

Over the last three years, we have seen the politicalization of Ohio's public schools on various levels. Passage of SB 178 will further take things down the road of using all of Ohio's public school districts as pawns for an elected official's potential political agenda. This legislation will allow whom ever is elected governor to appoint people to head a newly created agency. Furthermore, this legislation would undermine the will of the voters who elect members to the state Board of Education, thus circumventing the voters will and likely their voices too. There is also the potential to REDUCE local control by locally elected school boards as well as there is little doubt that certain decisions now locally made would potentially fall under this newly created office and agency. There is a saying... "if it isn't broken, don't fix it." The elected and also a small few of state Board of Education members has worked well for Ohio. Why change it? Why risk the education system of thousands of school students? Why experiment - which is what this legislation is - with something that has huge potential to NOT work and also further polarize the education system in Ohio? The district I represent - Northwest Local (Stark County) is the top district in our county. We did not get that way by a huge overreach by the state more or less dictating what we do. We got that way under the current state Board of Education system and also making a vast majority of our decisions locally. That is at risk if SB 178 passes. What may work for Dayton City Schools, or Lexington Local Schools may not work for our own Northwest Local Schools. This legislation has the potential to make many districts conform to a system that does not work for them. It also will allow for a small few appointed individuals that may lack education experience to have the power and authority to make policy or decisions that they have no business making. The Northwest Local Schools (Stark) are OPPOSED to SB 178 being passed/