

House, Senate education committee chairs set priorities

In a recent interview with Gongwer News Service, State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) – chairs of the Senate Education Committee, and House Education and Career Readiness Committee -- shared their plans for the short legislative session that will occur before the 132nd General Assembly comes to a close at the end of 2018.

Lehner, who serves on the State Board of Education as an ex-officio member, has voiced general support for the board's recommendation to extend the relaxed graduation standards in place for the class of 2018. She sees graduation requirements as a key issue that should be addressed by the Legislature by year-end.

“Hopefully, we will (make changes). Exactly what that’s going to look like, I don’t know,” Lehner said.

In the interview, which occurred before the release of 2017-2018 report cards, Brenner, who also serves as an ex-officio member of the State Board, said results would likely inform the House education committee’s priorities, but indicated that the lower chamber will continue its discussion of several aspects of school safety.

Lehner and Brenner agree that consideration of recommendations to be made by a study committee tasked with identifying e-school reforms should be a priority. However, the panel – created through S.B. 216 passed by the Legislature in June – has yet to be formed; its deadline for submitting recommendations is Nov. 15.

