



## Proponent Testimony: HB 67

### *First Ring Schools Collaborative & Ohio Mid-Sized Urban Districts Leadership Collaborative*

### **Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee**

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement of support for House Bill 67.

Our schools' primary objective at this time is to provide students and families with as much stability, support, and positive guidance as possible. For our high school students and their loved ones, **knowing if (and how) a high school diploma is within their reach is an incredibly important touchstone** which motivates all the things we wish to cultivate in our students: increased attendance, participation, and enthusiasm in the classroom.

Amended HB 67 permits public schools and chartered nonpublic schools to use a student's final grade in the course associated with that exam to satisfy conditions for a high school diploma (in lieu of a score on the course's associated examination). The version of the bill presently being considered by the Senate codifies this provision and extends it through the 2023-2024 school year – we fully support this.

We also appreciate that Amended HB 67 allows schools to grant a high school diploma in the 2020-2021 school year to any student on track to graduate, so long as the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines that the student has successfully completed the high school curriculum or IEP.

We understand that the U.S. Department of Education's recent guidance regarding federal testing mandates may preclude many other considered actions related to state testing and appreciate the effort in Amended HB 67 to exempt all schools from the state required American History end of course exam.

**We would like to thank the legislature for taking proactive steps in the last General Assembly to help us to focus on student learning as we finish this unprecedented year.** We are grateful for your action in HB 409 to exempt schools from requirements to retain students under the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee, eliminate grades for this year's state report cards.

We thank you for the thought and consideration put into Amended HB 67 and appreciate the opportunity to share our support. We are happy to provide additional feedback and to discuss the incredible work our students and teachers are doing every day.

For additional information about our Collaboratives, including member lists and contact information, please see the next page of this document.

# Our Superintendent Collaboratives

The **First Ring Schools Collaborative** is an association of 16 school districts that surround the city of Cleveland, Ohio and serving more than 100,000 students. It was established in 2000.

Dr. Eugene Sanders, CEO and Superintendent of Sandusky City Schools, founded the **Ohio Mid-Sized Urban District Leadership Collaborative** to create alliances between urban districts whose enrollments range from 1,000 to 8,000 students. The Mid-Sized Urbans are a growing group.

First Ring Superintendents Collaborative
Bedford City Schools
Berea City Schools
Brooklyn City Schools
Cleveland Hts-University Hts City Schools
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools
East Cleveland City Schools
Euclid City Schools
Fairview Park City Schools
Garfield Heights City Schools
Lakewood City Schools
Maple Heights City Schools
Parma City Schools
Richmond Heights City Schools
Shaker Heights City Schools
South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools
Warrensville Heights City Schools

**Contact: Jennifer Dodd, Ph.D.**  
Director of Operations and Development  
ESC of Northeast Ohio  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd.  
Independence, OH 44131  
Phone: 216-901-4240  
Email: Jennifer.dodd@escneo.org

Ohio Mid-Sized Urban Districts Leadership Collaborative (Advocacy)
Alliance City Schools
Canton City School District
Lima City Schools
Lorain City School District
Mansfield City Schools
Sandusky City Schools
Warren City School District

**Contact: Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders**  
Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent  
Sandusky City Schools  
407 Decatur Street  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
Phone: 419-984-1000  
Email: ESanders@scs-k12.net

