

Scott W. DiMauro
President

Jeffrey Wensing
Vice President

Mark A. Hill
Secretary-Treasurer

Patricia Collins Murdock
Executive Director

April 13, 2022

On behalf of more than 120,000 members of the Ohio Education Association, I offer the following comments regarding the proposed two-year Ohio Resident Educator Program Framework, Requirements and Other Considerations.

The Ohio Education Association is pleased that the Ohio Department of Education convened a workgroup of Ohio educators, including OEA members, representing diverse regions, roles, and demographics to develop the proposed, two-year Resident Educator Program Framework. We are pleased that the proposed framework maintains the requirement for state trained mentors for Resident Educators. Mentors provide essential non-evaluative feedback and support for new teachers, and are critical to the retention of these new teachers in Ohio's classrooms. Requiring state training for Resident Educator mentors ensures equity and consistency as they engage with Ohio's new educators. We are pleased that the department is maintaining the ability to extend their Resident Educator license if they are not able to complete the program after two years. Finally, we are pleased that local control of the development of a district's Resident Educator program will continue, as school districts should be trusted to develop and implement mentoring programs that will successfully support the needs of their new teachers.

While we understand that the Resident Educator Summative Assessment remains in place at this time, it is disappointing that the high-stakes nature of this assessment will continue. The continuation of a high-stakes assessment, particularly when Ohio is struggling to hire and retain teachers, should be reconsidered. We continue to advocate for the elimination of the high-stakes nature of the Resident Educator Summative Assessment. Ohio continues to see fewer college students complete teaching preparation programs annually and increasing numbers of teachers are leaving the profession for other opportunities. We believe that previous teaching experience should count toward Resident Educator program completion. This would eliminate another barrier for entry into and retention in the teaching profession.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments regarding the proposed two-year Ohio Resident Educator Program Framework, Requirements and Other Considerations.

Sincerely,



Scott DiMauro
President

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

225 E. Broad St., Box 2550,
Columbus, OH 43216
PHONE: (614) 228-4526
or 1-800-282-1500
FAX: (614) 228-8771
