



OEA Legislative Watch

January 28, 2011

House Bill 21 Requires Use of Value-Added in Licensure Eligibility and Model Evaluations; Gives Fast-track Licensure Program Participants Professional License; Lifts Charter E-School Moratorium

State Representative Courtney Combs (R-Fairfield) has introduced House Bill 21, which would:

- Require that applicants for the professional educator license, senior professional educator license, and the lead professional educator license demonstrate that students in the applicant's classroom achieve a value-added measure.
- Require the Educator Standards Board (ESB) to develop model teacher and principal evaluation instruments and processes that include value-added data and other standardized evidence of student achievement gains.
- Qualify individuals who have completed two years in the Teach for America (TFA) program for a professional educator license.
- Lift the moratorium on new internet or computer-based community schools (e-schools).

House Bill 21 has no co-sponsors and received sponsor testimony in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 26, 2011.

The Ohio Education Association opposes House Bill 21. First, value-added data is not designed to be a valid and reliable measure for use in high-stakes decisions such as licensure eligibility or performance evaluations. Second, the TFA program has not demonstrated that it equips beginning teachers for effective practice. Third, the General Assembly should fulfill the process already in law to lift the charter e-school moratorium, which first requires the adoption of standards that ensure the accountability and transparency of these schools.

To email your State Representative, go to: <http://aces.ohea.org>

Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

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House Bill 30 Would End Ohio's Commitment to Universal All-Day Kindergarten, Shorten School District Financial Forecasts, and Repeal Important Education Reforms

House Bill 30, introduced by State Representative Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), would:

- Eliminate the requirement that all Ohio school districts implement all-day Kindergarten,
- Repeal a number of recent education reforms, such as the School Funding Advisory Council, the Closing the Achievement Gap Initiative, Family and Civic Engagement Teams and class-size requirement of 15 students per teacher in Kindergarten through third grade.
- Reduce from five years to three years the period covered by financial forecasts of school districts.

House Bill 30 has 28 co-sponsors and received sponsor testimony in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 26, 2011.

Universal All-Day Kindergarten: The Ohio Education Association (OEA) strongly supports universal all-day Kindergarten and believes that Ohio should continue its commitment to providing this critical education opportunity to all students. The OEA believes that Ohio should help school districts fulfill this obligation and maintain local flexibility for districts working to address challenges in implementation. In times of limited resources, all-day Kindergarten is a strategic investment that should be prioritized because of its long-term impact on student success.

Repeal of Recent Education Reforms: The OEA opposes the proposal to eliminate recent education reforms, such as:

- School Funding Advisory Council
- Closing the Achievement Gap Initiative
- Family and Civic Engagement Teams
- Class-size requirement of 15 students per teacher in Kindergarten through third grade.

These reforms are worthy investments that help to improve Ohio's school funding system and strategically target ways to improve student achievement.

School District Financial Forecasts: The OEA supports reducing the period covered by financial forecasts of school districts, which will be more accurate and help avoid unnecessary reductions in teacher and education support personnel staffing based on projected deficits.

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House Bill 36 – Calamity Day Bill Introduced

State Representatives Casey Kozlowski (R-Pierpont) and John Carey (R-Wellston), along with 23 co-sponsors, have introduced House Bill 36, which would excuse up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the 2010-2011 school-year and thereafter. The bill is declared an emergency. The bill allows for school districts to develop a contingency plan that calls for making up an additional five days by increasing the length of other school days or by adding full days to the school calendar.

Current law requires school districts to make up full days in their contingency plans. The hour addition is an option only after the school district has exhausted its calamity days and days in its contingency plan.

The OEA believes that the safety of Ohio's schoolchildren should be of utmost importance to school districts. District officials must have the authority to decide what is best for the community in the event of inclement weather. House Bill 36 has not yet been scheduled for a hearing. The OEA is neutral on this bill.