



May 6, 2021

## Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

House Bill 110 – Interested Party Testimony  
Dan Dodd – Executive Director  
Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present brief testimony regarding HB 110. There are a couple of provisions to which we would like to direct your attention.

**Regulation of Athletics:** OAIS has always encouraged the General Assembly to enact fair, uniform standards for increased athletic participation for our students. For this reason, we are disappointed the House chose to restrict athletic participation for international students.

In 2019, the Ohio General Assembly and Governor DeWine authorized language in the biennial budget to give all students attending a school in Ohio on an F-1 visa the ability to participate in interscholastic athletics. Prior to the 2019 change, it was only F-1 students attending a boarding school in the state who were allowed to participate, a provision of state law also enacted by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich in 2017.

In its version of the budget, the House reverted back to the 2017 language, despite the absence of a single sanction made against an OHSAA for illegal recruiting since the provision became law nearly two years ago. We encourage the Senate to remove this House-inserted provision and instead support provisions that respect the role that school choice plays in our academic system and allow private schools to operate in a way that acknowledges the independence of private schools.

**Pupil Transportation:** OAIS supports the transportation provisions Gov. DeWine proposed in his executive budget. However, one item inserted by the House regarding “good faith” efforts ought to be removed by the Senate. The provision incentivizes districts to ignore bell schedules and drop off students at school much earlier than the school’s opening bell and pick them up much later than the closing bell. The end result is students getting less sleep in the morning, spending more time on the bus in the afternoon, and potentially missing extracurricular activities or work opportunities due to late pickups at the end of the day. OAIS also supports adjusting the payment-in-lieu of transportation amounts to reflect 25% of the cost quoted by the district for transporting the student, rather than a flat amount. By making the amount based on a percentage, districts still save money and families have more of a chance to afford alternative transportation, while also recognizing that transportation costs can vary in different parts of Ohio.

**College Credit Plus:** The House added a provision in the budget that would restore the option of private schools to choose whether or not they participate in College Credit Plus. This is something that currently exists in law, but the Department of Higher Education has chosen to interpret the language as giving students veto power over the school’s decision. Clarifying this language will give back to schools the freedom to choose the curriculum that is best for students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I’d be happy to answer any questions you may have.

- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School of Hawken
- Canton Country Day School
- Central Montessori Academy
- Cincinnati Country Day School
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Jos. and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- The Lawrence School
- The Lillian and Betty Ratner School
- Linden Grove School
- The Lippman School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day School
- McGuffey Montessori School
- The Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School - Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori - Rocky River
- The Schilling School for Gifted Children
- The Seven Hills School
- Summit Country Day School
- University School
- Urban Community School
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy