New Laws:
Bills Recently Signed by the Governor
Report Number of Students who are denied school breakfast/school lunch

- S-1896 Requires school districts to report at least biannually to Department of Agriculture number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch. Signed into law May 30, 2018 and takes effect immediately.

- Under current law, if a public school student’s school breakfast or school lunch bill is in arrears, the district must contact the student’s parent or guardian to provide notice of the arrearage and provide a period of 10 school days to pay the amount due. If remains unpaid, a second notice is then given indicating school breakfast/lunch will not be provided one week from the date of 2nd notice unless paid.

- This bill requires school districts to report to the Dept of Agriculture on at least a biannual basis the number of students who are denied school breakfast or lunch pursuant to current law.
Opioid Antidote in Schools (Narcan and Evzio)

- P.L. 2018, Chapter 106 - Requires Opioid Antidotes in Schools and Permits Emergency Administration by School Nurse or Trained Employee
- Signed into law by Gov Murphy 8/24/18
- Your policy must go into effect on December 1\textsuperscript{st}
- NJDOE Guidelines will be issued prior to December 1\textsuperscript{st}
- NJPSA is sitting on the working group
Must make accessible during the school day, school-sponsored functions on school grounds
- District has option to make it available at school-sponsored functions off of school grounds (field trips, the prom, etc.)
- School nurse and volunteer employee designees must be trained on standard protocols
  - Expectation of emergency first aid response
- Can enter into shared services arrangements with schools, with a local municipal alliance, or with your counties
P.L. 2018, Chapter 73 - School Recess Law

All school districts must provide a daily recess period for K-5 students.

Daily recess must be at least 20 minutes and outdoors if feasible.

Not required on shortened school days.

*Shall not* be used to meet physical education requirements.

Denial of recess permissible of code of conduct violations, IEP/504 Plan, or based on nurse/physician recommendation.

Recess denial for code of conduct limited to 2 times per week and “restorative justice/social emotional learning activities” required.
Bills on the Governor’s Desk
Bills Headed to the Governor’s Desk - School Bus Safety Bill Package

- On October 29th, the Legislature sent a package of school bus safety bills to Gov. Phil Murphy’s desk
- The bill package was the result of a fatal bus crash that killed a student and teacher from Paramus
- The bus driver involved in the accident had had his license suspended 14 times over 42 years for parking violations, administrative reasons and for driving with a suspended license.
- He had also been cited for speeding, improper lane change and had been involved in five other crashes
- This news left many parents and lawmakers demanding stricter standards for those responsible for transporting students
School Bus Safety: On Governor’s desk

- A-4339 Requires school bus operations in State to comply with certain federal regulations

- This bill requires school bus operations in the State to comply with the provisions of Part 40 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and various parts of Title 49 concerning
  - Civil rights requirements
  - Noise emissions
  - Certain federal programs
  - Registration and insurance
  - Drug testing
  - Safety fitness procedures and certain safety requirements
A-4342 Requires public school student to carry identification card at school-sponsored, off-campus activities and requires principal to keep list of students on school buses used for school-sponsored activities in case of emergencies.

This bill requires each school district to develop and implement a policy requiring all students to carry a district issued school ID card.

Students would not be required to carry ID while participating in an athletic contest or competition, activity involving fine or performing arts or any other extracurricular activity as determined by the Commissioner.

The ID is *not* considered a government record.

Takes effect 90 days after enactment.
School Bus Safety: On Governor’s desk

- S-2850 Requires Board of Education or school bus contractor, within one business day of notification that school bus driver’s license is suspended or revoked, to verify to DOE that driver is no longer operating school bus
- Under current law, the Department of Education is notified by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission if a school bus driver’s driving privileges are suspended or revoked. The DOE then provides this information to the appropriate board of education or school bus contractor that employs the driver.
- This bill requires the employing board of education or school bus contractor to provide the department with a statement within 24 hours of the notification of the suspension or revocation, verifying that the school bus driver no longer operates a school bus for the board/contractor.
School Bus Safety: On Governor’s desk

- A-4345 Requires safety education training twice per calendar year for school bus drivers and school bus aides.

