



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 Brad Neavin, Superintendent of Loveland City Schools.

The Loveland City School District is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Cincinnati within a community identified as both rural and suburban and one of the fastest growing areas in southwestern Ohio. Light industry, local businesses, decreasing farms and ever-increasing commuters to nearby cities create a diversified middle socioeconomic community. The Schools provide services to over 4300 students.

We are fortunate to have had an extensive IT infrastructure in place prior to the initial shutdown. We are also fortunate to have a staff that is proficient in these technologies so the learning curve, though still steep, was a manageable task as in the early stages of the crisis. By and large, our parents have supported our efforts and held their children accountable for the work they are required to do.

The Loveland City Schools, like all schools across our Great State, our Nation, and indeed, our World have struggled to provide the caliber of services our students and their parents have come to expect. Though our teachers have risen to meet the needs of their students and families have responded well, this model is far from the ideal; far from the experience our students have enjoyed for countless generation in their traditional settings.

In spite of the circumstances, I am confident to say our students are learning. However, they are learning at rates different than we have seen in better times.

The effect of hindered student/teacher interaction has been profound as has the effect on precious instructional time. We have taken whatever measures available to us to regain this time through creative scheduling, reduced enrichment programming, and even greater individualization to see to the needs of students. However, the looming testing schedule will significantly and detrimentally impact our efforts if even more learning time is lost.

I implore legislators to act on HB 67 swiftly and to assist us in our efforts to best serve our students. While we value all data as important to inform our practices, it is my firm belief that this data produced will be seriously flawed and of little benefit to our educators; certainly not to the level of the ongoing evaluation our teachers are conducting in real time each and every day in our classrooms. In addition, Loveland City Schools support rolling over the graduation requirement flexibility from the 19-20 school year and the remote learning flexibility that was offered during the 20-21 school year.

I want to take this time to express my sincere appreciation to Representatives Koehler and Bird for sponsoring this important bill. I also want to thank the Chair and Members of the Committee for providing me the opportunity of this testimony.