



Education Division

**Written Testimony Submitted to the Senate Education Committee
Support for Not Issuing Sponsor Evaluation Ratings for the 2019-2020 School Year**

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Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Jennifer Schorr and I am the Associate Director of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation. I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this written testimony today on behalf of my organization. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a statewide community school sponsor serving over 14,000 students across 11 cities in Ohio. We are rated Exemplary by the Ohio Department of Education.

As you know, many high stakes decisions are tied to the Local Report Card and Accountability measures, among these the very high stakes decision of the issuance of a rating to a sponsor based upon the annual community school sponsor evaluation required under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code.

H.B. 197 excluded the academic portion of the Sponsor Evaluation System for the 2019-2020SY when the Local Report Cards were no longer going to be issued for public schools in Ohio. High stakes decisions such as issuing ratings to sponsors must be based on complete and accurate data, data that reflects how sponsors are fulfilling their duties. The academic portion comprises a third of the overall evaluation. Additionally, areas of practice by both the school and sponsor (many of which compose the quality and compliance portions of the evaluation) have been interrupted during the building closures.

You have graciously allowed for incentives to be attached to these ratings, as well as penalties for those not fulfilling their obligations in Rule and Law. The absence of this data would allow a sponsor to receive a rating that is not reflective of their overall work during the 2019-2020 school year.

We fully support the changes introduced in S.B. No. 319 requiring that the Department not issue a rating for the components to any sponsor and not to issue an overall rating for a sponsor. We truly appreciate the courtesy and flexibility provided in these changes to allow a sponsor to indicate the areas of their work that could not be completed during the Director of Health's order.

We feel this aligns with many other areas supported by the Legislature and the Ohio Department of Education during these unprecedented times.