



Senate Finance Committee
Written HB 33 Interested Party Testimony
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
May 31, 2023

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Minority Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written Interested Party testimony on House Bill (HB) 33, the proposed biennial budget bill. My name is Timothy Freeman, and I am the Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA). Our organization represents public school district high school principals, middle school and secondary school administrators from around Ohio.

On behalf of our members, today's testimony is centered around an education policy issue proposed in HB 33. Under the executive version of HB 33, there was a proposal to add to the state's graduation requirements to include student completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

The House substitute version of HB 33 made a change that we believe would continue the emphasis of the need for more students to complete the FASFA form without causing a change to Ohio's high school graduation requirements. Our members objected to the original bill's requirement that the submission of a family's financial information be a condition of a student receiving a high school diploma.

The current version of Substitute HB 33 will require that high school students receive information and instruction about FAFSA as part of the required Financial Literacy curriculum. This is a much better solution for increasing the number of students who complete the FAFSA form while not adding the burden of compliance.

We appreciate your willingness to hear our concerns. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or assistance with this and other education policy issues. You may also contact our advocacy specialist, Barbara Shaner, for assistance (614-325-9562)

Respectfully submitted,

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