

November 2020 Legislative Report

Senate Bill 358: As mentioned in previous reports, [SB 358](#) would go a long way to eliminating some needless stressors from our academic year. The bill seeks to cancel standardized testing, provide flexibility with the graduation requirement & 3rd grade guarantee, as well as evaluations & state report cards.

The bill has had multiple hearings in the Senate Education Committee. Previous reluctance to move the bill related to the DeVos federal education department saying they would grant no waivers on testing. The election of Joe Biden to the Presidency would indicate new leadership in the Ed Dept., and a greater likelihood for a waiver on federal testing mandates.

That said, contacting Senate Education Committee Chair Lehner and the entire Senate Education Committee would go a long way to pushing the issue. Type up your thoughts on why the high stakes *and* the assessments should be eliminated, and drop them emails with [this link](#).

If you'd just like to shout at Senator Lehner, email her [here](#), call her office at (614)466-4538, or tag her on Twitter [@peggylehner](#).

A Fair Funding Formula?: This week, Senators Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) introduced Senate Bill 376 companion legislation to House Bill 305, better known as The Fair School Funding Plan. The plan represents more than two years of work by legislators, local school leaders, and education finance experts to craft meaningful alternatives to the current way in which Ohio funds its schools.

[OEA is optimistic](#) that the plan represents a more equitable way to fund schools, taking into consideration the actual cost of educating a child, as well as additional costs associated with educating economically disadvantaged children. This method would also directly fund charters and vouchers instead of having funding pass through districts.

State School Board: Ohio's School Board is made up of a combination of appointed and elected members whose job is to hire the State Superintendent, and to make recommendations to the legislature on K-12 education policy. Four new members were elected November 3rd along with reelection for two incumbents. Read more about these individuals in [this piece from the Columbus Dispatch](#).