



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

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Questions?

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OEA Testifies on K-12 Portion of Budget Bill

House Bill 64, the state budget bill for Fiscal Years 2016-2017, continues to receive hearings in House Finance Subcommittees. The current version of the bill contains Governor Kasich's budget proposals. The OEA testified on House Bill 64 on Thursday, March 5 regarding a number of changes to education policy that are of interest to OEA. These issues include:

- A funding formula that fails to provide the resources needed for a high-quality public education to all students
- Changes to testing
- Replacing Student Learning Objectives (SLO) with shared attribution in teacher evaluation
- Charter school reform
- Changes to licensure renewal requirements for "consistently high-performing teachers"
- Expansion of the EdChoice voucher program
- "De-Regulation" for high performing districts
- Changes to who can provide health services to students
- Establishment of school counselor standards

You can read more about these proposals and OEA's positions in [OEA's testimony](#) that was given before the subcommittee.



Senate Creates Advisory Committee on Testing

On Wednesday, March 4, 2014, Senator Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), Chair of the Senate Education Committee, announced the formation of the Senate Advisory Committee on Testing. The group will be made up of 28 members including teachers, superintendents and curriculum specialists. The purpose of the group is to advise the Senate on needed changes to state required assessments and testing. Three OEA members were named to the committee: Amy Holbrook (Mad River), Kimberly Jones (Columbus) and Billie Sarich (Grandview).

At the press conference announcing the formation of the committee, Lehner noted that “everything will be on the table,” from making adjustments to the current tests to doing away with PARCC altogether. “The purpose of the committee is to find workable solutions, not to hear we have a problem,” she said. “We know we have a problem.”

OEA applauds Senator Lehner and the Senate for establishing the advisory committee. It is clear that policymakers have heard the outcry from teachers, parents and students about over-testing in Ohio. Bringing education experts to the table to talk about solutions is a positive step.

House Bill 7 - Student “Safe Harbor” Bill Passes Senate, Goes to Governor for Signature

OEA supports House Bill 7 (R-Buchy), which was passed unanimously by the Ohio Senate on March 4, 2015. The bill contains an emergency measure, which means it will go into effect immediately upon being signed by the Governor.

The tests on which students would be granted a “safe harbor” in House Bill 7 include the achievement assessments for grades 3-8 and the end-of-course exams for grades 9-12. The scores on these tests could not be used as a factor in high-stakes decisions such as grade promotion, retention, or the granting of course credit for the 2014-15 school year.

House Bill 7 would also establish greater flexibility for students to retake the end-of-course exams for grades 9-12. The Ohio Department of Education would be required to promulgate rules that provide school districts and students with more detailed guidelines on the implementation of this testing flexibility.

An amendment to the bill made in Senate Education Committee will ensure that schools do not lose state per-pupil funding for a student who does not take all of the required state assessments in the 2014-15 school year. Under current law, a school district may not include, for funding purposes, any student who did not take all of



the required statewide tests during the previous school year, unless the student was granted a waiver for good cause by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.