

Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee

SB 306 Proponent Testimony

April 5, 2022

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for your time today. My name is Dr. Goodney and I am the Superintendent of the ESC of Central Ohio. I am happy to provide proponent testimony today on Senate Bill 306 and I thank Chair Brenner for his leadership on this legislation.

The ESC of Central Ohio currently serves 30 member school districts—including 3 career and technical joint vocational schools districts—across 8 Central Ohio counties. The ESC of Central Ohio also provides, annually, services to more than 250 Central Ohio organizations—including member and non-member districts, chartered non-public schools, community schools, private sector businesses, non-profit organizations, and local and state government agencies.

SB 306's proposed statewide tutoring option is directly aligned with the goals of the ESC of Central Ohio: (1) Build and sustain relationships that advance our vision, purpose and values; (2) Make optimum use of all available resources; and (3) Provide programs and services that improve outcomes for students. The legislation, if passed, would provide an important tutoring and remedial education option for schools, districts, teachers and students to leverage in order to combat the adverse impact that COVID has had on student learning loss.

Under the bill, the ESC of Central Ohio will play an important role in coordinating and implementing the statewide tutoring program in collaboration with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the regional ESC network. The ESC of Central Ohio is fully equipped to establish the tutoring training course within 60 days of the bill's effective date and has the capacity to quickly administer the tutoring program as the designated coordinating service center as proposed in SB 306.

The ESC of Central Ohio has 10+years' experience in implementing student tutoring programs in Central Ohio and throughout the state. This experience is precisely why the ESC of Central Ohio is the right choice for the coordinating service center role and why we will be able to support the State Superintendent in implementing the SB 306 tutoring program beginning next school year. Our approach to coordinating with regional ESC partners on this initiative will be to adhere to the collaborative principles that the Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) already has in place for the rollout of statewide education priorities.

The ESC of Central Ohio also has experience implementing statewide strategies as directed by the General Assembly. Pursuant to Section 3323.31 of the Revised Code, the legislature directed the ESC of Central Ohio to establish the Ohio center for autism and low incidence (OCALI). The OCALI Autism Center administers statewide programs and coordinates services

for infants, preschool and school-age children, and adults with autism and low incidence disabilities.

Another example is the partnership between the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who collectively provide funding through the Prevention Education Professional Development Grant to selected ESCs. The purpose of this grant funding is to train educators and related school personnel in the model and tenets of prevention of risky behaviors, including substance abuse, suicide, bullying and other harmful behaviors. The ESC of Central Ohio was selected to lead the Central Ohio region and help strengthen community partnerships and enhance the delivery and impact of evidence-based prevention education. As part of this work, the ESC of Central Ohio partners with other educational service centers and alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services (ADAMHS) boards.

The above two examples illustrate the ESC of Central Ohio's capacity and capability to implement statewide programing in partnership with state policymakers and other educational service centers. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on this bill and for the opportunity to provide my support for SB 306 this afternoon. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.