- The bill codifies a State Board of Education regulation:
  - (that safety education program is required to be provided by the employing board of education or school bus contractor to all permanent and substitute school bus drivers and school bus aides)

- This bill specifies, however, that the safety education program must be provided twice every school year:
  - Once at the beginning of the school year and once during the 2nd semester.
The Safety Education program must include (at a minimum)

- Student management and discipline
- School bus accident and emergency procedures
- Conducting school bus emergency exit drills
- Loading and unloading procedures
- School bus stop loading zone safety
- Inspecting the school vehicle to students left on board at the end of a route
- The use of a student’s education records, including the employee’s responsibility to ensure the privacy of the student and his records

And the program must include defensive driving techniques and railroad crossing procedures
School Bus Safety: On Governor’s desk

- S-2848 Requires school bus drivers to submit medical certificate to employer to prove continuing physical fitness and to submit to medical examination that includes certain screenings

- This bill requires school bus drivers and applicants to submit proof of physical fitness in the form of a medical examination and accompanying medical certificate completed by a medical examiner listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME)

- Additionally:
  - Medical examinations required to be completed annually by school bus drivers 70 years of age and older
  - Every 6 months by school bus drivers 75 years of age and older
  - These exams must be by a licensed medical doctor or licensed osteopath physician (and not by a medical examiner listed on the NRCME)
More School Bus Safety Bill
(close to the Governor’s desk)

- A-2436 Requires certain school district transportation supervisors to complete educational program:
  
  Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a school district transportation supervisor who is newly hired or has less than 11 years of experience shall be required to complete the School Transportation Supervisors Program offered by the Center for Government Services at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey or any other certification program designated by the Commissioner of Education.

  Under the bill, the transportation supervisor will near the full cost of the certification program.

- Passed by the Senate; awaiting final approval by the General Assembly.
More School Bus Safety (close to the Governor’s desk)

- A-4224 Requires study of safety of school bus passengers in certain emergency situations, including school bus accidents; appropriates $250,000

- This bill directs the Commissioner of Education in consultation with others or by contract with a research institution to study the safety of school bus passengers involved in emergency situations, including, but not limited to:
  - School bus accidents, such as head-on, rear-end, and side-impact collisions, and situations where the school bus may roll over;
  - Safety technologies including but not limited to speed restrictors, automatic braking, electronic stability control, and event date recorders;
  - Qualifications for school bus drivers including but not limited to age, physical fitness requirements, and necessary experience

- The study is to include an evaluation of the statutory and regulatory requirements relating to school bus safety and the current policies, plans, and procedures implemented by school districts.

- Passed by the Senate; awaiting final approval by the General Assembly
Bills
Moving through the Legislative Process
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Bill Package
Moving through the Legislative Process
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-641/A-850 Report to the Police

- S-641/A-850 Upgrades penalty for failing to report act of sexual abuse against child
- Passed by the full Senate; awaiting vote by General Assembly
- Under current law, a person who has reasonable cause to believe that an act of child abuse has been committed is required to notify the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. Failure to report to this division is a disorderly persons offense
- This bill clarifies that the notification requirement includes acts of child sexual abuse, and upgrades the failure to report an act of child sexual abuse to a crime of the fourth degree
  - The penalty for a disorderly persons offense is a term of imprisonment for up to 6 months and a fine of $1,000, or both
  - The penalty for a fourth degree crime is up to 18 months imprisonment, a fine of $10,000, or both
A-1909/A-4404 Provides that a teaching staff member or substitute teacher, school bus driver, other school employee, contracted service provider, or volunteer, is guilty of sexual assault if he commits an act of sexual penetration or sexual contact with a student of at least 18 but less than 22 years old and has not received a high school diploma.

