



October 15, 2019  
Ohio Senate Education Committee  
Proponent Testimony / SB 89  
Career-Technical Education Associations

Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the career-technical education (“CTE”) community, represented by the Ohio Association of Career-Technical Education (“Ohio ACTE”), the Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents (“OATCS”), and the Ohio Association of Compact and Comprehensive Career Technical Schools (“Ohio CCS”), we submit this testimony to express our continued support for substitute senate bill 89 and to help explain some of the changes made since the bill’s introduction this past March.

First, most of the revisions included in sub SB 89 are the product of extensive conversations between our associations, the Ohio Department of Education (“ODE”), the Ohio Department of Higher Education (“ODHE”), and other education stakeholders. Some modifications have been made in response to specific stakeholder suggestions, and others are the result of changes to law / policy included in the FY 20-21 state operating budget bill (HB 166) (the “Budget”). Others are technical in nature. Amendments our associations helped craft include:

1. Removing the bill’s post-secondary credit provisions in response to the Budget’s creation of a CTE / Higher Ed. stakeholder workgroup, which must establish a career-tech post-secondary credit plan by June of 2020.
2. Modifying the bill’s EMIS provisions to create an internal database (similar to the federal registrar) that will allow CTE EMIS staff to review, test, analyze, and comment on reporting changes proposed by ODE. ODE must release proposed changes by May 15, for implementation the following school year.
3. Eliminating provisions that addressed graduation requirements due to the new framework established in the Budget.
4. Adjusting provisions related to the state’s WebXam requirement for career-tech courses / programs. We originally advocated provisions that would have made this test (WebXam) optional for programs that already require an independent credentialing / licensing test. (Currently, WebXams are only optional for certain CTE programs approved by ODE). In response to stakeholder feedback, sub SB 89 maintains the WebXam requirement, but requires ODE to review and update the list of exempted courses / programs annually.

5. Removing provisions that were intended to combine the ODE and ODHE lists of approved industry-recognized credentials. In response to stakeholder feedback – as well as the Budget’s creation of additional programs to which multiple, separate industry-recognized credential lists apply – the sub bill calls for the state to release guidance and implement policies to synthesize the various industry-recognized credential lists and decrease the level of complexity associated with the menu of credentialing options available to Ohio’s students.
  
6. Adding language that exempts school districts participating in Joint Vocational School District (“JVSD”) Business Advisory Committees from the Business Advisory Council (“BAC”) requirement under Ohio law. (The permissive provisions are modeled off current language that provides the same exemption to schools meeting the BAC requirement through an Educational Services Center).

We note that the bill’s provisions regarding JVSD school board governance, CTPD Operations, Business Enterprise Zones, Adult Teaching Permits, and Substitute Teaching Licensure remain unchanged. Our associations look forward to continuing stakeholder deliberations as the bill advances through the legislative process.

We thank the committee for its consideration of SB 89, and urge approval of the bill. Thank you.