

## **March 2025 EEA Legislative Report**

*Once again, proposed education policy is arriving in torrents. As always, keep up with [Honesty for Ohio Education](#), the [OEA's Legislative Watch](#), and for good measure [ACLU Ohio](#) for a comprehensive and ongoing look at political developments in education.*

**“What happens in Ohio if the U.S. Department of Education is Defunded”** is an [excellent concise story from Morgan Trau](#) for those of us concerned about this issue.

**More on School Funding:** Despite lip service about helping kids, Governor DeWine appears to hold a special disdain for public school children. The analysis of his school funding plan in the budget proves that he will decrease public school funding by [\\$100 million over 2 years](#) while [increasing state money for student vouchers](#) to attend essentially unregulated private schools. Remember, roughly 90% of Ohio kids attend public schools, and a higher percentage of students with disabilities.

OEA President Scott [DiMauro has provided excellent testimony](#) in favor of adequately funding public schools. The [Chronicle Telegram did some solid reporting](#) on the local ramifications of funding cuts, along with input from local leaders. School leaders statewide have begun to [plead their case for fair funding](#) in Columbus as well.

**Longer School Year:** Ohio Republicans have introduced [a bill to lengthen the school year by 8-10 days](#). Yes, they're the same ones cutting public school funding. No, increasing expenses by adding days while shortchanging schools doesn't make any sense.

**Trump DEI Memo:** As a part of the ongoing demonization of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives, the [Trump administration sent a memo](#) giving schools two weeks to end them or risk losing federal funding. It is unclear what the directive means or if it is even remotely legal. Following the directive, Trump's Department of Education in conjunction with Mom's for Liberty launched an [“End DEI” portal](#) through which like minded parents can rat out districts, schools and teachers.

**Ohio DEI Bill:** Constantly seeking ways to appear as if he is accomplishing something while accomplishing nothing at all has become the calling card of Ohio Senator Andy Brenner. [He's at it again](#) with a state level bill to ban diversity and inclusion initiatives in K-12 schools. [Currently the bill does not define what these initiatives might be.](#)

**Bathroom Ban Begins:** [And no one is clear](#) what it means or who is supposed to be checking whose genitalia. The American Medical Association still opposes the policy.

**Computer Science:** [New bills](#) would [increase the Computer Science requirement](#) at state level for graduation.

**Free Breakfast & Lunch:** Senate Bill 109 is a bipartisan bill that would have the state pick up the tab for any shortcomings in federal funding for [free breakfast and lunches for Ohio students](#). Its sponsors hope to push for the bill to be a part of the state budget due July 1st. There is widespread support among Ohioans for free meals in schools.

**SB1:** [Resistance](#) to the “Higher Education Destruction Act” is [varied](#) and [ongoing](#) despite [President Trump’s demand](#) that student protestors be arrested, expelled, or deported. [First Amendment](#) anyone?

**Public Dollars for Unaccountable Private Schools:** Wait, doesn’t Ohio already do that? Yes, we do but SB68 would expand the program to create a [Nonchartered Educational Savings Account](#). Repeat after me and then repeat it to your neighbors and friends and legislators, “My tax dollars should not be used to fund your child’s unregulated religious education.”

**“Teacher Merit Pay” or “Not this again”:** Former Presidential candidate, entrepreneur and partner in DOGE with Elon Musk, aspiring Ohio Governor Vivek Ramaswamy has said that he will fix Ohio’s schools by [paying teachers based on their student’s standardized test scores](#). Ramaswamy has clearly not seen the generations of data that firmly prove that [a child’s scores best reflect their socioeconomic status](#), not the work of their teachers. Or maybe he has and he’s just not very bright.