As an element of the crime, the actor must have “supervisory or disciplinary power of any nature or in any capacity” over the victim.

Sexual Assault is a crime of the second degree

Sexual Contact is a crime of the fourth degree

Passed Full Senate (39-0), Passed Assembly Education Committee, 2nd Reading in Assembly
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2715/A-4199 Sch Surveillance Protocol

- A-2715/A-4199 Requires Attorney General to develop protocol for retaining footage from school surveillance system

- The protocol would address matters including, but not limited to:
  - The amount of time that the video footage may be retained;
  - Measures to be taken to limit access to the footage; and
  - Compliance with the federal Family Rights and Privacy Act

- The Attorney General would be required to review the protocol annually and revise as needed

- Passed by the Senate (40-0); passed by the Assembly Education Committee, awaiting vote by General Assembly
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2707/A-4403 Sexual Abuse Task Force

- S-2707/A-4403 Establishes task force within DOE on prevention of sexual abuse of children
- this bill establishes a 17-member task force within the Department of Education to make recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in this State, including recommendations for school policies and training that address the sexual abuse of children.
The task force will:

- gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the State;
- receive reports and testimony from individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations;
- review steps taken and programs established in other states to reduce child sexual abuse;
- create goals for State policy that are aimed at preventing child sexual abuse;
- create recommendations and guidelines for school policies addressing sexual abuse of children. The recommendations and guidelines shall be flexible enough to allow accommodation for local autonomy and values;
- review current instructional programs or curricula provided in New Jersey schools on issues related to child sexual abuse, and create recommendations for a sample curriculum to be utilized by school districts;
- create recommendations and guidelines for school personnel to respond appropriately to students affected by sexual abuse, including any recommendations for teacher professional development and training on this issue;
- create recommendations and guidelines for age-appropriate, evidence-based child sexual abuse awareness, including guidelines for utilizing appropriately trained professionals to provide the student instruction and teacher training on this issue;
- create recommendations and guidelines for providing educational material to parents and guardians on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and information on assistance and referrals or resources; and
- develop a child sexual abuse protocol to be utilized by all community partners in order to help identify, prevent, and investigate child sexual abuse.
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2711/A-4405 Teacher Certification

- S-2711/A-4405 Mandates child abuse and sexual abuse training for all candidates for teaching certification
- This bill requires that all candidates for teaching certification receive training on the recognition of, and the requirement to report, child abuse including sexual abuse.
- If you’re certified via Alternative Route, you must complete the program within one year of being employed
- The State Board, in consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families, will establish the appropriate requirements of the program
- Reported out of Assembly Committee on 11/26; on 2\textsuperscript{nd} Reading in Assembly
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2712/A-4406 NJDOE Arbitrators

- S-2712/A-4406 Mandates certain training for DOE arbitrators
- Currently, the Commissioner of Education maintains a panel of 50 permanent arbitrators to hear tenure charge matters.
- The law currently requires that arbitrators designated to serve on the panel have knowledge and experience in the school employment sector.
- This bill would require additional training for arbitrators on conduct unbecoming an employee including, but not limited to, issues related to allegations of sexual assault and child abuse.
- The training would be for the purpose of assisting arbitrators in determining matters in which conduct unbecoming an employee is the basis of the tenure charges made against the employee.
- An arbitrator who is serving on the permanent panel as of the effective date of the bill will have 18 months to complete the training.
- Passed by the Senate (38-0); Passed by Assembly Committee, on 2nd Reading
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2713/A-4407 Report to Legislature

- S-2713/A-4407 Requires DOE to collect information on certain teacher misconduct and report to Legislature
- Requires annual collection of data from each school district on the number of school employees who were disciplined, discharged, nonrenewed, asked to resign from employment, resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while allegations of child abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual or other harassment were pending or under investigation, or due to an adjudication or finding of child abuse, sexual misconduct, or sexual or other harassment
- Also requires the commissioner to annually submit a summary report to the Legislature on the data collected
- Passed by the Senate (39-0), Passed by Assembly Committee, on 2\textsuperscript{nd} Reading
Child Sexual Abuse Bill Package
S-2714/A-4408 Failure to Report Abuse

