



DELEGATE HANDBOOK 2025

Annual Business Meeting of the Ohio School
Boards Association Delegate Assembly

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Union Station Ballroom
Monday, Nov. 17, 2025 2:30 p.m.



OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 70 years!

1955 TO 2025

AGENDA

**Annual Business Meeting of the
Ohio School Boards Association
Delegate Assembly**

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AGENDA

1. Call to order
Thomas C. Patterson, OSBA president,
board member, **Sandusky City**
2. Introduction of platform guests
3. Special introductions
4. Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction
Paul Craft
5. Ohio Teacher of the Year
Christopher Monsour, **Tiffin City**
6. *Kids* PAC — your political action committee
7. Reports of committees
 - A. Rules and Credentials Committee
Jacquelyn Arendt, committee chair, **North Royalton City** and **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center**
 - B. Nominating Committee
Sally S. Green, OSBA immediate past president,
board member, **Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas)**
8. Election of the 2026 president-elect
9. Introduction of the 2026 president-elect
10. Report of the chief executive officer
Thomas L. Hosler, chief executive officer, OSBA
11. Report of the Legislative Platform Committee
Mary Cleveland, committee chair, OSBA
president-elect, board member, **Princeton City**
12. Additional platform amendments
13. New business
Resolution to amend the OSBA Bylaws submitted by
Toledo City Schools
14. Adjournment

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2025 OSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas C. Patterson, president
Sandusky City

Mary Cleveland, president-elect
Princeton City and Great Oaks Career Campuses

Sally S. Green, immediate past president
Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas)

Whitney Duemmel
Jefferson Local (Madison)

Deborah Melda
Lorain County ESC and Lorain County JVSD

Bob Vasquez
Toledo City

Dr. Micah J. Covert
Nelsonville-York City and Tri-County Career Center

Bobbie A. Grice
Warren County Career Center

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Mary Cleveland, chair

CENTRAL REGION

Jermaine Ferguson

Marysville EV

Emily Gephart

Grandview Heights City

Jennifer Kime

Mansfield City

Mary M. Pierce

Fairfield County ESC and
Eastland-Fairfield Career &
Technical Schools

NORTHEAST REGION

Jacquelyn Arendt

North Royalton City and
Cuyahoga Valley Career Center

Sally S. Green

Tuscarawas Valley Local
(Tuscarawas)

Terry Groden

North Olmsted City

Albert Haberstroh

Trumbull County ESC & Trumbull
Career & Technical Center

Susie Lawson

Tri-County ESC and Wayne County
Schools Career Center

NORTHWEST REGION

Brian L. Baker

Northwest Ohio ESC and
Four County Career Center

Erik K. Germann

Lincolnview Local (Van Wert)

Sue Larimer

Perrysburg EV

Philip White

Bath Local (Allen)

SOUTHEAST REGION

Alice Browning

Crooksville EV

Stephanie Lang

Fort Frye Local (Washington)

Jamie S. Murphy

Lawrence County ESC

John Riebesell

Ridgewood Local (Coshocton)

SOUTHWEST REGION

Mary Cleveland

Princeton City and
Great Oaks Career Campuses

Julie Denning

Mad River Local
(Montgomery)

Terry Gibson

Lockland Local (Hamilton) and
Great Oaks Career Campuses

Daniel Marcum

New Miami Local (Butler)

Krista Stump

Greenville City

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE & RULES

PROPOSED RULES FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

1. **CREDENTIALS**

All delegates present at the annual meeting shall have their credentials filed with the Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Credentials Committee. Credential badges and ribbons shall be displayed where easily recognized. Delegate ribbons must be presented to the Sergeant-At-Arms to permit the delegate to be admitted to the meeting. A delegate may represent only one board.

2. **SEATING**

All delegates shall sit in designated areas. Any delegate leaving the floor shall check out with the Sergeant-At-Arms and shall check in before returning to his or her seat.

3. **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

There shall be an official parliamentarian to whom questions may be directed only through the chair.

4. **QUORUM**

According to Article VI of the OSBA Constitution, delegates from twenty-five percent (25%) of the member boards shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

5. **SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR**

Microphones will be placed in the front of the meeting room. Before a delegate may make a motion or discuss the merits of any motion, the delegate must rise and go to the microphone and inform OSBA staff of the purpose of their comments (e.g. speaking in favor of the motion, speaking in opposition to the motion, or raising a procedural motion or inquiry). The delegate will then be given a card reflecting the purpose of their comments.

The chair will recognize delegates who are standing behind each microphone in a single file, in the order of their entry

into that file, alternating between those speaking in favor of the motion and those speaking against the motion. The chair reserves the right to recognize any person at any time, including a person who has not approached a microphone or a person unable to stand in line.

After being recognized by the chair, the delegate must give their full name, district name and purpose of their comments. Ex. "John Doe, Ohio School District. I speak in favor of the motion."

Any person whose remarks are not consistent with their stated purpose shall be called to order by the chair.

No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes at any one time except by consent of the majority of the delegates present. No delegate shall speak more than once on the same question as long as any other delegate who has not spoken on the question desires the floor. All members of the Executive Committee and the Legislative Platform Committee shall have the privilege of speaking to any issue but not the privilege of voting on issues unless they are also delegates.

6. **MOTIONS TO TABLE OR POSTPONE**

A motion to table or postpone may be declared out of order by the chair if, in the opinion of the chair, there has not been sufficient discussion to provide the delegates with a clear understanding of the issue(s) to be decided.

7. **BUSINESS OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

Article 6 of the OSBA Bylaws requires all matters to be voted upon at the annual meeting to be communicated to each member of affiliated school boards at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Any matter not so referred

PROPOSED RULES FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

to members of affiliated boards thirty (30) days in advance must be in the form of a duly adopted board of education resolution certified by the treasurer and stating the date of adoption and requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered delegates present and voting in order to be placed on the agenda.

New Business may also be originated by the Legislative Platform Committee, the Board of Trustees or the OSBA staff.

8. **DELEGATE ASSEMBLY VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

According to Article XII of the OSBA Constitution, amendments to the OSBA Constitution require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting delegates of the association present at the annual meeting of the association, provided that a copy of the amendment shall have been submitted in writing to all member boards at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

According to Article 5 of the OSBA Bylaws, the OSBA Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting delegates of the association present at the annual meeting of the association.

Approval of the OSBA Legislative Platform, amendments to the OSBA Legislative Platform, and any items properly raised under “New Business” require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all delegates present and voting for approval.

Voting at the Delegate Assembly is conducted by a poll of the delegates.

9. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS**

No printed materials other than official reports of the association officers and committees shall be distributed to delegates at the Annual Business Meeting unless prior permission is granted by the presiding officer or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting.

10. **USE OF RECORDING DEVICES**

During the annual meeting, delegates and guests are prohibited from photographing, recording or broadcasting any delegate or any part of the business portion of the annual meeting without first obtaining the consent of the OSBA President. The OSBA President may revoke such consent at any time during the meeting.

11. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees shall act as a minute’s committee to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

12. **ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER**

Rules not covered by this report or by the OSBA Constitution and Bylaws shall be those set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order (most recently revised).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT OF THE OSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The OSBA Nominating Committee will recommend to the 2025 OSBA Delegate Assembly the name of Dr. Micah J. Covert, a member of the Nelsonville-York City and Tri-County Career Center boards for the office of 2026 president-elect. The nomination and election will take place during the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly to be held on Monday, Nov. 17.

Dr. Micah J. Covert is in his second year on the association's Board of Trustees and in his 16th year on the Nelsonville-York City Board of Education and Tri-County Career Center Board. He has served on OSBA's Executive Committee, Southeast Region Executive Committee, Federal Legislative Advocacy Group, Governance Review Committee, Capital Conference Planning Task Force, Board Member Cabinet and Diversity and Equity Committee. He is currently the President of the Southeast Region.

Professionally, Covert serves as the director of transfer and public services and as an assistant professor of business at Washington State College of Ohio. He is especially passionate about creating accessible college and career pathways for Ohio students, advocating for the College Credit Plus program, which allows students to earn college credit, including an associate's degree, while in high school.

In his community, Covert has been the president of two Rotary Clubs and is involved in his local church and relational arts and education initiatives.

Under the association's constitution, Mary Cleveland, a member of the Princeton City and Great Oaks Career Campuses boards, will automatically become president on Jan. 1, 2026. Mary Cleveland is in her fifth year on the association's Board of Trustees and in her 12th year on the Princeton City Schools Board of Education and Great Oaks Career Campuses Board. She has served on OSBA's Executive Committee, Southwest Region Executive Committee and Legislative Platform Committee, and was the 2023 Southwest Region president. Cleveland also has served on the association's Capital Conference Planning Task Force, Credentials Committee and Arrangements and Hospitality Team.

Thomas C. Patterson, a member of the Sandusky City Local Board of Education, filled the office of president in 2025 and will become immediate past president, an office that will automatically retain him as a member of the OSBA Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Northwest Region Executive Committee.

Sally S. Green
Chair

Bruce Alexander
Northeast Region

Alice Browning
Southeast Region

Tina D. Pierce
Central Region

Kevin Landin
Northwest Region

Mary Cleveland
Southwest Region

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY TO ELECT 2026 PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) Delegate Assembly, the association's policy-making group, will meet in November during the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show to choose the 2026 president-elect. This yearly vote is a key part of OSBA's governance, making sure leadership changes reflect the voices of local school board members statewide.

The president-elect serves a one-year term before assuming the presidency, providing stability in leadership and giving the association a clear line of succession. This year, the Delegate Assembly will consider the Nominating Committee's nomination of Dr. Micah J. Covert, a veteran board member from southeast Ohio. If elected, Covert will serve as OSBA president-elect in 2026 and progress to the presidency in 2027. The president then shifts into the immediate past president's role for a year.

The president-elect's role



Dr. Micah J. Covert

The president-elect is a key part of OSBA's governance framework. While preparing to lead the association, the president-elect serves on the OSBA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, chairs the Legislative Platform Committee and the Federal Legislative

Advocacy Group (FLAG), and participates in the OSBA Board Member Cabinet to prepare for their role as the OSBA president. This role ensures that when the transition to the presidency occurs, the leader is already well-versed in the issues facing school districts.

Covert brings more than 16 years of board service to the nomination, currently serving on the Nelsonville-York City and Tri-County Career Center boards. At the state level, he is president of OSBA's Southeast Region and serves on the

Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. Nationally, he represents Ohio as part of FLAG, meeting with education leaders in Washington, D.C., to elevate the concerns of local boards.

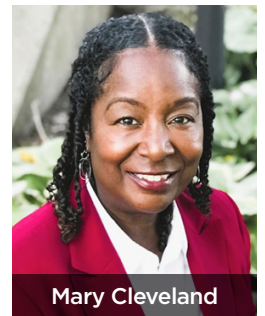
Professionally, Covert is director of transfer and public services and an assistant professor of business at Washington State College of Ohio. He strongly advocates for college and career readiness, particularly through programs like College Credit Plus, which allow high school students to earn college credit and even complete an associate degree before graduation. His experience reflects OSBA's mission to ensure that every student has access to opportunities that prepare them for success beyond high school.

Cleveland to Lead OSBA in 2026

As OSBA prepares to elect its next president-elect, the organization also looks ahead to the leadership of its current president-elect, Mary Cleveland, who will serve as president in 2026.

Cleveland is a dedicated supporter of public education, having served for over 10 years on the Princeton City School Board, including three terms as president. She also made history as the first African-American chair of the Great Oaks Career Campuses Governing Board, which is the second-largest career-technical district in the U.S., according to the National Center for Education Statistics. She advocates for greater access to career-tech education and workforce opportunities for Ohio students.

Recognized statewide for her leadership, Cleveland received the 2024 Outstanding Board Member Award from the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education. She was also



Mary Cleveland

a regional finalist for the 2025 Association of Career Technical Education Carl Perkins Community Service Award and was the 2025 recipient of the OSBA Master Board Member award. Within OSBA, she has served in several key leadership positions, including chair of the Legislative Platform Committee and Federal Legislative Advocacy Group. She is a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. Additionally, she served as president of OSBA's Southwest Region and is a respected advocate for public education at both the state and national levels.

A lawyer, consultant and thought leader, Cleveland brings a broad background in corporate, legal and nonprofit leadership. She is known for her collaborative approach, governance expertise and unwavering commitment to student achievement and access for every learner. In addition, she serves as an independent provider for adults with developmental disabilities, reflecting her dedication to inclusion and community service. As she prepares to assume the OSBA presidency in 2026, Cleveland continues to model the power of partnership — listening to educators, families and communities to ensure every student is empowered to succeed.

Strength through succession

OSBA's leadership structure gives members confidence that the association will continue to move forward with purpose. Each president-elect builds on the work of past leaders while preparing for future challenges. With Cleveland stepping into the presidency in 2026 and the Delegate Assembly set to select the next president-elect in November, OSBA is positioned to maintain strong, informed leadership. The process underscores the association's long-standing commitment to supporting school board members and ensuring Ohio's students have access to the high-quality education they deserve.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Note: Updates to the OSBA Legislative Platform are identified on the following pages.
Language that is ~~struckthrough~~ was deleted;
language that is **BOLD AND CAPITALIZED** was added.

