allergy training and instruction**

- Permits public schools to create and implement training on food allergies for all staff members and age-appropriate instructional materials for students in grades K-12.
- Grants a qualified immunity from liability for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss that allegedly arises from an act or omission associated with the food allergy training or instruction.

## **Procurement of glucagon by schools and camps**

- Permits public and nonpublic schools and camps to procure injectable or nasally administered glucagon without a license for use in emergency situations for individuals with diabetes, and specifies procedures for those that do so.

- Grants schools and camps, and their employees, contractors, and volunteers, qualified immunity from liability in civil actions for damages allegedly arising from the procurement, maintenance, access, or use of glucagon.
- Permits drug manufacturers and wholesalers to donate glucagon to schools or camps and allows schools and camps to receive financial donations from individuals for their purchase.

### **Act title**

- Entitles the act's provisions regarding epinephrine autoinjectors and food allergy education and staff training as the "Allison Rose Act."

## **H.B. 436**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Baldrige

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

### **Dyslexia screening, intervention, and remediation**

- Requires the Department of Education to establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee (ODC) consisting of 11 members appointed by various appointing authorities.
- Requires the ODC to develop a dyslexia guidebook for screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia or displaying dyslexic characteristics and tendencies.
- Requires the ODC to prescribe the number of clock hours of dyslexia-related professional development required for teachers.
- Permits the ODC to make recommendations regarding ratios of students to teachers who have received certification in identifying and addressing dyslexia, which school personnel should receive the certification, and whether professional development requirements should include completing a practicum.
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the ODC, to identify screening and intervention measures that evaluate the literacy skills of students using a multi-sensory structured literacy program.
- Requires school districts and other public schools to administer annual dyslexia screenings, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Phases in, over three years, dyslexia-related professional development requirements for public school teachers.
- Requires school districts and other public schools, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to establish a multi-sensory structured literacy certification process for teachers.

## Study of costs

- Requires the Department, by December 31, 2021, to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the financial costs of the dyslexia screening, identification, and remediation services similar those required by the act.

## Achievement assessments for scholarship students

- Clarifies that Educational Choice, Jon Peterson, and Cleveland scholarship students are exempt from the achievement assessment requirements for scholarship renewal if they meet specified requirements.

# S.B. 40

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

**Effective date:** March 24, 2021

## Regulation of expression on college campuses

- Generally, prohibits a state institution of higher education from limiting or restricting free expression by members of its campus community in public areas of campus.
- Requires each state institution to report and publish the courses of action implemented in accordance with the act's provisions, and to update that report whenever a cause of action is brought against it for a violation of the right of free expression.
- Requires each state institution to adopt a policy on harassment consistent with the act's provisions.
- Requires each state institution to make public the policies, regulations, and expectations of students regarding free expression.

## Regulation of campus facility use

- Declares that outdoor areas of campuses of state institutions of higher education are public forums for members of campus communities and prohibits institutions from creating "free speech zones" or other outdoor areas where expression is restricted.
- Prohibits a state institution of higher education from charging security fees to a student or student group based on the content of expression or the anticipated reaction to that content.

## In-state residency status for tuition

- Expands residency status for in-state college tuition rates to qualifying individuals who received a certificate of high school equivalence while residing in Ohio but subsequently relocated out of state.

## Title

- Entitles the act the “Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act” (or “FORUM Act”).

## S.B. 89

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. M. Huffman

**Effective date:** March 2, 2021; repeal of school district territory transfer method effective September 1, 2021

### Joint vocational school district operations

- Authorizes a joint vocational school district (JVSD) board of education to hold its mandated organizational meeting any time in January, rather than by January 15 as under prior law.
- Permits a JVSD board to include in its calamity day plan the use of additional online lessons, student internships, student projects, or other options to make up any number of hours missed as the result of school closures among JVSD member districts.

### Compensation of JVSDs for enterprise zones

- Provides that, when a city, local, or exempted village school district negotiates to receive compensation for property tax revenue foregone due to an enterprise zone tax exemption, any JVSD located in the enterprise zone must receive similar compensation.

### Business advisory council

- Exempts a city, local, or exempted village school district from appointing a business advisory council if the district has entered into an agreement with a JVSD business advisory committee to represent the district.

### Technical assessments

- Requires the Department of Education to consider the possibility of attaining college credit as a factor when identifying an acceptable measure of technical skill.
- Specifies that the Department, in consultation with career-technical education stakeholders, must update its list of technical assessments annually by May 31.

### Career-technical planning district operations

- Requires a “home district” to provide student attendance records to a career-technical planning district (CTPD) lead district or a contracting district that provides career-technical education services in the home district’s facilities.
- Permits a CTPD lead district to enter into an agreement with a school district within the CTPD regarding a method of determining the full-time equivalency of a student enrolled in both districts for state funding purposes.

## **Career-technical educator licensure**

- Permits an individual holding a substitute career-technical teaching license to teach outside the individual's career field for up to one semester.
- Specifies that an individual holding an adult education permit may be employed by any district and not just the district that recommended and employed the individual when the permit was issued.
- Permits an individual holding an adult education permit to work as a substitute career-technical teacher in high school courses offered by the individual's employing district.
- Specifies that a 12-hour or 40-hour teaching permit issued by the State Board of Education must be renewable and that the qualifications for a permit must include career-technical experience for individuals assigned to a career-technical class.
- Requires the State Board to issue a 40-hour teaching permit to an individual teaching a career-technical course in which a student may earn an industry-recognized credential at a dropout prevention and recovery community school.

