

Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 216 Testimony
Jeff Brown, Superintendent
Granville Exempted Village Schools
December 6, 2017

Chairperson Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee, my name is Jeff Brown, I am the Superintendent of Granville Exempted Village School District. I am here to present interested party testimony on the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System recommendations within Senate Bill 216, the deregulation bill. I currently serve on the Educators Standards Board representing Superintendents across Ohio and BASA, but my testimony today is not on behalf of the entire Board.

Senate Bill 216 recommends that the Ohio Department of Education follow the Educator Standards Board recommendations for retooling the OTES framework. What I hope to communicate today is some of the intent behind those recommendations.

One of the main changes proposed by the ESB is to embed value-added data into the multiple measures that an evaluator must review as evidence in the rubric during the evaluation process. Value-added was not intended to be eliminated as a source of data because of its significance in the reflective process an educator conducts for continuous improvement purposes.

Although the bill specifies that local districts can adopt their own metrics, the intent of the Educator Standards Board was for value-added to remain a central element of the multiple measures used if available for a teacher. My concern is that districts could eliminate this data source in total, which I believe would not be in the best interest of students. Achievement and progress are both valuable in the reflective process, but all data should be on the table during the evaluation process.

Chairperson Lehner, again thank you for the opportunity to appear today. I would be happy to answer any questions committee members might have.