



**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Proponent Testimony HB 34
Presented by Darold Johnson
Ohio Federation of Teachers Director of Legislation
March 24, 2021**

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Committee, my name is Darold Johnson, Legislative Director of the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT). OFT represents teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses, higher education staff and faculty, and public employees. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 34.

HB 34 addresses a pressing problem affecting students' education when they move from one school setting to another. Similar legislation passed the House in the previous General Assembly with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

When a student returns to a traditional public school and does not have the records of the courses they took in a private school or another school setting, it is difficult for the new school to determine where the child is academically and which courses they took count toward graduation. HB 34 says that a child's academic record must be transferred to a school within five days. There is currently no statute providing a timeline for sharing this information.

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 district or school must transmit the academic documents within five school days after receiving the request. If the district or school does not have a record of the student's attendance, it must provide a statement of that fact to the requestor. The bill includes community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools.

OFT requests that the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee pass this bill.