



OACTE, OAPCTE, SUED Legislative Update

2.17.26

2026 Legislative Schedule

The second year of the two-year legislative session is underway, as House and Senate committees have resumed activity. Lawmakers will work until the first week of June and recess until after the November general election for a final lame-duck session spanning four-to-six weeks.

While the Senate Higher Education Committee has yet to meet since November of 2025, the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee has met only a handful of times since last fall and has not focused its work on areas directly impacting educator preparation programs.

Bills on the Move

Senate Bill 19 - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/sb19/documents>

- The bill, which focuses on math intervention, is pending in the House Education Committee where it received a first hearing for sponsor testimony on February 4. The bill previously passed the Senate unanimously on November 19
- The bill features a math proficiency assessment system in which each applicant of a preK-8 license is assessed in their ability to teach math. While the results of the assessment will not have an impact on the issuance of a license, the results of the assessment must be certified to the applicant's employing school district. The district is prohibited from assigning an individual to teach math if the individual does not demonstrate proficiency in math based on the assessment. Retakes of an assessment are permitted under the bill
- The bill appears to have momentum behind it as there are indications that Gov. Mike DeWine may announce math improvement as a policy proposal in his upcoming and final State of the State address in March.
- While the bill garnered broad support in the Senate, it is likely to receive modifications in the House, namely to delay the timing and implementation of the bill
- Now is a key moment to engage with lawmakers on modifying the bill

House Bill 523 - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/hb523/documents>

- The bill, which both requires and authorizes stipends for student teachers, received a first hearing for sponsor testimony on February 4 and is pending in the House Education Committee
- Sponsored by a bipartisan duo of former educators Reps. Gayle Manning and Sean Brennan, the bill is not on the agenda for the February 17 meeting of the committee

Senate Bill 144 - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/sb144/documents>

- The bill passed the Senate unanimously on October 29 but has yet to receive a first hearing in the House Education Committee
- The bill is not scheduled to be on the agenda for the February 17 meeting of the committee

Senate Bill 311 - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/sb311/documents>

- A new omnibus education bill from Sen. Andrew Brenner is gathering steam in the Senate. The bill received a first hearing for sponsor testimony on February 10 and is scheduled to receive a second hearing on February 17
- Key provisions in the bill pertaining to licensure include:
 - Exempting educators who (1) hold a one-year out-of-state educator license and (2) successfully completed the Ohio foundations of reading exam on the educator's first attempt from the requirement to complete six semester hours of coursework in the teaching of reading to qualify for a professional educator license
 - Eliminates the option for a temporary educator license holder to complete six semester hours of coursework in the educator's area of licensure or an area related to the teaching field but retains the option for an educator to complete 18 continuing education units

House Bill 698 - <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/hb698/documents>

- A newly introduced bill from Rep. Tom Young would create a compliance and funding clawback mechanism related to colleges' and universities' compliance with Senate Bill 1. The bill, which was introduced on February 12, is not yet scheduled for a first hearing
- Key provisions of the bill include:
 - Naming the bill the “Compliance Supplemental Appropriation Act”
 - Requiring the governor’s executive budget proposal to include recommendations to set aside a portion of the state share of instruction (SSI)

funds for each state college or university for purposes of a compliance audit of Senate Bill 1

- Requires annual certification of SB 1 compliance with ODHE
- Permits the Chancellor of ODHE to audit instructional records, require documentation, and conduct reviews to verify a state institution's SB 1 compliance
- Requires, beginning in fiscal year 2028, the Chancellor to withhold that SSI set aside if the college or university fails to file a certification
- Prohibits reassigning, reclassifying, or otherwise disguising positions to continue DEI functions
- Requires colleges and universities to prepare an inventory of employees who performed DEI functions and were later reassigned in accordance with the law
- Requires colleges and universities to prepare for each employee and submit to ODHE a justification report containing (1) explanation of the reassignment, (2) proof that the reassignment consists of substantially different duties from DEI functions, (3) side-by-side job comparisons, (4) attestation of accuracy by the institution's general counsel, (5) itemized compensation breakdown, (6) compliance plan for ongoing review, and (7) certification by the president and chair of the board of trustees
- Requires the Chancellor to determine whether the proof submitted that employee assignments are different from DEI functions
- Requires each state institution to submit the inventories and reports within 90 days of the bill's effective date and on an annual basis by July 1
- Subjects the records to the Public Records Law
- Prohibits a state institution's instructional workload policy from establishing a minimum workload that falls below the prevailing Ohio standards for undergraduate instruction.
- Requires each state institution to adopt a retrenchment policy with specific prescribed factors in the bill
- Requires the Chancellor to review each retrenchment policy.