

To: School board members, superintendents, secondary school administrators, treasurers and other school business officials

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Re: Graduation requirements proposal being considered for inclusion in budget bill

The Senate is considering inserting a graduation requirements proposal put forth by the Ohio Alliance for High Quality Education, Ohio Excels, and the Fordham Institute into the state budget bill, Amended Substitute House Bill (Am. Sub. HB) 166. Click [here](#) for a summary of the proposal.

The Senate Education Committee heard testimony on the proposal on May 22nd. Several of those who testified spoke in favor of a proposal put forth by the State Board of Education in November 2018 as opposed to the proposal the Senate is considering.

The State Board's proposed changes are based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee for Graduation Requirements, a group of 25 stakeholders including superintendents, principals, teachers, and counselors.

The Ohio School Boards Association, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, and the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators offered joint testimony on the proposal. Click [here](#) for a copy of the testimony.

During the testimony, we again expressed our support for the State Board's proposal. Click [here](#) for a copy of previous testimony presented to the State Board in support of its graduation recommendations.

We are disappointed the State Board's proposal for a "culminating student experience" option is not included in this new proposal. Also, during our testimony we requested that the Senate make the following changes should they choose to move forward with the latest proposal.

- The “competency score” level should be set by the State Board of Education and not by the Governor’s Executive Workforce Board.
- Remove the at-risk student identification and student graduation plans for further review. These items look very much like the student success and career advising plans. In order to avoid duplication, more time is needed to look closely at the work already occurring in schools across the state.

The Senate will be wrapping up its work on the budget and making decisions on this proposal in the next couple weeks. We’ve been told there may be one additional hearing in the Senate Education Committee on this topic. We will keep members informed if a hearing is scheduled.

In the meantime, please reach out to your State Senator today and share your thoughts on the two proposals!