



Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 328 Proponent Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Alliance for High Quality Education
Ohio School Boards Association
Ohio Association of School Business Officials

May 12, 2026

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 328. My name is Paul Imhoff with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, which represents Ohio's public school superintendents. Joining me in support of this testimony is Tony Podojil with the Alliance for High Quality Education, Malania Birney with the Ohio School Boards Association, and Katie Johnson with the Ohio Association of School Business Officials. On behalf of our members, we are here today to provide updated testimony on Senate Bill 328 in response to recent changes made to the bill.

We would like to begin by thanking Senator Koehler, the committee, and the stakeholders who have worked collaboratively on this legislation over the past months. The substitute bill addresses many of the implementation concerns our organizations previously raised, particularly regarding flexibility, staffing, and timelines.

For example, rather than being required to provide a one-half unit course, the new version of the bill requires school districts to provide 60 hours of instruction in the study of career exploration to students during grades six through eight through one of three options:

- (1) Offering a standalone career exploration course;
- (2) Embedding the instruction into a qualifying career-technical education course; and
- (3) Implementing a locally developed, state-approved career exploration plan.

The new version of the bill also allows school districts to partner with outside organizations and assign appropriate staff to provide the required career exploration instruction and planning. Finally, the bill adjusts the implementation timeline to begin with the 2027-28 school year, allowing adequate time for a meaningful and effective rollout of the bill.

As we stated in our previous testimony, Senate Bill 328 establishes new goals and expectations for our schools to support students with career exploration, and our organizations strongly support those efforts. We also share the goal of helping students understand the many opportunities available to them after high school. At the same time, successfully implementing these new provisions requires additional resources, staff capacity, and professional development at the local level. As these career awareness and exploration initiatives continue to expand, our members look forward to working with policymakers to ensure schools have the resources and tools necessary to implement these programs successfully for students across Ohio.

In closing, the changes made by the committee have been thoughtful and directly address the concerns our organizations previously raised about implementation flexibility and timelines. Because of these changes, our organizations are pleased to support Senate Bill 328.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.