



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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House Bill 343: Eliminates Minimum Teacher Salaries and Single Salary Schedule

On Monday November 17, 2014, the House Education Committee passed HB 343 (R-Stebelton) on a party line vote, with all Democrats voting “No”. A last-minute amendment to the bill would eliminate the minimum teacher salary schedule in Ohio law, as well as the requirement for a single salary schedule for teachers and school employees (which requires equal base pay for individuals with the same experience and training).

The OEA testified before the House Education Committee expressing strong opposition to the elimination of the salary schedule provisions in Ohio law. To see a copy of the OEA testimony, [click here](#). Ohio needs to focus on ways to pay our committed educators more, not make it easier to pay them less.

HB 343 was initially expected to be passed on the House floor on Thursday, November 20, 2014. However, the bill did not go to the House floor on Thursday due to “ongoing discussions” amongst House Republicans regarding the removal of the salary schedule provisions. Earlier this week, the State Superintendent and Governor expressed opposition to including the salary schedule removal language in HB 343. In addition, there appears to be a solid block of opposition in the Senate to removing the salary schedule language from law.

This is the third recent effort to remove minimum teacher salaries and the single salary schedule requirement from Ohio law, all of which have been strongly opposed by the OEA. The first attempt was Senate Bill 5, which was subsequently repealed by Issue 2. The second attempt was in the last state budget bill (HB 59), where it was passed by the House, but was subsequently reinstated by the Senate before the bill was sent to the Governor. The OEA will continue to strongly advocate for keeping minimum teacher salaries and the single salary schedule in Ohio law.

Be an Advocate for Children and Education (ACE) by emailing a letter to your state Representative and state Senator asking them to oppose removal of minimum teacher salaries and the single salary schedule from Ohio law. [Click here](#) to send letters to your State Representative and State Senator.

Bill on Testing Clears Ohio House

On Thursday, November 20, the Ohio House passed HB 228 by a vote of 83-4. The bill, sponsored by Representative Andy Brenner (R- Delaware), proposes a number of changes dealing with standardized tests. OEA supports this legislation as part of the effort to reduce the over-emphasis on testing and test preparation in our schools.

House Bill 228 includes the following provisions:

- Limits the duration of each state required standardized test and end of course exam to four hours per subject area (beginning next school year).
- Permits districts to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment up to two weeks prior to the start of school and administer in parts.
- Prohibits ODE from requiring online administration of tests for the 2015-16 school year.
- Requires ODE to report to districts appropriate uses for state approved assessments and create a model assessment schedule that demonstrates multiple uses for assessments.
- Requires ODE to conduct a thorough study of readiness to administer assessments online.
- Requires ODE to study impact of online assessments on student performance.
- Excuses career technical students from ODE's online exams when the students are earning an acceptable industry recognized credential or license.

The bill will now progress to the Ohio Senate and OEA will continue to work with Ohio's public policymakers to address this important issue.

