



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

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB 316: OEA Proponent Testimony
Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Wensing. I have 26 years of experience as a high school math teacher in the Parma City Schools; and I currently serve as Vice President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the 120,000 members of OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 316.

House Bill 316 would create the supplemental school year program for the 2021-22 school year. The bill allows high school students to retake or supplement the courses they completed the prior year. No later than 30 days after the bill's effective date, an eligible student can request to participate in the program. The school's governing authority can choose to accept students into the program and has 30 days to accept any or all requests as well as develop an implementation plan. Participating schools shall petition for up to two additional semesters of eligibility in interscholastic athletics for students enrolled in the program.

This past school year was difficult and unlike anything we have experienced as educators. Imagine being a student. We know each child is different and each has had their own set of challenges. For many it was business as usual, or they flourished. However, we know there are students who struggled. Perhaps this was due to trouble adapting to online learning or dealing with a family illness. House Bill 316 would provide the families of high school students with options to improve or supplement their academic performance from a difficult year. The bill also maintains local control by allowing schools to determine how best to offer such a program or whether to offer it at all.

Again, Chair Manning, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. I will be happy to stand for your questions.

