

Brett Tingley

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Testimony Regarding Proposed Language in House Bill 96 – R.C. 3319.2310

My name is Brett Tingley, and I am the parent of a dyslexic child in Ohio and the President of OH-KID, or Ohio Kids Identified with Dyslexia, a coalition of more than 20 parent groups representing more than 185,000 students in Ohio. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 96, particularly the provisions that would require districts to report educator completion of Science of Reading training through the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the adoption of a single, statewide literacy diagnostic assessment for early grades.

Understanding EMIS Reporting

EMIS is Ohio's statewide data collection system for public education. Requiring districts to report educator completion of Science of Reading training through EMIS would provide transparency and accountability. It ensures that educators across the state are equipped with effective, research-based reading instruction methods. This reporting allows parents and stakeholders to have confidence that teachers are prepared to support students' literacy development.

The Need for a Single, Statewide Diagnostic Assessment

While Ohio mandates early literacy screening, the use of various assessment tools across districts leads to inconsistent identification of reading difficulties, including dyslexia. Different tools have produced varied outcomes, making it challenging to ensure consistent support for all students. Over the past few years, Ohio has field-tested multiple screening tools as part of the early implementation of our dyslexia support laws. This experience has provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of these assessments.

It's now time to come together to select the best, most effective tool for use across the state.

Adopting a single, state-selected diagnostic assessment would:

- **Ensure Consistency:** All students would be evaluated using the same criteria, allowing for "apples to apples" comparisons across districts.

- **Enhance Accountability:** A uniform assessment provides a transparent view of early literacy progress statewide, informing policy decisions and resource allocation.
- **Facilitate Student Mobility:** Consistent assessments ease transitions for students moving between schools or districts, ensuring continuity in identifying and addressing reading challenges.

Personal Perspective

As a parent, I've witnessed the impact that delayed identification of reading difficulties can have on a child's confidence and academic progress. Early detection and intervention are crucial. By implementing these measures, we can provide all students with the support they need to become proficient readers, closing achievement gaps and building a stronger future for our state.

I urge the legislature to support these provisions in House Bill 96.

Sincerely,

Brett Tingley

President of UA-KID, Upper Arlington Kids Identified with Dyslexia, and OH-KID, Ohio Kids Identified with Dyslexia