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S.B. 332
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Cutrona and Smith

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SUMMARY

School resource officers

- Permits a chartered nonpublic school to generally engage for school resource officer services in the same manner as a school district does under continuing law.
- Permits a chartered nonpublic school, prior to the 2026-2027 school year, to engage a school resource officer who has not, as otherwise required under continuing law, completed prescribed training and been appointed under a memorandum of understanding between the school and a law enforcement agency.
- Expressly permits a township police department to provide school resource officer services to a chartered nonpublic school in the department's jurisdiction.

Academic distress commissions

- Dissolves all academic distress commissions and transfers the powers held by the commissions back to their respective district board of education.
- Requires each district that had an academic distress commission dissolved under the bill to establish a student support team for each school building it operates that received an overall rating of less than two stars on its state report card for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.
- Requires the student support team to conduct a survey of student support needs, develop recommendations to support student learning, and submit the recommendations to the district board and superintendent for approval by the end of the school year in which the student support team was established.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Chartered nonpublic schools and school resource officers

The bill permits a chartered nonpublic school to engage for school resource officer services in the same manner as a school district does under continuing law. However, prior to the 2026-2027 school year, the bill exempts a chartered nonpublic school from continuing law requirements to only engage a school resource officer who has completed prescribed training and been appointed under a memorandum of understanding between the school and a law enforcement agency.

Under continuing law, a school resource officer is a peace officer who is appointed through a memorandum of understanding between a law enforcement agency and a school district to provide school resource officer services to the district or one of its schools. A school resource officer must complete a basic training program approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and, within one year after appointment as a school resource officer, complete at least 40 hours of school resource officer training.¹

Township police and school resource officers

The bill also expressly permits the police department of any township or township police district, with the approval by resolution of the board of township trustees, to enter a memorandum of understanding to provide school resource officer services to a chartered nonpublic school that is located within the department's territorial jurisdiction.²

Under continuing law, a township police department is one of the law enforcement agencies that may provide school resource officer services.³

Academic distress commissions

The bill dissolves all academic distress commissions established prior to the bill's effective date and restores all powers previously granted to the academic distress commissions back to the school district board of education.⁴

Student support teams

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the bill requires the school district board of education for which an academic distress commission was dissolved under the bill to create a student support team for each school building operated by that district that received an overall rating of less than two stars on the state report card for both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

¹ R.C. 3313.951; Section 3.

² R.C. 505.431(B).

³ R.C. 3313.951(A)(1). See also R.C. 149.435(A)(3), not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3302.10(A) (repealed and reenacted); R.C. 3302.103, 3302.11, 3302.111, and 3302.12 (repealed); Sections 4, 5, and 6 of H.B. 70 of the 131st General Assembly (repealed), and conforming changes in R.C. 133.06, 3302.036, 3302.042, 3302.16, 3302.17, 3310.03, 3311.29, and 3314.102.

school years. The bill requires the student support team to remain in effect until the school building receives an overall rating of at least three stars, at which point the student support team may dissolve, or continue at the discretion of the district board.⁵

Under the bill, a student support team must include the following individuals:

1. One school board member appointed by the school board;
2. The district superintendent, who will serve as the chair of the student support team;
3. The school building principal, who will serve as the co-chair of the student support team;
4. One or two school improvement specialists, appointed by the superintendent, at least one of which must be employed by the district;
5. Three classroom teachers assigned to the school building, appointed by the local association representing teachers;
6. One special education teacher assigned to the school building, appointed by the building principal;
7. One intervention specialist assigned to the school building, appointed by the building principal;
8. Two parents, selected by the building's parent-teacher association president; and
9. One individual from the Department of Education and Workforce state support team assigned to the region in which the school district is located.

The student support team may request participation of the following individuals on a meeting-by-meeting basis:

1. School attendance officers;
2. Nurses assigned to the building;
3. Counselors assigned to the building;
4. Mental health professionals assigned to the building;
5. Bus drivers that transport students assigned to the building;
6. With parental consent, students assigned to the building; and
7. Parents or guardians of students assigned to the building.⁶

Under the bill, the student support team is required to conduct a survey of student support needs that includes outreach to students, parents, teachers, and administrators within the school building zone. The student support team may request technical assistance from the state support team assigned to the district by the Department.

⁵ R.C. 3302.10(B).

⁶ R.C. 3302.10(C).

The bill requires the student support team to develop recommendations that propose strategies to support student learning at the school building level, which may include proposals in the following areas:

1. Parent and family engagement;
2. Creating a culture of academic success among students;
3. Building a culture of student support among school faculty and staff;
4. Student attendance;
5. Dismissal and exclusion rates;
6. Student safety and discipline;
7. Student promotion and dropout rates;
8. Graduation rates;
9. Linking community organizations, volunteers, and other resources with student support needs; and
10. Any other area the student support team determines is appropriate.

Lastly, the bill requires the student support team to submit its recommendations to the district board for approval no later than the final day of the school year in which the student support team was established. The bill requires the board and superintendent to review the plan and permits them to make changes to the plan in consultation with the student support team. The board may seek community feedback in one or more public hearings before approving the plan.⁷

EdChoice scholarship eligibility

Under the bill, any student that was eligible to receive an EdChoice scholarship because the student's resident district was subject to an academic distress commission may continue to receive that scholarship so long as the student otherwise remains eligible under the program. However, the bill prohibits the Department of Education and Workforce from awarding any first-time EdChoice scholarships under this category on and after the bill's effective date.⁸

⁷ R.C. 3302.10(D).

⁸ R.C. 3310.03(C).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	12-01-25
