



December 8, 2020

**Senate Education Committee**  
**SB 342 – Interested Party Testimony**  
**Ohio Association of Independent Schools**  
Dan Dodd – Executive Director

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Senate Bill 342. My name is Dan Dodd and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools, an association of independent private schools throughout the state of Ohio, 38 of which are accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

As with other legislative proposals regarding additional mandates to the high school graduation curriculum, our member schools believe the subject matter in this bill is important for students to learn at our institutions, and it is required by current law for them to receive financial literacy instruction. However, we oppose the idea that those in Columbus should dictate specific curriculum credits for students when our schools have trained professionals who craft a curriculum that allows O.A.I.S. students gain admission to the college of their choice.

Appearing on behalf of ISACS-accredited schools, I 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. This body agreed during budget deliberations in 2019 when it approved a broader exemption from high school curriculum requirements for ISACS-accredited schools.

While the bill has been improved over previous versions introduced, our schools also have operational concerns about how the bill works. The bill eventually requires a teacher to receive a license validation in financial literacy in addition to “a valid educator license issued under section 3319.22 or 3319.26 of the Revised Code, or a permanent teaching certificate issued under former law, and meet additional requirements adopted under rules by the state board of education.” Teachers at chartered nonpublic schools, however, are not required to have educator licenses issued under section 3319.22 or 3319.26 of the Revised Code. Nonpublic teachers may have, and in fact most do, permanent nontax certificates issued under 3301.071 of the Revised Code, which are not covered by the bill.

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

PO Box 492 • Granville, OH 43023 • (740) 973-5930

[www.oais.org](http://www.oais.org)

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