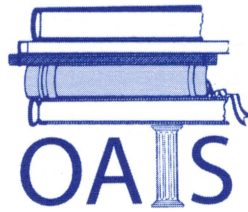


- Agnon School
- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School
- Canton Country Day
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown 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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September 12, 2017

Ohio House Education Committee

Testimony – Ohio Association of Independent Schools Dan Dodd, Executive Director

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 108. My name is Dan Dodd and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools, an association of 47 independent private schools, 38 of which are accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

The schools of OAIS continue to oppose adding new mandates to the graduation requirements and curricula of our schools. We believe our graduates are well equipped for the rigor and realities of college life. Adding another mandate to what our high schools offer is unnecessary.

The new mandate under House Bill 108 is also unique among the existing mandates in that it requires that specific materials be used for instruction in order to be in compliance with the mandate (Lines 461-465 of the bill). Parents have a constitutional right to direct the education of their children at the school of their choice and when the state not only directs what classes are to be taught, but also how they are taught and the materials that must be used to teach them, the state impinges on that important right.

Appearing on behalf of ISACS-accredited schools, we would urge the committee to consider exempting ISACS-accredited schools from the proposed mandate, similar to the high school testing exemption that our schools currently have. Our schools, whether measured by college acceptance and attendance rates, remediation rates or ACT/SAT scores, are the highest achieving group of schools in the state. Simply put, our schools do not need to be told by government what to teach and how to teach it, and the colleges and universities of this state and this nation agree.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.