

Introduction: Joke about this not being my SPED class.

Because I know we all see things differently, I will give you numbers on how HB 70 has affected Youngstown City Schools as well as real world examples that will make you re-think HB 70.

Because of our amazing teachers who implemented our reading program, LLI (Leveled Literacy Instruction) in 2015, our district had a 55.2% reading level. In 2016, after the implementation of HB 70 and our CEO, our evidence-based reading program LLI, was replaced with GRR (Gradual Release of Responsibility). With this replacement “framework”, our Reading scores dropped drastically to 27.7%. Our score fluctuated between 35.9% and 30.7% in the subsequent two years utilizing our mandated GRR “framework”.

Because the ADC and the school delegates cannot seem to work together to do what is best for our kids, they are the ones suffering. We have received D’s and F’s in every area available on our report card. **We were a little over 2% above an F in “Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers”.** Because of their awesomeness of earning an “A”, our Gifted Program is the only reason we were able to score a D in Progress.

GRR is not a reading program but a best practice model. It was considered our new framework, and if it was not followed, we were negatively penalized on evaluations. The HB 70 appointed CEO didn’t take into account how this “one size fits all framework” would negatively impact our students. **Under this framework, it had specific times set for each part of the lesson** - imagine if you had only 3-5 minutes to grasp the totality of a document that is 66 pages. How well would you be prepared? Could you report out on what you just learned? That is what our CEO is requiring for all learners.

My students are on IEP’s. They struggle to learn at the typically developing rate that our GRR has held our teachers to. What happens when the services we as Intervention Specialists give, are not in the classroom? **Teaching and learning is challenged by all due to behaviors that are caused by the rigid parameters we are held to.** It is proven that students who are so overwhelmed by content and frustrated at their inability to do the task asked of them, their frustration wins disruption starts.

- 7th grader George throwing pencils because speed of lesson was an issue,
- 2nd and 3rd graders - my Jesua - yelling, pushing chairs, running out of the classroom.

On the flipside of that, because HB 70 gave the CEO rights to determine class sizes, some of our classes were split 60/40 and 50/50 with SPED and Gen Ed. Due to the speed of the lesson and the repetitiveness of the lesson, ALL the students are now exhibiting behaviors because they are either bored or confused.

In conclusion, as this is my first time in front of such a distinguished audience who isn’t sneaking food or on their cell phones, I appreciate your time. I hope you have not only listened but heard my examples, and after imagining yourself, your children, or grandchildren having to endure a bill like HB 70, I hope you can repeal it and give control back to the schools.