

I am a life-long Ohio resident, graduate of The Ohio State University, and parent of two children. I am also a member of Upper Arlington's Board of Education. (Please note, these views are my own and not representative of my board.) As a fellow elected official, thank you for your service to our community and state.

As a board member, I appreciate the work our state legislators have done recently to advance our students' educational interests (science of reading, cell phone use, student digital privacy), and continued engagement as districts work through the nuances of practical application of these various pieces of legislation. No single piece of law can perfectly anticipate how it works in execution, and I value our state leaders' willingness to help us adapt to the real-world challenges we uncover.

I humbly request you not move forward with SB 293 and its companion, HB 445. Unlike some of the legislation I've mentioned, I'm unclear on what compelling educational interest for students across the state of Ohio exists in requiring local school districts have an RTRI policy. Upper Arlington currently has such a policy in place and I appreciate the freedom our local community has in this area.

Having our state legislature act to help solve challenges no single public school can solve is absolutely critical work - and we need your leadership to do that. But it is unclear to me how requiring districts to have an RTRI policy will advance educational outcomes for students or make it easier for districts to effectively operate. In this case, as there is no overriding need, please respect Ohio's tradition of Home Rule and local control, and leave decisions about RTRI in the hands of communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz George Stump
Member, Board of Education
Upper Arlington City Schools