



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!

Questions?

Contact your Government Relations Team

David Williams
Interim Director
williamsd@ohea.org

Melissa Clark
Lobbyist
clarkm@ohea.org

Robert Davis
Lobbyist
davisr@ohea.org

Matthew Dotson
Lobbyist
dotsonm@ohea.org

Dan Ramos
UniServ Political Advocacy Consultant
ramosd@ohea.org

Russ Harris
Education Research Development Consultant
harrisr@ohea.org

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House Education Committee Passes Bill that Would Delay Implementation of New Graduation Requirements and End-of-Course Assessments by One Year; Provide Flexibility on use of Value-Added in Teacher Evaluations for 2014-15 School Year

The Ohio House Education Committee approved legislation on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 that contains a number of significant provisions supported by the OEA. The bill, an amended version of HB 193 (R-Brenner), passed out of committee 14-1. HB 193 is expected to receive a House floor vote in early 2014 after the holiday recess, then head to the Senate for consideration.

Recognizing concerns expressed by the OEA about school district readiness and capacity, the bill would push the administration of new-end-of-course exams into the 2015-16 year and would delay the phase-out of the Ohio Graduation Test to the class of 2019 (students entering 9th grade after July 1, 2015). These changes would provide an additional year of transition for school districts and would also require the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to conduct a “comprehensive survey” of school capacity to administer tests online, as well as assess training needs for teachers and students. ODE would be required to provide a formal report on the school readiness and capacity survey to the Ohio General Assembly.

Other positive changes to the bill would allow schools to utilize a progress measure other than “value-added” on teacher evaluations for the 2014-15 school year and establish a one year “safe harbor” for all school and district sanctions based on academic performance (e.g., becoming



eligible for start-up charter schools and vouchers).

Legislation that Would Lower the Academic Growth Factor on Teacher Evaluations (SB 229) Expected to Top the House Education Committee Agenda in Early 2014

After being passed 33-0 in the Ohio Senate, SB 229 (R-Gardner) is expected to be at the top of the House Education Committee agenda when the General Assembly returns from holiday recess in early 2014. SB 229 would adjust the academic growth factor on teacher evaluations to 35% from the current 50%. While there continues to be resistance in the House to lowering the academic growth factor on teacher evaluations, SB 229 will provide a significant opportunity to secure the support needed to address this issue, as well as bring attention to other concerns surrounding the implementation of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES).

Please use the links below to thank your state Senator for voting “Yes” on SB 229 and urge your state Representative to support this important legislation.

[Click here to thank your state Senator for voting “Yes” on SB 229.](#)

[Click here to urge your state Representative to support the passage of SB 229.](#)

