

H. B. 154 Proponent Statement
Youngstown City School District
Board Member Ronald Shadd, YCSD Board of Education

We view HB 70 as an overhaul of State control that already existed within the Youngstown City School District. In 2010 the state's department of education declared that all academics shall be under the sole control of an Academic Distress Commission. During this time resolutions proposed by the superintendent and Academic Distress Commission related to educational attainment were approved.

Gains were made, but our district remained under state control.

In 2015, H. B. 70 was created without input or support from the community of Youngstown in 84 secret meetings. And ratified by the state legislature in violation of its' own policies and procedures.

The initial impact of H.B.70 eliminated any aspect of local control in the educational experience of its constituents, eliminated voter rights to elect leadership, eliminated tax payers rights to influence how educational funding is used, and eliminated good faith bargaining with organized labor within the district.

However, HB 70 did not develop a comprehensive plan to improve the academic performance of students. It gave unilateral control to one CEO without oversight from any governing body.

During HB 70,

- \$13 million least was spent on in the classroom.
- The state report card has shown a decrease in academic attainment within our district
- The district faces fiscal collapse, we are estimated to be in the red within in 2 years if spending continues as the CEO proposes.
 - In two years, the CEO has spent an estimated \$3.5 million for legal services.
 - Over \$11 million of surplus funding has been spent.
 - CEO hired 33 executive positions at salaries of \$100,000 and more
- The average years of experience teachers dropped from 10 years to 7 years
- Our K-12th grade enrollment has dropped.
- Successful academic supports have been removed from the district:
 - Social workers were eliminated from the district.
 - STEM, 3-D printing and Visual Performing Arts programs were eliminated
 - ELL tutoring and Americorps programming was eliminated,
 - Music and Foreign language programming have been reduced.

HB 70 hasn't been good for education!

HB 154 gives School Districts the opportunity and resources to gain academic proficiency by focusing in on issues facing a particular building than to bring sweeping changes to the district. It allows for a whole child approach to enable the right community partners to share space and have real time interactions with students and families.

Reinstating local control ensures that citizens has a role in the educational process. It maintains voters rights and gives taxpayers input. Local control also strengthens and builds working relationships with organized labor.

Most importantly it gives a comprehensive road map on gaining support and supplies oversight from the states in a way that works. It shaped the educational leadership design into a joint partnership model.

In Youngstown prior to HB 70 we had exceptional programs such as:

- Youngstown Early College program
 - Ranked a B on the State Report Card
 - Ranked in 2015 and 2016 in Newsweek Best US High Schools,
 - Received an award issued by the State of Ohio.
- We were making monumental progress in area of literacy;
 - Receiving a B in K-3rd grade literacy
 - increasing graduation rates.
- We established STEM Discovery Schools and Visual and Performing Arts programs and made technological upgrades
- Chaney High School was
 - recognized by Apple and was awarded iPads for all students.
 - Students received scholarships to the Fabian Barnes Dance Institute in Washington D.C.

All these successes have suffered under HB 70.

We were not a perfect district but we were working towards a future of academic excellence, right sizing the district by reducing of non-essential administrative staff, and we were doing so while being fiscally sound with a surplus of over \$23 million.

HB 154 allows our district to have a resurgence on programs and approaches that work for academic achievement while having a sustainability design. Essentially giving the Youngstown School City District a way to repair academic and fiscal damage that occurred under HB 70.