



Senate Education Committee
Am. Sub. House Bill 166 - Graduation Requirements Proposal Testimony
Ohio Association Secondary School Administrators
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
April 30, 2019

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the graduation requirements proposal being considered for inclusion in Am. Sub. House Bill (HB) 166. I am Barbara Shaner, advocacy specialist for the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators. Joining me today for this testimony and in answering your questions are Jennifer Hogue, representing the Ohio School Boards Association, and Thomas Ash with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). Our organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents and secondary school principals from around the state. Our members have a deep interest in creating a long-term set of graduation requirements that grant all students the opportunity to demonstrate preparedness for post-high school success.

Last year, the State Board of Education convened the Advisory Committee for Graduation Requirements, a group of 25 stakeholders including superintendents, principals, and teachers. The committee met multiple times over several months to address this important issue. The State Board of Education adopted graduation requirement recommended changes based on the work of the Advisory Committee.

Our organizations testified in support of the State Board of Education's proposal on graduation requirements in November of 2018. What we supported most about that plan was its expansion of opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. No longer would tests be the only path to a high school diploma. Instead, the students could demonstrate their readiness for post-high school success through a variety of both test and non-test options. While the proposal before the Senate incorporates some of the State Board's proposal, **we have concerns that it still relies heavily on tests and only provides additional paths to graduation once test options have been utilized.**

We also have serious concerns about the creation and development of the "competency" score contained in the recent proposal released last week, and we question the need to create an additional scoring level when five scoring levels already exist. **If such a score level is created, however, we believe it should be determined by the State Board of Education, not the**

Governor's Executive Workforce Board. Currently, all scoring levels set for state assessments are determined by the State Board of Education. Those decisions are conducted by the State Board in a transparent and accountable manner that is open to the public and in collaboration with stakeholders. We are uncertain that will be the case under this proposal.

Finally, we are concerned about the **potential redundancies in the proposal regarding the at-risk identification and student graduation plan provisions.** We believe the recently created Student Success Plans and career advising policies can incorporate much of the added provisions from this proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.