

Aurora City Schools

www.aurora-schools.org

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Miller Elementary
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Craddock Elementary
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Aurora OH 44202
330-562-3175
Fax: 330-954-2087

Leighton Elementary
121 Aurora-Hudson Rd.
Aurora OH 44202
330-562-2209
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Harmon Middle School
130 Aurora-Hudson Rd.
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Aurora High School
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Aurora OH 44202
330-562-3501
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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of House Bill (HB) 67. I am Michael Roberto, Superintendent of the Aurora City Schools.

The Aurora City Schools serves a small suburban community in northeast Ohio with approximately 3000 young people in the district. During the pandemic 80% of our student population have attended school in-person five days a week and 20% have worked with our staff to learn virtually from home.

I am writing to ask your support of Representative Koehler and Representative Bird's sponsored bill, HB 67, which is designed to provide the option for districts to not require state testing and petition the Ohio Department of Education to seek a waiver from the U.S. Secretary of Education from federal testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are a district that tries to emphasize the importance of the process of learning more so than the product. During the pandemic we have been able to meet the specific needs of young people in the classroom and provided targeted support for learning outside of the classroom when needed. Since our return to school in August we have seen tremendous growth as young people, especially those in the lower grade levels, are making a year's worth of progress as they "catch-up" from the disruption to school caused by the pandemic. Our biggest challenge in closing these gaps is time. HB 67 will literally provide weeks for us to continue this intervention rather than stopping to administer mandatory testing. We understand the importance of these tests as accountability measures, but this year we believe it is our responsibility as educators to do the best we can to meet the needs of the young people who were negatively impacted by the pandemic. We feel that if given this time to provide interventions a natural byproduct will be growth that will in the end be demonstrated in next year's round of state testing.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request and for the opportunity to share my written testimony in support of HB 67.

Michael Roberto
Superintendent
Aurora City Schools
Aurora, OH