

EEA Legislative Report December 2023



Mike DeWine oversees the first meeting of Ohio's Department of Education & Workforce. Wait, I'm being told that's not Governor DeWine, but the Burgermeister Meisterburger trying to prevent children from experiencing joy. Honest mistake.

OEA's Legislative Scorecard: In a brilliant move, OEA will keep an [ongoing tally of all of Ohio's legislators](#) based on their votes in the General Assembly. A legislator's score will reflect their support of public education.

SB83: The bill that opponents have labeled the Higher Ed “Destruction” Act passed out of the Higher Education Committee on Wednesday 12/6 with [Rep Gayle Manning providing the decisive vote](#), having changed her No vote to a Yes after some language that prohibited collective bargaining was removed. However, OEA and [other education groups](#) in the state still oppose the bill for attacks on unions, and its primary goal of eliminating “liberal bias” at colleges and universities. OEA President Scott DiMauro said, “Senate Bill 83 would hurt workers’ rights and micromanage what happens in our classrooms.” It remains to be seen if the bill can pass a full House vote. If not, Republicans have already indicated that the bill, in its original (worse) form, will be back in the future.

HB214: In a [new bill](#) that's more or less a culture war [solution searching for a problem](#), House Bill 214 would require local school boards to adopt a policy that prohibits districts from requiring that staff, students, or job applicants align with a district's beliefs, values, or principles. While I'm not sure, it sounds like this bill might allow Elyria High students to legally refuse to be Respectful, Responsible, and/or Ready to Learn.

Vouchers are a tax cut for the wealthy. In the latest edition of his blog 10th Period, Stephen Dyer brilliantly breaks down the data on Ohio's voucher expansion largely helping wealthy white kids, and contributing to the resegregation of schools. [It is a must read.](#)

Parents Bill of Rights: An Ohio House bill to notify parents of any content in state schools that may contain “sexuality” was introduced before an Ohio Senate committee. Check out some commentary on Ohio's version of the “Don't Say Gay Bill” [here](#).

HB68: [Opposition testimony](#) flooded Columbus against this bill that would ban gender-affirming care and transgender student athletes. Take action at [Honesty for Ohio Education](#).