



Representative Catherine D. Ingram
Ohio House District 32

H.B. 334 | Regards School District Board Member Compensation, Training

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and my fellow members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 334.

Broadly, House Bill 334 would allow School Boards the flexibility to increase the compensation for their members. Additionally, this legislation would require the members of a school district's board of education complete training that would encourage and enable these board's to be more accountable to our communities and the constituents they serve.

Board members make decisions on a wide range of issues, such as hiring and evaluating a superintendent and treasurer; setting district policy; planning student services; goal-setting and long-range planning; adopting curriculum; establishing budgets; engaging parents; being good fiscal stewards; acting in the best interest of the school district and within the scope of their legal authority; and creating community relations programs.¹

No one can truly understand the various pressures and politics that these members experience until they have had the experience of serving on a board of education themselves. Reps. Sobecki, Arthur-Fowler and I can tell you first-hand, from our combined decades of school board experience, that school board members do a great service to our communities and are often the link between schools and the public. As you can imagine, this past year has been one of especially hard choices being left to school board members as they do all they can to keep our children educated, safe, and healthy in school.

1. <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/understanding-your-school-board>

More specifically, House Bill 334 would:

- Requires each member of a school district board of education and an educational service center (ESC) governing board to complete training on ethics, public records, and open meetings.²
- Increases the amount of compensation a board member may receive for attending meetings, from \$125 to \$200 per day.²
- Increases the compensation a board member may receive for approved training programs, from \$60 to \$96 or \$125 to \$200 per day, depending on the duration of the training.²
- Removes a provision that limits the total compensation of a district or ESC board member to \$5,000 per year.²

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and we would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

2. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=17344&format=pdf>