- S-2714/A-4408 Requires school districts to notify State Board of Examiners when teaching staff member fails to report child abuse for determination of revocation or suspension of certificate

- The bills provides that if a board of education determines, pursuant to a tenure charge finding, or a disorderly person conviction, that a teaching staff member has failed to report an allegation of child abuse in accordance with State law or regulations, the board of education must submit a report to the State Board of Examiners that outlines its finding.

- The State Board of Examiners will review the certification of the teaching staff member to determine if the failure to report warrants the revocation of suspension of his certificate

- Passed by the Senate (40-0), Passed by Assembly Committee, on 2nd Reading
Bills Moving Through the Legislative Process - Sexual Assault Awareness

- A-769/S-1130 Requires school districts to incorporate age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades preschool through 12 as part of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
- Passed the full Assembly and Senate Education Committee
- This bill directs the Department of Children and Families to be the lead entity required to provide school districts with the age-appropriate sample learning activities and resources required under the bill, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education.
- The bill also provides that a teaching staff member may satisfy PD hours through participation in training programs on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention
- Passed the full Assembly and Senate Committee (Awaiting vote by full Senate)
Bills Moving Through the Legislative Process - Meaning of Consent

- A-2190/S-3108 Requires school districts to incorporate instruction in grades six through 12 on law and meaning of consent for physical contact and sexual activity as part of Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
- Passed the full Assembly and Senate Education Committee (Awaiting vote by full Senate)
- The required instruction is to be designed to increase discussion and awareness that consent is required before physical contact or sexual activity, as well as the social, emotional, and relational impact surrounding sexuality, the right to say no to unwanted physical contact or sexual activity, and the virtues of respecting the right of others to say no.
Bills Moving Through the Legislative Process - Child Trafficking Pilot Program

- A-1428/S-2653 Establishes Child Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program in DOE to train school district staff about warning signs and how to prevent child trafficking
- Directs the Commissioner of Education to develop and administer a three-year Child Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program to provide school district staff in selected districts with training on how to identify and respond to child trafficking
- At the conclusion of the pilot, Commissioner will submit report to the Legislature and Governor on the implementation of the pilot and feasibility of implementing the program on a statewide basis
- Passed the full Assembly and Senate Education Committee, referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
Bills Moving Through the Legislative Process - Depression Screening

- A-3926/S-2835 Requires public schools to administer written screenings for depression for students in certain grades
- This bill requires Boards of Education to ensure that students in grades 7 through 12 annually receive a health screening or depression
- The screening will be administered by a qualified professional
  - Includes school psychologist, school nurse, guidance counselor, student assistance counselor, physician, school social worker, or any other medical or mental health professional
- The screening will be the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 or equivalent depression screening tool
- The Superintendent is required to notify the parent of guardian of a student whose screening for depression detects a suspected deviation and encourage parent/guardian to share results with student’s PCP
- Passed by Senate Ed and Assembly Ed Committees; 2nd Referenced to Budget and Appropriations in both houses
S-2978 Requires DOE to develop and maintain list of textbook vendors that use inclusive material and school districts to use textbooks from those vendors.

"Inclusive material" means content in a textbook that accurately portrays the diversity of our society in such areas as gender, race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or expression and sexual orientation.

When a district determines to acquire a new textbook, it must select textbook from vendor on the list.

Takes place on the first day of the 19 month following date of enactment.

Does not apply to textbooks that require replacement due to loss or damage.

