

Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC)

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE HONORABLE BOB CUPP, CHAIR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2017

9:00 AM

ROOM 313

STATEHOUSE

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

BIENNIAL OPERATING BUDGET 2018-2019

Good morning Chairman Cupp and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education thank you for permitting me to give testimony on House Bill 49.

I am Lauren Monowar-Jones the Director of the Joint Education Oversight Committee also known as JEOC. JEOC was created in the last budget cycle, and consists of five House members and five Senate members. I was hired on June 15, 2016 and began work on July 11, 2016.

The Joint Education Oversight Committee has the same powers as other standing or select committees and meets monthly by statute. The role of JEOC, as stated in statute is to provide continuing oversight of all state-funded activities in Ohio's public education system. The committee will authorize a plan of work, which will include research, review, study and analysis of current or emerging education policy issues important to the state. The committee may select for review and evaluation education programs in school districts, other public schools, and state institutions of higher education that receive state financial assistance in any form. These reviews and evaluations may include: assessment of the uses these entities make of state money they receive, determination of whether an education program meets its intended goals, examination of pilot programs developed and initiated in these entities to determine whether the programs suggest innovative, effective ways to deal with problems that may exist in similar entities. Additionally, the committee may review bills and resolutions regarding education that are introduced or offered in the general assembly and may prepare a report of its review.

To date members of the Joint Education Oversight Committee have authorized a plan of research for eight projects. As new members have joined this committee and new issues in education arise daily, I confer with the Chair of the Committee to determine the priorities in the work of the office. Currently, the office is working only on the areas authorized in October 2016.

Approximately 65% of JEOC's appropriation is used for staff, 3% is for supplies, maintenance and equipment and 32% is for purchased personal services. It is the intent of this office to maximize production of research by

contracting out small projects or manageable pieces of larger projects to researchers who will not be full-time employees of the state. The current staffing level for JEOC includes three positions: the Executive Director, a Researcher and a Fellow. The JEOC Fellow position is modeled after the LSC Fellow position and affords JEOC a full-time staff member who can both perform the administrative tasks and contribute to the research on a part-time basis.

For the upcoming biennium, the requested JEOC budget is \$500,000 for FY2018 and \$500,000 for FY 2018. This is a flat budget as compared to FY17. I believe this budget will allow JEOC to meet its current statutory responsibilities, goal and objectives.

Thank you Chairman Cupp and members of the committee and I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.