## **Industry-recognized credentials**

- Requires the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, the Department of Education, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with career-technical and other appropriate stakeholders, to develop "model guidance" regarding maintaining a statewide inventory of industry-recognized credentials.

## **STEM and STEAM schools and equivalents**

- Limits the requirement to combine the academic performance data of students enrolled in STEM or STEAM schools with comparable data from the students' resident school districts to just the students in such schools that are not sponsored by a single school district.
- Permits career centers to receive a STEM or STEAM school equivalent designation in the same manner as a community school or a chartered nonpublic school.

## **Education Management Information System**

- Requires the Department, by June 1, 2021, to implement a procedure to solicit and respond to comments from users of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) regarding proposed new or updated EMIS guidance and to permit users to review finalized guidance before it takes effect.
- Requires the Department to establish uniform training for Department personnel administering EMIS and uniform guidance for CTPDs and information technology centers.

## Performance-based Ed Choice scholarships

- Qualifies a student for a first-time, performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarship, beginning with a scholarship sought for the 2021-2022 school year, based on a modified performance index ranking eligibility criteria, specifying that:
  - A student is enrolled in, or assigned to, a school building ranked in the lowest 20% of district school buildings for specified years; and
  - The student's resident district, for three consecutive years prior to the year for which a scholarship is sought, had an average of 20% or more of its school age residents qualify to be included in the formula to distribute federal Title I funds.
- Eliminates other eligibility criteria based on the state report card letter grades.
- Maintains eligibility for:
  - A student whose resident school district is subject to an academic distress commission; or
  - A student enrolled in a nonpublic school at the time the school receives a charter from the State Board of Education and the student's assigned school in the resident district meets the eligibility criteria.
- Qualifies a student for a first-time performance-based scholarship, for the 2021-2022 school year (1) if the student was enrolled in school or was homeschooled in the 2020-2021 school year, (2) qualified for a scholarship for that year, and (3) is assigned to a school building that was Ed Choice designated in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Specifies that the priority application period for performance-based Ed Choice scholarships sought for the 2021-2022 school year must open March 1, 2021, rather than February 1 as otherwise required under continuing law.

## Income-based Ed Choice scholarships

- Increases from 200% to 250% of the federal poverty level the family income eligibility threshold for a first-time, income-based Ed Choice Expansion scholarship.

## School district territory transfer

- Repeals on September 1, 2021, the law enacted in 2019 that permits transfer of school district territory located within a township that is split between two or more school districts to an adjacent school district through a petition and vote of electors residing in the territory.
- Permits an ongoing transfer to continue in accordance with the repealed provision.

## Higher education degree completion

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to develop an electronic equivalency management tool to assist in the transfer of coursework and degrees between state institutions of higher education.



- Requires each state university to inform a student about the university's transfer appeals process, and the Department of Higher Education's student complaint portal, when the university refuses to grant credit for certain general education coursework completed at another state institution.
- Requires the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board to submit to the General Assembly by March 2, 2022, a report about the rules regarding the transfer of college credit.
- Requires each state university to review its student records every two years to determine if certain disenrolled students who did not complete a bachelor's degree are eligible, or close to being eligible, for an associate degree.
- Specifies that a state university must inform any eligible students of their potential eligibility for an associate degree and report the findings of each review to the Chancellor.
- Requires a state institution of higher education, under certain circumstances, to waive an eligible student's tuition and general fees for a course that is necessary to complete a bachelor's degree.
- Requires each state institution to include in its strategic completion plan a report about its collaboration to assist students who have some college experience, but no degree, in earning an associate degree, certificate, or credential.

## **S.B. 120**

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. McColley and Rulli

**Effective date:** May 1, 2020; appropriations provisions effective January 31, 2020

### **Performance audits**

- Authorizes the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of any state institution of higher education.

### **University and college leases with nonpublic vendors**

- Permits a state institution of higher education or university housing commission to enter into a lease with a nonpublic vendor to improve existing campus housing facilities, in addition to constructing new facilities as under continuing law.
- Specifies the term of a lease must not exceed 75 years, rather than 30 years as under prior law.
- Specifies that any campus housing facilities included under a lease agreement, including facilities constructed by a nonpublic vendor, retains an exemption from property taxes and assessments.

## **College Credit Plus**

- Requires public and participating private high schools to permit any nearby college or university participating in College Credit Plus, in addition to “partnering colleges,” to attend annual informational sessions regarding the program.

## **Ed Choice Scholarships**

- Appropriates \$10 million to award, and directly pay, first-time performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarships to newly eligible students for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Requires the Department of Education to award and use the deduct-and-transfer method prescribed under continuing law to pay first-time performance-based Ed Choice scholarships to students who were eligible in the 2019-2020 school year and remain eligible in the 2020-2021 school year.
- For the 2020-2021 school year only, establishes a delayed 60-day application period, beginning April 1, 2020, for performance-based Ed Choice scholarships.