

VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Every adult helping every child succeed today, tomorrow, and beyond!

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October 8, 2023

I am Dr. David Hile. I am currently serving in my 16th year as a public school superintendent in the state of Ohio. I am in my second year as Superintendent of the Vermilion Local Schools. Prior to moving to Vermilion, I served as Superintendent of the Licking Valley Local Schools for 14 years. I am in my 20th year as an Ohio school administrator, having served as a high school assistant principal and high school principal. I am in my 30th year as a public school educator.

Almost exactly 20 years ago to the day, I worked with then Representative Bill Hayes to propose HB 334, which was nearly identical to what is now proposed in HB 206. The Ohio House of Representatives passed, overwhelmingly in 2013, HB 334, but it failed in the Senate. Everything in my testimony from 10 years ago is still true, except many more dangerous students have shot up schools, many more students' and educators' lives have been senselessly destroyed, and many more families irrevocably shattered. The same problem for school superintendents in Ohio still exists. We do not have the authority to keep students who we know to be dangerous out of our schools to protect our students and staff once their 80 day expulsion is served.

Please read my attached testimony from 2013 and substitute HB 206 for HB 334, and Vermilion Local Schools for Licking Valley Local Schools. Believe it or not, in my 2013 testimony, I was describing our threat assessment team process, and this was long prior to this becoming a state requirement in Ohio schools, and I believe that the primary reason HB 334 failed to pass in the Senate is because some Senators, and opponents, believed that Ohio superintendents were going to use the threat assessment process along with the authority granted them in HB 334 to throw "undesirable students" out of school and keep them out indefinitely. This was a completely unfounded assumption in 2013 and would be equally unfounded in 2023.

After 30 years serving as a public school educator in Ohio, I can count on one hand the number of students I have encountered whom I considered to be so dangerous that they should not be permitted to rejoin the school community, but as we know, it only takes one such student to ruin the lives of a great many people. I

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sincerely hope that in 2023 our state legislators have more trust and faith in our school superintendents to appropriately employ the authority granted them in HB 206. I strongly urge passage of HB 206.

Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hile". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'H'.

David Hile, Ed.D.
Superintendent, VLS