



House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
House Bill 73 Testimony  
Buckeye Association of School Administrators  
Ohio Association of School Business Officials  
Ohio School Boards Association  
May 18, 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 present written testimony as interested parties to House Bill (HB) 73. This testimony is submitted by Kevin Miller, Director of Governmental Relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Katie Johnson, Deputy Executive Director of the Ohio Association of School Administrators, and Jennifer Hogue, Director of Legislative Services for the Ohio School Boards Association.

We express appreciation to Representative Manning and Representative Crawley for sponsoring HB 73. This legislation addresses important issues in Ohio's public schools by reducing high stakes testing and the impact of that testing on individual students.

We understand that an amendment will be introduced to remove the provision that would eliminate the requirement for high school students to take a nationally standardized college admission assessment for graduation, but that this item will still be addressed by HB 82. The language in HB 82 parallels the language currently in HB 110, providing an opt-out provision for caregivers who do not wish for their student to take the nationally standardized assessment. We support making the ACT and SAT an optional test, removing it as a graduation requirement, and allowing students and their caregivers to decide if the student will take the test.

We also support the provision that reduces the number of end-of-course examinations required for graduation from five to four by combining the American history and American government end-of-course exams into one exam. This change would be implemented beginning with the Class of 2024. The new exam would still continue to assess mastery of American history and American government content standards and the founding documents as required by the minimum high school curriculum.

In addition, our organizations support the elimination of the provisions regarding retention of third grade students who do not attain the required score on the third-grade English language arts assessment. The ability of a student to move to fourth grade should take into consideration many more elements than just performance on the third grade English/language arts assessment. Our school districts implement many programs and interventions to support

students and to ensure that they have the literacy skills necessary to successfully move to fourth grade. The decision to move a student to fourth grade is a decision that should be made by those who most closely work with the student and who analyze the performance and skills of the student from a variety of perspectives. HB 73 acknowledges this process.

We understand that the goal of HB 73 is to minimize high-stakes testing for Ohio's students, and we applaud that focus. However, the inclusion of mandated testing work groups who are charged with carrying out a variety of duties creates an undue burden on school districts. The testing workgroup provisions in the bill create very specific, regimented actions that a district must take to analyze the amount of time students spend on district and state-required testing. We suggest making those action permissible so that districts can develop testing analysis strategies that best suit their needs. Additionally, we request that support be provided from ODE for districts to implement audits of their testing programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 73.