



**House Finance Committee
House Bill 110 Interested Party Written Testimony
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
June 4, 2021**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written Interested Party testimony on House Bill (HB) 110, the proposed biennial budget bill. My name is Timothy Freeman, and I am the Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA). Our organization represents public school district high school principals and other middle school and secondary school administrators from around the state.

On behalf of our members, today's testimony is centered around a significant education policy issue proposed in HB 110. The bill contains new requirements for districts regarding computer science course offerings

HB 110 would require that a statewide committee be established to develop a state plan for computer science education for purposes of primary and secondary education. The committee would look at things like barriers for school districts in offering computer science courses and the shortage of teachers qualified to teach such courses. We have no objection to the establishment of such a committee with a view toward making it easier for districts to provide computer science course options. The state could then establish a strategy to increase the availability of computer science courses.

However, the bill also requires that high school students must be guaranteed the option to enroll in computer science courses or general education courses that include computer science principles. Grades eleven and twelve would have that option as early as the coming school year.

Rather than providing resources for school districts to establish computer science course options or finding solutions, HB 110 would simply require the offering. If districts cannot accommodate the mandate, funds may be deducted from state aid payments and syphoned off to another ODE approved educational provider. This is a significant change in law that should be explored and vetted more fully.

OASSA urges you to remove the new requirement for computer science course offerings until such time that a state plan is developed.

This concludes my testimony. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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You may also contact OASSA's Advocacy Specialist:
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