



**OAGC Testimony on HB82**  
**June 23, 2021**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB82, which now includes language regarding report card reform. The report card language is the culmination of almost two years of deliberations of a diverse workgroup and, more recently, discussions with the Ohio's education management groups and unions. OAGC's major focus was equitable treatment of subgroups and transparency for parents and the public at-large.

I would like to focus specifically on issues that will highlight the performance of Ohio's subgroups. HB82 moves many of the measures regarding Ohio's subgroups into the gap closing component. This component is a revamped version of the current gap closing measure. This new measure will provide a clearer focus on the unique needs within each of these subgroups. In addition, HB82 retains the current minimum subgroup N-size of 15, which ensures greater visibility of small subgroups so that they do not get lost. Raising this N-size would cause many students to fall through the cracks of accountability in districts and buildings. HB82 also moves chronic absenteeism and the gifted performance indicator from the indicators met measure from the current report card into the gap closing measure which is a much better fit.

OAGC also supports the measure previously known as "prepared for success." The new measure, which is called college, career, workforce, and military readiness greatly expands the pathways for students to show readiness. While this measure will not be a rated measure in the near future, OAGC believes that when it is fully incorporated into the reported card, it will be an important measure for parents to view.

With regard to transparency, OAGC always views policy with an eye toward how parents will best understand what is happening in their district and school building. HB82 will provide many ways for parents to be able to view the overall status of their district by viewing the components and overall grade not just as a single measure using stars, but with easy to understand descriptions, color-coding and trend lines. These measures will be federally compliant and provide a straightforward view for parents.

One small item that is included in HB82 that OAGC particularly appreciates is the renaming of Ohio assessment level currently known as "accelerated" to "accomplished." The term accelerated has a very specific educational meaning. Telling a parent that their child has an

accelerated test score has caused problems in many districts who have had to inform parents this label does not mean their child can be grade skipped.

From my discussions with parents, they are interested in the following information from report cards:

1. How is the local district and school building doing in terms of performance and growth?
2. If their child has a special need, how well is the district/school building providing for those needs?
3. When their child graduates will they be prepared for the next step whether that is college or something else?

From OAGC's perspective, HB82 does a fairly good job in answering those questions.

Is HB82 perfect? Of course not. I will tell you from the hours of discussion and debate, every organization that contributed toward this bill had to compromise. What would I change? In particular, I would have kept the sub-group demotion on value-added. I still have difficulty thinking that a school or district should receive an A or five stars if, for example, the students with disability sub-group, had D or F, or one to two stars. But I was clearly a minority voice on this issue. Other groups had strong likes or dislikes on other areas where they had to compromise. That is the nature of consensus. I would say, however, that every group was able to share their views honestly and that those views were full discussed. At the end of the day, HB82 encapsulates the goals of the group which were to ensure transparent, equitable, fair and accurate report card reform.

I would like to note that while OAGC is testifying as a proponent of the HB82, the organization still opposes the language allowing students to opt out of taking the ACT or SAT.

I would like to thank the chair, Senator Brenner as well the two co-sponsors of HB200 (the House report card reform bill), Representative Jones and Representative Robinson. If it were not for the leadership and tenacity of these three men, report card reform would not be enacted for the next school year. I would also like to thank the legislative staff and LSC who always do amazing work on behalf of the Ohio General Assembly and the people of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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