

## September 2024 EEA Legislative Report

Welcome back! I hope that your first few weeks of school have gone swimmingly. Mercifully, with a major election in November lawmakers at the state and federal level are too busy campaigning to push any terrible legislation.

The deadline to register to vote in Ohio for November's General Election is October 7th. Use [this link](#) to get registered if you're not already.

**A win for teachers?** That doesn't sound right, but it is in fact the case. After the Republican supermajority in the Ohio General Assembly refused to fully fund the state school board it looked like the money was going to come from [an increase in teacher licensure fees](#). The Office of Budget and Management's Controlling Board [allocated emergency funds](#) to prevent the money from coming from the pockets of teachers.

**Politics or Reality?** It is not simply divisive political rhetoric to suggest that only one of the viable options for President supports public schools. The Republican Party has already shown their hand in [Ohio, and Project 2025](#) illustrates that a second Trump administration would seek to take nationally the culture war attacks on teachers, dramatically decrease funding of under-resourced public schools, [the elimination of Head Start, and the expansion of privatization tactics like universal vouchers](#). In its most diabolical promise, the plan would eliminate the federal Department of Education and threaten to eliminate all Title I funding.

Check out [Honesty for Ohio Education's analysis of Project 2025](#) and share it widely.

On the other hand, a Harris/Walz administration seeks to fully fund Special Education mandates for the first time, create universal pre-K, renew the child tax credit, assure the ability to teach truth related to history and race, protect LGBTQ+ and other marginalized kids, and expand funding for school breakfasts and lunches. As should be obvious, the NEA and AFT have endorsed the Democrats.

Check out the [Hechinger Report's look at the potential Harris/Walz education agenda](#).

**What's up with the Pledge of Allegiance?** That's what a few Ohio Republicans want to know. In what amounts to some obvious patriotic play acting, a new bill would force school districts to [publicly publish their policy](#) regarding the Pledge of Allegiance. The Supreme Court ruled generations ago that students cannot be forced to say the pledge, so the bill is largely pointless except to stir up ill will among conservative culture warriors.

**Ever get the urge to contact every legislator in Ohio responsible for vetting education policy?** ME TOO!!! Here they are. Give 'em a piece of your mind.

**Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee**

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