

RESOLUTION ANSWERING THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION'S CALL TO ACTION

Background

WHEREAS the _____ School District Board of Education (“Board”) is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association (“OSBA”).

WHEREAS the OSBA promotes and supports reform that provides for a system of public schools that is accountable to the communities they serve and prepares students to be productive citizens in a competitive and global society.

WHEREAS, recognizing that support of public education is an investment in Ohio’s future, OSBA works in cooperation with parents, students, staff, community groups, members of educational organizations, state and local policymakers and others to make the support of public education a state priority.

WHEREAS the OSBA advocates through a legislative platform that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts.

WHEREAS the purpose of the OSBA Legislative Platform is to state publicly the OSBA’s positions on a variety of issues facing public education.

WHEREAS the OSBA Legislative Platform conveys to the public, media, legislators, and policymakers where the OSBA stands.

WHEREAS the OSBA Legislative Platform guides the OSBA’s advocacy efforts.

OSBA’s Call to Action

WHEREAS the OSBA has called upon all members to provide suggested modifications to refine, hone, and amend the OSBA Legislative Platform by submitting duly adopted resolutions to OSBA Director of Legislative Services Jennifer Hogue on or before May 31, 2022, so such resolutions can be shared and discussed with the OSBA Legislative Platform Committee at its August 2022 meeting.

WHEREAS, once the current OSBA Legislative Platform is amended, the OSBA Division of Legislative Services will be sharing copies of the amended Legislative Platform with the Ohio General Assembly, State Board of Education, and Governor Mike DeWine.

WHEREAS the current OSBA Legislative Platform can currently be viewed online at <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/legislative-platform>.

Answering OSBA’s Call to Action

WHEREAS, while the current OSBA Legislative Platform contains students and learning, school governance, finance, and personnel planks; there is no plank advocating for parental rights.

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WHEREAS, pursuant to OSBA’s call to action, the Board desires to submit the instant resolution to a plank to the OSBA Legislative Platform advocating for parental rights.

WHEREAS the OSBA Legislative Platform currently only references parents the following five (5) times:

1. In the Preamble, the 2022 OSBA Legislative Platform provides that: “Recognizing that support of public education is an investment in Ohio’s future, OSBA works in cooperation with parents, students, staff, community groups, members of educational organizations, state and local policymakers and others to make the support of public education a state priority.”
2. In the overall students and learning plank, the 2022 OSBA Legislative Platform provides that: “The key component to establishing the right educational environment is the relationship among students, parents, the school district and the community.”
3. In the assessment provision of the students and learning plank, the 2022 OSBA Legislative Platform provides that: “*OSBA opposes legislation that * * * [p]enalizes districts for a parent’s refusal to allow his/her student to participate in assessments.*”
4. In the curriculum provision of the students and learning plank, the 2022 OSBA Legislative Platform provides that: “*OSBA supports legislation that * * * [e]nables locally elected boards of education to make decisions regarding the adoption of curriculum, textbooks and instructional materials, with advice and input from staff, parents, students and community members.*”
5. In the state report card provision of the students and learning plank, the 2022 OSBA Legislative Platform provides that: “*OSBA supports legislation that * * * [p]rovides school districts with an appropriate amount of time to inform parents, students, staff and communities about changes to assessments and report card standards.*”

WHEREAS the Board recognizes that the parental right to know all aspects of students and learning, school governance, finance, and personnel is essential to a thorough and efficient system of public education as guaranteed by the Ohio Constitution and applicable laws.

WHEREAS the Board recognizes that parental right to know issues are nonpartisan issues.

WHEREAS the Board recommends that the OSBA amend the OSBA Legislative Platform to include the parental right to know plank amendment set forth in this Resolution.

WHEREAS the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and applicable laws were complied with for this board meeting.

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WHEREAS all formal action of the Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Board and all deliberations of the Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recommends that the OSBA Legislative Platform shall be amended to include the following parental right to know plank amendment:

Parental Right to Know

The parental right to know all aspects of students and learning, school governance, finance, and personnel is essential to a thorough and efficient system of public education as guaranteed by the Ohio Constitution and applicable laws.

Parents are their children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. Student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and parents. Greater parental involvement in the education of their children generally results in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism. By way of example, the OSBA continues to support state and federal parental right to know laws that continue to foster the principles set forth by the Ohio State Board of Education in the "Parent and Family Involvement Policy" (as approved on July 10, 2007) including, but not limited to, the below assurances.

OSBA supports legislation that

- Ensures that all school districts clearly articulate to all parents the school district's plans for using federal and state funds to ensure accountabilities for all students, create safe and supportive learning environments, encourage innovation, and extend learning opportunities.
- Ensures that all parents are invited to informational meetings and school-wide events to promote parent-school collaboration.
- Ensures that all parents have a meaningful voice in how local, state, and federal funds are utilized and the development of the education and intervention programs of their children.
- Ensures that all parents shall be notified of policies and procedures affecting parents and students and shall be provided with an opportunity for meaningful feedback before any such policies and procedures are adopted or modified by the school district.
- Ensures that all parents shall be notified of all instructional materials such as textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital materials, websites, and apps used in their children's curriculum.
- Ensures that all parents shall be provided with summaries of each instructional course offered to their school districts.
- Ensures that all parents know the professional qualifications of the staff, teachers, and administrators of their children.

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- Ensures that all parents have the right to inspect any materials used in conjunction with any survey, analysis, or evaluation of their children.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate relationships with parents with expectations and objectives of cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered; providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between parents and schools; providing parental activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; and providing coordination, technical assistance and other supports to assist schools in planning and implementing parental involvement activities.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate effective communication with parents with expectations and objectives of providing information to parents to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children; providing information to parents about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members; communicating with parents in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; providing information and involving parents in monitoring student progress; providing parents with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; and preparing parents to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate effective volunteer opportunities with parents with expectations and objectives of providing volunteer opportunities for parents to support their children's school activities and supporting other needs, such as transportation and childcare, to enable parents to participate in school-sponsored parental involvement events.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate effective learning at home opportunities with parents with expectations and objectives of offering training and resources to help parents learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; working with parents to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals; helping parents to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate effective engaging with parents in decision making and advocacy with expectations and objectives of engaging parents as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning and engaging parents in the development of district-wide parental engagement policy and plan and distributing the policy and plan to parents.
- Ensures that all school districts cultivate community collaboration with parents with expectations and objectives of building constructive partnerships and connecting parents with community-based programs and other community resources and coordinating and integrating parental engagement programs and activities with district initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support parental participation in their children's education, growth, and development.

