



**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
House Bill 34 Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
March 9, 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 testify today on behalf of House Bill (HB) 34. I am Kevin Miller, Director of Governmental Relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). Joining me in this testimony today is Katie Johnson with the Ohio Association of School Business Officials. Our organizations represent public school district superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers and other school business officials from around the state.

We testify today in support of HB 34. The bill requires that public and chartered nonpublic schools transmit a transferred student's records upon the request of the district or school that the student is currently attending. A school must transmit the records within five school days after receiving the request. Currently, there is no statutory requirement that districts or schools must transmit a student's records to the requestor, nor is there a specified number of days in which those records must be transferred.

Though Ohio's schools are typically responsive in transferring student records, there are instances when a district will hold a student's records because there are outstanding fees owed to the school. Most often, this comes in the form of tuition payments owed to a chartered nonpublic school that the student attended, often with an EdChoice voucher, before returning to their public school.

The withholding of records makes it problematic for the receiving school district to appropriately schedule the student's courses and to implement the IEP of students with disabilities. It is an action that unfairly punishes the student and makes the student responsible for the actions of the parent. The action of withholding records has a negative impact on a student's academic opportunities due to something that is beyond the student's control.

The members of the BASA Legislative Committee and the OASBO Legislative Committee, numbering over 140 superintendents and treasurers/CFO's from across Ohio, note that it is common practice for their districts to have records forwarded within five school days. However, they note that 10 school days would be a more reasonable requirement. At times, there are outstanding circumstances that make it impossible to forward records in the period required by HB 34. An example is districts that have high populations of migrant students. The high mobility rate of these students means that often the district does not yet have records from the student's previous school, making it impossible for them to forward records in the five-day requirement. We suggest the bill be amended to reflect a ten school-day requirement for the transfer of records.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as proponents of HB 34. We are glad to answer your questions.