



**House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee
House Bill 110 Interested Party Written Testimony
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
March 4, 2021**

Chair Richardson, Vice Chair Baldrige, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written Interested Party testimony on House Bill (HB) 110, the proposed biennial budget bill. My name is Timothy Freeman, and I am the Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA). Our organization represents public school district high school principals and other middle school and secondary school administrators from around the state.

On behalf of our members, today's testimony is centered around two education policy issues proposed in HB 110:

- New requirements for districts regarding computer science course offerings
- Changes to graduation requirements including the addition of student completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) form before receiving a diploma

HB 110 would require that a statewide committee be established to develop a state plan for computer science education for purposes of primary and secondary education. We have no objection to the establishment of such a committee with a view toward exploring current barriers to districts providing computer science course options. The state could then establish a strategy to increase the availability of computer science courses.

However, the bill also requires that high school students must be guaranteed the option to enroll in computer science courses or general education courses that include computer science principles. Grades eleven and twelve would have that option as early as the coming school year.

Rather than providing resources for school districts to establish computer science course options, HB 110 would simply require the offering. If districts cannot accommodate the mandate, funds would be deducted from state aid payments and syphoned off to another approved educational provider. This is a significant change in law that should be explored and vetted more fully.

OASSA urges you to remove the new requirements for computer science course offerings and allow for public discussion of the issue through separate stand-alone legislation.

Among other changes to the current graduation requirements, HB 110 would add as a condition for a student to receive a high school diploma, the completion of a FASFA form. While the bill allows for

an opt-out by the student/parent, our members have raised concerns about the required submission of a family's financial information as a condition of a student graduating.

We support the notion that students be encouraged to complete the FASFA form, and that schools assist students when needed. However, this new requirement appears to be an over-reach and at the very least should be debated in separate legislation.

We urge you to remove from the bill the requirement that the completion of a FASFA form as a condition of graduation.

This concludes my testimony. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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You may also contact OASSA's Advocacy Specialist:
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