

Crooksville Exempted Village School District



Ohio Senate Education Committee

House Bill 96: Career Awareness Funding

Proponent Testimony from Kevin Smith, Superintendent,

Crooksville Exempted Village School District

May 2, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Kevin Smith, and I serve as the Superintendent of Crooksville Exempted Village Schools. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in support of the reinstatement of Career Awareness Funding, and to explain the positive impact these funds have on our students, even though they are administered through our partner Career and Technical Center, Mid-East CTC.

Mid-East Career and Technology Centers (MECTC) plays a vital role in our region, providing career-technical education to high school juniors and seniors. But their impact extends far beyond those high school years. MECTC provides crucial career awareness activities and resources for our younger students, and these activities directly benefit Crooksville Exempted Village Schools.

While Crooksville Exempted Village Schools does not receive these funds directly, the programming they support is invaluable to our students. The Career Awareness Funding allows MECTC to provide a range of activities, including:

- Elementary School Activities:
 - Careers for Me Junior (2nd Grade)
 - Community Career Puzzles (3rd Grade)
 - All About Me Posters (4th Grade)
 - Careers for Me II (5th Grade)
 - Careers in My Community Program - Crooksville Elementary
 - Very Mid-East Christmas Event (K-5th)
- Middle School Activities:
 - Program tours (Zanesville Campus) - 8th Grade
 - Mid-East CTC provided reimbursement for transportation
 - One-day Career Planning Workshop - 8th grade



Crooksville Exempted Village School District

- Career interest inventories (OhioMeansJobs)
- Career pathway exploration and research
 - Skills, outlook, educational pathways, salary and lifestyle
- High School Activities
 - Sophomore presentation about career options at Mid-East CTC
 - Sophomore Showcase visits to Buffalo and Zanesville Campuses
 - Delivered by Mid-East program instructors and student ambassadors
 - Mid-East provided lunch
 - Mid-East provided transportation reimbursement
 - Career Nights - Buffalo and Zanesville Campuses
 - Open to sophomores and families who wanted more information about Mid-East CTC opportunities

These activities expose our elementary, middle, and high school students to a variety of career paths at a critical time in their development. They help our students begin to understand the connection between what they learn in the classroom and their future opportunities.

The work that MECTC does in our elementary, middle, and high schools is essential. It helps us to build a strong foundation for our students' future success. It is an investment in our children, our community, and our region.

I urge you to consider the positive impact that Career Awareness Funding has on students throughout our region, including those in Crooksville Exempted Village Schools. I strongly encourage you to restore this funding in the Senate's version of the budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Smith
Superintendent
Crooksville Exempted Village School District

**OHIO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WITNESS INFORMATION FORM**

Date of Hearing: _____

Bill Number and Title: HB96 - State Operating Budget

Name of Committee: Senate Education Committee

Personal Information

Name: KEVIN SMITH

Organization (if applicable): CROOKSVILLE EXEMPTED Village Schools

Title (if applicable): SUPERINTENDENT

Address: 4065 CERAMIC Way

City, State, Zip: CROOKSVILLE, OH 43731

Email: KEVIN.SMITH@CROOKSVILLE.ORG

Phone: 740-982-7040

Representation

☒ Self

☐ Organization (please specify): _____

Position on the Bill

☒ Proponent (Support)

☐ Opponent (Against)

☐ Interested Party (Neutral)

Testimony Type

☒ Written Only

☐ In-Person Oral Testimony

☐ Virtual Oral Testimony

Will you have supporting documents or written testimony to submit?

☒ Yes

☐ No