



**Alliance for High Quality Education
Senate Bill 1 Interested Party Written Testimony
Senate Education Committee
February 21, 2023**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as an interested party regarding Senate Bill (SB) 1. My name is Anthony Podojil, Ph.D., and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance for High Quality Education (AHQE), a consortium of more than 70 high-performing school districts located throughout the State of Ohio.

Prior to joining the Alliance as its executive director, I served as superintendent for the West Geauga Local School District in Lake County for 13 years. I began my educational career as an early primary teacher and served as both a middle school and high school principal while working in five school districts ranging from rural, suburban, and urban.

Several months ago, I provided interested party testimony on Senate Bill 178, the predecessor to SB 1. In that testimony, I raised several questions from Alliance members about what stakeholder engagement, transparency, and public input would look like under the new Department of Education and Workforce. Based on our collaborative and encouraging conversations with Senator Reineke and Senator Brenner, as well as the content of the forthcoming amendments, our members feel confident that the process proposed in the amendments related to transparency, stakeholder input, timelines, and an open monthly communication strategy will allow the shift to this new system to achieve its intended goals.

With these major issues addressed for our members, we look forward to working with the General Assembly and the new department, its director and deputies to improve Ohio's education system for all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.