2026 Proposed Ohio School Boards Association Legislative Platform

Preamble

The purpose of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Legislative Platform is to state publicly OSBA's positions on a variety of issues facing public education. The platform conveys to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where OSBA stands. The platform guides OSBA's advocacy efforts.

Each item in the platform has been approved by at least 75% of the voting delegates in the OSBA Delegate Assembly, where every member board of education has a vote.

The level of specificity in the language is by design. The platform is sufficiently precise to state OSBA's position, but it is not so specific that it ties OSBA's hands and prevents OSBA from achieving the best result consistent with the platform. Latitude is given to the staff to interpret and apply the statements in the platform. The staff is accountable to the membership and keeps the membership informed about progress in implementing the platform.

Recognizing that support of public education is an investment in Ohio's future, OSBA works in cooperation with parents, students, staff, community groups, members of educational organizations, state and local policymakers and others to make the support of public education a state priority. OSBA promotes and supports reform that provides for a system of public schools that is accountable to the communities they serve and prepares students to be productive citizens in a competitive and global society.

Students and learning

The education of Ohio's public school students is OSBA's top priority. Every child can learn, and every child will learn if the conditions are right. The key component to establishing the right educational environment is the relationship among students, parents, the school district and the community. Each needs to be accountable for sharing in the process.

OSBA believes that all students must have equal access to a high-quality education that prepares them for higher education or career entry. Every student must be provided with challenging instructional programs presented by competent and caring teachers in a safe and supportive setting.

Adult education

Ohio's adult residents and employees have ongoing needs for education and training. Ohio's public school districts should help meet the adult education needs of the communities they serve. Public school district facilities and programs should be made available for these purposes as determined by locally elected boards of education and as resources permit.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Develops and funds adult education programs in Ohio's public schools.

Alternative schools

Students often require targeted assistance to help them learn and grow. Alternative schools and educational programs offer supportive learning environments to accommodate the diverse needs of students. Moreover, the school climate for all students may be improved when students with diverse needs are served with alternative settings and/or programs.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Allows school districts to collaboratively create alternative schools to address unique student needs and provides state funding for those schools.

Assessments

Ongoing assessment of student learning provides an essential means for instruction and accountability. To be fair, effective and meaningful, student performance should be measured with appropriate tools and techniques that are clearly aligned with curriculum, instruction and standards and be collected in an objective and credible manner. Assessment systems should employ multiple and varied measures of knowledge, skill and abilities.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Aligns state assessment laws with the federal requirements.
- Uses assessments as a diagnostic tool to improve instruction and learning.
- Uses data to ensure that every child has equal access to the resources necessary for a thorough and efficient education.
- Fully funds any and all requirements associated with implementing state and federal assessment laws.
- Provides school districts with flexibility and proper resources to meet their students' needs.
- Increases the 1% cap on alternative assessments for students to a realistic percentage that reflects the number of students with disabilities educated by the districts.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Subjects school districts to a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to recognize the unique needs of individual students and individual school districts.
- Rates and/or ranks schools or school districts or is used in a punitive manner.
- Penalizes districts for a parent's refusal to allow his/her student to participate in assessments.
- Subjects school districts to strict use of technology in testing requirements.
- Prevents the advancement of a student to the next grade level and graduation based solely on state assessment results.
- Seeks to adopt the similar student measure.

Curriculum

Public education is the responsibility of the state and locally elected boards of education.

Governance must be vested in the locally elected board of education that is accountable to the local community. Arts and extracurricular activities play an integral role in the education of children. The primary responsibility for approving courses of study, instructional programs and selection of instructional materials must remain with the locally elected board of education, with input from the local community. Cuts, necessitated by finances, in no way diminish the belief that all students should have access to a curriculum that includes art, music, theater, physical education and world languages, in addition to mathematics, science, social studies, reading and

writing. Access to career-technical courses, such as, but not limited to agriculture and environmental systems, business administration, engineering and science technologies, career based intervention programs, education and training, and family and consumer sciences is vital. Preschool and all-day/every-day kindergarten programs, accompanied by clear academic standards and a comprehensive curriculum, have been proven to raise the achievement levels of all students and to reduce the achievement and readiness gaps in students first entering school.

A comprehensive curriculum is one focused on approaches toward learning, cognitive and general knowledge (including mathematics, science, and social studies), language and literacy development, arts, physical well-being, motor development and social-emotional development.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Enables locally elected boards of education to make decisions regarding the adoption of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials, with advice and input from staff, parents, students and community members.

Discipline

Student conduct standards are integral to maintaining an optimal learning environment. All students have the right to learn in a school environment that is safe and free of distraction.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Furthers the ability of educators to maintain control of their classrooms, buildings, facilities and other school property, and offers appropriate discipline measures as determined by locally developed, board-approved policy and/or district procedures.
- Prohibits the mandating of zero tolerance policies and instead enables discipline of students to be dealt with individually in a way that is appropriate for their age, gender, mental health condition, emotional development and special educational needs and appropriately protects the school's educational environment.

Drug addiction prevention

Drug addiction is a national, state and local crisis. The rate and incidence of heroin and other opioid abuse among Ohioans is staggering. Local school districts are called upon to educate students and families about the tragic consequences of drug addiction. It is essential that we provide students with information, skills and support to help them abstain from such harmful behaviors and their consequences.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides new and additional dedicated funds to assist schools in the battle against drug addiction, heroin and other opioid abuse.
- Provides sufficient funding to implement trauma-informed training and school program development.

Racism/Equity

There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Race,

ethnicity and socioeconomic background inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate racism, social injustice, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.

Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Creates an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.
- Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities a high-quality education.
- Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision.
- Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio's public schools.
- Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice.
- Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.

School year/school day

Flexible instructional scheduling is important because time on task is critical to effective and efficient learning.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides more flexible school schedules to adequately meet the needs of all students.
- Provides additional state aid for lengthening the school day and/or school year.

State report card

Reports of school district quality should provide accurate reflections of district, staff and student achievement. Publication of district and school report cards must be accurate, fair and credible. Reports should be communicated to the public in a clear and concise manner.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes the overall rating on the state report card a meaningful indicator of the quality of a school district.
- Provides school districts with an appropriate amount of time to inform parents, students, staff and communities about changes to assessments and report card standards.

- Includes cohort graduation rates of students four and six years after entering the ninth-grade cohort group.
- Ensures the graduation rate as computed by the Ohio Department of Education does not penalize districts for allowing students with disabilities additional time to complete graduation requirements as stated in federal requirements.
- Moves toward a varied system of assessments that allows students to demonstrate academic competency and mastery in ways beyond state standardized tests.
- Replaces the current system with an accountability system that is a meaningful indicator of the quality of a school district, a holistic representation of the efforts within the district to develop the whole child.
- Allows students with disabilities on an IEP who have met all graduation requirements and who continue their education (defer their diploma) based on an IEP team decision, to count as a graduate using the graduation rate formula for their school and district.
- Allows students with disabilities on an IEP who continue their education (defer their diploma) to maintain all supports provided by federal law.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Does not include all students in the baseline beginning in kindergarten and continuing through grade three.

Student and school employee safety

Student and school employee safety is the paramount concern for school districts. Ensuring a safe learning and working environment is a shared responsibility among school board members, school employees and community members working in collaboration with lawmakers, law enforcement, mental health and security experts in determining how best to provide a safe environment within our districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for enhanced mental health services and substance abuse treatment so that all individuals, including children, have sufficient access to these services.
- Increases access to school safety measures, including but not limited to, school resource officers (SRO), school safety infrastructure and other security measures designed to protect students and staff.
- Provides for training for school employees and enhanced coordination with law enforcement agencies and first responders to ensure appropriate responses to incidents of violence in schools.
- Provides full funding for the items above.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Mandates the implementation of any safety and security measure that is not fully funded by the state.
- Mandates any security measure to be implemented without the approval of the local school district board of education.

Technology

Every public school district should have access to modern technology, regardless of the wealth or geographical location of the district, because students with limited access to educational

technology are at an educational and economic disadvantage. Affordable broadband and full access to the Internet for students, staff and communities is critical. Appropriate and ongoing training is essential for effective use of technology.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides the funds necessary to provide for the hardware, software, staff instructional in-service and infrastructure necessary to provide access to modern technology for all students.

School governance

The cornerstone of public education in Ohio is locally elected boards of education that exercise local control in establishing policy and governance of their public schools while remaining accountable to the citizens who elected them. Local control includes control over financial matters, curricula and educational programs, personnel, school calendars and educational priorities based on the unique needs of local communities.

Academic distress commission

State law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish an Academic Distress Commission for each school district that has been declared to be in academic emergency.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Fully includes locally elected boards of education and district administration in the decision-making process.
- Provides for the composition of the commission and review team to reflect the demographics (geographic, economic and social) of the school district.
- Provides transparency in the way district commissions are formed and chaired.
- Provides a transparent understanding of the goals and purpose for the work of the distress commissions.
- Provides clear accountability measures for the commissions, the districts and CEO's appointed to the district in collaboration with the locally elected board of education.
- Places a focus on student achievement.
- Provides supplemental or additional funding for implementation of commission work.
- Places an emphasis on identifying and seeking the input of community services agencies.
- Repeals the academic distress commission provisions in the Ohio Revised Code.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Allows for the exclusion of the locally elected board members from the discussion and work of the commission.
- Establishes academic distress commissions, as defined and implemented under Amended Substitute House Bill 70 (131 GA) or any similar creation that interferes with the governance of public school districts by elected boards of education.

Board member training

Effective school board members are aware of and knowledgeable about key issues affecting the operations of public districts and schools. Awareness of key legislative and judicial decisions, educational reform initiatives and research-based instructional strategies to enhance student

achievement is critical for board members to be effective. Ongoing professional development prepares board members to provide leadership and make critical educational decisions that support student achievement.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Strongly encourages professional development for all elected school board members.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Mandates board member training.

Charter/community schools

OSBA supports educational options within the public school system as determined by locally elected boards of education. Locally elected boards of education may decide to sponsor charter/community schools. Charter/community schools authorized and sponsored by other entities must be held accountable to the same standards as traditional public schools. All charter/community schools must be required to report annually information concerning finances and student achievement in a clear and concise manner. No local funds should be diverted from the public school district to support charter/community schools sponsored by any entity other than a locally elected board of education. The term, “Charter/Community Schools,” as used in this platform refers to brick and mortar schools, electronic schools and any other form of on-line school.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Holds charter/community schools and their operators to the same compliance and reporting requirements as public schools.
- Requires charter/community school students to meet the State Board of Education’s minimum standards to be granted a high school diploma.
- Requires that charter/community schools be subject to full fiscal and administrative oversight by a locally elected board of education.
- Requires a charter/community school, receiving public tax dollars to disclose performance metrics, including but not limited to, the overall performance index and four-year graduation rate on all advertising.
- Prohibits a charter/community school from advertising if that school does not meet or report minimum academic and/or financial standards established by the state of Ohio.
- Prohibits a charter/community school from any and all advertising if, and while, that school is being formally investigated by any governmental agency for possible misuse of taxpayer funds.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Authorizes the sponsorship of charter/community schools by an entity other than the locally elected board of education.
- Creates a charter/community school that adversely impacts a public school district.

Consolidation/shared services

Sound fiscal policy requires school districts to maximize the use of available resources. It is important to examine carefully every feasible way to conserve financial resources. Consolidation, merger and/or sharing services, programs and staff may save dollars. The

decision to undertake such efforts should be made by mutual agreement of the involved school districts and their boards of education, taking local factors and circumstances into account.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Supports and encourages districts to follow best practices regarding efficiencies and cost savings that may result from shared services and programs.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Requires mandatory consolidation of school districts and or services.
- Requires districts to join other joint vocational entities.

Deregulation

Freedom from excessive and constraining governmental regulation encourages innovative reform efforts to improve student achievement. Public school districts should be granted exemptions similar to those granted to nonpublic and charter/community schools.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Expands deregulation to give locally elected boards of education the authority to exempt themselves from state statutes and administrative codes that do not apply to chartered nonpublic schools or to charter/community schools.
- Gives educational service center governing boards the discretion to transfer regulatory functions to locally elected boards of education.

Educational services

Regional educational service organizations may provide locally elected boards of education the opportunity to purchase and offer services in a more efficient and less costly manner. The decision to participate in a regional system must be the responsibility of the locally elected board of education.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Ensures school districts have access to quality regional educational services through the state's educational delivery system.
- Requires those responsible for delivering these regional educational services to be held accountable to locally elected school board members.

Legislative process

The Ohio School Boards Association believes that every piece of legislation introduced in the Ohio General Assembly should follow a consistent and thorough deliberative process, allowing ample opportunity for public review and comment, with the rules established by the Ohio Constitution.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Once having been introduced, is later attached to a different and/or larger piece of legislation before it has been thoroughly and properly vetted and heard by both chambers of the General Assembly.

LOCAL CONTROL

LOCAL CONTROL IS A FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF OHIO’S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, ENSHRINED IN THE OHIO REVISED CODE, WHICH GRANTS LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THEIR SCHOOLS. THIS PRINCIPLE ENSURES THAT EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS REFLECT THE UNIQUE NEEDS AND VALUES OF EACH COMMUNITY.

LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARDS ARE DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND ARE BEST POSITIONED TO PROVIDE RESPONSIVE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE. THEIR AUTONOMY ENCOMPASSES CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL MATTERS, CURRICULA, PERSONNEL, SCHOOL CALENDARS, AND EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES. MAINTAINING THIS LOCAL AUTHORITY IS VITAL FOR FOSTERING PUBLIC TRUST AND ENSURING THE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

OSBA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT

- AFFIRMS THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING CURRICULUM, BUDGETING, STAFFING, AND SCHEDULING, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF STATE GUIDELINES.**
- RECOGNIZES THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL BOARDS TO ADDRESS THE DISTINCT CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WHETHER URBAN, SUBURBAN OR RURAL.**
- ENCOURAGES INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH LOCALLY DRIVEN INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS.**
- ENSURES THAT LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL RESERVES AND THE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE THE TIMING AND AMOUNT OF LEVIES BASED ON LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

OSBA OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT

- UNDERMINES THE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OF LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION.**
- IMPOSES UNFUNDED AND UNDERFUNDED MANDATES OR STATEWIDE POLICIES THAT DO NOT ACCOUNT FOR LOCAL CONTEXTS AND NEEDS.**
- ERODES THE ABILITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO MANAGE RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY AND RESPOND TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

Locally elected boards of education

Control of the public school system by locally elected board members produces an educational system designed to meet the needs of the community’s children. The locally elected school board provides citizens with a direct means to influence local education policies, programs, costs and outcomes.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Maintains locally elected school boards, which exemplify representative government.**

● Amends Ohio Revised Code and increases the rate of maximum compensation for school board members, and provides for inflationary growth, in order to better ensure that board members are compensated more commensurately with the responsibilities of their position.

OSBA opposes legislation that

● Diminishes local control.

● Mandates alternative governance structures, including mayoral takeover, without a public referendum.

Open enrollment

Decisions regarding student enrollment must rest with the locally elected board of education of the district providing the educational service. Open enrollment may have local benefits, but the ultimate decision must be made by the locally elected board of education, based on local factors.

OSBA opposes legislation that

● Imposes mandatory open enrollment policies.

● Mandates expansion of open enrollment to noncontiguous districts.

Sale/lease of real property

School facilities represent a major investment of community resources for public education.

School facilities and real property represent the most visible evidence of that investment. School board members are stewards of these community resources. Good stewardship requires that facilities be properly maintained and that any proposed disposition of property be of direct benefit to the district and its community. The locally elected board of education must retain the final decision in these matters.

OSBA supports legislation that

● Provides school districts with the flexibility to sell or lease real property in a manner that offers the most benefit to the school district as determined by the locally elected board of education.

● Repeals the right of first refusal to purchase property by private, charter/community, college-preparatory boarding schools, STEM schools and on-line schools.

● Allows local school boards the flexibility to make facility sales and purchasing decisions based on the needs of the district.

OSBA opposes legislation that

● Provides facilities funding to private and charter/community schools.

Service funds

Financial resources are necessary to support the professional development of school board members to attend appropriate workshops, seminars, conferences and local board development activities to enable board members to be effective public officials and policymakers.

OSBA supports legislation that

● Supports the authority of public school districts to create a service fund in which it sets aside a sum each year from its general fund.

461
462 **State Board of Education**

463 The State Board of Education has a constitutional and statutory obligation to set forth the needs
464 of public education in its budget and policy recommendations to the governor and members of
465 the General Assembly. OSBA supports a State Board of Education composed entirely of elected
466 members.

467
468 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 469 ● Provides for an elected State Board of Education.
470 ● Provides for a reduction in the number of appointed board members.
471 ● Provides for the regulation of education standards by an elected State Board of Education.
472 ● Provides no appointed board members.

473
474 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 475 ● Attempts to remove regulatory control of educational standards from the State Board of
476 Education as it fulfills its statutory responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the creation of a
477 professional practice board.

478
479 **Vouchers**

480 Although OSBA supports educational options within the public school system as determined by
481 locally elected boards of education, granting state-funded vouchers to students to attend
482 nonpublic schools reduces the level of funding available to support and improve the public
483 school system.

484
485 *OSBA supports legislation that*

- 486 ● Requires that schools accepting voucher students be held to the same standards and
487 accountability requirements as public schools.
488 ● Requires that schools accepting voucher students be held to the same performance reporting
489 requirements as public schools.

490
491 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

- 492 ● Uses public funds to expand voucher programs in nonpublic schools.
493 ● Expands vouchers, scholarships, tuition tax credits and similar programs at either the state or
494 federal levels.

495
496 **Finance**

497
498 Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports the
499 creation and establishment of an adequate and equitable funding system for Ohio public schools.
500 The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with
501 oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the
502 General Assembly to create such a funding system.

503
504 **All-day/every-day kindergarten funding**

All-day/every-day kindergarten programs, accompanied by clear academic standards have been proven to raise the achievement levels of all students and to reduce the achievement and readiness gaps in students first entering school.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides full state funding for all-day/every-day kindergarten that incorporates a comprehensive curriculum.
- Provides school facilities funding for districts that do not have sufficient space to accommodate an all-day/every-day kindergarten program that incorporates a comprehensive curriculum.

Assessment rates

The funding of public education is a shared responsibility of the state of Ohio and local communities. Tax policy at the state level has a direct influence on local revenue. Consequently, it is essential to maintain an appropriate balance between state and local revenues. State actions that reduce local revenue resources must be accompanied by appropriate increases in state educational funding.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Replaces lost revenues with state funds when legislation results in local revenue losses, such as a reduction of the tax base, exemptions from taxation or other tax structure changes.

Average daily membership (ADM)

School districts must have the ability to project revenues accurately on an annual basis. A school-funding formula based on frequent measures of enrollment and attendance negatively impacts a district's ability to make accurate forecasts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Supports enrollment calculations that allow school districts to prepare and provide programs and services in a way that does not harm the educational experiences of students.
- Stabilizes school funding by limiting the number and frequency of enrollment counts to three or fewer spaced at appropriate intervals.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Changes average daily membership to average daily attendance.

Base-formula amount

The provision and funding of a thorough and efficient system of common schools are the responsibilities of the state of Ohio. In practice, the funding of public education is a shared responsibility of the state of Ohio and the local community. The capacity of local communities to generate revenue varies widely across the state. Without the state providing sufficient funds for all, some children will be denied the right to an adequate education. Local communities must retain the ability to exercise discretion in offering educational programs that exceed the defined level of an adequate education.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes a process for determining **AND REGULARLY UPDATING ALL** the components and costs of a high-quality **PUBLIC** education.
- Provides that the state shall pay 100% of the cost for an adequate education for every child and 100% of the cost of categorical that enable every school district to provide such an education to every student.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Prohibits communities from voting additional taxes to provide educational programs beyond the defined level of an adequate education.

CAREER TECH PLANNING DISTRICTS

THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EMPOWERING CAREER-TECHNICAL PLANNING DISTRICTS (CTPDs) TO LEAD THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND MONITORING OF CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL WORKFORCE NEEDS AND STUDENT SUCCESS. BY CENTRALIZING LEADERSHIP WITHIN CTPDs, OHIO CAN ENHANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY, STREAMLINE RESOURCES, AND DRIVE INNOVATION TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS.

Categorical parity

Children with unique educational needs place extraordinary demands on public school district revenues. Because of the wide disparities in the capacity to generate local revenues that exist across school districts, additional state revenues must be made available to ensure that children with unique educational needs are served appropriately.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining **AND REGULARLY UPDATING** the cost of a high-quality **PUBLIC** educational program, must determine **AND REGULARLY UPDATE** the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**, and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.
- Indexes the cost of providing educational services to students with unique educational needs against the cost of providing a high-quality **PUBLIC** educational program for regular students, so that each component increases proportionately and in parity with those costs.
- Fully funds at 100% of the cost, the services needed for every child with unique educational needs.
- **PROVIDES INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TO ENSURE DISTRICTS CAN FULLY MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WITHOUT DIVERTING FUNDS FROM GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Equalizes the funding weights for unique needs categories, in addition to the cost of a basic education to provide educational services to career-technical education students, economically

disadvantaged students, English **LANGUAGE** learners, gifted students, and students with disabilities.

Charter/community school funding

Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a charter/community school. State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain with the local taxing authority.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides state base funding, as well as support for special education, career-technical education, poverty aid and transportation services, directly to the charter/community school rather than deducting the payment to the charter/community from the local district's state funding.
- Prohibits state funds for any charter/community school that refuses to accept all students who apply.
- ~~● Eliminates the process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.~~
- Prohibits the use of local tax dollars to fund charter/community schools, except those sponsored by a locally elected board of education.
- Requires that school districts be paid an administrative fee to cover the cost of tracking charter/community school enrollment.
- Provides full state funding to purchase additional buses required to provide transportation for charter/community school students.
- Requires charter/community schools to coordinate schedules with the district providing the transportation services.
- Requires transparency in finances and accounting for all funds transferred to management companies by charter/community school governing boards for the purpose of administering and operating a charter/community school.
- Requires the management company to keep all financial records and to make all such documents public records available to the governing boards and to the public.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Includes children attending charter/community schools in the public school district's ADM count.
- Deducts funding for children attending charter/community schools from the resident district.
- Requires school districts to share local tax revenues and resources with charter/community schools.
- Transfers funds from a public school to a charter/community school without complying with the legal requirement to notify the home district of enrollment or withdrawal.
- **USES A PROCESS OF FLOW-THROUGH FUNDING TO CHARTER/ COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.**

Court-ordered judgment counted as debt

A true and accurate representation of school district valuation reflects all debt obligations.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Requires that contractual agreements with the state and/or bonds issued to satisfy a court-ordered judgment will count as real debt for a district's net indebtedness for participation in state-assisted programs.

Developmental disabilities services

Local tax revenues are generated to support programs for the clients of county developmental disabilities agencies. When a locally elected board of education is providing the educational programming and services, the public school district must be fairly compensated by the respective county developmental disabilities agency.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Develops a process for fair financial compensation to those school districts that provide the educational services to students that are within the jurisdiction of the county developmental disabilities agency, but whose developmental disabilities board declines to provide financial compensation to the actual provider.

Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue

Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be administered by locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Prohibits the diversion of voter-approved tax money without the approval of voters.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.
- **REDUCES OR ELIMINATES TAX REVENUES FROM VOTER-APPROVED LEVIES WHICH SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION.**
- **FORCES SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO RETURN ANY REVENUES ONCE RECEIVED.**
- **IMPEDES LOCALLY ELECTED BOARDS OF EDUCATION FROM DIRECTING THE PROCEEDS OF TAX REVENUES FOR THE PURPOSES THE VOTERS APPROVED.**

Earmarking/tax increases

An adequate level of support for every Ohio public school student requires additional state revenues. Any additional revenues generated to support public education must be earmarked to ensure that it is spent for the designated public education purpose. New or additional sources of funding shall not be used to supplant general revenue funds or lottery profits funds currently designated for public education support.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides the necessary revenues to support an adequate and equitable system of funding public schools in Ohio and to permit them to offer a high-quality educational program to every student.
- Provides an increase in state revenues either through the enactment of an increase in the state sales tax and/or the state personal income tax and/or the commercial activities tax.
- Separately appropriates all lottery and casino profits funding to be allocated to districts on a per-pupil basis.

Educational service centers funding

Educational Service Centers (ESCs) serve as a vital link and partner in the educational process. Governed by locally elected boards of education, ESCs are considered to be school districts under state law and as local education agencies under federal law. ESCs provide a wide variety of direct and support services, including curriculum development, staff development, technology assistance and special education services to the public school districts they serve, as well as shared services with other governmental bodies. ESCs save the state of Ohio and school districts money through cost-effective, collaborative ventures that expand equitable access to resources and maximize operating and fiscal efficiencies. Despite diminishing levels of state financial support, ESCs have maintained high levels of service by becoming more entrepreneurial in their operations.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides an adequate funding mechanism for educational service centers that provides for inflationary growth.
- Requires state funding for facilities to be part of the educational service centers' funding formula.

Election opportunities

Public education depends upon support from local communities through voter-approved tax levies and bond issues. Because the cycle of elections and revenue collection requires sufficient opportunity to place issues before the public for approval, the current practice of a primary election and a general election, combined with the opportunity for two special elections, is necessary.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Reduces the number and frequency of election opportunities available to school districts for ballot issues.

Facilities

OSBA supports a state facilities funding program that provides access to state support when public school districts determine that a facility program is required. The facility program must address the demands upon districts and issues related to classroom facilities caused by state operating requirements and expenditure and reporting standards. A facility program must be subject to state standards for school construction, rather than on a state-prescribed schedule.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides funds and resources to support school safety programs.

- Provides for safe facilities that meet building codes, are conducive to providing educational services and support the inclusion of technology in the classroom.
- Uses median income of the district's residents as a measure of fiscal capacity, in addition to recognized valuation.
- Immediately reflects in the facilities funding formula changes in valuation resulting from legislative or judicial action.
- Requires school buildings determined to be unsafe by local fire and health departments to be upgraded immediately.
- Authorizes locally elected boards of education that have unsafe buildings in their district to impose an emergency capital improvements levy to upgrade and correct the unsafe conditions in the facility.
- Requires the state to provide its full faith and credit as backing for all local facility bonds.
- Repeals the 1/2-mill maintenance requirements.
- Provides funds to support mandated programs, such as all-day kindergarten, preschool programs and accessibility needs.

