

October 2023 EEA Legislative Report

Apart from some scattered rumblings, there has been little movement in education policy since the General Assembly reconvened last month.

It is worth noting that in Ohio both sides of the aisle are gearing up for a monumental election in November, with decisions being made on two polarizing issues. Issue One is set up to potentially codify reproductive freedom. You can read information on the issue from [Ballotpedia here](#). Issue Two is a marijuana legalization initiative. See info [here](#).

Legacy of Neglect: Read this [excellent summary of a report](#) from Policy Matters Ohio on the current state of our schools, and the multitude of wrongheaded decisions at the state level that have led to this situation.

LaRose is LaRose: Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose has amped up his campaign to be the Republican candidate for the Senate and face off with Democrat Sherrod Brown next year. LaRose penned an [opinion piece](#) in which he highlighted his ongoing support for school choice and demonization of public schools, teachers, and unions. In LaRose's mind we are all malicious radical left wing agents of chaos, bent on indoctrinating students. Settle down Frank.

OEA endorses Sherrod Brown: In news that I'm sure is unrelated to LaRose's aforementioned public demonization of teachers and unions (eye roll implied), the OEA and NEA have endorsed Senator Sherrod Brown in his re-election campaign. Brown has long been a champion of the working class, public education and unions. He has also [recently introduced legislation](#) to increase the federal educator tax deduction.

Governor DeWine's Potential Criminality: The [Governor has decided to go ahead](#) with his overhaul of the state's education system according to language included in the last budget, despite a Franklin County Judge placing a temporary restraining order on the action after [several State School Board members brought a lawsuit](#) claiming that the move was a violation of Ohio's constitution. Predictably, the plaintiffs argue that DeWine's actions are a [violation of the restraining order](#).

An End to Gerrymandering? [Language has been approved](#) for an initiative designed to remove politicians from the redistricting process in Ohio.

Ohio School Report Cards: Well, the results are in and I'm afraid we didn't win. In the [Performance Index rankings](#), which rate districts based on a compilation of standardized test scores, Solon Schools came in first. Median household income in Solon is roughly \$118,000. Median household income in the district that finished last (no need to name names) is \$21,000.

For you fans of The Outsiders, the Socs win again. We operate in an absurd, state sanctioned education system that celebrates performance on assessments that best reflect economics. And

yet you and I return year after year to provide opportunities for students within a system aligned against them. This is important work. Let's do it for Johnny, shall we.

