

Advocacy Report November 2014

- Show support for Common Core State Standards and OPPOSE HB597
<http://www.ohiopta.org/Advocacy.aspx>

Go to the above link and click on "Take Action"

Note: Common Core Parent Guides available at: <http://www.ptacommoncore.org/>

The State Board of Education is considering redlining out the following section ("5 of 8" rule) of the Ohio Administrative Code: (This could affect Art, Music, Gym, Nurses, Counselors, etc.):

The following is being proposed to be struck: A minimum of five full-time equivalent educational service personnel shall be employed district-wide for each one thousand students in the regular student population as defined in section 3317.023 of the Revised Code. Educational service personnel shall be assigned to at least five of the eight following areas: counselor, library media specialist, school nurse, visiting teacher, social worker and elementary art, music and physical education. Educational service personnel assigned to elementary art, music and physical education shall hold the special teaching certificate or multi-age license in the subject to which they are assigned. School districts receiving the school nurse wellness coordinator factor and school district health professional factor funds pursuant to section 3306.06 of the Revised Code shall give preference to hiring licensed school nurses.

A 4-3 committee vote sent the issue to the full board for a December vote. One supporting board member stated, "five of eight" isn't even appropriate today when there are about 20 different specialists and services that are now important, but were never in the eight. New ones include things like reading interventionists, audiologists and English as a Second Language teachers. Why should a state board tell districts which of these they need to have" per committee member Mr. Rudduck. He and Tom Gunlock, the board's vice chairman, also noted that state law requires art, music and physical education to be part of a district's curriculum. Those can't be eliminated by any district. The law does not say how many of those teachers a district must have, while the rule on the chopping block spells out a ratio of students and teachers for those eight specialties.

Columbus Dispatch Article about the subject:

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/11/11/state-board-members-walk-out-of-meeting.html>

Ohio House Bill 487 recently established new requirements for earning a high school diploma in Ohio:

The new graduation requirements take effect with the class of 2018. Students in the classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 and those who are repeating ninth grade this school year will continue to operate under Ohio's current graduation requirements, including taking the Ohio Graduation Tests in the spring of their 10th-grade years. The new requirements did not change the current courses or number of course credits that students must complete to be eligible for graduation. In addition to course credits, students must earn points toward graduation on seven end-of-course exams. These exams will replace the Ohio Graduation Tests. The courses in which students take an end-of-course exam will be: English I and II, algebra I, geometry, integrated math I and II, physical science, American history and American government. Beginning in 2015-16 districts may have the option to use the state end-of-course exams to replace their current course final exams and use the state's test as part of the class grade. This will help avoid double testing in future years. Students can earn from 1-5 points for each exam, based on their performance. (5 – Advanced, 4 – Accelerated, 3 – Proficient, 2 – Basic, 1 – Limited). The State Board of Education has not yet approved the minimum number of points a student must accumulate to become eligible for a high school diploma. However, the Board's Graduation Requirements Committee will propose 18 points as the minimum for graduation eligibility. Of those points, students must earn a minimum of four total points across the English end-of-course exams, four total points across the math exams, and six total points across the science and social studies exams.

What's Next?

Although House Bill 487 established clear-cut requirements for high school graduation, they still have to work out some of the details for implementing them. The State Board of Education must finalize the point system after getting public input.

Want to contact your State Board member? Go to this link:

<http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/State-Board-Members>

The "Parent" tab also takes you to other education issues including the new Graduation Requirements