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## Assembly Education

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ALBANY - (05/18/2026, Off the Floor, 342 CAP)

The Assembly Standing Committee on Education met Monday to consider 17 bills. Chair Michael Benedetto and Ranker Douglas Smith were present, along with Assembly members Will Magnarelli, Amy Paulin, Phil Ramos, Ronald Kim, Steven Otis, Alicia Hyndman, Harry Bronson, Chantel Jackson, Marcel Mitaynes, Manny De Los Santos, Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Edward Gibbs, Sarah Clark, John Zaccaro, Emerita Torres, Michael Reilly, Sam Pirozzolo, Eric Brown, Lester Chang, Joe Sempolinski, and Brian Miller.

The following bill was reported and referred to Codes:

**N** [AB 8814](#) By McDonald, John T.. Relates to expanding opioid overdose prevention measures in certain settings.

The following bills were reported and referred to Ways and Means:

**N** [AB 9183](#) By Lupardo, Donna A.. Permits the Johnson City Central school district to create an insurance reserve fund.

**N** [AB10573](#) By DiPietro, David J.. Authorizes the Holland central school district to establish an insurance reserve fund.

**N** [AB10673](#) By Woerner, Carrie. Relates to certain lease terms for BOCES properties.

**N** [AB11296](#) By Lupardo, Donna A.. Permits the Vestal Central School District to create an insurance reserve fund.

**T** [AB11345](#) By Hevesi, Andrew D.. Establishes a task force to study and make recommendations on chronic absenteeism at public schools in the state of New York.

The following bills were Held for Consideration:

**N** [AB 2531](#) By Ra, Edward P,. Provides for an annual growth amount for tuition and regional rate reimbursement for approved school-age and preschool special education programs.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because a study is currently being conducted to evaluate the cost of special education programs. In response, Ranker Smith asserted that special education schools are "hanging on by a thread."

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 3631](#) By Tague, Christopher. Permits schools located within the state to purchase certain New York milk.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because schools are already allowed to purchase certain New York milk. Ranker Smith said schools should continue to be incentivized to purchase local products.

Chang noted kids like to drink whole milk and not skim milk.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 3638](#) By Tague, Christopher. Provides for instruction in food and agriculture in elementary and high school.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because curriculum changes should be decided on by the local districts. Ranker Smith noted that the bill would not mandate school districts to adopt the new instruction.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 5168](#) By Palmesano, Philip A.. Relates to the availability and purchase of zero-emission school buses.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill being held because it would extended the implementation of the All-Electric School Bus mandate by twelve years, which is believed to be too excessive. Ranker Smith noted that the bill would align school districts with state agency

mandates.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 5313](#) By Brook-Krasny, Alec. Allows home-schooled children to participate in interscholastic athletic activities and drivers ed in the district where they reside.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because further research is being done regarding the regulation of home-schooled children in interscholastic activities. Ranker Smith asserted that home-schooled children should be allowed to participate in the activities at local public schools, since their families pay local school district taxes.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 6144](#) By Lemondes, Jr., John. Requires instruction in agriculture.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because changes or additions to the curriculum should be decided on by the local school district.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 6733](#) By Bailey, Andrea K. (F). Relates to school safety measures.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because there are large parts of the proposed legislation that are unnecessary, and could have fiscal implications on local school districts. Ranker Smith explained that the proposed legislation would address pay inconsistencies between school resource officers and denied the bill would cause negative fiscal implications. Ranker Smith stressed that, by holding the bill, the Committee was "denying the opportunity to make schools safe."

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 7904](#) By Smullen, Robert. Authorizes school districts to establish reserve funds for special services or programs.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because it would limit reserve fund oversight. Sempolinski expressed his support for the bill, saying it would provide school districts more flexibility over their reserve funds.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB 8540](#) By Smullen, Robert. Enacts the Fentanyl Fathers and Mothers Act.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because local districts already have the authority to educate students on the dangers of fentanyl. Ranker Smith expressed concern that smaller districts may not have the resources to do so.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**T** [AB 9308](#) By Bologna, Paul A. (F). Relates to the electric school bus mandate; prohibits a mandate requiring school districts to purchase, operate or maintain any certain type of school buses; repeals certain provisions relating to electric buses.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because it would repeal the All-Electric School Bus mandate.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

**N** [AB10170](#) By Smullen, Robert. Relates to the development of fire science model curriculum for use by public high schools and boards of cooperative educational services.

Chair Benedetto explained that the bill was being held because local districts have the authority to make additions to their curriculum. Ranker Smith noted that the intention of the bill is to encourage kids to become volunteer firefighters.

The Minority voted in the negative against the hold.

Karly Cavanaugh / New York StateWatch

(R) / Brown, Eric G. (R) / Chang, Lester (R) / Pirozzolo, Sam T. (R) / Sempolinski, Joseph (F) (R) / Miller, Brian D.  
(R)

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