Fees

Funds provided for educational purposes should be directed only for educational purposes. Accordingly, user fees must not be charged to local educational agencies.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Eliminates or reduces state-imposed fees for board of election expenses and auditor fees.
- Allows districts to charge for labor costs directly associated with receiving and fulfilling a public records request.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Requires districts to incur a debt limit that will harm a district's financial position.
- Attempts to pass on to school districts any fees by government entities to pay for services that are the normal responsibility of that entity.

Gambling

The Ohio Lottery Commission's advertisements and promotions frequently pair the lottery with educational funding, which has generated misunderstanding among the general public. Such advertisements give the general public the false impression that gambling and the lottery are a major source of educational funds. While the lottery, by law, does direct lottery profits to education, such revenues are not sufficient for educational funding and, over the years, have been used to supplant other state funding. A portion of revenues derived from gambling operations authorized by the state is also set aside for schools and other local government entities and should not be used to supplant other state funding.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Prohibits advertising or campaigning by the Ohio Lottery Commission or agents of the state of Ohio that implies directly or indirectly that the funding of public education is contingent upon gambling.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Uses profits from casinos and video lottery terminals to supplant other funding directed to public education.

Impact fees

Impact fees are a source of capital expenses and have been widely used to meet school district and community needs. Impact fees are particularly useful to those districts experiencing rapid growth in residential development where the local tax base has not grown sufficiently to offset the costs associated with student enrollment growth.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for locally elected boards of education to propose to the voters an impact fee assessed on new housing to provide the additional revenues needed for capital expenses incurred in rapidly developing school districts.

Inflationary growth

School districts must realize real funding growth adequate to address revenue needs without requiring voter approval of new tax levies. House Bill 920, passed in 1976, places a tax reduction factor on the inflationary growth on real property values caused by reappraisal. The net effect of HB 920 is to prevent natural growth in revenues as property values grow, thereby requiring school districts to continue to seek voter approval for school tax levies.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for inflationary growth to ensure an adequate and equitable funding system for Ohio's public schools.

Local taxing options

The economic capacity of school communities varies widely across the state of Ohio. Locally elected boards of education benefit from the availability of flexible options that enable ballot issues designed to meet the unique economic conditions of the district.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Supports local taxing options that allow flexibility at the county, district and regional levels for school districts.

Medicaid

The Medicaid School Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Education and reimburses schools for Medicaid eligible services provided to children with an individualized education plan. The Ohio Department of Education is required to administer aspects of the Medicaid School Program pursuant to an interagency agreement with the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Supports a state program that reimburses school districts for medical and related services as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provided to Medicaid-eligible students.

Phantom revenue/chargeoff

The calculation of the local share of the cost of a high-quality education must be based on a true representation of the true district valuation and effective millage rate. Such calculations must not assume a higher millage rate than the amount actually in effect.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Aligns the local share (charge off) of the cost of a high-quality education program with the tax reduction floor.
- Bases the local share on actual local revenues available at the chargeoff rate.
- Eliminates all forms of phantom revenue.

Pooling

Locally elected boards of education must rely upon voter support to raise local tax revenues.

Local property taxes raised to support public education must only be used for public education purposes.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Pools local property tax revenues and/or diverts locally approved revenues to other entities.

Prekindergarten funding

Prekindergarten programs benefit children, families and communities. Multiple studies have shown that high-quality prekindergarten programs lead to increased graduation rates, reduced retention rates and fewer children ultimately placed in special education.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides full state funding to support prekindergarten programs when the locally elected board of education chooses to offer such programs.

Property tax relief

Ohio's overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of public education.
- Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.
- Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary education.

Public/nonpublic school funding

The Ohio General Assembly is charged with providing a thorough and efficient system of common schools. Public school districts must receive no fewer state funds than the amount received by any nonpublic school.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Grants Ohio's public schools at least the same per-pupil amount as the chartered nonpublic schools in Ohio receive.
- Directs any and all funds, returned to the state by charter/community schools, to traditional public schools of residence.
- Requires all private non-public schools receiving public tax money to be held to the same accountability standards governing Ohio's public schools including licensure requirements.
- Requires all private non-public schools receiving public tax money to be subject to the same financial reporting, audit requirements and sunshine laws as Ohio's public schools.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Diverts state dollars from public education to support nonpublic schools.

Pupil transportation

Pupil transportation presents a significant challenge for many districts. In many areas of the state, students would face great challenges in getting to school were it not for the option to ride a school bus. Rural districts often encompass a large geographic area but have low-density populations. Funding for transportation services should incentivize efficiencies and account for specific circumstances among districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides sufficient funding for every child who rides a school bus.
- Rewards schools for efficiency.
- Incentivizes school districts to transport students residing within one to two miles of their school.
- Incentivizes school districts to provide transportation for high school students.
- Fully compensates districts for the transportation of students to schools which are not part of the district.
- Provides for better support of rural districts with low density and low wealth.
- Operates separately from the education funding formula to ensure districts actually receive the state transportation levels to which they are entitled.
- Limits the requirement for public school districts to provide transportation to only those days that are synchronous with the public school district adopted calendar.
- Fully funds districts for the cost of transportation of special education students, foster children, and homeless students who receive transportation accommodations.

Robin Hood

OSBA believes school funding must be equitable among Ohio's diverse public school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides the funding changes necessary for adequacy and equity, without lowering the funding of other districts.

- Supports a high-quality educational program for all public school students, regardless of their geographical location in the state.

School bus purchase and transportation reimbursement

Because safe and reliable pupil transportation depends on the availability of mechanically sound vehicles, locally elected boards of education rely upon scheduled state reimbursement payments to maintain their transportation fleets.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for the revision of state standards for school bus purchase reimbursement to consider the age and condition of the bus to be replaced, as well as the mileage.
- Reinstates state funding for bus purchase reimbursements and operating expenses.
- Makes a state appropriation to replace all buses that are more than eight years old and do not have the latest safety features.

School district income tax

An increasing number of school districts rely on school district income taxes for a portion of their funding. Tax credits for senior citizens on fixed incomes increase the likelihood that these voters will support income tax levy campaigns.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for increasing the senior citizen school district income tax credit.
- Establishes and enforces strict rules for reporting school district state income tax identification numbers.

School district levy reduction/repeal

School district levy requests are based on five-year or longer projections of costs and revenues. The ability to repeal levies within the first five years could increase the need for more frequent levy requests.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Allows a reduction or repeal by citizen petition and vote of any levy that has been approved by the voters unless such referendum has been initiated by the school district.

School district liability

Excessive court judgments against school districts can seriously impair the district's ability to provide an adequate education to its students.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Allows school districts to recover legal costs for any appeal of a court judgment when no monetary damages were issued by the court.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Increases a school district's potential liability or increases the damages potentially assessed.

School-funding factors

OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across Ohio's diverse public school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes **REGULAR** adjustments in school funding based on **CURRENT** operational costs, needs of students and geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.

SCHOOL MEALS

SCHOOL MEALS ARE CRUCIAL TO EDUCATION IN OHIO BECAUSE THEY ENSURE THAT NO CHILD GOES HUNGRY DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, ALLOWING ALL STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON LEARNING RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT THEIR NEXT MEAL. WELL-NOURISHED STUDENTS PERFORM BETTER ACADEMICALLY, HAVE IMPROVED ATTENDANCE, AND EXHIBIT FEWER BEHAVIORAL ISSUES, MAKING UNIVERSAL MEALS A KEY INVESTMENT IN BOTH EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AND LONG-TERM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

OSBA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT

- **ESTABLISHES AND FUNDS A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM IN OHIO, ENSURING THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO FREE, NUTRITIOUS MEALS REGARDLESS OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS.**

Self-insured workers' compensation program

School districts that are self-insured for purposes of workers' compensation realize benefits such as self-administration and claim-related cost savings.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Allows all public school districts in Ohio to self-insure for the purposes of workers' compensation programs.

State fuel tax exemption

All local governments, including school districts, should be exempt from all state taxes in order to avoid the imposition of a double tax on local taxpayers.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Exempts fuel purchased by boards of education from the state fuel tax.

State investment in education

The Ohio Constitution requires the Ohio General Assembly to provide for a thorough and efficient system of common schools. The state's commitment to public education was strengthened by the 1851 Ohio Constitution's mandate that "it shall be the duty of the general assembly to ... encourage schools and the means of instruction and to make such provision, as will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State." An

investment in education is an investment in the future of Ohio's citizens and must be the top priority of everyone.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes the support of public education the state's number one priority.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Attempts to shift the responsibility of costs to locally elected boards of education.

Tangible personal property tax replacement

The local tax base relies on the fair and accurate assessment of property values. Challenges to an assessed value must be reported to all affected taxing authorities at the time the challenge is filed. Any affected taxing authority must have standing to appeal decisions on valuations. Tangible personal property tax and public utility tangible property tax revenues are no longer applied, and replacement of these losses have been phased out from all but a few districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Reinstates state reimbursement that fully matches the loss of the local tangible personal property tax base.
- Assesses no interest payment in cases when repayment is necessary due to an error on the part of the taxpayer.

Tax abatements

Tax abatements siphon critical funding away from public school districts, leaving local taxpayers to make up the difference.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Requires that locally elected boards of education be involved in all discussions and decisions regarding tax abatements.
- Grants locally elected boards of education the authority to enter into negotiations to receive compensation for lost revenues with entities granting abatements and with businesses receiving abatements.
- Grants locally elected boards of education veto power if, in the board's judgment, the abatements adversely impact the district.
- Requires locally elected boards of education to receive state-mandated compensation based on all payroll generated from the abatement (whether tenant or owner).
- Requires locally elected boards of education to receive all reports, studies and information available regarding the abatement.
- Allows locally elected boards of education to have standing to institute legal action if the recipient of an abatement has not complied with the terms of a tax abatement.
- Prohibits a township, municipality, or county from imposing a unilateral tax exemption upon a school district.
- Requires school tax levy money which has been voted upon to be used for the funding of schools be exempt from tax increment financing ("TIF") allowed under ORC 5709.40 and Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") abatements, Residential Improvement Districts ("RID") allowed under 5709.73 and all other forms of abatements and incentives.

Tax policy

Ohio's tax system must be stable, competitive and reflective of the current economy. The funding of public education is a shared responsibility of the state of Ohio and local communities. Tax policy at the state level has a direct influence on local revenues. It is essential to maintain an appropriate balance between state and local revenues. State actions that reduce local revenue resources must be accompanied by appropriate increases in state education funding.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Requires all sectors of the economy to pay their fair share of the cost of public school education and state government.
- Replaces lost revenues with state funds when legislation results in local revenue losses, such as a reduction of the tax base, exemptions from taxation or other tax structure changes.

Taxing/spending limitations

Locally elected boards of education should have the opportunity and flexibility to work with their local communities on taxation and spending issues without restrictions from the state.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Preserves and supports the right of locally elected boards of education to challenge or appeal property tax valuations.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Restricts local taxation and spending by school districts.

Unfunded/underfunded mandates

Unfunded or underfunded mandates create burdens locally and sometimes disproportionately across school districts in Ohio. Federal and state officials should be conscious of mandate burdens being shouldered by public school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Prohibits the U.S. Congress, the Ohio General Assembly and federal or state administrative agencies from enacting or promulgating statutes or rules that result in unfunded and underfunded mandates.
- Requires that fiscal impact statements accompany all school-related proposed statutes or rules.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Does not have funding associated with it.

Personnel

The effective recruitment and retention of high-quality staff are critical for the success of any school district. Properly trained and highly motivated personnel can provide maximum learning opportunities for students. Ongoing evaluation of staff performance is essential.

Ohio enacted a comprehensive collective bargaining statute in April 1984. The enactment of the collective bargaining bill and a series of court cases, particularly in the area of teacher evaluation and nonrenewal, have made it difficult for locally elected boards of education to effectively manage schools. OSBA believes that changes and modifications to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4117, as well as to Chapter 3319, are necessary.

Collective bargaining

OSBA believes that some board affairs may not be appropriate matters for formal negotiations such as, but not limited to, the length of the school day and school year, class size, curriculum, course of study, and textbook and instructional materials selection.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Restores management rights to the collective bargaining statutes.
- Recognizes the right of employees to organize for professional organization goals, without interference, coercion or reprisal from the board or its representatives, and guarantees employees the right to refrain from joining any organization.
- Permits parties to negotiate mutually satisfactory dispute resolution processes.
- Provides penalties and sanctions imposed upon striking public employees that are an effective deterrent to such strikes.
- Limits picketing at the residence and/or places of business of public officials.
- Requires a 10-day written notice prior to the commencement of picketing, striking or other concerted refusal to work.
- Allows locally elected boards of education to suspend individual employment contracts for all types of employees for economic considerations.
- Limits the ability of a local collective bargaining agreement from impeding a district's ability to suspend individual employment contracts.
- Supports innovative approaches to employee compensation initiated on the local level.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Places restrictions on the exercise of free choice of either party in designating its representatives to the bargaining team.
- Mandates joining an organization by a scheme of fees, assessments or other coercion by an organization upon nonmembers.
- Permits any person or agency to intervene in negotiations or a job action without the agreement of all parties.
- Permits strikes by public employees.
- Imposes binding arbitration as a method of resolving collective bargaining disputes.

