

April 23, 2018

OEA Supports Bill to Fix OPERS Service Credit for County Board Employees

Legislation has been introduced that deals with the issue of service credit for non-teaching employees of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities who work on a school calendar rather than year-round. House Bill 572, would address action by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) that reduced service credit for these employees. OEA strongly supports this bill.

The bill would require OPERS to grant a full year of service credit to employees who meet the following conditions: 1) are employed by a County Board of DD; 2) work in a position that would be covered by the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) if they were employed by a school district; and 3) perform full-time services for at least nine months of the year and are paid a salary in each month of that year.

The bill is jointly sponsored by Representatives Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) and Stephanie Howse (D- Cleveland) and has eight bipartisan co-sponsors. The bill has been assigned to the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

Take action by writing your legislator to support HB 572 by clicking [here](#).

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Ohio Education Association

225 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614-228-4526

Toll-free: 1-800-282-1500

Fax: 614-228-8771

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HB 540: OEA Members Testify in Support of OTES Reform Legislation

HB 540 (R-Gavarone/R-Manning) would reform the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) based on the recommendations of the teacher Ohio Educator Standards Board (ESB). The ESB's reform recommendations have been approved by the State Board of Education. Implementation of these important OTES reforms also requires the approval of the Ohio General Assembly.



Ohio Statehouse (left to right): Art teacher Jonathan Juravich, HB 540 sponsor Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) and math teacher/ESB member Jeanne Cerniglia.

OEA members Jeanne Cerniglia and Jonathan Juravich testified in support of OTES reform in the Ohio House Education Committee on April 10, 2008. Jonathan is an art educator with Olentangy Local Schools at Liberty Tree Elementary. He is also the 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year. Jeanne is a middle school math teacher in Southeast Local Schools (Wayne County), as well as a member of the Educator Standards Board (ESB) that recommended the OTES reforms that appear in HB 540.

HB 540 would implement the OTES reforms recommended by the teacher-majority ESB. These reforms would restructure teacher evaluations so they are teacher-driven and student-focused. The bill eliminates the stand-alone 50% student growth measure evaluation factor.

The OEA strongly supports HB 540, which is sponsored by Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville).

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Take Action on OTES Reform!

Use the OEA Action Center to ask your state Representative to support **HB 540**:

<https://www.ohea.org/action/>

HB 591: OEA Supports School Report Card Reforms

HB 591 (R-Duffey) creates a new state report card system to assess student performance and other measures for school districts, individual district buildings, charter schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

HB 591 received its first hearing sponsor testimony from Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) in the Ohio House Education Committee on April 10, 2018.

Importantly, HB 591 would end the use of arbitrary letter grades on report cards. Instead, seven benchmark performance measures would be used to show how districts and schools compare to others. Districts and schools would also have an opportunity to showcase their strengths by voluntarily including other information on report cards, such as unique enrichment and program offerings.

The proposed reforms in HB 591 are based on the following principles:

- *Understandable* by using intuitive methodologies that illustrate the metric
- *Transparent* by allowing educators and parents to do the math themselves if so choose and in so doing build trust
- *Parent and student-centric* by presenting the data so parents can see how their children are likely to do, as opposed to looking at all children generally

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OEA supports HB 591 report card reforms, which would do the following:

- Stop the use of confusing and misleading report cards that can do more harm than good.
- Restore trust by ending arbitrary letter grades that are based on counter-intuitive methodologies.
- End the bias against low income districts by moving away from the current “winners & losers” approach.

Take Action on School Report Card Reform!

Use the OEA Action Center to ask your state Representative to support **HB 591**:

<https://www.ohea.org/action/>

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