



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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OEA Legislative Watch

An OEA Newsletter

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

Take action — Become an OEA Member Lobbyist!

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November 11, 2013

Common Core Curriculum Bills Receive Hearings

Senate Bill 229 (R-Gardner) Would Lower Academic Growth Factor on Teacher Evaluations and Reduce Frequency of Evaluations for Highly Rated Teachers

Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) has introduced legislation that would help make Ohio’s new system for evaluating teachers more effective, fair and efficient. The OEA supports SB 229 as part of ongoing efforts to make progress on addressing various concerns with Ohio’s Teacher Evaluation System (OTES). SB 229 contains the following proposals:

- Lowers the academic growth factor percentage required on teacher evaluations to 35% from the current 50%. A school district may attribute an additional percentage to the academic growth factor not to exceed fifteen percent of an evaluation. The academic growth factor under the OTES is based on value-added and/or other student growth measures, depending on the subjects and grades in a teacher’s course load.
- Authorizes local school boards to reduce the frequency of evaluations required for teachers who receive an evaluation rating of “Skilled” or “Accomplished” (the top two ratings).

O A school board may evaluate each teacher rated “Accomplished” on the teacher’s most



recent evaluation once every three school years. Currently, a board may elect to evaluate an “Accomplished” teacher once every two years, instead of annually.

O A school board may evaluate each teacher rated “Skilled” on the teacher’s most recent evaluation once every two years. Currently, a board is required to conduct annual evaluations for teachers rated “Skilled.”

House Bill 237 (R-Thompson) Would Repeal Ohio’s Adoption of Common Core Curriculum Standards

HB 237 is sponsored by Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta). The OEA opposes HB 237, which would repeal Ohio’s adoption of the Common Core Curriculum standards. The OEA supports Ohio’s participation in the Common Core, along with over 40 other states in the nation, because higher education standards will better prepare students for success in college and careers in an increasingly competitive global economy. HB 237 recently received sponsor testimony in House Education Committee. The chair of the House Education Committee (R-Stebelton) opposes the repeal of Common Core, as does the chair of the Senate Education Committee (R-Lehner).

The Common Core is a state-lead effort to raise and improve education standards across the nation, while still retaining local control. The curriculum standards were developed through a bipartisan initiative lead by state education superintendents and governors, along with hundreds of teachers, school administrators, education researchers, policy makers and parents.

The OEA recognizes that there are numerous practical challenges that need to be addressed in order to maximize the success and effectiveness of implementation at the local level. The OEA will advocate for policy makers to address a number of ongoing concerns, which include the need to ensure that schools and teachers have sufficient planning time, resources, professional development and technological capacity to support student learning under the Common Core.

House Bill 193 (R-Brenner) – Revision of High School Graduation Requirements

The House Education Committee accepted a HB 193 substitute bill for consideration on November 6, 2013. The HB 193 substitute bill contains a proposal for revising graduation requirements in expectation of the full implementation of the Common Core Curriculum and related assessments. HB 237 clarifies that the new graduation requirements, which will replace the Ohio Graduation Test, are applicable to students entering ninth grade after July 1, 2014. The OEA is still reviewing Sub. HB 193 and will be closely engaged in developments surrounding the revision and implementation of graduation requirements.





HB 152 (R-Maag) – Public Sector Right-to-Work (Is Wrong!)

HB 152 is sponsored by Rep. Ron Maag (R-Lebanon) and has yet to receive a hearing. The Chair of the House State and Local Government Committee, Rep. Terry Blair (R-Dayton), suggested in late October that he would hold sponsor testimony on the bill at a November 5, 2013 committee hearing (Rep. Blair is a co-sponsor of HB 152). Although a hearing on HB 152 was never formally scheduled, the We Are Ohio coalition, including the OEA, put in motion preparations for the hearing. Ultimately, the chair canceled the committee hearing entirely. There have been no further indications or committee announcements with regard to scheduling HB 152 for a hearing.