Confidentiality of personnel applications

Maintaining confidentiality permits districts to attract the best candidates possible for employment or promotions.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides through the Ohio Public Records Act that applications for employment, including applications for promotion, are confidential and not subject to disclosure except at the discretion of the locally elected board of education.

Evaluations

Evaluations serve as both an evaluative process and a communication tool between the employer and employee. Evaluations communicate desired outcomes to employees and help employees see how their work and expected contributions benefit their schools.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Provides for evaluations of all school employees.
- Permits the removal of employees who do not correct identified deficiencies and improve their performance.
- Creates a probationary period for those employees who have deficiencies noted in the evaluation process so that they may correct deficiencies. Failure to correct deficiencies after appropriate intervention may be cause for termination.
- Authorizes the components of evaluations to be developed locally, including job descriptions and performance standards.
- Mandates that personnel evaluations of employees be confidential records which may be released only at the discretion of the board.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Requires evaluations of school personnel in a manner that hinders a board's ability to nonrenew an employee.

Health care

Health care pooling may offer significant savings for districts.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Supports the concept of expanding health care pooling, provided that school districts maintain local decision-making authority, that their employees maintain quality benefit levels and that significant cost savings or other efficiencies are created by the pooling.

Professional development

Students must be prepared to compete in the global marketplace. Consequently, teachers must be prepared to provide modern methods and instructional strategies that meet the academic needs of students.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Requires institutions of higher education for teachers to include in their curriculum courses in technology, classroom management, trauma-informed training, crisis management and behavior management, including training in appropriate behavioral intervention techniques.

Retirement systems

Ohio school employee retirement systems offer benefits to their members and may help attract and retain employees. OSBA supports the school employee retirement systems and has not opposed benefit enhancements in the past. However, when determining pension benefits and eligibility, the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and State Employees Retirement

1188 System (SERS) should consider current demographic realities such as life expectancy and the
1189 number of years employees remain in the workforce.

1190

1191 *OSBA supports legislation that*

1192 ● Includes representation of locally elected boards of education on the STRS and SERS boards.

1193

1194 *OSBA opposes legislation that*

1195 ● Provides future benefit enhancements proposed by STRS and SERS unless the enhancement is
1196 accompanied with a reduction in the 14% employer's share and repeal of the SERS surcharge.

1197 ● Increases the employer's share to cover increases in costs.

ADDITIONAL PLATFORM AMENDMENTS



Celebrating 70 years!

Resolution submitted by Berea City

Adds and deletes language in the Students and learning section, Racism/equity plank. Language that is ~~struck through~~ was deleted; language that is **BOLD AND CAPITALIZED** was added.

Racism/Equity

There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. ~~Race~~ **RACIAL**, ~~ethnicity~~ **ETHNIC, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGIOUS** and socioeconomic background inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate ~~racism, social injustice~~ **INJUSTICES**, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of ~~color and impoverished~~ **THESE** communities.

Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION** or socioeconomic background.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Creates an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION** or socioeconomic background.
- Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities a high-quality education.
- Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision. Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio's public schools.
- Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice. Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of ~~color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their race, ethnicity,~~ **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION** or socioeconomic background.

Resolution submitted by Fort Frye Local (Washington)

Removes the Racism/equity plank in the Students and learning section and adds a new Excellence in education and equality for all plank. Language that is ~~struckthrough~~ was deleted; language that is **BOLD AND CAPITALIZED** was added.

Racism/Equity

~~There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Race, ethnicity and socioeconomic background inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate racism, social injustice, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.~~

~~Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~• Creates an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~
- ~~• Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities a high-quality education.~~
- ~~• Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision.~~
- ~~• Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio's public schools.~~
- ~~• Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice.~~
- ~~• Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.~~

OSBA opposes legislation that

- ~~• Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

OSBA SEEKS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND EQUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR RESPECT TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, RELIGION, SEX, ECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, DISABILITY, MILITARY STATUS, OR LEGALLY ACQUIRED GENETIC INFORMATION. OSBA IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES WITH A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION. FURTHER, OSBA DENOUNCES ANY STANDARDS, CURRICULUM, OR TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, OR STAFF THAT SEEK TO DIVIDE OR ASCRIBE CIRCUMSTANCES OR QUALITIES, SUCH AS COLLECTIVE GUILT, PREJUDICES, OR RACIAL BIAS, TO A WHOLE RACE OR GROUP OF PEOPLE.

OSBA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT

- **AFFIRMS THE PRIMARY PLACE OF ACADEMICS IN OHIO'S K-12 SCHOOLS.**
- **PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, NO MATTER RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, RELIGION, SEX, ECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, DISABILITY, MILITARY STATUS, OR LEGALLY ACQUIRED GENETIC INFORMATION.**
- **PROVIDES EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAW FOR ALL CHILDREN.**
- **PROMOTES STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, OR STAFF THAT SEEK TO BRING UNITY, EXCELLENCE, AND VIRTUE.**

Resolution submitted by Valley Local (Scioto)

Removes the Racism/equity plank in the Students and learning section and adds a new Excellence in education and equality for all plank. Language that is ~~struckthrough~~ was deleted; language that is **BOLD AND CAPITALIZED** was added.

Racism/Equity

~~There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Race, ethnicity and socioeconomic background inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate racism, social injustice, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of color and impoverished communities.~~

~~Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a world-class education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~• Creates an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~
- ~~• Provides districts with the resources and tools they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities a high-quality education.~~
- ~~• Removes and actively repairs racial and social inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for our students in alignment with our mission and vision.~~
- ~~• Funds racial and social justice programs in Ohio's public schools.~~
- ~~• Addresses racial disparities in discipline through restorative justice.~~
- ~~• Funds equitable education throughout the state of Ohio.~~

OSBA opposes legislation that

- ~~• Limits resources and/or opportunities for students of color and those who are traditionally underserved based on their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic background.~~

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

OSBA SEEKS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND EQUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN, WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR RESPECT TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, RELIGION, SEX, ECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, DISABILITY, OR MILITARY STATUS. OSBA IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES WITH A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION. FURTHER, OSBA DENOUNCES ANY STANDARDS, CURRICULUM, OR TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, OR STAFF THAT SEEK TO DIVIDE OR ASCRIBE CIRCUMSTANCES OR QUALITIES, SUCH AS COLLECTIVE GUILT, PREJUDICES, OR RACIAL BIAS, TO A WHOLE RACE OR GROUP OF PEOPLE.

OSBA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT

- **AFFIRMS THE PRIMARY PLACE OF ACADEMICS IN OHIO'S K-12 SCHOOLS.**
- **PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, RELIGION, SEX, ECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, DISABILITY, OR MILITARY STATUS.**
- **PROVIDES EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAW FOR ALL CHILDREN.**
- **PROMOTES STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS, OR STAFF THAT SEEK TO BRING UNITY, EXCELLENCE, AND VIRTUE.**

NEW BUSINESS



Celebrating 70 years!

TOLEDO CITY SCHOOLS
Toledo, Ohio

The Board of Education of the Toledo City School District, County of Lucas, Ohio, met in a Regular Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the 22nd day of April, 2025, in the Thurgood Marshall Board Room, 1609 N. Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604, with the following members present:

Members Present: Mrs. Chris Varwig
 Ms. Sheena Barnes
 Mrs. Polly Taylor-Gerken
 Mr. Randall Parker, III

The notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for the meeting.

Ms. Barnes moved and Mrs. Taylor-Gerken seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 103-2025

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AMENDMENT TO OSBA BYLAWS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Toledo City School District (the “Board”) is a dues-paying member of the Ohio School Boards Association (“OSBA”), who sends a voting delegate to the annual meeting of the OSBA.

WHEREAS, the OSBA’s Bylaws, pursuant to Article 6, generally require that all matters to be voted upon at the annual meeting must be communicated to each member of affiliated school boards for study at least thirty days prior to the date of the annual meeting (the “thirty-day study period”).

WHEREAS, the Board supports this thirty-day study period so that its voting delegate has an opportunity to discuss each voting matter with the Board, to reach a consensus together and vote accordingly on each matter, in the Board’s best interest, at the OSBA’s annual meeting.

WHEREAS, Article 6 of the OSBA’s Bylaws currently contains a loophole provision, where a matter may be instantly placed on the voting agenda—without the proper thirty-day study period—if two-thirds of the present delegates vote to add the matter to the agenda.

WHEREAS, the Article 6 “loophole provision” specifically states that: “[a]ny matter not so referred to members of affiliated boards thirty (30) days in advance will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered delegates present in order to be placed on the agenda.”

WHEREAS, the Board, by and through its delegate, observes that the use of this loophole provision (1) creates disorder and confusion at the OSBA’s annual meetings, (2) routinely allows matters to be voted on and passed without the proper thirty-day notice to the Board, and (3) results in disarray and unpreparedness at the District level that is counter-productive to the Board’s goals and operations.

WHEREAS, the OSBA’s Bylaws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting delegates present at the annual meeting of the OSBA.

WHEREAS, the Board proposes to remove this loophole provision from the OSBA’s Bylaws, and requests this amendment matter be added to the next OSBA annual meeting agenda for a vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that:

Section 1. The Board opposes this loophole provision in the OSBA's Bylaws and, if permitted, will vote to remove this provision at the next OSBA annual meeting.

Section 2. The Board reaffirms its commitment to cooperatively and productively participate as a member of the OSBA and adhere to its bylaws.

Section 3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board relating to this resolution were taken in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Upon roll call on the adoption of the resolution, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Varwig, Ms. Barnes, Mrs. Taylor-Gerken, Mr. Parker, III

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Carried

TREASURER'S CERTIFICATION

The above is a true and correct extract from the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Toledo School District, Ohio, held on April 22, 2025, commencing at 5:30 p.m., in the Thurgood Marshall Board Room, 1609 N. Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604, showing the adoption of the Resolution hereinabove set forth.

April 22, 2025



Treasurer, Board of Education
Toledo City School District, Ohio

REFERENCE MATERIALS



Celebrating 70 years!

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS, the Berea City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a "legislative platform" that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, school funding systems that rely heavily on local property taxes, create funding disparities that disadvantage lower-wealth communities and challenge the equity of public education, and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) offers an equitable and transparent funding model grounded in actual educational costs and student needs, thereby addressing structural flaws in previous funding systems, including an overreliance on property taxes, and

WHEREAS, regular updates and legislative commitment are necessary to ensure that the FSFP evolves with changing student demographics, cost drivers, and economic conditions across Ohio's diverse school districts, and

WHEREAS, maintaining local control of education—including governance, budgeting, and curriculum—ensures responsiveness to community priorities and preserves democratic accountability in public education governance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Berea Board of Education recommends the following language be changed or added to the legislative platform:

Amend the overall description of the **"Finance"** section as follows in the Finance plank:

Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports **the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing** adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the General Assembly to **improve and update the Fair School Funding Plan or other comparable equitable funding system.**

Add a new plank titled, **"Fair School Funding Plan"** in the Finance section:

Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP), developed through bipartisan collaboration among educators, finance experts, and legislators, aims to rectify longstanding inequities in the state's school funding system. By employing a base cost methodology grounded in student-teacher ratios, minimum staffing levels, and actual district expenditures, the FSFP ensures that funding reflects the unique needs of each school district. This approach promotes a transparent and equitable partnership between the state and local communities to support public education for all Ohio students.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Allocates funding based on where students are educated, ensuring resources directly support the schools they attend.**

- **Implements an input-based funding model informed by professional judgment, resulting in a tailored per-pupil base cost for each district.**
- **Establishes a process for regularly updating the components and costs associated with delivering a high-quality education.**
- **Works to equalize funding by providing additional support to districts with limited local revenue-generating capacity.**
- **Provides supplemental funds based on specific student needs and demographics, including support for students with disabilities, English learners, gifted students, economically disadvantaged students, and those enrolled in career-technical education programs.**

Amends the "**Base-formula amount**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes a process for determining **and regularly updating all** the components and costs of a high-quality education in the Fair School Funding Plan as a preferred system of funding.

Amend the "**Categorical parity**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining **and regularly updating** the cost of a high-quality educational program, must determine **and regularly update** the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, **English learners**, and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.

Amend the "**Charter/community school funding**" section as follows:

Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a charter/community school. ~~The current practice of deducting funding for charter/community school children from the state funds provided to traditional public school districts is unnecessary and confusing.~~ State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain with the local taxing authority.

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~Eliminates the~~ **Avoids a** process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.

Amend the "**Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue**" section as follows:

Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be **received and** administered by locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.
- **Reduces or eliminates tax revenues from voter-approved levies which should be received by locally elected boards of education.**
- **Forces school districts to return any revenues once received.**
- **Impedes locally elected boards of education from directing the proceeds of tax revenues for the purposes the voters approved.**

Amend the “**School-funding factors**” section as follows:

OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across Ohio’s diverse public school districts. **OSBA supports the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. School funding must reflect differences in cost or need across students and school districts.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes **regular** adjustments in school funding based on **current** operational costs, needs of students and geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.

Amend the “**Property tax relief**” section as follows:

Ohio’s overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system **until and unless the State of Ohio fully funds public education from the state budget. When the State reduces its investment in public schools, local property owners end up paying more, or school districts are forced to make cuts. When the state portion of school funding increases, schools are less reliant on local taxes, and the frequency and size of local property tax levies decreases. OSBA therefore supports the full funding of the current costs to educate students in Ohio from the state budget.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of public education.
- Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.
- Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary education.

