



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
HB 82: OEA Proponent Testimony  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Wensing. I have 26 years of experience as a high school math teacher in the Parma City Schools; and I currently serve as Vice President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the 120,000 members of OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 82. The bill would remove taking the ACT or SAT as a graduation requirement and allow for voluntary participation in the test. OEA supports the bill.

Current law prescribes that the ACT or SAT be administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students each spring. It is a great benefit to students that the state offers a paid administration of a college entrance exam. OEA is fully supportive of encouraging as many students as possible to attend college. However, if a student's post-secondary plans do not include college (for instance a student enrolled in a career-technical program) then taking the ACT or SAT goes from a benefit to just another test they're required to take.

HB 82 would require that the ACT or SAT is offered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, but that participation is voluntary. OEA supports this change. The House-passed version of the budget bill (HB 110) contained a similar provision where taking the test is subject to a parental opt-out. OEA is supportive of this language as well.

OEA urges favorable consideration of HB 82. If members of the committee have any questions about our position, please contact OEA Government Relations.

