



March 25, 2025
Senate Education Committee
Interested Party Testimony on SB 19
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Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony on SB 19. The Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) represents teachers in traditional and charter schools, support staff, higher education faculty and staff, library employees, and social workers.

We agree with the intent behind this bill. Math proficiency declined during the COVID-19 pandemic and still has not fully recovered. We must turn this around. This bill, rightfully, attempts to address that.

Our concern with this bill however, is that the actual implementation will be incredibly costly, in time and in dollars, at a time when there is a lot of uncertainty about school district funding, at the state and federal levels. Educators are already stretched thin, with large classes and students who need more support than ever. It is not reasonable to add another new unfunded mandate, especially one with this many specific requirements for an improvement plan. This would likely dump hours of additional work per week on some teachers. Likewise, school budgets are stretched thin and it is not reasonable to expect that they can find additional money for a high-dosage tutoring vendor without an increase in school funding to cover these costs.

We urge policy makers to include educators and administrators in the conversation when crafting policies on academic achievement, so that logistical impossibilities can be identified and resolved – either by increasing funding or by increasing flexibility for districts to work within their budgets. We all share the same goals. We all want more Ohio children to excel in math. Let's work together for solutions that our schools can implement.