



**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
Senate Bill 89 Testimony  
Ohio School Boards Association  
Buckeye Association of School Administrators  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials  
January 21, 2020**

To: The Honorable Don Jones, Chairman, House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

From: Jennifer Hogue, OSBA ~ 614-540-4000  
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RE: Support for SB 89

Our organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers/ CFOs, business managers, and other school business officials from around the state. We are writing to express support for Senate Bill 89, which would enact a number of provisions that would reduce regulations for career-technical education programs, provide some additional flexibility, and promote efficiency.

First, the bill would permit the boards of education of joint vocational school districts to hold their annual organizational meeting at any time during January of each calendar year rather than by January 15. JVSD board members are also members of other boards of education, which must hold their organizational meeting by that January 15 date. As a result, in addition to a requirement for JVSD board members to attend two meetings within a relatively short span of time, scheduling the meetings to avoid conflicts between school district board meetings and those of the JVSD can be challenging. In addition, we would note that this change would make JVSD board organizational meetings identical to the requirements for the governing boards of educational service centers.

Second, we support the provision that would allow a JVSD board to include in its calamity day plan the use of additional online lessons, student internships, student projects, or other options to make up hours missed as the result of school closings by the JVSD member districts. Generally, JVSDs close for calamity purposes only when a majority of the member districts cancel classes – and therefore bus transportation.

However, when less than a majority of the member districts cancel school, the JVSD still conducts classes, and that means that some students are not involved in instructional activities. This change would not only permit an online alternative but also would recognize the unique

instruction that career-tech programs provide by permitting internships and student projects related to the students' career-tech fields.

We support the provision that would require compensation to a JVSD for a property tax exemption if there is a compensation agreement with a member school district of that JVSD. Under current law, a legislative authority may provide for compensation to be paid to JVSDs located in the proposed tax exemption zone, but there is no requirement to do so. SB 89 would require that the JVSDs be compensated at the same rate, and under the same terms, as compensation paid to the school district. (This requirement already exists in state law for compensation agreements entered into as a result of a tax increment financing arrangement.)

~~The bill would also modify the workforce graduation pathway by allowing a student to qualify for a high school diploma by attaining a selected score on a nationally recognized job skills assessment (generally, the WorkKeys assessment), obtaining an industry recognized credential, or obtaining a license that requires an examination and is issued by a state agency or board. Currently, the requirement is that a student in this pathway must obtain the selected WorkKeys score and obtain either an industry recognized credential or license.~~

~~We also support a provision in SB 89 that permits the lead district of a career technical planning district (CTPD) to enter into an agreement with another district within the CTPD to establish a method to determine full-time equivalency of a student enrolled in both districts in order to calculate the enrollment of each district for state funding purposes. The agreement would be determined locally and would not be subject to review or approval by the Ohio Department of Education.~~

We also support the provision in the bill that would allow an individual holding an adult education permit for a career-tech field be permitted to work as a substitute career-tech teacher ~~for up to 80 days each school year~~. It can be very challenging for career-tech districts to find appropriately educated substitute teachers in many career fields. This would provide some flexibility, and these adult permit holders would have been subject to background checks.

~~Finally, we support the provision requiring a state higher education institution with an articulation agreement with a CTPD to provide transcribed credit to students who complete the higher education courses through the CTPD under certain circumstances. These circumstances include receiving the required score on any assessment related to the course and having the course approved through either a local articulation agreement or the career technical assurance guides (CTAG) developed by the Chancellor.~~

Chair Jones, thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 89.