Add a new plank titled “**Local control**” to the School Governance section:

Local control is a foundational principle of Ohio’s public education system, enshrined in the Ohio Revised Code, which grants locally elected boards of education the authority to determine policies and procedures for their schools. This principle ensures that educational decisions reflect the unique needs and values of each community.

Locally elected school boards are directly accountable to their constituents and are best positioned to provide responsive and fiscally responsible governance. Their autonomy encompasses control over financial matters, curricula, personnel, school calendars, and educational priorities. Maintaining this local authority is vital for fostering public trust and ensuring the long-term stability of school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Affirms the authority of local school boards to make decisions regarding curriculum, budgeting, staffing, and scheduling, within the framework of state guidelines.**
- **Recognizes the capacity of local boards to address the distinct challenges and priorities of their local communities, whether urban, suburban, or rural.**
- **Encourages innovation and continuous improvement through locally driven initiatives and programs.**

- Ensures that local school boards have control over financial reserves and the discretion to determine the timing and amount of levies based on local circumstances.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Undermines the decision-making authority of locally elected boards of education.
- Imposes unfunded mandates or statewide policies that do not account for local contexts and needs.
- Erodes the ability of local school boards to manage resources effectively and respond to their communities.

2025-05-21
Date
President Board of Education
Treasurer

Cortina A. Farris

Bill A. Rowe

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENT TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS, the Butler Technology Joint Vocational School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association, and

WHEREAS the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS part of that advocacy includes a "legislative platform" that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

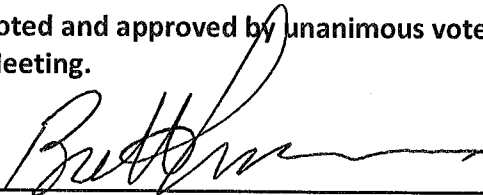
WHEREAS we believe Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs) should lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of career-technical education programs to ensure alignment with regional workforce needs and student success. and

WHEREAS By centralizing leadership within CTPDs, Ohio can enhance program accountability, streamline resources, and drive innovation to prepare students for high-demand careers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Butler Technology Joint Vocational School District recommends the following language be added to the legislative platform:

The Ohio School Boards Association supports empowering Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs) to lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of career-technical education programs to ensure alignment with regional workforce needs and student success. By centralizing leadership within CTPDs, Ohio can enhance program accountability, streamline resources, and drive innovation to prepare students for high-demand careers.

Voted and approved by unanimous vote at the March 18th, 2025, Butler Technology Board Meeting.



President – Board of Education

Paul Carpenter

Digitally signed by Paul
Carpenter
Date: 2025.04.23 11:10:35 -04'00'

Treasurer

April 23, 2025

Date

**Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools
Board of Education Resolution Recommending
Amendments to the Ohio Schools Boards Association
2026 Legislative Platform Around Fair School Funding**

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a Legislative Platform that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts; and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform serves as a guiding document for OSBA's advocacy; and

WHEREAS, any school funding system which relies heavily on local property taxes, creates funding disparities that disadvantage lower-wealth communities and undermines the equity of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) offers an equitable and transparent funding model grounded in actual educational costs and student needs, thereby addressing structural flaws in previous funding systems, including an overreliance on property taxes; and

WHEREAS, regular updates and legislative commitment are necessary to ensure that the FSFP evolves with changing student demographics, cost drivers, and economic conditions across Ohio's diverse school districts; and

WHEREAS, maintaining local control of education—including governance, budgeting, and curriculum—ensures responsiveness to community priorities and preserves democratic accountability in public education governance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CH-UH Board of Education recommends the following language be changed or added to the legislative platform:

Amend the overall description of the “**Finance**” section as follows in the Finance plank:

Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports **the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing** adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the General Assembly to **improve and update the Fair School Funding Plan or other comparable equitable funding system.**

Add a new plank titled, “**Fair School Funding Plan**” in the Finance section:

Ohio’s Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP), developed through bipartisan collaboration among educators, finance experts, and legislators, aims to rectify longstanding inequities in the state’s school funding system. By employing a base cost methodology grounded in student-teacher ratios, minimum staffing levels, and actual district expenditures, the FSFP ensures that funding reflects the unique needs of each school district. This approach promotes a transparent and equitable partnership between the state and local communities to support public education for all Ohio students.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Allocates funding based on where students are educated, ensuring resources directly support the schools they attend.**
- **Implements an input-based funding model informed by professional judgment, resulting in a tailored per-pupil base cost for each district.**
- **Establishes a process for regularly updating the components and costs associated with delivering a high-quality education.**
- **Works to equalize funding by providing additional support to districts with limited local revenue-generating capacity.**
- **Provides supplemental funds based on specific student needs and demographics, including support for students with disabilities, English learners, gifted students, economically disadvantaged students, and those enrolled in career-technical education programs.**

Amends the “**Base-formula amount**” section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes a process for determining **and regularly updating all** the components and costs of a high-quality education in the Fair School Funding Plan as a preferred system of funding.

Amend the “**Categorical parity**” section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining **and regularly updating** the cost of a high-quality educational program, must determine **and regularly update** the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, **English learners**, and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.

Amend the “**Charter/community school funding**” section as follows:

Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a charter/community school. ~~The current practice of deducting funding for charter/community school children from the state funds provided to traditional public school districts is unnecessary and confusing.~~ State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain with the local taxing authority.

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~Eliminates the~~ Avoids a process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.

Amend the “**Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue**” section as follows:

Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be **received and** administered by locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.
- **Reduces or eliminates tax revenues from voter-approved levies which should be received by locally elected boards of education.**
- **Forces school districts to return any revenues once received.**

- **Impedes locally elected boards of education from directing the proceeds of tax revenues for the purposes the voters approved.**

Amend the “**School-funding factors**” section as follows:

OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across Ohio’s diverse public school districts. **OSBA supports the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. School funding must reflect differences in cost or need across students and school districts.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes **regular** adjustments in school funding based on **current** operational costs, needs of students and geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.

Amend the “**Property tax relief**” section as follows:

Ohio’s overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system **until and unless the State of Ohio fully funds public education from the state budget. When the State reduces its investment in public schools, local property owners end up paying more, or school districts are forced to make cuts. When the state portion of school funding increases, schools are less reliant on local taxes, and the frequency and size of local property tax levies decreases. OSBA therefore supports the full funding of the current costs to educate students in Ohio from the state budget.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of public education.
- Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.
- Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary education.

Add a new plank titled “**Local control**” to the School Governance section:

Local control is a foundational principle of Ohio's public education system, enshrined in the Ohio Revised Code, which grants locally elected boards of education the authority to determine policies and procedures for their schools. This principle ensures that educational decisions reflect the unique needs and values of each community.

Locally elected school boards are directly accountable to their constituents and are best positioned to provide responsive and fiscally responsible governance. Their autonomy encompasses control over financial matters, curricula, personnel, school calendars, and educational priorities. Maintaining this local authority is vital for fostering public trust and ensuring the long-term stability of school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- Affirms the authority of local school boards to make decisions regarding curriculum, budgeting, staffing, and scheduling, within the framework of state guidelines.
- Recognizes the capacity of local boards to address the distinct challenges and priorities of their local communities, whether urban, suburban, or rural.
- Encourages innovation and continuous improvement through locally driven initiatives and programs.
- Ensures that local school boards have control over financial reserves and the discretion to determine the timing and amount of levies based on local circumstances.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Undermines the decision-making authority of locally elected boards of education.
- Imposes unfunded mandates or statewide policies that do not account for local contexts and needs.
- Erodes the ability of local school boards to manage resources effectively and respond to their communities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Ohio School Boards Association.

Adopted this 3rd of June, 2025, by the Cleveland Heights-University City Schools Board of Education.

Board President:	<u>Malia Lewis</u>
Board Vice President:	<u>Gabe Crenshaw</u>
Board Member:	<u>Dan Heintz</u>
Board Member:	<u>Jodi Sourini</u>
Board Member:	<u>Phil Trimble</u>

Resolution No. 25-06-064

**Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools
Board of Education Resolution Recommending
An Amendment to the Ohio Schools Boards Association
2026 Legislative Platform Concerning Special Education**

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a Legislative Platform that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts; and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform serves as a guiding document for OSBA's advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the number of students identified as needing special education services has risen nationwide, from 6.4 million students to 7.5 million students over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, there are currently approximately 270,000 students with disabilities who need special education services in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, despite this growing need, Ohio ranks last in the nation in the percentage of education funds allocated to special education, spending only 8.1% of its education budget on special education compared to states like Connecticut, which allocates about 20%; and

WHEREAS, this chronic underfunding forces local school districts either to divert general education funds so as to provide appropriate supports for special education students, or to leave those students underserved, thus jeopardizing compliance with federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of the students in Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District receive special education services and last year the District

spent approximately \$19.5 Million from the general fund on special education services; and

WHEREAS, special education services require significantly more staff than general education programs, yet Ohio lags behind neighboring states in staffing levels, employing only 18 special education staff per 200 students, compared to 38 in Pennsylvania, 28 in West Virginia, 32 in Kentucky, and 21 in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant special education teacher shortage, with special education teachers making up 12% of the teaching workforce but 24% of all job postings; and

WHEREAS, early intervention programs have been proven to reduce long-term costs and improve student outcomes, yet insufficient funding for early intervention leads to more expensive, more intensive interventions later;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CH-UH Board of Education recommends that the following language be added to the Ohio School Boards Association Legislative Platform in the Finance plank, Categorical parity section:

“OSBA supports legislation that:

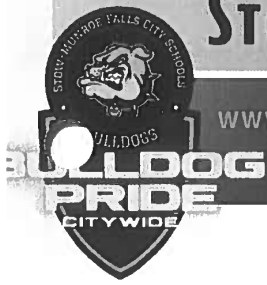
Provides increased and sustainable funding for special education to ensure districts can fully meet the needs of students with disabilities without diverting funds from general education programs.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Ohio School Boards Association.

Adopted this 3rd of June, 2025, by the Cleveland Heights-University City Schools Board of Education.

Board President:	<u>Malia Lewis</u>
Board Vice President:	<u>Gabe Crenshaw</u>
Board Member:	<u>Dan Heintz</u>
Board Member:	<u>Jodi Sourini</u>
Board Member:	<u>Phil Trimble</u>

Resolution No. 25-06-063



STOW-MUNROE FALLS CITY SCHOOLS

WWW.SMFSCHOOLS.ORG • 4350 ALLEN RD. STOW OH 44224 • PHONE 330.689.5445
FAX 330.689.5448



Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools Board of Education

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform serves as a guiding document for advocating policies that support and enhance public education with legislators in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, the number of students identified as needing special education services has risen dramatically nationwide, increasing from 6.4 million to 7.5 million (1) over the past decade, with Ohio reflecting this trend as 17% of its student population (2) now qualifies for special education services, placing it seventh in the country in terms of the number of students with IEPs (3); and

WHEREAS, despite this growing need, Ohio ranks last in the nation in the percentage of education dollars allocated to special education, spending only 8.1% of its education budget on special education compared to states like Connecticut, which allocate around 20% (4); and

WHEREAS, this chronic underfunding forces school districts to divert general education funds, heavily rely on local taxpayers, or leave students underserved, jeopardizing compliance with federal mandates and limiting educational opportunities for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, special education services require significantly more personnel than general education programs, yet Ohio lags behind neighboring states in staffing levels, employing only 18 special education staff per 200 students, compared to 38 in Pennsylvania, 28 in West Virginia, 32 in Kentucky, and 21 in Indiana(4); and

WHEREAS, the special education teacher shortage continues to intensify, with special education teachers making up 12% of the teaching workforce but 24% of all job postings(4), placing an unsustainable burden on current educators and limiting schools' ability to provide essential services; and



STOW-MUNROE FALLS CITY SCHOOLS

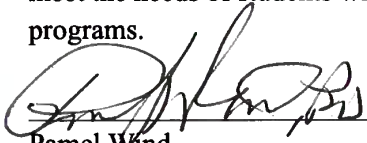
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FAX 330.689.5448



WHEREAS, early intervention programs are critical for reducing long-term costs and improving student outcomes, yet insufficient funding for these services results in higher long-term expenditures, as students who do not receive adequate support early require more intensive interventions later; and

WHEREAS, the potential elimination of the U.S. Department of Education threatens to remove federal oversight and protections for students with disabilities, shifting even greater responsibility onto already strained state and local governments, which could jeopardize services for 270,000 students with disabilities in Ohio(2);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District urges the Ohio School Boards Association to amend its Legislative Platform with the following addition in the Finance section, categorical parity plank under the OSBA supports language that: Provides increased and sustainable funding for special education to ensure districts can fully meet the needs of students with disabilities without diverting funds from general education programs.


