

April/May 2025 EEA Legislative Report

Happy belated Teacher Appreciation Week! The state and federal government continue to actively undermine and defund public education as they slander teachers in an attempt to discredit what we do. May their hatred only make you stronger.

This April/May report is heavy on budget related information because the budgets being crafted as we speak will have an incredible impact on programs, personnel, class sizes, and academic offerings in all of our buildings.

So by all means keep an eye on the anti-public education shenanigans going on generally but pay special attention to the Ohio budget.

The Good News: [More than a thousand teachers demonstrated](#) outside the Ohio statehouse on May 1st in support of public education and in opposition to ongoing government attacks. I'm afraid the rest is not exactly good news.

Trump's proposed FY26 budget [would slash funding to public schools](#) by billions. Money for English Language Learners would be completely eliminated, along with funding for economically disadvantaged students seeking to be the first in their family to attend college. Special Education funding remains consistent. The only increase in funding would go to charter schools.

Ohio House Budget: Abandoning the Fair School Funding Plan, the House version of the budget, passed 4/9, is worse than Governor DeWine's proposal, making the state's share of education funding significantly lower than it was when the DeRolph case declared Ohio's school funding unconstitutional. The problems don't end there. Don't believe me, check these out.

[Ohio House GOP budget proposal slashes public school funding.](#)

[Northeast Ohio's biggest school districts could miss out on \\$345 million.](#)

[Ohio private school vouchers get double increase in funding over public schools in House budget.](#)

[Why Ohio districts are pushing back against House school funding, property tax plan.](#)

[Analysis: Ohio House Republicans say yes to football stadium, and no to public schools.](#)

['Vouchers by another name:' Ohio House unveils private school expansion plan.](#)

[Making matters worse](#), the House budget has a provision that [limits the amount of money a school district can maintain in reserve](#), which will force districts to return [millions of dollars](#) to taxpayers and make it terribly difficult [to remain financially solvent or plan for the future](#).

The good news is that the House budget is not the final budget. Having passed the House, the budget is now in the Senate for changes and then must be reconciled prior to the Governor's signature. Contact your [House Reps](#) but especially your [Senators](#) and explain to them why it is absolutely vital for Ohio kids to have adequately funded schools via the [Fair School Funding Plan](#). If you need ideas, see below for the email I sent last week.

Mike DeWine is banning phones in school again. Yeah, he did this last year too but that bill only required districts to create a cell phone policy. This time he says that the bill, Senate Bill 158, will legitimately [prohibit student cell phone use in schools](#).

OEA speaks out against school closure bill. [President Scott DiMauro provided a comprehensive takedown](#) of SB 127 in testimony against the bill which would force schools to restructure or close based on standardized test scores (read economics).

Ohio Republicans look to expand anti-DEI policy to K-12 schools. In the spirit of solving problems that do not exist, Senate Bill 113 would [ban all DEI programming in Ohio K-12 schools](#). It has been heard in committee several times without the opportunity to submit testimony. [There is a companion bill in the House](#), HB 155.

House Bill 190 would [ban all school staff from using any names or pronouns that differ from a student's birth certificate](#) without parental consent. Failure to comply could result in a loss of funding. The bill has been assigned to the Education Committee.

Reversing Senate Bill 1: Recently passed SB1 is an attack on higher education that limits classroom discussion, faculty strikes and diversity efforts. With ballot language solidified, [volunteers are currently collecting signatures to put a referendum on the November ballot](#) in order to reestablish workers rights, as well as academic and intellectual freedom.

Apologies. As always, there's more. I'm sure I've missed things and I apologize. If you're not already, be sure to follow [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.

Sample email on education funding...

Senator Manning,

I am writing you during Teacher Appreciation Week, a few days after the failure of a critical school levy here in Elyria, in the midst of a FY26 budget proposal by the Trump administration that would cut 15% of public school funding, and an ongoing refusal by the Ohio General Assembly to fully back the Fair School Funding Plan. To suggest that this is the antithesis of teacher appreciation would be an understatement. The current situation threatens the safety, well-being, and academic opportunities for the 90% of Ohio's students who attend our public schools.

You and I have been discussing education policy for a long time. Just as it would have been foolish to demand an end to all standardized testing in our earliest conversations, I understand the problem with demanding a wild increase in funding. Politics is built on pragmatism. That said, I am asking for logical, feasible steps toward more adequate and humane funding for schools, steps that don't seek to decimate public schools for the sake of privatization.

As a taxpayer I do not believe my tax dollars should be funding unregulated private and/or religious schools. It is un-American and seems Constitutionally questionable at best. As a school teacher and longtime advocate for young people in my community, I believe in the fair funding of Ohio's public schools.

We are counting on you to fight for us in Columbus. As always, thanks for your consideration of my opinion and efforts on behalf of myself and my students.