



House Education Committee
House Bill 145 Interested Party Testimony

Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA)
Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)
May 20, 2025

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today on House Bill (HB) 145. My name is Paul Imhoff, and I represent the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), which represents Ohio's public-school superintendents. Joining me today is Malania Birney, representing the Ohio School Board Association. On behalf of school district leaders across Ohio, we want to thank Representative Bird for sponsoring this legislation and for his ongoing commitment to increasing the time students are actively engaged in learning.

Our members support the goal of HB 145, which we believe is to ensure students receive more direct instructional time with their teachers. We recognize the powerful impact that consistent classroom learning has on student growth and achievement. We're grateful that this conversation is being held, and we appreciate the sponsor's and this committee's focus on outcomes that benefit students.

Our members do have some concerns about some of the unintended consequences of this bill. Many of the non-instructional days targeted by this legislation are simply not discretionary. In fact, many are the result of state-mandated professional development requirements, such as dyslexia training, CPR and AED instruction, safety drills, and curriculum alignment with state standards. These are important initiatives, but they consume staff time and often require full-day training sessions. We can all agree with the goal of reducing non-instructional time, but we must also take a hard look at the cumulative training requirements imposed by the legislature

itself, including those currently pending in the General Assembly. On that note, we are encouraged by discussion in the legislature of a deregulation proposal for public schools, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of reviewing and supporting efforts that give local districts more flexibility and autonomy. Reducing these mandates results in more instructional time for students which is the goal we all share.

The fiscal note from the Legislative Service Commission suggests the bill may result in increases in salaries and benefits to accommodate the required increase in instructional time. Again, while we agree with the bill's goal, our members indicate to us that this cost increase is a certainty, and our schools will need time to work through this issue and make appropriate plans.

They also report that the proposal could pose challenges for our partner schools, including educational service centers and joint vocational school districts. These schools often have students who spend more time being transported so we would support more flexibility in the minimum number of hours in these situations.

In closing, we appreciate Representative Bird's leadership on this important issue, and we wholeheartedly agree with this statement he made in sponsor testimony on the bill: "Time in front of a teacher matters, not only for academic performance, but also for the development of the soft skills that they will utilize in their employment later in life."

Chair Fowler Arthur and members of the committee, we look forward to working with you on ways to achieve the goals of HB 145 and improve the academic and non-academic outcomes and opportunities for the children of Ohio.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.