



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?*

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### Ohio House Passes OEA Opposed House Bill 8

Earlier this week, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 8 (Roegner, Kunze) by a vote of 63-29. The bill seeks to exclude from collective bargaining the development and implementation of a protocol for the designation of school employees who may carry concealed weapons. Further, the bill would allow school boards to enter into executive session to designate which employees may carry concealed handguns and prohibits the disclosure of those names. The bill also requires the Ohio Attorney General to adopt training curriculum, but falls short of mandating that local school boards utilize the curriculum.

Representative Fedor, Ranking Minority Member on House Education Committee, offered an OEA supported amendment that would strike out the collective bargaining exemption on the development and implementation of the protocol to allow employees to carry handguns. This amendment was tabled by a party line vote of 57-35 with all Democrats present voting not to table the amendment.

The bill is now headed to the Ohio Senate, but has yet to be referred to committee for deliberation. Delegates at the OEA Fall 2013 Representative Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt a new legislative policy stating that teachers and other school employees should not be asked to serve a dual role as educators and school safety personnel armed with weapons. OEA is adamantly



opposed to the legislation and is working with interested parties to stop House Bill 8 in the Ohio Senate.

**First Hearing on Senate Bill 229 in the Ohio House Education Committee Tentatively Scheduled for February 12, 2014**

After being passed by the Ohio Senate in a unanimous vote (33-0), Senate Bill 229 (R-Gardner) is expected to receive a first hearing (sponsor testimony) in the Ohio House Education Committee on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. The OEA strongly supports SB 229 as part of ongoing efforts to make progress on addressing various concerns with Ohio's Teacher Evaluation System (OTES).

Senate Bill 229 would help make Ohio's new system for evaluating teachers more effective, fair and efficient by reducing the academic growth factor on evaluations to 35% from the current 50%. Further, the bill would provide school districts with more flexibility regarding the frequency of evaluations for highly rated teachers ("Accomplished" and "Skilled"). In addition to chief sponsor Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), the bill has 27 bi-partisan co-sponsors, including the entire Senate Education Committee.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO HELP PASS SB 229 IN THE OHIO HOUSE!** Please [click here](#) to email a letter to your state Representative, urging them to support SB 229.

**Ohio Senate Reviewing New Graduation Requirement Proposals from the Ohio House (HB 193) and State Board of Education**

The Ohio House has passed House Bill 193 (R-Brenner), which contains a proposal to revise Ohio's high school graduation requirements in expectation of new end-of-course exams linked to the Common Core standards. Separately, the State Board of Education has passed its own proposal to revise high school graduation requirements. The Ohio Senate is currently reviewing and contrasting the two proposals as it determines next steps. House Bill 193 has yet to receive a hearing in the Ohio Senate Education Committee.

The OEA is monitoring this process and working on various issues specific to each proposal, including the broader issue of when the new graduation requirements would take effect and addressing the capacity and readiness of school districts to implement the new requirements and related assessments.

