



BATAVIA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 23, 2021

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 Keith Millard, Superintendent of Batavia Local Schools.

In light of the February 22nd announcement by the U.S. Department of Education, that federally mandated assessments must still be administered this year, I would urge for the amendment of HB 67 to include all flexibility that will be allowed by the federal government.

Specifically, I am advocating for the following provisions:

- Extend the timeline for assessment administration, and make changes permanent that allow schools to administer assessments as close to the end of the school year as possible. The current assessment schedule does not allow for the maximum amount of instruction to occur prior to assessments being given. This opportunity to alter the assessment window is a chance to fix an issue with our testing and accountability system in Ohio.
- Only require federally mandated assessments to be administered, and provide the same flexibility for course grade substitution on all other end of course assessments that impact high school graduation for the classes of 2021-2024.
- Testing data for the 2020-2021 school year should be used for informational purposes only, given the continuing impact of the pandemic on students. State testing data should not be used for accountability purposes, including teacher evaluation and the local report card.

While I am very proud of the work Batavia has done to remain open for in person instruction throughout the year, the impact on student learning caused by the pandemic is real for all students and school districts across Ohio. State assessment information, while valuable, should be used only as one of several data points to measure current levels of student performance, in order to inform the ongoing implementation of academic recovery plans that all districts will be creating this spring.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of HB 67.

Respectfully,

Keith Millard