

EEA Legislative Report January 2025

Welcome back! With the exception of having to go outdoors in the cold of January & not having the freedom to pee when nature calls, I trust that your return to teaching has gone swimmingly.

The Good News: On Sunday January 5th [President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act](#), a bill long supported by NEA. The legislation eliminates provisions that limit Social Security payments for individuals who receive retirement payments from other sources.

\$4 Million More for Vouchers: The Ohio Legislature has shifted some more tax dollars into the budget of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (that's DEW to me and you) for its [ongoing defense in the lawsuit contending that Ohio's voucher scheme is unconstitutional](#). If it helps you sleep, an additional \$4 million in our tax dollars is a drop in the bucket compared to the \$1 billion the state already spent on vouchers to pay for rich kids to go to private school.

Trump 2.0: Just [what will a second Trump presidency mean for education](#) in Ohio? Less regulation? A war on intellectualism? The death of the federal Department of Education? Funding cuts for economically disadvantaged schools? More support for school choice? Increased attacks on marginalized kids?

Forced-outing bill: Governor Mike [DeWine signed a bill](#) to require school districts adopt policies related to religious release times, as well as require school personnel to out a student's sexuality to parents.

Public School Funding Cuts: Having spent roughly \$1 billion to send wealthy kids to private schools, Ohio Republican House Speaker Matt Huffman has threatened to [cut funding to public schools](#). He calls the fair school funding formula, which has yet to be fully funded, unsustainable. In response to Huffman's threats, legislators on both sides of the aisle [have vowed to protect public schools](#).

Elyria's House Rep Gayle Manning elected [Ohio House speaker pro tempore](#), the second highest ranking member of the body. Perhaps a wave of communication regarding fair school funding might be in order. [Contact House Rep Gayle Manning](#).