

## **November 2021 Legislative Report**

Congratulations on finishing quarter one. Now, with the good news out of the way, let's check out some recent education policy and politics in Ohio.

**State Report Cards:** In their infinite wisdom, the Federal and Ohio Departments of Education believed there was value in administering standardized tests this past spring. Doubling down on their idiocy, ODE released the [state report cards](#) this month. In a development surprising to no one, [scores were lower this year than in those without a global pandemic](#). Consistent with every other year, economically disadvantaged students saw their performance suffer more than their affluent counterparts.

If there is a silver lining to this situation, it is that [charter schools performed far worse](#) than public schools.

**Lorain, Youngstown, & E. Cleveland** have submitted their plans to move forward out of state control according to language included in Ohio's most recent Budget Bill. The Ohio Department of Education has [weighed in on Lorain's plan](#) and would like them to seek a more ambitious goal by lowering chronic absenteeism 20% by June of 2025. Ambitious seems like a polite way to describe the idea of an economically disadvantaged district lowering chronic absenteeism that much during global pandemic. Out of touch with reality is a less polite way of describing it.

**Ohio Board of Education's Anti-Anti-Racism:** Over the past month, the Ohio Board of Education voted to rescind its anti-racism measure. Two appointed board members who voted not to rescind the measure were asked to resign by Governor DeWine, and did so. The Governor then made two new appointments to the state board. As you'd imagine, [Ohio's anti-anti-racism has made national news](#).

**Anti-Critical Race Theory:** In related news, legislation persists to restrict the teaching of "divisive concepts" in Ohio's schools. From OEA's Legislative Watch, "OEA opposes HB 327. Despite some recent changes to the bill, HB 327 continues to prohibit K-12 schools, state institutions of higher education, state agencies, and political subdivisions from teaching, instructing, promoting, or providing professional development in certain "divisive concepts" listed in the bill. OEA also opposes HB 322, a similar bill that is receiving less attention from the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee."

**For more information on this, and other bills, as well as how to take some action on behalf of your students and your profession, [check out and follow OEA's Legislative Watch](#).**