



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

Scott W. DiMauro, President
Jeffrey Wensing, Vice President
Robert A. McFee, Secretary-Treasurer
Dan Burkhalter, Interim Executive Director

**OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
House Education Committee
House Bill 145 – Interested Party Testimony
May 20, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Scott DiMauro. I am in my 34th year in education, which includes 16 years in the classroom as a high school social studies teacher in Worthington City Schools. I currently serve as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of nearly 120,000 members of the OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide written interested party testimony on House Bill (HB)145. HB 145 proposes to add 53 hours to the mandatory minimum school year for all-day kindergarten through 12 grade and adding 27 hours for half-day kindergarten.

OEA recognizes the importance of meaningful student instructional time and the value of professional development as critical components of educator success and improved student outcomes for students in grades K-12. For example, data shows that between 2020-2021 and the 2023-2024 school years, Ohio's third graders have demonstrated a 12.6% increase in reading proficiency levels. These gains were achieved through purposeful professional development for Ohio's educators, and within the current hourly requirements for Ohio students. That is why OEA has long advocated for using the time our students already have in public school to truly focus on their learning instead of utilizing too much time on testing and other items that take away time from student learning.

To facilitate efficient implementation, OEA asks that the bill be amended to clarify that the additional hours requirement becomes effective at the local level upon the expiration of collective bargaining agreements entered into prior to the bill's effective date. OEA believes that any additional time added to the state established minimum school year preserves the ability of local school districts and impacted parties to determine how they would like to implement the increased hours.

Additionally, we flag that any increase in the minimum school year is an unfunded state mandate. We encourage the Ohio General Assembly to update and fund the Fair School Funding Plan to reflect the current cost of delivering a world class education. OEA also requests the removal of the House-passed budget carryover limitation provision contained in House Bill 96 that would result in a loss of billions of dollars, forcing school districts to cut student programming while putting them at risk of financial instability.

This concludes my testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have related to OEA's position on this matter.

