



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senate Education Committee
March 11th, 2025
Senate Bill 127 – Sponsor Testimony

Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 127, a reintroduction of Senate Bill 295 last general assembly.

We are working on language that would modify, with the intent to standardize, closure requirement for district operated schools, community schools, and STEM schools. The bill would do the following:

- Define a poor performing school as:
 - District operated schools, community schools, and STEM schools serving grade 4 and above in the lowest 5% for performance index and 10% progress effect size among all public schools for three consecutive years.
 - Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community receiving a rating of “does not meet standard” for three consecutive years.
- The options for schools meeting the criteria for poor performance are as follows:
 - Close at the end of the school year in which they receive the third strike,
 - Replace their principal and a majority of their licensed staff,
 - Consolidate the entire district with another district in the event it is a district that has triggered closure criteria,
 - Or engage a DEW approved education management organization, charter management organization, education service center, or Ohio public or private college or university with experience in school improvement to operate the school beginning the following school year.

Under current law, there is no language governing when STEM schools are to automatically close and community schools currently have no codified alternatives

to closure. SB 127 would create an equal playing field for each type of school for when they are required to close and provides the same pathways for rehabilitation.

I have been working closely with the Department of Education and Workforce and other interested parties to create what we believe is a fair approach to standardizing closure language for public, community, and STEM schools in Ohio.

Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, it is my hope that this bill will help to standardize the law surrounding school closures for public and community schools and help ensure that each student in Ohio receives the best education possible. Thank you again for hearing my testimony on this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee members may have.