Pamela Wind

President - Board of Education


Patrick Goclano
Treasurer

References:

1. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgg/students-with-disabilities>
2. https://policymattersohio.org/research/state-of-ohio-schools2023/?link_id=3&can_id=a3db04b83f00816
3. <https://www.occde.org/Downloads/2023%20Ohio%20Special%20Education%20Profile%20Report%205%2028%2024%20Final.pdf>
4. https://edunomicslab.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Special-Ed-30-min_8.1-4.pdf?link_id=4&can_id=a

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS, the Upper Arlington School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a "legislative platform" that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, school funding systems that rely heavily on local property taxes, create funding disparities that disadvantage lower-wealth communities and challenge the equity of public education, and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) offers an equitable and transparent funding model grounded in actual educational costs and student needs, thereby addressing structural flaws in previous funding systems, including an overreliance on property taxes, and

WHEREAS, regular updates and legislative commitment are necessary to ensure that the FSFP evolves with changing student demographics, cost drivers, and economic conditions across Ohio's diverse school districts, and

WHEREAS, maintaining local control of education—including governance, budgeting, and curriculum—ensures responsiveness to community priorities and preserves democratic accountability in public education governance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Upper Arlington Board of Education recommends the following language be changed or added to the legislative platform:

Amend the overall description of the "**Finance**" section as follows in the Finance plank:

Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports **the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing** adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the General Assembly to **improve and update the Fair School Funding Plan or other comparable equitable funding system.**

Add a new plank titled, "**Fair School Funding Plan**" in the Finance section:

Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP), developed through bipartisan collaboration among educators, finance experts, and legislators, aims to rectify longstanding inequities in the state's school funding system. By employing a base cost methodology grounded in student-teacher ratios, minimum staffing levels, and actual district expenditures, the FSFP ensures that funding reflects the unique needs of each school district. This approach promotes a transparent and equitable partnership between the state and local communities to support public education for all Ohio students.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Allocates funding based on where students are educated, ensuring resources directly support the schools they attend.**

- **Implements an input-based funding model informed by professional judgment, resulting in a tailored per-pupil base cost for each district.**
- **Establishes a process for regularly updating the components and costs associated with delivering a high-quality education.**
- **Works to equalize funding by providing additional support to districts with limited local revenue-generating capacity.**
- **Provides supplemental funds based on specific student needs and demographics, including support for students with disabilities, English learners, gifted students, economically disadvantaged students, and those enrolled in career-technical education programs.**

Amends the "**Base-formula amount**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes a process for determining **and regularly updating all** the components and costs of a high-quality education in the Fair School Funding Plan as a preferred system of funding.

Amend the "**Categorical parity**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining **and regularly updating** the cost of a high-quality educational program, must determine **and regularly update** the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, **English learners**, and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.

Amend the "**Charter/community school funding**" section as follows:

Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a charter/community school. ~~The current practice of deducting funding for charter/community school children from the state funds provided to traditional public school districts is unnecessary and confusing.~~ State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain with the local taxing authority.

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~Eliminates the~~ **Avoids** a process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.

Amend the "**Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue**" section as follows:

Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be **received and** administered by locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.
- **Reduces or eliminates tax revenues from voter-approved levies which should be received by locally elected boards of education.**
- **Forces school districts to return any revenues once received.**
- **Impedes locally elected boards of education from directing the proceeds of tax revenues for the purposes the voters approved.**

Amend the "School-funding factors" section as follows:

OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across Ohio's diverse public school districts. **OSBA supports the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. School funding must reflect differences in cost or need across students and school districts.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes **regular** adjustments in school funding based on **current** operational costs, needs of students and geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.

Amend the "Property tax relief" section as follows:

Ohio's overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system **until and unless the State of Ohio fully funds public education from the state budget. When the State reduces its investment in public schools, local property owners end up paying more, or school districts are forced to make cuts. When the state portion of school funding increases, schools are less reliant on local taxes, and the frequency and size of local property tax levies decreases. OSBA therefore supports the full funding of the current costs to educate students in Ohio from the state budget.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of public education.
- Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.
- Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary education.

Add a new plank titled "**Local control**" to the School Governance section:

Local control is a foundational principle of Ohio's public education system, enshrined in the Ohio Revised Code, which grants locally elected boards of education the authority to determine policies and procedures for their schools. This principle ensures that educational decisions reflect the unique needs and values of each community.

Locally elected school boards are directly accountable to their constituents and are best positioned to provide responsive and fiscally responsible governance. Their autonomy encompasses control over financial matters, curricula, personnel, school calendars, and educational priorities. Maintaining this local authority is vital for fostering public trust and ensuring the long-term stability of school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Affirms the authority of local school boards to make decisions regarding curriculum, budgeting, staffing, and scheduling, within the framework of state guidelines.**
- **Recognizes the capacity of local boards to address the distinct challenges and priorities of their local communities, whether urban, suburban, or rural.**
- **Encourages innovation and continuous improvement through locally driven initiatives and programs.**

- Ensures that local school boards have control over financial reserves and the discretion to determine the timing and amount of levies based on local circumstances.

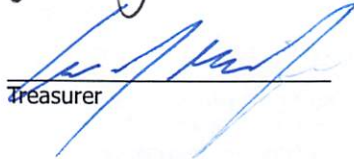
OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Undermines the decision-making authority of locally elected boards of education.
- Imposes unfunded mandates or statewide policies that do not account for local contexts and needs.
- Erodes the ability of local school boards to manage resources effectively and respond to their communities.

Date June 10, 2025



President Board of Education



Treasurer

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform serves as a guiding document for advocating policies that support and enhance public education with legislators in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, a federal budget proposal under discussion by the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee aims to reduce \$3 billion from school breakfast and lunch programs, potentially affecting over 280,000 children in Ohio who depend on these meals for daily nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Board of Education, in a 2022 resolution, recommended utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to implement universal free meals, recognizing the critical role of consistent access to nutritious food in student health and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, universal free meal programs have demonstrated significant benefits, including improved student nutrition, elimination of stigma associated with free meals, increased participation in school meal programs, and enhanced academic performance; and

WHEREAS, investing in universal school meals is a cost-effective policy that can be supported through state and federal funding mechanisms, providing substantial returns in public health, economic equity, and educational outcomes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District urges the Ohio School Boards Association to amend its Legislative Platform to add a School meals plank in the Finance section as follows:

School meals are crucial to education in Ohio because they ensure that no child goes hungry during the school day, allowing all students to focus on learning rather than worrying about their next meal. Well-nourished students perform better academically, have improved attendance, and exhibit fewer behavioral issues, making universal meals a key investment in both educational outcomes and long-term workforce development.

YSEVD – March 13th, 2025

OSBA supports legislation that:

Establishes and funds a universal school meals program in Ohio, ensuring that all students have access to free, nutritious meals regardless of socioeconomic status.

Dr. Rebecca Patton

President - Board of Education

Jeff Miller

Treasurer

3/13/2025

Date

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform serves as a guiding document for advocating policies that support and enhance public education with legislators in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the OSBA Legislative Platform is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, the number of students identified as needing special education services has risen dramatically nationwide, increasing from 6.5 million to 7.5 million over the past decade, a 116% increase, with Ohio reflecting this trend as 17% of its student population now qualifies for special education services; and

WHEREAS, despite this growing need, Ohio ranks last in the nation in the percentage of education dollars allocated to special education, spending only 8.1% of its education budget compared to states like Connecticut, which allocate 21.6%; and

WHEREAS, this chronic underfunding forces school districts to divert general education funds, rely on local taxpayers, or leave students underserved, jeopardizing compliance with federal mandates and limiting educational opportunities for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, special education services require significantly more personnel, yet Ohio lags behind neighboring states in staffing levels, employing only 18 special education staff per 200 students, compared to 38 in Pennsylvania and 21 in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the special education teacher shortage continues to intensify, with special education teachers making up 12% of the teaching workforce but 24% of all job postings, placing an unsustainable burden on current educators and limiting schools' ability to provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, early intervention programs are critical for reducing long-term costs and improving student outcomes, yet insufficient funding for these services results in higher long-term expenditures, as students who do not receive adequate support early require more intensive interventions later; and

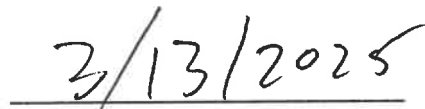
WHEREAS, the potential elimination of the U.S. Department of Education threatens to remove federal oversight and protections for students with disabilities, shifting even greater responsibility onto already strained state and local governments, which could jeopardize services for 270,000 students with disabilities in Ohio;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District urges the Ohio School Boards Association to amend its Legislative Platform with the following addition in the Finance section, categorical parity plank under the OSBA supports language that:

Provides increased and sustainable funding for special education to ensure districts can fully meet the needs of students with disabilities without diverting funds from general education programs.


President - Board of Education


Treasurer


Date

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2026
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Berea City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a "legislative platform" that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, we believe the Racism/Equity plank should address all students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Berea City School District that the first paragraph of the Racism/Equity plank be rewritten with the following highlighted changes:

There is no place for racism or hatred in our schools. We acknowledge the historical, generational and compounding reality of the systems, structures and practices that have created and continue to afford advantages to some groups while perpetuating inequities for others. Racial, ~~and~~ ethnic, ~~socioeconomic~~, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGIOUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC** inequalities produce unequal opportunities for student success. Strong public schools are the great equalizer, and education provides the foundation to change perceptions and attitudes. It is imperative that Ohio implement meaningful solutions that eliminate ~~racism, social injustice, including injustices based on sexual orientation and gender identity~~, disparate discipline and bias, as well as foster equity to provide a catalyst for sustained improvement for students of ~~color and impoverished~~ **these** communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the second paragraph of the plank be rewritten with the following highlighted changes:

Inequitable systems of school finance at the federal, state and local levels, including special grants, caps and guarantees, fail to provide schools with adequate or sufficient funding to achieve a worldclass education necessary to prepare students for the future. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. It is essential that we create an inclusive environment that ensures that our students have a future that allows all students to be successful, no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION**, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the language in the "OSBA supports legislation that" section includes the following highlighted changes:

Creates an inclusive environment that ensures students are provided opportunities for achievement and success no matter their race, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION**, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the language in the "OSBA opposes legislation that" section includes the following highlighted changes:

Limits resources and/or opportunities for students ~~of color and those~~ who are traditionally underserved based on their **RACE**, ethnicity, **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION**, or socioeconomic background.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution has been duly certified by the Treasurer and will be presented by our Delegate from the floor of the 2026 OSBA Annual Delegate Meeting for the consideration of its membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Date: September 15, 2025

President

Corinne A. Jarvis

Board of Education

Treasurer

Jill A. Rowe

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting held on September 15, 2025, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said meeting to the extent pertinent to consideration and adoption of said resolution.

Jill A. Rowe

Jill A. Rowe, Treasurer

**RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND EQUALITY IN K-12
EDUCATION FOR EACH OHIO STUDENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR RESPECT
TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, CITIZENSHIP, RELIGION,
SEX, ECONOMIC STATUS, AGE, DISABILITY, MILITARY, OR LEGALLY
REQUIRED GENETIC INFORMATION**

The Fort Frye Local Schools Board of Education (the "Board") hereby ADOPTS the following Resolution:

Whereas the Board begins with a vision that affirms all children are created equal and all children are equally protected by law; and

Whereas the Board is concerned about not only a growing national divide but a troubling focus on differences rather than on one's character and honor for a merit-based approach; and

Whereas the Board recognizes that racism and prejudices in respect to race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, military status, or legally acquired genetic information are toxic to our culture: and

Whereas the Board denounces any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to divide or to ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, prejudices, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board emphatically affirms the primary place of academics in Ohio's K-12 public schools; and

Further Resolved, that with this action the Board expresses its unwavering commitment to excellence in education and equality for all, education that empowers each student to reach his or her full potential as a member of the next great generation of Ohioans; and

Further Resolved, the Board has a commitment to focus on one's character and honor for a merit-based approach; and

Further Resolved, the Board seeks to end racism and prejudice by promoting a standard of blind justice without partiality to encourage peace and unity: and

Further Resolved, the Board remains vigilant in its endeavor to advocate for all students with all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education by promoting standards, curriculum, and training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to bring unity, excellence, and virtues; and

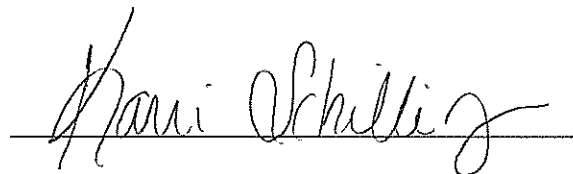
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recommends that the Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) Legislative Platform shall be amended to replace the existing OSBA Racism/Equality plank in its entirety with the following:

Excellence in Education and Equality For All

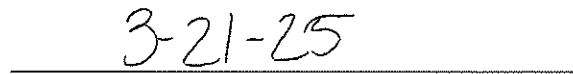
OSBA seeks excellence in education and equality for all children and families, without prejudice or respect to race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, military status, or legally acquired genetic information. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. Further, OSBA denounces any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to divide or to ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, prejudices, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Affirms the primary place of academics in Ohio's K-12 public schools.
- Provides opportunities for all students to be successful, no matter race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, military status, or legally acquired genetic information.
- Provides equal protection of the law for all children.
- Promotes academic excellence and equality in K-12 education.
- Promotes standards, curriculum, and training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to bring unity, excellence, and virtue.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hani Phillips", written over a horizontal line.

