



## **Senate Education Committee**

### **Senate Bill 127**

**Ohio School Boards Association  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials  
Buckeye Association of School Administrators**

**April 1, 2025**

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill (SB) 127. Collectively, our organizations represent public school board members, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs and other school business officials from around the state.

First and foremost, we wish to make it known we agree with the intent of SB 127 – every child in the state of Ohio deserves a high-quality education. However, we have concerns that the legislation, as drafted, will lead to unintended consequences that will not benefit many of our students who have the greatest needs.

Our primary concerns are with the percentage-based definition of a poor performing school. SB 127 proposes that any school who offers a grade level higher than three and is ranked by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) in the state's bottom 5% of the performance index score and the state's bottom 10% of the value-added progress dimension for three consecutive academic years be closed or conduct another remedial action. Current law defines a poor performing school as one who meets the bottom 5% performance index score criteria for three consecutive academic years as well as a combination of low star rankings within the State Report Card.

We ask the committee to oppose the proposed switch to purely percentage-based criteria, as there will always be a bottom five and ten percent of schools – even when they are meeting all of the state's prescribed standards. The criteria outlined in the bill will lead to constant restructuring in Ohio's schools, without parameters to prevent the annual elimination of buildings.



The state of Ohio has comprehensive academic improvement infrastructure – known as the Ohio Improvement Process – already in place. The Ohio Improvement Process is aligned with federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) standards and includes extensive supports from DEW, State Support Teams, Education Service Centers, Information Technology Centers and professional associations and organizations. DEW data on the outcomes of our existing improvement process show a decrease in schools of academic concern with each year of reporting. For example, in 2018, 127 public schools were considered to need Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI). In 2022, 32 public CSI schools were reported. If there are concerns with Ohio's academic performance, we urge this committee to make the changes you feel necessary to the Ohio Improvement Process, strengthening our existing systems rather than forcing the closure of our public schools.

Respectfully submitted,

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