

Summary of Education Changes in Senate Bill 319

- **Use of student growth data:** Prevents districts from using student academic growth data in evaluations for the 2020-21 school year; permits districts that completed teacher evaluations for the 2019-20 school year without a student growth measure to keep those teachers on a two or three-year evaluation cycle, rather than having to revert to an annual evaluation.
- **Third grade reading tests:** suspends the requirement that the State Board of Education increase the cut score for 4th grade promotion in the 3rd grade reading test for the 2020-21 school year; also grants flexibility for districts to assign more teachers to assist struggling readers.
- **Homeschool students:** Exempts parents of homeschool students from the administrative requirement of submitting an academic assessment record for the 2019-20 school year to their local school district in order to continue homeschooling their child in the 2020-21 school year.
- **Graduation requirements and end-of-course exams:** Ensures that students who were not able to take end-of-course exams in spring 2020 due to the school closure order do not have to take those exams in the 2020-21 year or beyond by allowing those students to earn points toward those exams based on their letter grade for that course. Allows districts that awarded pass/fail credit to students for courses in spring 2020 to determine locally whether points should be awarded to that student. Further allows students who planned to retake end-of-course exams in spring 2020 to earn points based on their course grade for that related end-of-course exam.
- **Teacher contracts:** Allows a district board of education to provide a one-year limited contract to a teacher, administrator, or superintendent in lieu of an automatic continuing contract if the board elected not to evaluate that employee for the 2019-20 school year.
- **Reading plans:** suspends the requirement for certain districts and schools to submit reading achievement improvement plans or reading improvement plans for the 2020-21 school year.
- **Community school sponsor evaluations:** Prohibits ODE from issuing community school sponsor ratings for the 2019-20 school year, instead requiring ode to report results of sponsors' adherence to quality practices and compliance components based on available information, without impinging sponsors for their inability to provide information due to the school closure order.
- **Special education students:** extends the currently authority for licensed special education providers to serve children using tele-health and electronic communication methods through the 2020-21 school year.
- **Permissive furloughs:** allows district boards of education to temporarily furlough employees for financial reasons instead of having to resort to use of a Reduction in Force of their employees.

- **Funding for districts with valuation losses:** Provides additional funding out of an existing set aside for school districts that have experienced local valuation losses that were not accounted for in their state foundation aid due to the suspension of the formula for FY20 and FY21.
- **Bus Driver Recertification:** Directs ODE to create an online bus driver recertification program.