

- Agnon School
- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School
- Canton Country Day
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown School
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- Lawrence School
- Linden Grove School
- Lippman Day School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day
- McGuffey Foundation School
- Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ratner School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School - Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori School - Rocky River
- Schilling School for Gifted Children
- Seven Hills School
- Spring Garden Waldorf School
- Springer School and Center
- Summit Country Day
- University School
- Village Academy Schools
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy



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June 13, 2019

Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Interested Party Testimony – House Bill 166

Ohio Association of Independent Schools
 Dan Dodd – Executive Director

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to express our thoughts regarding House Bill 166. I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (O AIS), an organization of member schools throughout Ohio, the vast majority of which are accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), who are committed to the innovation and excellence provided by independent education in our state.

O AIS would ask the Senate to restore item EDUCD71 in the LSC comparison document to the House version, which are the provisions regarding the establishment of the Accredited Nonpublic Schools Pilot Project program for ISACAS-accredited schools. Last session’s Senate Bill 241, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Terhar and Thomas, was the inspiration for this amendment that was inserted by the House during the budget process. No one testified against the proposal during the hearings in the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, nor in the Senate Finance Committee hearings prior to the substitute bill. We believe the Senate should embrace the concept, as the House has, that high-performing private schools with college entrance rates of over 99% should be entrusted with more responsibility and market-based academic accountability than what may exist with the nonpublic school sector as a whole.

Aside from the pilot project issue, which has been the number one priority of O AIS for several years, there are provisions in the Senate substitute bill that we do support and would like to credit. We support the extension of eligibility for athletics to those international students who come to schools in Ohio legally looking to avail themselves of an American high school education. We support the provision treating public and private schools equally for the purpose of transfers between schools. We support the affirmation of the five-decade long commitment by Ohio to transporting private school students. While O AIS does not advocate for increases in state funding for private schools, we recognize the role funding plays for many schools and acknowledge what funds can do for school choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position on the Senate version of Ohio’s biennial budget.