



House Education Committee
House Bill 455 Proponent Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA)
Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)
October 28, 2025

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chairman Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 455. My name is Paul Imhoff with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, which represents Ohio's public school superintendents. Joining me in support of this testimony is Malania Birney with the Ohio School Boards Association. Together, we offer our support of HB 455.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank Representatives Manning and Bird for introducing this legislation. I often hear from superintendents across the state about the ever-growing list of state-required trainings, reporting requirements, and other mandates that divert our attention away from our central mission of educating students. At its core, HB 455 is about right-sizing regulations so our schools can focus on what matters most: delivering high-quality instruction to students to prepare them for the future.

Among the many changes, the bill revises components of the state report card to improve the accuracy in measuring school quality and the services our schools provide to students. For example, the bill revises how Ohio calculates its graduation rate to accurately reflect the experiences of students with disabilities. Under the current system, students with disabilities who qualify for graduation but defer their diploma so they can continue receiving services are counted as dropouts on their school's report card. This is neither fair nor accurate, and HB 455 corrects this by counting those students as graduates for state report card purposes while still reporting the necessary federal data for compliance purposes. The bill also improves the new College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Component of the Report Card to reflect students who have completed one year of college without remedial coursework.

Other important changes in HB 455 include:

- allowing qualifying families to use the Early Childhood Education Grant Program instead of another source of state funding for childcare;
- maintaining strong learning standards for American history and American government and instruction in the Founding Documents but allowing schools to manage the assessments of those subjects by eliminating the two corresponding state assessments;
- eliminating reporting requirements for disadvantaged pupil impact aid spending;
- allowing for online posting of various district policies; and.
- streamlining the process to fill vacancies on boards of education.

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur and members of the committee, thank you for your time and consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



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