



# State Board of Education

Paul LaRue, President  
Martha Manchester, Vice President

## TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1

### HOUSE ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and Members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, on behalf of the State Board of Education, thank you for the opportunity to express the Board's opposition to Senate Bill 1. My name is Jennifer Stump, and I am the Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the Ohio Department of Education.

The State Board of Education is established by the Ohio Constitution, with its power and duties determined by the General Assembly. The Board consists of 11 elected members and 8 members appointed by the Governor. With a majority of elected members, the Board serves a critical role in representing citizens' diverse perspectives on matters affecting the education of Ohio's children.

Last week, I shared with the Members of the General Assembly a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at its April 2023 meeting. The resolution is attached and is entitled "Resolution to Preserve Transparency and Public Participation in Ohio K-12 Education." The Board adopted this resolution, in part, to reassert its commitment to transparency and public participation in Ohio K-12 education, to minimize rather than expand government bureaucracy, and to continue to improve its policies and procedures in the service to all Ohio students and the future of Ohio.

The resolution expresses the Board's position that the State Board of Education should retain the voice of Ohioans and transparency in all facets of public education through the Board's public meetings, public decision-making, and public input. It also urges the General Assembly to:

- Retain completely the Board's rulemaking authority under Title 33 of the Revised Code;
- Involve State Board of Education leadership in the policymaking process to avoid delays between the enactment and implementation of legislation;
- Contact Board members should communication problems arise with the Ohio Department of Education;
- Include the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the Governor's Workforce Transformation Board, if the General Assembly restructures the State Board of Education and the Department of Education.



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Thank you for the opportunity to convey the Board's position on this bill. My team and I are available to meet with Committee Members to discuss the Board's resolution and opposition to the education governance changes proposed in Senate Bill 1. My team and I will also be reaching out through the Chair to discuss potential amendments to the legislation.