

OASSA LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2016-2017

FUNDING: OASSA supports the concept of providing equitable and adequate state funding for public schools. Further, the association supports the concept of providing flexibility to local school districts in generating local revenues. The association will monitor legislation for fairness and to ensure local ability to provide services beyond those provided by the state.

OASSA supports legislation that will:

- A. Make educational funding the first priority in the State of Ohio.
- B. Require that any increase in revenue from any new source shall be used to enhance educational funding rather than replace existing revenue.
- C. Comply with all the requirements of the DeRolph I, II, III and IV decisions, especially the over reliance on property tax, to provide an equitable and adequate opportunity for learning for all Ohio public school students without causing a “Robin Hood” effect.
- D. Provide additional funding directly to individual districts for pre-service training of individuals identified as potential administrators.
- E. Appropriate funding for in-service and training of current and new administrators through their professional associations.
- F. Provide additional and appropriate funding to meet the program needs of gifted, special, and Career-Technical education and English language learners.
- G. Provide for appropriate funding for all previously legislated mandates, as well as state appropriation to adequately fund any new mandates.
- H. Require that all governmental tax abatement plans that affect public education be developed in cooperation with the local school district.
- I. Provide additional and appropriate funding for capital improvements for districts in need of bringing buildings up to 21st century standards.
- J. Provide additional and provide for appropriate funding for technology equipment and staff training for districts.
- K. Require accurate accounting for and reporting of distribution of funds for public K-12 education.
- L. Provide full and permanent reimbursement for the phase-out of the business tangible personal property tax and personal utility tax.
- M. Prohibit the loss of revenue to local school districts that may result from new residential construction; repeal HB 920.
- N. Hold harmless school districts that lose revenue and/or academic rating due to credit programs such as college credit plus, credit flexibility, etc.
- O. Preclude any reduction in funding for public K-12 education
- P. Reimburse school districts for revenue lost due to College Credit Plus.

PROFESSIONAL DUES, ANNUITIES, ETC.: OASSA supports requiring Treasurers of boards of education to forward all monies withheld from employee paychecks for optional deductions such as professional dues, tax sheltered annuities, credit union, etc., to all designated agencies within ten working days of the deductions.

RETIREMENT: OASSA will support legislation which will provide a maximum retirement and affordable health care from Ohio’s public retirement systems while still protecting the fiscal integrity of the retirement systems.

SOCIAL SECURITY: OASSA will oppose any state and/or federal legislation that will require Ohio’s retirement systems to be placed under the Social Security System.

LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR/DAY: OASSA will support the state’s fully funding any increase in the number of hours in the school year, the length of the school day, and mandatory summer school programs. OASSA will support legislation which gives school districts and career technical centers flexibility in scheduling nontraditional students (i.e. fifth year students).

TEACHER EVALUATION: OASSA supports legislation that extends the evaluation deadline for teachers who are absent during the required evaluation periods a number of days equal to the number of days the teacher has been absent.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION: OASSA supports legislation that requires non-renewal of an administrator’s contract to be based on performance as reflected in a standards-based evaluation system that includes goals and objectives that are mutually agreed upon by the administrator and the evaluator.

OASSA supports legislation that re-instates the deadline for acting on administrators’ contracts to March 31.

EDUCATOR EVALUATION: OASSA supports legislation that eliminates the student growth measure, and maintains the performance measure.

STAFF EVALUATION IN GENERAL: OASSA supports legislation that requires input from the education community when changes to the evaluation process are mandated by the General Assembly.

HOME SCHOOLING: OASSA supports legislation requiring home-schooled or non-chartered school students wishing to enroll in a regular school program to demonstrate successful completion of curriculum requirements and/or units of credit requested as established by local boards of education.

OASSA opposes legislation that will remove the local public school district's control over any student not enrolled in the districts curricular program and that student's participation in extra-curricular activities.

COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS: OASSA continues to support legislation that would require all Ohio schools to meet the same accountability and reporting standards.

STUDENT DUE PROCESS: OASSA endorses the concept of due process for students but opposes any legislation which would require more extensive due process procedures than the law now requires.

DISCIPLINE: OASSA opposes legislation that affects the decision-making process of the local board of education as it relates to discipline policies and programs.

- OASSA supports legislation requiring firm, fair and consistent discipline in all schools with maximum emphasis placed on the safety and improvement of student behavior.
- OASSA supports legislation that promotes safe schools by not counting suspensions against the attendance rate and state funding formula and expulsions against the dropout rate and graduation rate.
- OASSA will continue to support legislation that takes a strong and decisive position against weapons, violence, and the threat of violence in the school.
- OASSA will support federal legislation providing for equal discipline measures for all students regardless of their abilities or handicaps.
- OASSA supports the statutory language on reasonable use of restraint [ORC 3319.41(g)] and encourages legislation which would reconcile conflicts in the interpretation of ORC 3319.41 and 2919.22, and provide adequate funding.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD:

• OASSA supports legislation or policy that recognizes approved educational options such as G.E.D., Adult Education as programs that do not count against the school dropout rate and graduation rate; students who graduate on or before September 15 and special education students who take more than four years to graduate should not count against the school graduation rate. Dropout students who return and complete the high school program should not be counted against the school or district.

• OASSA supports legislation that reduces state and federal assessments to absolute minimums. Additionally, OASSA supports legislation that would bring stability to state and federal assessments eliminating the practice of constant change.

ACCOUNTABILITY: OASSA supports legislation that would expand state mandated testing windows, providing increased flexibility for local school calendars.

STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: OASSA will support legislation that will enable a school district to withhold the grades and credit of a student who does not return funds raised in a school sponsored fund raising activity or who does not return equipment issued for an extracurricular activity.

LICENSURE: OASSA will support legislation that establishes rules for reciprocity with other states in regard to licenses or certificates of educators other than teachers (i.e. administrators, guidance counselors, library/media personnel, and paraprofessionals). OASSA also supports the necessity of criminal records background checks for educator licensure.

STATUS AND WELFARE: OASSA supports legislation which would repeal the provision of HB 269, ORC 3311.72, that requires administrators in the Cleveland City Schools to work "at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Officer", thereby including them under the provisions of administrative contract law as stated in ORC 3319.02.

Recommended by the Legislative Committee at its meeting on September 27, 2016

Approved by the OASSA Board of Directors on October 9, 2016