

## **March 2022 Legislative Report**

**Meet the New Boss, Same as the Old Boss?** The decision on a new State Superintendent is being made by the State Board of Education at its March meeting. Will the new boss smile and nod along in mock empathetic consideration, and do what his political handlers demand like the last guy? Or will the new Super just skip the pretense and make the awful decisions outright like the guy before that? Perhaps it'll be someone actually interested in supporting public schools, but I'm not holding my breath. [Check out the candidates at this piece](#) from Cleveland dot com.

**House Bill 327 is frightening.** Under the bill, Ohio teachers can be punished for "failing to fairly present both sides" of a political position. Both sides of the Holocaust? Japanese Internment? Slavery? A woman's right to vote? Check out the full bill [here](#). Look for Section 3319.614.

Cool, now that you're as incensed as I am, get on the horn to the [Ohio House of Representatives](#). This bill is awaiting a committee hearing for a vote, and being taken seriously by some members of the General Assembly.

It is worth noting that the [College Board has indicated](#) that courses in Ohio may not be able offer Advanced Placement courses for college credit if this bill is passed.

On Wednesday March 9th the group [Honesty for Ohio Education](#) held a [rally in Columbus](#) in opposition to the legislation.

Keep an eye on your email as [OEA](#) continues to provide opportunities to take action on HB 327.

**Do Vouchers increase school segregation?** Yes, they do. [Data out of Lima](#) (Ohio, not Peru) reaffirms these conclusions.

**Backpack Bill:** The idea of a [Backpack Bill](#), in which state funding follows the student to whatever school they attend, is alive and well in Ohio in House Bill 290. The plan has long been criticized by advocates of public education because it would decimate services provided by public schools, and make them far more reliant upon local taxes for funding.

**DeWine Gerrymanders the State School Board districts:** Is it racism? From the Plain Dealer, "Gov. Mike DeWine recently pushed forward a plan that significantly alters the Ohio State Board of Education boundaries of four members who supported an anti-racism and equity resolution." It certainly doesn't look right. Here's an opinion piece from Cynthia Peebles of Honesty for Ohio Education in the [Columbus Dispatch](#) on the subject.