May 15, 2015

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 Passes Its Version of Testing Reform

On Wednesday, May 13, 2015, the Ohio House of Representatives voted 92-1 to pass House Bill 74. The bill, sponsored by Representative Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), makes a number of changes to state-required testing. Among the changes proposed, HB 74 would:

- Limit each state assessment or end-of-course exam to no more than three hours.
- Require that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) issue a request for proposals for new state assessments. Multistate consortia (such as PARCC) are ineligible to submit a proposal.
- Change graduation requirements by reducing end-of-course exams to five (eliminating English II and geometry).
- Eliminate the requirement of online testing for 2015-2016.
- Eliminate writing and math diagnostics for grades 1-3, with the exception of math in the 2nd grade.
- Allow districts to offer an alternative to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).
- Require the State Board of Education to review and make recommendations for changes to the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES).

The bill now heads to the Ohio Senate. The Ohio Senate recently received recommendations from the Senate Advisory Committee on Testing. The recommendations called for state tests to be shorter, in a single window closer to the end of the school year. However, the recommendations did not specify eliminating PARCC. Instead, it stated if the current vendors of state tests do not make changes to accommodate the recommendations ODE must find a vendor that will.