Has been passed by the Senate Education Committee.
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Sunscreen

- S-1803 Requires school districts to adopt policies concerning student use of sunscreen and sun-protective clothing at school and school-sponsored functions

- Under current law, sunscreen is treated as OTC medication and requires documentation from a physician in order to use sunscreen of sun-protective clothing (such as hats and sunglasses) while outdoors at school or school-sponsored functions

- Under the bill, school districts will be required to adopt policies concerning a student’s use of sunscreen and sun-protective clothing (and would have the option of waiving the requirement for documentation from a physician)

- Passed by Senate Education Committee; pending in Assembly
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Deaf Student’s Bill of Rights

- S-2044/A-1896 “Deaf Student’s Bill of Rights”
- The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended the bill on December 3rd, and voted unanimously to move the amended version to the full Senate
- The bill requires school districts to recognize the rights of students who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind
- Information, opportunities, access and appropriate placement
- The bill states that it is should not be construed to give any greater rights or protections than found under federal law
- Passed Senate Education Committee, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Education Committee
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Working Group Deaf Education


- On December 3rd, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended the bill and unanimously voted to send it to the full Senate.

- The purpose of the working group is to make recommendations on issues related to the early linguistic development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and issue a report no later than one year after it organizes.

- Working group will consist of 15 members appointed by the Commissioner of Education.
The bill also directs the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Health, to develop a parent resource guide for use by parents of deaf and hard of hearing children in order to:

- Help parents monitor and track deaf and hard of hearing children’s language acquisition
- Be appropriate for use, in both content and administration, with deaf and hard of hearing children from birth to age five, who use both or one of the languages of American Sign language and English;
- Be written for clarity and ease of use by parents
- Be aligned to existing instruments used by school districts to assess the development of children with disabilities
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Concussion Protocol

- A-1837 Requires public school students with concussion to be evaluated by licensed health care professionals before return to school; requires school districts to provide restrictions or limitations to student as needed
- Passed favorably by the Assembly Education Committee
- The bill provides that a student enrolled in a school district who sustains a concussion must receive an evaluation by a licensed health care professional and written clearance from the health care professional before return to school
- Also prohibits participation in any physical activity including phys-ed and recess absent written clearance from health care professional
- In the bill “licensed health care professional” means a health care provider whose scope of practice includes the ability to diagnose and treat a concussion
Passed unanimously out of Senate Budget and Appropriation Committee 12/3/18

Makes supplemental appropriation of $11,300,000 from General Fund to DOE to increase per pupil funding for nonpublic security aid

Under the appropriations act for FY19, school districts received $75 per student enrolled in a nonpublic school located in the district for the purpose of providing security services, equipment, or technology to the public school. This bill increases the funding from $75 to $150 per pupil

Even though many think the bill was in response to the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, the bill was actually introduced nine days prior and sponsors say it was not in response to any one event, but out of an unfortunate need for more school safety and security for all of New Jersey’s students
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Medical Marijuana

- S-10/2426/ A-10 Revises requirements to authorize and access medical cannabis; establishes requirements for institutional caregivers; revises permit requirements for alternative treatment centers; and establish additional legal protections for patients and caregivers.

- Reported from Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on 11/26/18.

- Makes various revisions to the “Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act,” including revising the requirements to authorize a patient for medical cannabis; revising the permit and operational requirements for alternative treatment centers (ATCs), including establishing discrete cultivator, manufacturer, and dispensary permits; creating a new clinical registrant permit, and establishing additional protections for registry cardholders.

- Additionally, this bill updates references throughout the current law to reflect the establishment of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC).
Bills moving through the Legislative Process: Adult Personal Use of Marijuana

- S-2703/A-4497 “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory and Expungement Aid Modernization Act”; legalizes personal use cannabis for adults; creates Cannabis Regulatory Commission to regulate personal use and medical cannabis; provides expungement relief for certain past marijuana offenses.

- On 11/26/18 this bill was passed the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and moved to the full Senate.

- The vote was Yes {7} No {4}. Abstain {2}.

- The bill was introduced as 68 pages and was amended in committee. The reprint is 166 pages.
This bill concerns the development, regulation, and enforcement of activities associated with the personal use, by persons 21 years of age or older, of legal cannabis or cannabis resin (the terms provided to distinguish the legalized products from illegal marijuana or hashish).

