



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

## **OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Ohio Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 144 - Proponent Testimony – Written Only

October 14, 2025

Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee. My name is Jeff Wensing. I am a high school math teacher from Parma City Schools with 32 years of service, and I currently serve as the President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 144, legislation that would re-establish three grade bands for teacher licensure.

OEA supports the shift proposed by SB 144 to establish three teacher licensure grade bands instead of two. The three license bands expected in a pending SB 144 substitute bill are a pre-K-5 dual option (generalist and special education), grades 4 through 8, and grades 7 through 12. These three grade bands will allow for deeper preparation that helps teachers meet the unique learning needs of children at each grade level, particularly in early literacy.

A three-grade band approach also supports student learning by allowing teachers to have more specialized knowledge about student needs, standards, and content. With three grade bands, educators will be more equipped to address the developmental and cognitive needs specific to the age group they are teaching.

Finally, teacher preparation programs also benefit from a shift back to three grade bands, which will allow a deeper focus on age-specific content standards, pedagogy, and instructional strategies.

For the reasons above, OEA supports the shift from two grade bands to three grade bands for teacher licensure.

Thank you for your consideration.

