



TRECA  
100 Executive Drive  
Marion, OH 43302  
Phone: 740-389-4798  
Fax: 740-389-6695

Chairman Terhar, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide written comments on HB 166. I will focus my comments today on the High School Assessment Passage Rate component on the dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) school report card. This component is also referred to as the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Test Passage rate component. My name is Adam Clark and I am the Executive Director of TRECA Digital Academy (TRECA). TRECA is a state-wide dropout prevention and recovery eschool, sponsored by Tri-Rivers Career Center. We have been in operation since 2001 and enroll nearly 2,800 students.

ORC 3314.017(C)(2) outlines the high school assessment passage rate component on the DOPR report card. The law says the following:

*The percentage of twelfth-grade students currently enrolled in the school who have attained the designated passing score on all of the applicable state high school achievement assessments required under division (B)(1) or (2) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code and other students enrolled in the school, regardless of grade level, who are within three months of their twenty-second birthday and have attained the designated passing score on all of the applicable state high school achievement assessments by their twenty-second birthday;*

This section of code was written when students were required to take and pass the state's OGTs in order to graduate. Nevertheless, students in the class for 2018 and later are required to take the seven end of course (EOC) exams. A "passing score" on an EOC exam is three points, which means a student must score a total of 21 points to meet the high school assessment passage rate component on the DOPR report card. Unfortunately, this 21 point standard is much higher than the 18 points a student must receive on the EOC exams to graduate. In other words, we are holding DOPR schools to a higher standard than what it takes to graduate in Ohio.

Often, we are forced to ask students, who have met the 18-point requirement to graduate, to retake the EOC exams. Imagine, how hard it is to get a student, who knows he or she has met the requirements to graduate, to retake exams that have no impact on their academic success, only the school's rating on a report card measure. To give you an idea of how large of a problem this is in the state, of the 66 DOPR schools receiving a High School Test Passage rating in 2017-2018, 48 failed to meet standards.

We were thankful the House of Representatives worked to address this in their version of HB 166. While language in ORC 3314.017 was included in HB 166 that aligns Ohio's DOPR report card with that of the state's graduation requirements, we are seeking additional revisions in the Senate. First, DOPR schools still have students operating under the old OGT assessments. Language in ORC 3314.017 must be tweaked to ensure that students still taking the OGTs are

still included in the high school assessment passage rate component of the report card. We would also ask, that if the scores are aligned to meet the 18-point graduation standard, that ODE be required to recalculate the 2017-2018 report card using the new scoring standard. Otherwise, DOPR schools are subject to sanctions, including automatic closure, based on an unfair report card standard. The changes we are seeking in HB 166 would correct that.

Thank you for considering my comments today.

Sincerely,

Adam Clark  
Executive Director  
TRECA Digital Academy