



Toledo Public Schools

Board of Education

Educational Campus

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Chair Brenner and the Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Good Afternoon, my name is Christine Varwig, I am a Board Member of the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education. I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 66.

Please know I would have gladly attended this meeting in person, but as an elected official I myself have an obligation to attend my own Board of Education meeting tonight.

I have attached several slides as part of my testimony that will show you the impact student transcripts not being transferred has had, and continues to have on students and their families in my community. I have referred to the students with a letter instead of their names for privacy.

I have included stories of students in Toledo Public Schools missing transcripts from years 2020 and 2023 that I am aware of. This is but a sampling of what our students and our schools have been dealing with by not having transcripts forwarded. And while the focus should absolutely be on finding a solution for the students, I would be remiss if I did not mention the impact these stories continue to have on my district.

- 1) The resources that our district provides students that are missing transcripts.
 - a. APEX/Credit Recovery
 - b. Remediation and Intervention
 - c. Extra time/attention by our Counselors
- 2) The search for donors to pay off tuition/fees to private religious schools that hold student transcripts due to families owing money
- 3) The “ding” we receive on the state’s flawed report card when students who are missing transcripts do not graduate

I encourage the Senate Education Committee to push SB 66 forward for the sake of our students. Again, the following slides are part of my testimony. Thank you for your time and I look forward to our state legislature providing a solution our students need.

Voucher Student A was kicked out of a Toledo private religious high school for stealing food during his sophomore year. His family life was in turmoil. He enrolled in a TPS High School, graduated with honors, and a top athlete. He graduated from college with honors and is attending law school. His goal is to become a judge and bridge the gap between the judicial system and the black community. Fortunately, Student A was able to obtain his transcript because his private religious school fees were paid by a donor prior to graduation. He credits his relationship with TPS's YMOE program and his public high school teachers for his change.

Student A 2020



Student B 2020



Voucher Student B attended a Toledo private religious high school for his freshman and sophomore years; he has been with a TPS High School for his junior and senior years. His counselor has only been given unofficial transcript information over the phone due to the fact that he owes money to the private high school. He will not graduate unless he pays the private high school and TPS gets a copy of the official transcript from his 9th and 10th grade year.

TPS has been unable to obtain what Student B owes to the private high school.

Voucher Student C attended a Toledo private religious high school her freshman and sophomore years – she transferred to a TPS High School for her junior and senior years.

A grade card was provided for the student from the private high school but no other information was available for the TPS counselor. The student will not graduate unless she pays the private religious high school what is owed and TPS gets a copy of her official transcript from her 9th and 10th grade year.

TPS has been unable to obtain the amount owed by Student C to the private religious high school.

Student C 2020



Student D 2020



Voucher Student D is currently a junior at a TPS High School. Unfortunately, his family cannot afford to pay the money owed to a local private religious school where he attended. TPS is missing his transcript from his 9th grade year and first semester of his 10th grade year.

Student D plays sports so taking APEX classes has not been an option for him to date. Student D is in jeopardy of not graduating.

There are currently 10 juniors and seniors that are in danger of not graduating from a TPS High School due to transcript holds. Each student is missing different amounts of coursework ranging from one semester to two years.

TPS has been unable to obtain the amounts owed from the local private religious high schools.

Class of ? 2020



Student E 2020



Voucher Student E graduated from a TPS High School in 2020. Unfortunately, her mother, who owed tuition & fees to the local private religious school, had to file bankruptcy and hire an attorney to obtain her transcript from the local private religious school Student E attended via the Ed Choice Voucher.

Private religious schools will not release transcripts if families owe money.

She was able to walk with her class.

Voucher Student F was to graduate in 2020 from a TPS high School. His father planned on filing for bankruptcy due to the money owed to a local private religious high school. The family owed \$10,000 in tuition and fees for two years at the private religious high school.

Student F planned to get his GED to avoid his family from having to file bankruptcy and face those challenges.

Student F 2020



Student G 2020



Voucher Student G, a senior at a TPS High School in 2020, was missing a transcript from his freshman year at a Toledo private religious high school because his family owed \$7500. His counselor had moved him into our Credit Recovery Program, but the student was very discouraged and knew that his family could not afford the bill and considered dropping out.

He did not walk with his class.

Voucher Students H & I owed between \$1000-\$2000 to Toledo private religious high schools and could not get their transcripts released because of the money their families owed for tuition & fees.

A local entrepreneur donated funds to pay the private religious schools what the families owed so they could graduate.

So, now, our public school district is having to find donors to cover private religious school fees owed by Voucher students just so they can graduate.....

Who are Vouchers really helping???

Students H & I 2020



News You Can Use

2020

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2020/08/19/private-school-ohio-vouchers/5399188002/>



Student J**2023**

**Voucher Student J, a senior at a TPS High School in 2023,
is missing his transcript
from the Toledo private religious high school
he attended for 3 ½ years
because his family
owes \$3950 for tuition & fees.**

Student J is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student K**2023**

**Voucher Student K, a senior at a TPS High School in 2023,
is missing her transcript from the private religious high school she
attended because her family owes \$649 in fees.**

Student K is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student L 2023

**Voucher Student L, a senior at a TPS High School in 2023,
is missing his transcript
from the Toledo private religious high school
because his family
owes \$337.50 in fees.**

Student L is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student M 2023

**Voucher Student M, a senior at a TPS High School in 2023,
is missing his transcript
from the Toledo private religious high school
because his family
owes \$2905 in tuition and fees
and is in danger of not graduating with his class.**

Student M is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student N is a junior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher. Unfortunately, Student N owes \$1500 to the private religious school for tuition and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student N is in jeopardy of not graduating he's a junior.

Student N 2023



Student O 2023



Student O is a senior at a TPS high school this year. She attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher for 3 ½ years. Unfortunately, Student O owes \$5715 to the private religious school for tuition & fees and is unable to obtain her transcript.

Student O is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student P 2023

Student P is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher for 3 ½ years. Unfortunately, Student P owes \$2029.71 to the private religious school for tuition & fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student P is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student Q 2023

Student Q is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher for 3 ½ years. Unfortunately, Student P owes \$7355.20 to the private religious school for tuition & fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student Q is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student R 2023

Student R is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher for 3 ½ years. Unfortunately, Student P owes \$1395 to the private religious school for fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student R is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student S 2023

Student S is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher for 3 ½ years. Unfortunately, Student P owes \$5130 to the private religious school for fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student S is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student T 2023



Student T is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher. Unfortunately, Student T owes \$1136.11 to the private religious school for tuition and fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student T is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student U 2023



Student U is a senior at a TPS high school this year. He attended a local private religious high school on an Ed Choice Voucher. Unfortunately, Student U owes \$1047.22 to the private religious school for tuition and fees and is unable to obtain his transcript.

Student U is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student V 2023



**Student V is a senior at a TPS high school this year.
He attended a local private religious high school
on an Ed Choice Voucher.
Unfortunately, Student V owes \$500.00
to the private religious school for tuition
and is unable to obtain his transcript.**

Student V is in jeopardy of not graduating.

Student W 2023



**Student W is a senior at a TPS high school this year.
She attended a local private religious high school
on an Ed Choice Voucher.
Unfortunately, Student W owes \$2570.00
to the private religious school for fees
and is unable to obtain her transcript.**

Student W is in jeopardy of not graduating.