

Testimony of

Chris Varwig, VP, Board of Education
Toledo Public Schools
Before the Ohio Senate Education Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 156
June 24, 2025

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. On behalf of Toledo Public Schools, I am here to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 156. The TPS Board of Education feels that parents' rights are violated whenever legislation dictates a formula for family values, rather than allowing parents to raise their children according to their own values.

SB 156 mandates the adoption of the so-called "success sequence" as a graduation requirement for students in grades 6–12. This measure would compel schools to teach that avoiding poverty hinges solely on completing high school, obtaining full-time employment, and marrying before having children.

This is not an elective or optional curriculum—it is a state-imposed requirement. The bill hands over authority to a state-appointed committee to create standards and a model curriculum, removing local control from elected school boards and our communities. The legislation is vague, offering no clarity on what will be taught, who will teach it, or how it will respect the diverse experiences of our students.

Let us be clear: we feel that bills like this that impose cultural standards on our students via a state mandate do not support our efforts to provide quality education. This bill undermines our students' autonomy, promotes a narrow definition of success, and reinforces outdated social norms under the guise of "family values." Our educators are dedicated to helping all students succeed on their own terms, not through a state-mandated life formula.

Toledo Public Schools urges you to vote no on SB 156 and stand up for local control, respect student diversity, and focus instead on true educational opportunities for our kids.

Thank you for your time and consideration.