

EEA Legislative Report May 2024

Alas, it is the final installment of the Legislative Report for the 23-24 school year. "Once more, unto the breach, dear friends, once more!"

Title IX: Biden administration clarifies Title IX rules to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ+ students. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost sues the Biden administration to assure the right to discriminate against LGBTQ+ students. I hate it here sometimes. Here's an [article from Ohio Capital Journal](#) on the subject.

Ohio Senate pretends to do something about student cell phones while doing nothing about student cell phones (or guns or poverty or anything else for that matter): "[The legislation](#) does not require schools to adopt a ban on all student cellphone issues, but that is an option if the school district chooses to do so," [Senator Andrew Brenner said](#). "It requires district cellphone policy to emphasize minimal use and least amount of distraction caused by cellphones during school hours. Districts that have a policy meeting these restrictions need not adopt a new policy."

Having passed the Senate in late April, amended [House Bill 250 passed the House on May 8](#) and now awaits the Governor's signature. The bill also changes the Military Enlistment Seal for Graduation and expands allowances for grade band changes in teacher certification. OEA wrote about the bill in their [May 1st Legislative Watch](#).

K-12 Gun Incidents Are Skyrocketing Nationwide: The numbers are alarming according to a [recent report from Axios News](#) and legit solutions are in short supply.

"Don't Say Gay": [Ohio shapes HB8, its "Don't Say Gay" Bill, to look more like Florida's](#) as it continues to move through the General Assembly. Critics argue that the bill will put already marginalized students in danger. The Center for Christian Virtue appears to be the only organization to have testified recently in support of the bill.

Uh Oh: Governor DeWine has signaled a [potential scandal at STRS](#). In response [Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has launched an investigation](#). No worries for those of us who've been burying cans of coins in the backyard in preparation for retirement.

Public Funds for Private Purposes: An [excellent piece of commentary by Denis Smith](#), a former school administrator and consultant in the ODE charter school office explains the danger presented by increasing vouchers.



Just in case you're planning any shenanigans over the summer, like teaching some kid to read without "science" or making a pedagogical decision uninformed by data, remember that the Governor is always watching.

Thanks to E-High's own Kerrie Johnson for the photo. That's "English" Johnson if you need further clarification.