



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senate Education Committee
November 12th, 2024
Senate Bill 295 – Sponsor Testimony

Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 295. Currently this bill declares intent to revise automatic school closure language in the state of Ohio.

We are working on language that would modify, with the intent to standardize, closure requirement for district operated schools, community schools, and STEM schools. The substitute bill I look to adopt would do the following:

- Define a poor performing school as:
 - o District operated schools, community schools, and STEM schools serving grade 4 and above in the lowest 5% for performance index and 10% progress effect size among all public schools for three consecutive years.
 - o Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community receiving a rating of “does not meet standard” for three consecutive years.
- The options for schools meeting the criteria for poor performance are as follows:
 - o Close at the end of the school year in which they receive the third strike,
 - o Replace their principal and 60% of their licensed staff,
 - o Consolidate the entire district with another district in the event it is a district that has triggered closure criteria,
 - o Or engage a DEW approved education management organization, charter management organization, education service center, or Ohio public or private college or university to operate the school beginning the following school year.

I have been working closely with the Department of Education and Workforce and other interested parties to create what we believe is a fair approach to standardizing closure language for public, community, and STEM schools in Ohio. I anticipate a substitute bill being ready shortly and hope to adopt it soon. I look forward to future discussion on this language as we move forward.

Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, it is my hope that this bill will help to standardize the law surrounding school closures for public and community schools and help ensure that each student in Ohio receives the best education possible. Thank you again for hearing my testimony on this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee members may have.