This would be accomplished through the creation of a new regulating entity, the Cannabis Regulatory Commission.

The bill also addresses criminal justice issues relating to the impact of the State’s prior approach to the illegal marijuana market, most notably in establishing a new expedited expungement process for persons previously charged with, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for any number of offenses involving: (1) unlawful distribution of, or possessing with intent to distribute, small amounts of marijuana or hashish, (2) possession of small amounts of marijuana or hashish, or (3) using or possessing with intent to use drug paraphernalia for marijuana or hashish, all acts which would have been presumed lawful acts associated with cannabis or cannabis resin in accordance with the bill.
Adult Personal Use of Marijuana
Continued

- The bill removes reference to “marijuana” and instead replaces it with “cannabis”
- It would legalize adult possession or use of one ounce or less (28.38 grams) and asserts that cannabis would be regulated “like alcohol for adults”
- Individuals must be 21 or older to consume, purchase, or participate in the market at any level
- There would be a 12 percent tax
  - Medical marijuana would remain untaxed
- 9 other states have legalized recreational marijuana for adults; NJ would be the 10th
- The bill could be considered by the entire State Legislature as soon as December 17th
Newly Introduced Bills
Provides tax levy growth limitation adjustment for school districts experiencing reduction in State aid

- Current law limits the amount by which a school district may annually increase its general fund tax levy without voter approval
- Specifically the tax levy may not increase by more than two percent, plus adjustments for enrollment growth and increases in health care costs and pension contributions that exceed two percent.
- This bill provides an additional adjustment to the tax levy growth limitation.
- The adjustment would be equal to the school district’s decrease in State school aid relative to the prior year

No movement yet
Newly Introduced: A-4692
Special Education State Aid

- Eliminates the use of census-based funding of special education in school funding law (Edward Thompson and Sean Kean Republicans LD30)
- Under the provisions of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, the State provides special education aid to school districts using the census-based method.
  - Under this method, districts receive funding for special education based on the assumption that a fixed percent of the total student population requires special education services (rather than using the actual number of special education students to determine the amount of State aid that school districts will receive)
- This bill will eliminate the use of the census-based methodology and would calculate State aid for special education based on the actual number of special education students included in the district’s enrollment
- No movement yet
Newly Introduced: A-4679
Sensitivity Training - School Athletics

- Directs Commissioner of Education to develop sensitivity training program for high school athletic directors and coaches of interscholastic sports programs
- Training program required to include (but not be limited to):
  - Gender and Sexual Orientation
  - Race and Ethnicity
  - Disabilities
  - Religious Tolerance
  - Unconscious bias
  - And diversity and inclusion
- Training must be completed every 4 years
- Within first year for new hires
- No movement yet
Newly Introduced: A-4695
New Offense: False Report of Child Abuse

- A-4695 Creates offense of making false child abuse report; permits assessment of penalty
- This bill would make it a crime of the third degree to knowingly or willfully make a false report of child abuse
  - A crime of the third degree is ordinarily punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to $15,000, or both
- The bill also permits the assessment of an additional civil penalty of up to $10,000, payable to the Department of Children and Families
- No movement yet
“Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act”; establishes school district responsibilities in educating gifted and talented students

Under the bill, a school district would be required to:

- ensure that appropriate instructional adaptations are designed for gifted and talented students;
- make provisions for an ongoing identification process for gifted and talented students that includes multiple measures in order to identify student strengths in various academic areas;
- maintain a list of students identified as gifted and talented in each grade for each school within the school district;
- develop and document appropriate curricular and instructional modifications used for gifted and talented students indicating content, process, products, and learning environment;
- take into consideration the Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards of the National Association for Gifted Children in developing programs for gifted and talented students;
- provide the time and resources to develop, review, and enhance instructional tools with modifications for helping gifted and talented students acquire and demonstrate mastery of the required knowledge and skills specified by the standards in one or more content areas at the instructional level of the student, not just the student’s grade level; and
- actively assist and support professional development for teachers, educational services staff, and school leaders in the area of gifted and talented instruction.

