

# **WHEELERSBURG LOCAL SCHOOLS**

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Superintendent  
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## **Proponent Testimony for HB62**

### **House Education Committee**

March 31, 2025

Ohio House of Representatives  
Education Committee  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Mark Knapp. I am the Superintendent of Wheelersburg Local School District in Scioto County and a member of the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools. Our Coalition and its member superintendents are in favor of all provisions included in the HB62.

This legislation is essential in addressing a critical financial challenge faced by local school districts, including Wheelersburg Local Schools, which spent \$254,281 in the 2024 calendar year while issuing 1,907 semester hours of college credit. Of this amount, \$174,708 was spent on online coursework. These figures represent an explosion of cost to our school district budget. In the 2020 calendar year the District spent \$60,291 on 563 semester hours of college credit and \$15,222 for online courses. The District's College Credit Plus online courses are now 70% of the total expense. The current cost structure places an undue financial burden on school districts, forcing us to pay premium rates for instruction that is often inferior to what is provided by our own faculty.

If we have learned any lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic era, it is that online virtual instruction is ineffective for adolescent learning. Furthermore, much of the collegiate online instruction for dual enrollment courses is being delivered in an asynchronous model, which lacks the engagement and

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instructional quality necessary for optimal student success. Despite these deficiencies, local districts are being charged exorbitant fees for online courses, diverting valuable resources away from other critical educational priorities.

House Bill 62 addresses this inequity by ensuring that online college course fees do not exceed the per-credit-hour cost of courses taught within our high schools by our faculty. This provision is not only a matter of fairness but also a fiscally responsible measure that ensures taxpayer dollars are spent on high-quality, effective instruction. By aligning tuition rates for online coursework with traditional classroom instruction, this bill allows districts like Wheelersburg to maintain instructional programs that provide students with the best possible educational outcomes.

The passage of House Bill 62 will provide much-needed financial relief to local school districts while ensuring that students continue to have access to affordable and effective dual enrollment opportunities. I urge this committee to support this legislation and help Ohio schools direct their limited resources toward high-quality, impactful instruction.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Mark Knapp, Superintendent

Wheelersburg Schools