

Ohio School Boards Association

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OSBA, BASA, OASBO applaud legislation allowing more flexibility in teacher evaluations

COLUMBUS — The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials are expressing appreciation to the state legislature and administration for enacting legislation that allows school districts increased flexibility in conducting mandatory teacher evaluations. Gov. John Kasich signed that legislation — House Bill 362 — into law today.

The revisions to the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) included in HB 362 will allow school districts to conduct evaluations for high-performing teachers that are less frequent, less time intensive and less formal. Teachers rated accomplished may now be evaluated once every three years, while teachers rated skilled may now be evaluated every two years, assuming their student progress measure remains average or above.

“While we understand the importance of conducting teacher evaluations on an annual basis, we have been hearing from many districts across the state with regard to the increased administrative burdens being placed on them in fulfilling the OTES requirements,” said Damon Asbury, OSBA director of legislative services.

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“I applaud the legislature and Gov. Kasich for passing and signing this bill into law,” said Thomas Ash, BASA director of governmental relations. “The changes made by the legislation will allow for more flexibility without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the teacher evaluation system.”

Barbara Shaner, OASBO associate executive director, said “I appreciate the efforts of Sen. Randy Gardner for his leadership in guiding this legislation through the legislative process after hearing from his local districts on this issue. We are very pleased that Gov. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly have approved these changes.”

OSBA, BASA and OASBO support measures in HB 362 that provide school districts with local flexibility in implementing the evaluation system and give districts options for the components of each teacher evaluation score. The school management associations especially support periodic evaluations of accomplished and skilled teachers so that administrators can direct more time and attention to teachers rated as ineffective or developing.

In its 59th year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.