

May 22, 2019

Good afternoon,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns regarding the Ohio Graduation Standards. I have been involved in these requirement outcomes for many years. Our company, Spherion Staffing, places people to work in Northwest Ohio. Last year we placed over 6,000 employees at 250 clients in our area. I am a 2nd generation family member who has been working in the staffing business for over 20 years. Prior to Spherion, I was a 6th grade teacher at Elida Local Schools. Both of these jobs give me knowledge to voice my concern with the Graduation Requirements. While teaching, I knew that several of my students were sure to go to college as well as several who had no intention of going to college. There were several undecided as well as some who would also go to the armed services. While having graduation guidelines is important, it is also important not to lump all students together in those guidelines. At Spherion, many of our jobs are entry level positions. These positions do not require a good score on the ACT. What they do require is good soft skills. What good does it do to make all students take a test that will not help them as they move forward in the next phase of their life? Ohio has many wonderful jobs for students to enter the workforce right out of high school. These jobs often pay well and have advancement opportunities. I hope you take all this into consideration when deciding the new graduation requirements. Feel free to contact me if you would like any other information.

**Karen Grothouse, CEO**

**Spherion of Lima, Inc**

 **216 N. Elizabeth Street Lima, OH 45801**

**Phone: 419-227-0113 ext. 269**

**Fax: 419-224-2421**

**karen@spherion-schulte.com**

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