

## Written Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee in Support of Senate Bill 298

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts before the Committee, even though I cannot attend in person. As a veteran educator of 19 years, I have a vested interest in the educational opportunities of our students. I would like to share some of the reasons I support SB298.

Most of the provisions in SB298 are basic requirements of our traditional public schools. Among these basics are the recording, calculating, and reporting of attendance, the adoption and use of operating standards, and access to public meetings of the school's governing authority. Even the provisions regarding e-school operator contracts are similar to how traditional public schools implemented changes to teacher evaluation due to OTES. To exclude e-schools from these requirements would only slight the students and families of those enrolled in e-schools.

The provisions of SB298 that specifically relate to e-schools also seem to be of a common sense nature. For example, requiring that e-schools publish the most recent state report card grades on their promotional materials makes sense. If one wants to honor parent choice, one cannot obfuscate the truth about any of the choices offered to them. Exclusion of e-schools from career-technical education makes sense, as these studies are of a "hands-on" nature.

Most importantly, SB298 calls for the creation of a commission to study the actual costs of operating an e-school and to report its findings by the end of this year. The inclusion of this language begs the question, how is e-school funding currently determined if the actual cost of operation is unknown?

In summary, I urge your support of SB298, as it would enact reasonable standards for transparency and accountability to Ohio's e-schools akin to those found in our traditional public schools. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Brittany Alexander