Introduced November 26, 2018 - No movement yet
Newly Introduced: S-3160
Later start for high school students - Pilot

- Establishes 4 year pilot program in DOE to provide later school start times for high school students
- Purpose is to implement later school start times for high school students in selected school districts and to study the issues, benefits, and options for instituting a later start time to the school day for high school students
- The pilot will:
  - Implement the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics on the establishment of later school start times
  - Include an assessment of the health, academic, and safety benefits associated with establishing later start times in high schools; and
  - Evaluate any potential negative impacts on school districts and families that may be associated with a later start time, including transportation issues and extracurricular activities and consider strategies for addressing same
A school district that includes grades 9 through 12 that wants to participate in the pilot program will submit an application to the commissioner.

The application must provide information on the number of students in the high school, the current start time to the school day for high school students, the rate of absenteeism and tardiness for the district’s high school students, and an assessment of teacher satisfaction and student engagement and attentiveness. The application will detail how the implementation of a later start to the school day will serve to benefit high school students.

The Commissioner will select five school districts to participate in the pilot program, and is required to seek a cross section of school districts from urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State.

Pending in the Senate Education Committee, No Movement Yet
Newly Introduced: S-3161/A-4450
School Bus Drivers - Background Checks

- Requires school bus contractor to provide information to board of education on results of criminal background checks of all school bus drivers assigned routes in district pursuant to contract
- Proposed for introduction on October 29, 2018
- Currently, required to provide criminal background check and MVC violations to Executive County Superintendent
- This bill would require that in addition, the school bus contractor would be required to furnish a criminal background check certification letter for each driver to the appropriate board of education
- Pending in Senate Education Committee - No Movement Yet
Newly Introduced: S-3163/A-4381
Opioid Abuse/Prevention Instruction

- Requires public high school students to receive instruction concerning opioid abuse and opioid abuse prevention
- Current law requires age-appropriate instructional programs on drugs, alcohol, anabolic steroids, tobacco, and CDS in grades K-12
- This bill would require that the instructional programs for grades 9-12 include instruction concerning the use and misuse and danger of opioid drugs, the connection between prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs like heroin
- The bill also has permissive language permitting school districts to establish a program to train 12th graders in how to administer an opioid antidote to an overdose victim
- Pending in Committees; No Movement Yet
Under current State Board of Education regulations, high school students are required to complete at least 15 credits in social studies, including satisfaction of a two-year course in United States history; five credits in world history; and the integration of civics, economics, geography and global content in all course offerings.

This bill directs the State board to require at least one course specifically in civics or United States government as part of the social studies credit requirement for high school graduation. The requirement would begin with the 2018-2019 grade nine class.

This bill requires the provision of civics instruction to middle school pupils in public schools. Current law requires a course of study in civics, geography, and the history of New Jersey to be provided to public school elementary students, but no similar requirement exists for middle school pupils.
What else is coming down the pike?
Path to Progress is a report issued by the Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup

Represents the first step in what will be an ongoing process

Legislation expected in the coming months

Much of what the report contains echoes previous reports (dating way back to when Governor Murphy was on the Murphy Commission)

http://pathtoprogress.org/
The Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup was comprised of 5 subcommittees that focused on 5 categories:

- State and Local Government Tax Structure
- County and Municipal Government Reform and Shared Services
- Pension and Health Benefits Reform
- Leveraging Assets to Stabilize the Pension System
- Education Reform at the Administrative Level
Path to Progress Continued

- Education Reform at the Administrative Level
  - School District Regionalization
  - Special Education
School District Regionalization

- Merge all K-4, K-5, K-6, K-8 and K-9 school districts into K-12 regional districts to improve the quality of education and promote efficiency.

