

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 525
Summary of Provisions
June 15, 2012

Sec. 3302.03 – Community School Enrollment Data

- Permits a municipal school district to have the enrollment data from sponsored or partnered community schools counted in the district's report card. Current law permits only the inclusion of academic data.

Sec. 3311.74 – Parental Involvement

- Requires parents of students in the district to attend one annual parent-teacher conference or similar event.

Sec. 3311.74 – CEO Authority on Low Performing Schools

- Enables the CEO of municipal school district to take corrective action on the district's lowest performing schools. CEO determines corrective action plan.
- Corrective action plan may include (but is not limited to) relocation of academic and financial resources, reassignment of staff, redesign of programs, etc.
- Lays out process which involves a recommendation from a "corrective action team" which includes representatives from the affected labor organizations. If the CEO disagrees with all or part of the recommendations, the CEO is permitted to implement in manner the CEO determines to be in the best interest of students.
- Content of a corrective action plan prevails over subsequent collective bargaining agreements.

Sec. 3311.741 – Accountability

- Requires the district to create performance measures of student achievement, progress, and college and career-readiness.
- The district will set annual improvement goals for performance measures and report annually to state officials on progress.
- In 2017, the state superintendent will evaluate the school district's performance on the measures approved under this section and issue a report to the governor and general assembly.

Sec. 3311.742 – Student Advisory Committees

- Requires the district and partnering community schools establish student advisory committees for schools with grades 9-12. These committees would be charged with making non-binding recommendations to school administrators and teachers in key areas impacting academic achievement.

Sec. 3311.751 – Facilities

- Proceeds from the sale of district facilities may be deposited into the municipal district general fund and spent to support operations if:
 - The facility is ten, or more, years old
 - There is no outstanding bond debt associated with the facility
 - The use of funds for operations does not violate existing agreements between the district and the municipal school district

Sec. 3311.76 – Waiver Authority

- The district may request to have specific administrative rules or statutes waived by the state superintendent of public instruction.
- The waiver authority is similar that of the Innovative Education Pilot Program.

Sec. 3311.77 – Contract Flexibility

- Enables district flexibility in the duration of a teacher contract offer.

Sec. 3311.78 – Differentiated Salary Schedule

- Requires a municipal school district adopt differentiated salary schedules based on performance, specialized training, and experience.

Sec. 3311.79 – Teacher Assignment

- Requires a municipal school district to fill teaching positions using building level hiring teams who provide a recommendation to the district CEO. Hiring teams will include the principal and teachers.

- Hiring team must consider several factors including the results of performance evaluations and whether an applicant has recently taught the subject area needed.
- CEO has authority to fill positions where there are no recommendations or in positions remaining vacant following the process above.

Sec. 3311.80 – Teacher Evaluation

- Expands timelines to ensure teacher evaluations inform municipal district decision-making.
- Requires trained evaluators.

Sec. 3311.81 – Non-Renewal/ Continuing Contract Eligibility

- Lengthens timelines allowing a municipal district additional years to consider whether to grant an eligible teacher a continuing contract or be forced to non-renew.

Sec. 3311.82 – Termination

- Expands the definition of good and just cause for termination/discipline to include a composite evaluation rating of “ineffective” for two consecutive years. Allows for removing poor performers regardless of contract status.

Sec. 3311.83 – Reduction in Force

- Requires municipal district to suspend the contracts of teachers based on performance evaluations ratings, beginning with “ineffective” teachers followed by “developing” teachers.
- Within each rating (e.g. “ineffective”) limited teacher contracts would be suspended before continuing teaching contracts.
- Modifies recall to operate first on performance and then based on the contract status within each rating classification (reverse of RIF).
- Allows specialized training or experience to be considered in RIF order.

Sec. 3311.84 – Principal Evaluations

- Establishes principal evaluation process and indicates that failure to meet academic performance standards is considered good and just cause for termination.

Sec. 3311.85 – School Calendar

- Provides authority to the CEO of a municipal school district to determine the school calendar, school day, etc.

Sec. 3311.86 – Transformation Alliance

- Permits the establishment of a municipal transformation alliance (Alliance). Alliance membership will include representatives from the district, partnering community schools, members of the community, business leaders, and foundation leaders.
- The alliance will conduct open meetings, be subject to public records law, and will adopt a conflict of interest policy.
- The Alliance will:
 - Make recommendations to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) with respect to the approval of sponsors intending to authorize new charter schools in the district.
 - Work with ODE and an Ohio charter school sponsor organization to develop criteria that must be followed by sponsors looking to authorize new schools in the district and to develop criteria to annually assess efficacy of district and charter schools.
 - Report annually on the performance of all district and charter schools in Cleveland.
 - Confirm and monitor the implementation of the transformation alliance education plan.
 - Suggest national models and provide input on the development of new schools (district & charter).
- The Alliance authority will sunset on January 1, 2018.

Sec. 5705.21 – Sharing of Local Property Tax

- Authorizes the municipal school district to place a local property tax levy on the ballot that would indicate X mills would be for the district and Y mills would go to high performing community schools partnered or sponsored by the district.