



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

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Kasich Exercises Veto Authority— Reduces Funding for School Districts - and Signs Budget Bill

On Tuesday, June 30, 2015, prior to signing House Bill 64, the budget bill for Fiscal Years (FY) 2016 and 2017, Governor Kasich vetoed 44 provisions. In comparison, Governor Kasich vetoed 7 items in the FY 2012-2013 budget and 22 in the FY 2014-2015 budget. Below is a list of vetoed items of interest to OEA:

- The Tangible Personal Property (TPP) supplemental foundation aid in FY 2017 is intended to guarantee that districts do not receive less funding (state foundation aid and TPP replacement) than FY 2015 levels. This veto reduces approximately \$78.3 million in FY 2017 for nearly 100 districts that are reliant on the TPP replacement payments. The Governor retained the TPP supplemental foundation aid for districts in FY 2016. (OEA opposes veto)
- The school funding guarantee that each school district will receive at least 20 percent of the formula for each pupil that was subject to a phase-in of 15 percent in FY 2016 and 25 percent in FY 2017. (OEA opposes veto)
- The elimination of the Tangible Personal Property Tax on public utility generation facilities. (OEA supports veto)
- The requirement of the Ohio General Assembly to approve recommendations from the Ohio Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education on ways colleges and universities can reduce costs. (OEA opposes veto)
- The requirement for public and private colleges to offer associate degree pathways under Ohio's College Credit Plus program. (No position)
- The creation of a 13-member closure commission for the Montgomery and Youngstown Developmental Centers and requirement that the commission provide its report no later than 90 days after the Governor gives notice of intent to close. Requires that one member of the commission be a family member of a person who lives in the developmental center. (OEA opposes veto)
- The requirement that a Medicaid waiver administered by the Ohio Department of



Developmental Disabilities, that covers adult day services provided by sheltered workshops on the effective date of the provision, continue to cover these services. (OEA opposes veto)

- The prohibition of a sheltered workshop with a Medicaid provider agreement from decreasing the number of Medicaid recipients it is willing and able to serve. (OEA opposes veto)

OEA will provide a final analysis of HB 64 and school district funding spreadsheets once they are released.

OEA Urges House to Pass Charter School Reforms Promptly

The Ohio House headed home for summer recess without taking action on a bi-partisan charter school reform bill unanimously passed (30-0) by the Ohio Senate last week. The Senate charter school reform package is a revised version of HB 2, which was approved earlier this year by the House. The OEA has called on House leaders to enact the long-overdue accountability and transparency reforms in Senate-passed HB 2 in time for the reforms to take effect for the new school year.

“Students in Ohio are being ill-served by the large number of poor-performing charter schools, and they shouldn’t have to wait another year for much-needed reforms to be enacted,” said OEA President Becky Higgins. “There is broad, bi-partisan consensus that the problems that have plagued Ohio’s charter schools need to be fixed and the time to act is now.”

Among the key provisions in the Senate-passed version of HB 2 are stronger sponsor accountability and oversight measures that restrict ineffective sponsors from sponsoring new charter schools, and greater protection for taxpayers by holding charter school operators more accountable for the expenditure of large sums of public funds.

“There are modest, common sense reforms in the charter reform bill passed by the Senate that should not require lengthy deliberations,” said Higgins. “House Republicans, including one of the co-sponsors of HB 2, and Democrats have voiced support for the changes made by the Senate. Again, we urge the House to move swiftly to pass HB 2.”

In testimony delivered earlier this year before House and Senate lawmakers, OEA President Higgins urged legislators to address three critical issues in reforming the state’s charter schools: 1) accelerate the closing of persistently failing charter schools; 2) make charter schools subject to the same open records and accountability standards as other public entities; and 3) fund charter schools in such a way that does not adversely impact local school districts.