For the Fort Frye Local Schools Board of Education

A handwritten date "3-21-25" written in a simple, slightly slanted font, positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

Resolution No. 2025-_____

Adoption and Submission of Proposed Amendment to the OSBA Legislative Platform

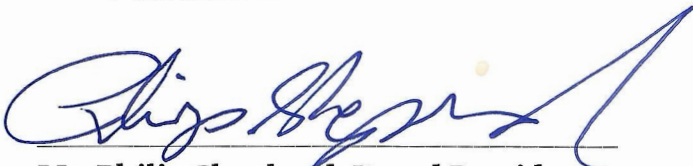
Title: "Excellence in Education and Equality for All"

Resolved, that the **Board of Education of Valley Local School District** hereby adopts the attached "*Proposed Amendment to the OSBA Legislative Platform — Excellence in Education and Equality for All*" and authorizes the Board Delegate to submit the attached amendment and associated supporting documents to the Ohio School Boards Association for inclusion in the Delegate Packet/Business Agenda in accordance with the 30-day notice requirement for the Annual Business Meeting on November 17, 2025.

Adopted this 15th day of October, 2025.

Board Certification:

"I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Valley Local School District at a meeting held on October 15, 2025, and that the adoption is reflected in the official minutes of the Board."


Mr. Philip Shephard, Board President

10/15/25
Date

Treasurer Certification:

"I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Valley Local School District at a meeting held on October 15, 2025, and that the adoption is reflected in the official minutes of the Board."


Ms. Kristi Hall, Treasurer

10/15/25
Date

Proposed Amendment to OSBA Legislative Platform

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

OSBA seeks excellence in education and equality for all children, without prejudice or respect to race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, or military status. OSBA is committed to ensuring school boards have the resources they need to provide students of all backgrounds and abilities with a high-quality education. Further, OSBA denounces any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to divide or ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, prejudices, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people.

OSBA SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT:

- Affirms the primary place of academics in Ohio's K–12 schools.
- Provides opportunities for all students to be successful, regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability, or military status.
- Provides equal protection of the law for all children.
- Promotes standards, curriculum, and training programs for students, teachers, and staff that seek to bring unity, excellence, and virtue.

OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Summary of Minutes of the 69th Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly

Monday, Nov. 11, 2024
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Union Station Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio

The 69th Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly convened in the Union Station Ballroom of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. OSBA President Sally S. Green, Tuscarawas Valley Local (Tuscarawas), presided.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Green called the 69th Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly to order.

2. INTRODUCTION OF PLATFORM GUESTS

President Green introduced the following head table guests: Nicole Piscitani, OSBA deputy director of legislative services; Jennifer Hogue, OSBA director of legislative services; Kathy McFarland, OSBA chief executive officer; Thomas C. Patterson, OSBA president-elect; Mary Remson, parliamentarian and Sara C. Clark, OSBA chief legal counsel.

3. SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS

President Green recognized members of the Board of Trustees, Legislative Platform Committee and OSBA regional managers and veterans. She then introduced Major Michael J. Antonas who serves as the Commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion of the Ohio Army National Guard. He then addressed the delegates.

4. OHIO SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

President Green introduced and welcomed Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paul Craft. Mr. Craft thanked President Green for the introduction. He then addressed the delegates.

5. OHIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paul Craft introduced State Teacher of the Year, Danee' Pinckney, Twinsburg City. Ms. Pinckney addressed the delegates.

6. Kids PAC — YOUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

President Green encouraged members of the OSBA delegate assembly to support *Kids PAC*, the resource that supports OSBA's lobbying efforts at the Statehouse.

The Golden Apple Award for their summa cum laude contributions to *Kids PAC* of \$250 was presented to Amie Crowder, Jennifer Hogue, Thomas C. Patterson and Larry Walton.

President Green presented the Valedictorian Award for contributions to *Kids PAC* of \$500 to Russell Garrison, Sally S. Green, Al Haberstroh and Susie Lawson.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Susie Lawson, Tri-County ESC and Wayne County Schools Career Center, served as chair of the Rules and Credentials Committee. Additional committee members included Sara Brumfield, Federal Hocking Local (Athens); Jermaine Ferguson, Marysville EV; Darrell Thomas, Urbana City and Sheryl Krotzer, Gibsonburg EV. Chair Lawson reported that the committee met on June 24 for the purpose of reviewing the rules and the process and role of credentialing for the 2024 OSBA Delegate Assembly. Ms. Lawson stated that Article 6, Section 2 of the OSBA Constitution provides that 25% of the board members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Rules and Credentials Committee chair declared a quorum with 396 delegates/alternates present and moved for adoption of the Credentials Committee report. **Motion carried.** Chair Lawson then moved to adopt the rules as printed in the delegate book for the 2024 Delegate Assembly. **Motion carried.**

Christine Varwig, OSBA past president, board member from Toledo City and chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the report of the committee. Ms. Varwig stated that the committee met on July 20 to consider applicants for the position of president-elect for 2025. The members of the committee were Whitney Duemmel, Central Region; Doug G. Stuart, Northeast Region; Kevin Landon, Northwest Region; Ed Penrod, Southeast Region and Bobbie Grice of the Southwest Region. As directed by the Nominating Committee, Mary Cleveland, a member of Princeton City Board of Education and Great Oaks Career Campuses, has been selected for the office of president-elect of the Ohio School Boards Association for 2025.

8. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Terry Gibson, Great Oaks Career Campus and Lockland Local (Hamilton) provided an honorary second to the motion. President Green asked if there were any further nominations for the office of president-elect. Seeing none, President Green called for a vote on the nomination of Mary Cleveland as 2025 president-elect. **Motion carried.**

9. INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

President Green congratulated Mary Cleveland and presented her with a personalized copy of Robert's Rules of Order. Ms. Cleveland addressed the delegates.

10. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr. Kathy McFarland, chief executive officer, gave the following remarks:

Good afternoon and welcome. Thank you for joining us today. This address offers me an opportunity to reflect on OSBA's 2024 accomplishments and preview our goals for the coming year. Here are a few highlights from this year:

LEGAL

OSBA's Legal Assistance Fund played a key role in many cases concerning public education in Ohio. OSBA's Scholarship Foundation awarded \$10,000 in scholarships and grants to 15 students. We launched new initiatives to better serve our members including:

- Legal Ledger Sidebar videos covering trending legal issues.
- "Question of the Month" feature to address hot topics.
- Updated key legal publications and fact sheets.

BOARD MANAGEMENT

The Board and Management Services division has overseen Capital Conference planning, learning sessions, and speaker coordination. This week represents the culmination of that hard work. As leadership transitions approach for many districts, our Board and Management Services team is ready to support superintendent and treasurer searches, strategic planning, and onboarding new board members in 2025.

MEMBER RELATIONS

We maintained a 99% membership rate in 2024. We hosted over 90 events, including the "Future of Education" event with the Lt. Governor and key educational leaders. We launched the Abundabox program to assist families statewide and received over 100 applicants for statewide and regional advisory committees.

COMMUNICATIONS

We introduced the bi-monthly OSBA Update newsletter, reaching all members. Our website saw over 130,000 users in the first ten months of 2024. We expanded online learning with 26 on-demand webinars and over 20 videos and collaborated with the T.D. Rutan Military Interstate Council to recognize veterans working in districts. We promoted the value of public education during American Education Week and Public Schools Week.

We have had a significant increase in audience engagement on our social media platforms: Facebook, LinkedIn, the OSBA YouTube channel and Instagram. Our videos have been viewed 52,429 times, a 104.8% increase from 2023.

LEGISLATIVE

We tracked over 200 pieces of legislation impacting public education and worked with Chair Manning to introduce HB 407 to require academic and financial accountability for private schools accepting vouchers. We worked to protect \$600 million in school facilities funding in the capital budget and ensured that the mandated cell phone policy allowed for local control and included exceptions for students who need access for health or educational reasons. We worked with Representative McClain and members of the House Transportation Committee to draft comprehensive school bus safety legislation.

LOOKING FORWARD

OSBA is in the second year of our five-year Strategic Plan and has completed three key strategies:

1. Analyzed OSBA services for cost-effectiveness, with recommendations moving forward.
2. Developed training focused on how boardmanship impacts student achievement.
3. Established customer service protocols to enhance member experience.

We remain committed to our vision of leading the way as the respected voice of Ohio public education.

Now, please join me in viewing a very special message from one of the biggest supporters of Ohio public education – Rick Lewis. Rick Lewis addressed the delegates after a video was shown sharing his liver transplant journey.

11. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMITTEE

President Green referred to the Legislative Platform Committee discussions, input and deliberations at the August meeting. President Green called on Chair Thomas C. Patterson, Sandusky City, to present the proposed platform amendments as recommended by the platform committee. The following amendments were considered by the Delegate Assembly to modify OSBA's legislative platform.

Proposed Amendment 1
Section: Finance
Plank: Fees

Fees

Funds provided for educational purposes should be directed only for educational purposes. Accordingly, user fees must not be charged to local educational agencies.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Eliminates or reduces state-imposed fees for board of election expenses and auditor fees.
- **ALLOWS DISTRICTS TO CHARGE FOR LABOR COSTS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH RECEIVING AND FULFILLING A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST.**

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Requires districts to incur a debt limit that will harm a district's financial position.
- Attempts to pass on to school districts any fees by government entities to pay for services that are the normal responsibility of that entity.

President Green asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. After answering questions from delegates, President Green called for a vote. **Amendment carries.**

Proposed Amendment 2

Section: Finance

Plank: Tax Abatements

Tax abatements

Tax abatements siphon critical funding away from public school districts, leaving local taxpayers to make up the difference.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Requires that locally elected boards of education be involved in all discussions and decisions regarding tax abatements.
- Grants locally elected boards of education the authority to enter into negotiations to receive compensation for lost revenues with entities granting abatements and with businesses receiving abatements.
- Grants locally elected boards of education veto power if, in the board's judgment, the abatements adversely impact the district.
- Requires locally elected boards of education to receive state mandated compensation based on all payroll generated from the abatement (whether tenant or owner).
- Requires locally elected boards of education to receive all reports, studies and information available regarding the abatement.
- Allows locally elected boards of education to have standing to institute legal action if the recipient of an abatement has not complied with the terms of a tax abatement.
- Prohibits a township, municipality, or county from imposing a unilateral tax exemption upon a school district.
- **REQUIRES SCHOOL TAX LEVY MONEY WHICH HAS BEEN VOTED UPON TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF SCHOOLS BE EXEMPT FROM TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ("TIF") ALLOWED UNDER ORC 5709.40 AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT ("CRA") ABATEMENTS.**

President Green asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor. Dr. Susan Page, Clark Shawnee Local (Clark) offered an to add the words "...and all other forms of abatements" after Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") Abatements. Rachael Kiplinger, Bethel Local (Miami), seconded the motion.

Bill McCartney, Jonathan Alder Local (Madison) moved to add the words "and incentives" after "all other forms of abatements". Andrey Stojic, Bay Village City, seconded the motion. Several others offered comments.

President Green called for a vote on the amended language change adding “and incentives.” **The change was adopted.** Denise Brewster, Riverside Local (Lake) made a motion to add “Residential Improvement Districts (“RID”) allowed under 5709.73” after the words “Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”) abatements.” Tom Hach, ESC of the Western Reserve, seconded the motion. President Green asked if there were any more comments or questions. After answering questions, a vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Discussion continued on the proposed amendment and President Green called for a vote. **Amendment carries.**

12. PLATFORM AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED FROM THE FLOOR

President Green thanked Chair Patterson, members of the Legislative Platform Committee and the OSBA Executive Committee for their work and their efforts. President Green asked for new amendments from the floor. Phil White, Bath Local (Allen), moved to consider a resolution to add language to the locally elected boards of education plank. Levi Hartschuh, Wynford Local (Crawford) seconded the motion to consideration. President Green then called for a vote on the motion to consider. **Motion to consider passed.**

Proposed Amendment from the Floor
Section: School Governance
Plank: Locally elected boards of education

Locally elected boards of education

Control of the public school system by locally elected board members produces an educational system designed to meet the needs of the community’s children. The locally elected school board provides citizens with a direct means to influence local education policies, programs, costs and outcomes.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Maintains locally elected school boards, which exemplify representative government.
- Amends Ohio Revised Code and increases the rate of maximum compensation for school board members, and provides for inflationary growth, in order to better ensure that board members are compensated more commensurately with the responsibilities of their position.
- **EMPOWERS LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO APPOINT THE BEST QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD.**

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Diminishes local control.
- Mandates alternative governance structures, including mayoral takeover, without a public referendum.
- **ENTITLES APPOINTEES TO THE JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS TO TERMS THAT EXTEND BEYOND THEIR LOCAL BOARD TERM DUE TO RETIREMENT (CHOICE TO NOT RUN), RESIGNATION, OR LOSS IN RE-ELECTION.**

President Green asked if there were any additional comments or questions from the floor. Daniel Knapke, Williamsburg Local (Clermont), moved to strike the language in **bold** that is under OSBA opposes legislation... Brock Pierson, Geneva Area City, seconded the motion. After further discussion, President Green called for a vote to strike the language in **bold** under OSBA opposes legislation.... **Motion to strike carries.**

President Green called for a vote on the amendment as amended. After the vote was counted,
Motion failed.

President Green moved to item #13.

13. NEW BUSINESS

President Green asked if any new business needed to come before the Delegate Assembly.
Seeing none, President Green moved to item #14.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Green declared the meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm

ACTION BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Approved by the OSBA Board of Trustees _____.

[illegible]

[illegible]



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**