



Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed Senate Bill 168, specifically, the measures it outlines regarding requirements for teachers and leaders in administrative positions in the field of education. Such measures, aimed at lessening the standards and expectations for educators, underestimate the existing challenges and shortages within our education system. Such a move could ultimately prove detrimental to the students we strive to serve.

The education of our youth is a critical responsibility, one that demands the utmost dedication and expertise from educators and administrators alike. Lowering the bar for expectations and qualifications not only compromises the quality of education that our students receive but also erodes the trust and confidence that parents and the broader community have in our educational institutions. This is already an issue in the field; imagine what lowering standards would do to exacerbate this problem.

We would like to propose an alternative path forward. The Ohio Senate Education Committee should consider involving institutions of higher education in constructive discussions with organizations associated with school administrators, such as BASA, OLAC, OAESA, and OASSA. By fostering collaboration between key stakeholders, we can collectively work on innovative and effective solutions to the challenges faced by the education field.

Educational leaders, both teachers and administrators, play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our youth. To ensure they are fully prepared for their roles, it is essential that they receive high-quality training and development opportunities that go beyond the scope of a bachelor's level program. Instead of diminishing resources and expectations within preparation programs, we should be enhancing and enriching the education that prospective educators receive.

Our students deserve the best education possible, and they depend on the dedication, knowledge, and competence of their teachers and administrators. Therefore, I implore you to reconsider the proposed SB 168 and to engage in a collaborative effort with educational institutions and administrators' organizations to develop effective, long-term solutions that elevate the quality of education in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to create a brighter future for our students and our state's educational system.

Sincerely,
Mary Heather Munger, Ph.D.
President, Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Melissa Eskrin-Edgehouse
Interim President, Ohio Association of Private Colleges of Teacher Education

Jason Lane
Chair, State University Education Deans