- Permit the establishment of two county-wide school district pilot programs

  - On November 27\textsuperscript{th} Governor Murphy joined the call for Countywide School Districts in two counties, stating that he would ask the Legislature to work with him to create a new pilot program (similar to the recommendation from the Economic and Fiscal Policy Working Group).
Path to Progress Continued

- **Special Education**
  - Move toward full State funding and administration of Extraordinary Special Education
  - Establish a State-level group to address students for whom an IEP team is considering a residential program
  - Establish a Special Ed Study Commission
The Special Education Study Commission would be charged with:

- Identifying the current programs and services that are most commonly included in the requests for extraordinary aid
- Identifying the particular student needs that require intensive and high cost programs (medically fragile/behavioral challenges)
- Developing descriptions of what may be included in extraordinary costs
- Recommending thresholds and payment structure
- Identifying services that could be provided regionally to districts serving students with low incidence disabilities requiring high cost programs (such as therapists, medical, nursing, behavior analysts) and make recommendations for the creation and implementation of such a system
- Reform the hearing process for special education placements and disputes by appointing Office of Administrative Law judge with experience in special education who would hear only special education cases within a 60 day timeline
On October 29th a panel of three appellate court judges at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton heard oral arguments in a lawsuit that seeks to stop the state from using PARCC tests as a high school graduation exam.

The lawsuit stems from the state Board of Education’s decision in 2016 that students in the class of 2021 and beyond must pass the 10th grade English and Algebra 1 PARCC exams to receive their high school diplomas and that students graduating before that year can use scores from other approved tests to fulfill graduation requirements.

Argued that using the PARCC exams to fulfill high school grad testing requirements violates state statute (calls for a single, comprehensive test to be administered to “11th grade pupils”.

It’s unclear when the court will render a decision, and none of the judges on the panel said which way they are leaning.
Meanwhile, as this 2 year old case is making its way through the court system, the DOE has already been hard at work exploring ways to phase out PARCC.

Earlier this month the State Board of Ed took a preliminary vote to lessen the number of PARCC exams students will take in high school from six to four (which is still twice as many as the Murphy Administration wanted).

- Under the proposal, the 11th grade English test would be eliminated.
- All students would be given the 9th and 10th grade English exams.
- All students will also have a standardized math test in both 9th and 10th grade.
  - Either Algebra I, Algebra II or Geometry (depending on which course student is taking that year)
- Students who don’t pass could still go through a portfolio appeals process to earn their diplomas.

This proposal is currently in the 60 day public comment period (after which a final vote will be taken).

- Oral testimony was heard on November 7th
- Accepting written testimony until January 4, 2019
The November 7\textsuperscript{th} public ballot question asked NJ voters whether the state should borrow $500 million for school security, county colleges, vocational schools and water improvement projects.

Approved by the voters by approximately 53\% to 47\%.

This means that $500 million in general obligation bonds will be issued:

- $350 million for career and technical education grants and school security grants
- $100 million for school water infrastructure grants
- $50 million for college career and technical education grants
NJ School Bond Issue continued

- Requires a review and approval process for each type of grant, involving the Commissioner of Ed or Secretary of Higher Ed, in consultation with various government agencies
- County vocational school districts and county colleges eligible to receive career and technical education grants
  - Priority given to schools with:
    - Stackable credentials programs
    - Partnerships between vocational school districts and colleges
    - Partnerships between schools or colleges and employers to provide technical training
  - To obtain career and technical education grants, the county that established the vocational school or college must provide 25 percent of the costs of the project
Security projects defined as:

- The construction, improvement, or modernization of a school or school district for school security purposes, such alarms and silent security systems

- The Commissioner of Education in consultation with the Schools Development Authority decides the review process and criteria to receive school security grants
NJ School Bond Issue continued - Water Infrastructure grants

- The Commissioner of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection decides the review process and criteria to receive water infrastructure grants
Thank you! That’s all for now.