



Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

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**Take action —
Become an OEA
Member Lobbyist!**

Questions?

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Kasich Releases Executive Budget Proposal

On Monday, February 2, 2015, Governor Kasich released his Executive Budget Blue Book detailing his plans for the state budget for Fiscal Years (FY) 2016 and 2017. A review of the major provisions of the governor's proposal can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

The spreadsheets detailing funds for individual school districts were released on February 4, 2015. OEA staff is currently reviewing this information and will send out a simplified spreadsheet next week. Additionally, the actual budget language is expected to be introduced next week. This will provide valuable detail to the proposed policy changes. OEA Government Relations staff will share additional information as it becomes available.

HB 7 Would Provide Students "Safe Harbor" from 2014-15 Assessment Results

HB 7 (R-Buchy) would prohibit using a student's test score on any of the 2014-15 state achievement tests or end-of-course exams in any decision on whether or not to promote a student to a higher grade level or in any decision to grant course credit.

HB 7 will NOT change any existing requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The bill applies only to a student's scores on the state achievement tests administered in grades 3-8 and the end-of-course (EOC) exams under Ohio's new graduation requirements (this year's 9th graders are first class to participate). Third grade students are not required to take the PARCC third grade reading test this year.



The bill also provides that a student may retake any EOC exam at any time in a student's academic career. Further, if for any reason a student does not take an EOC exam on the scheduled administration date, the Ohio Dept. of Education is required to make the exam available so that the student may retake it at a later time in the student's academic career.

It appears that HB 7 will be passed quickly by the House Education Committee.

HB 2 (Charter School Reform) Gets First Hearing; Governor Provides Outline of Charter Reform Proposals

House Bill 2 (R-Roegner/Dovilla), a package of charter school reforms introduced by House Republicans, received its first hearing in House Education Committee on February 4. The committee heard testimony from the bill's sponsors, Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea), in which they highlighted concerns with the overall quality of charter schools and problems with the oversight system.

The OEA has welcomed the introduction of House Bill 2, but has been clear there is more work to be done to make sure we have comprehensive charter school reform that benefits Ohio's students and taxpayers. For example, one of the problems with the current system is that too much money is going to poor performing charters at the expense of kids in traditional public schools. The OEA looks forward to working closely with lawmakers to ensure meaningful accountability and transparency for Ohio's charter schools.

Separately, Governor Kasich has outlined a set of charter school reforms as part of his biennial state budget proposal. The Governor's plan includes penalties for charter sponsors with low ratings on Ohio's new sponsor rating system, but also would allow sponsors with the highest rating ("exemplary") to seek a property tax levy from voters to pay for operations if approved by local school boards. Charter school reform is also high on the agenda of Senate Education Committee Chair Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering).

ODE Releases Guidance on Student Participation in State Assessments

In response to inquiries regarding student participation in state assessments, the Ohio Department of Education has released a guidance document, which can be found by [clicking here](#).