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## Fwd: Education bill hearings stuffed into Wednesday

1 message

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 To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

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May Board Meeting

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From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>  
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## Education bill hearings stuffed into Wednesday

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

The House and Senate are scheduled to convene today, both at noon and both focusing mainly on bills that arrived from the other chamber at the chamber-of-origin third reading deadline a couple of weeks ago. That means the legislators will spend most of their time in committee hearings for a while.

Only one bill that impacts school districts is posted for a hearing today. At 4 p.m. the Senate Revenue Committee has posted [HB 1561](#), a bill that would expand the permissible uses for revenue generated by the 1% sales tax that counties were authorized to impose - with voters' approval - for school buildings only.

If the bill passes, revenue from that tax could be used "to hire a school resource officer or that personnel costs for school counselors, mental health experts." The bill also requires districts to develop "threat assessments" and in other ways send a message to the kids and the communities that schools are dangerous places.

There are 100,000 school buildings in the U.S. Since 1966, mass shootings (four or more victims) [have happened at 21](#) of them, counting at the college level. It seems likely the certain harm from frightening the students and parents will greatly offset the chance (virtually nil) that their school will be attacked.

**Wednesday is the big day for hearings** on School Code bills. The Senate Education Committee members are scheduled to gather in Capitol Room 212 at 2 p.m. with an [agenda of 21 House bills](#) and two resolutions.

[SJR 36](#) is a shell for the resolution both chambers must adopt if they want to reject any of the waiver 50 requests listed in the spring [waiver report](#) of the ISBE. The most-

requested (21) waiver would let school boards change the tuition rates they charge to non-resident students. The next (16) would ease administrative cost limits.

The resolution seems likely to be sent to the House to be amended with language rejecting or modifying some requests (those not rejected or altered are "deemed approved" under the law). Some requests are to extend the time given for previous requests. In most recent years, relatively few waiver requests have been rejected.

The other resolution (SR 299) would certainly have value even though its [first premise](#) - "mass shooters repeatedly target our schools" - is patently false. There have been a couple of scares, but no "mass shooting" has occurred at any PK-12 school in Illinois. Fomenting fear seems unnecessary for this measure.

The valuable suggestion offered in SR 299 (resolutions only suggest; they do not make law) is that all school districts should be urged to "adopt a Know Me, Know My Name plan to identify disconnected youth" and to "build a path [to them that gives them a sense of] belonging." The IEA has posted an [excellent presentation](#).

**The Senate Education Committee considers all** education-related bills. It doesn't have separate committees for different School Code issues like the House. So the [committee agenda for Wednesday](#) includes mandates (e.g., character education, LGBT history, work ethic), teacher issues (e.g., minimum salary), sex education, special education, and issues relating to the school report card, Chicago school closings - and more.

House committees, meanwhile, have absolutely [nothing scheduled today](#) that you should care much about. (Let me know if I'm wrong about that.) Except for Thursday's [Personnel and Pensions Committee](#) subject-matter discussions of "Buy-outs and Other Reforms, all the action will be in two committees on Wednesday.

The House PK-12 committee on [curriculum and policies](#) (10 a.m.) has a half-dozen Senate bills and a few interesting House resolutions posted. Resolutions, again, are suggestions that have no force of law. But they often hint at future legislation. I particularly like [HJR 60](#); boosting science education is always in order.

Pending bills include: [SB 28](#), an agreed bill on attendance for reimbursement calculations; [SB 117](#), requiring emancipated students to be informed if any records relating to them are destroyed; [SB 1249](#), requiring incidences of sexual assault by students against other students to be reported to ISBE, which will compile an annual report to the legislature;

[SB 1250](#), adjusting protocols for administering asthma medication; [SB 3171](#), authorizing schools to install a specific type of door locks; and [SB 1498](#), authorizing a "Agricultural Education Pre-Service Teacher Training Program."

**The House PK-12 committee on administration**, licensure and charter schools, is scheduled to convene at 2 p.m. Wednesday with a [relatively light agenda](#) of a resolution and four Senate bills.

[HR 88](#) urges enactment of legislation to include bilingual interpreters as needed in IEP discussions involving the parents of special education children. (This resolution, lacking the force of law, may be a preliminary step, after which legislation will be filed in this regard in the future, perhaps in 2020.)

Bills pending in this committee include: [SB 1213](#), a [controversial](#) bill to establish an "appeals process" for teachers who receive an unsatisfactory performance evaluation; [SB 1272](#), a non-controversial bill relating to the credentialing of speech pathologists;

[SB 1287](#), describing terms under which two school districts might "share" a superintendent; and [SB 1460](#), a bill to give teachers incentives (money) for achieving National Board certification.

**Why are you receiving this so late?** Ordinarily, a preview of the week will come to your inbox on Monday, or at least by the early morning of the first session day. Fact is,

some student infected me with the flu, or something like it, when I was visiting the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield on Friday.

This morning is the first time since Saturday that I've been able to sit up straight long enough to write anything. Soon as I get this sent to you via Constant Contact, I'll hit the sack again. My plan is to be able to do a round-up for you by Friday, but that may be just an impossible dream on my part. If so, it'll be Monday.

I know there's not much in today's message, but all the links are there (I think) to give you access to any bill that's posted. The second-chamger committee deadline is next Friday, and the third reading deadline follows that by two weeks. It won't be long before the enactments of this spring session are finalized.

Discussions of the big issues - revenue sources (more gambling), the FY 2020 budget - will continue under the surface for a while; all caucus leaders will play a role, but the key players are Gov. JB Pritzker, House Speaker Michael Madigan, and Senate President John Cullerton. Adjournment will happen on time, by May 31.

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4/30/2019

Pana Community Unit School District #8 Mail - Fwd: Education bill hearings stuffed into Wednesday

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