

OASSA LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS 2023-2024

FUNDING: OASSA supports the concept of providing equitable and adequate state funding for public schools. Further, the association supports the concept of providing flexibility to local school districts in generating local revenues. The association will monitor legislation for fairness and to ensure local ability to provide services beyond those provided by the state.

OASSA supports legislation that will:

- A. Make educational funding the first priority in the State of Ohio. Preclude any reduction in funding for public K-12 education.
- B. Require that any increase in revenue from any new source shall be used to enhance educational funding rather than replace existing revenue.
- C. Comply with all the requirements of the DeRolph I, II, III and IV decisions, especially the over reliance on property tax, to provide an equitable and adequate opportunity for learning for all Ohio public school students without causing a “Robin Hood” effect.
- D. Provide additional funding directly to individual districts for the development of teacher leader programming and pre-service training of individuals identified as potential administrators.
- E. Appropriate funding for in-service and training of current and new administrators through their professional associations.
- F. Provide additional and appropriate funding to meet the program needs of gifted, special, and Career-Technical education and English learners.
- G. Provide for appropriate funding for all previously legislated mandates, as well as state appropriation to adequately fund any new mandates.
- H. Require that all governmental tax abatement plans that affect public education be developed in cooperation with the local school district.
- I. Provide additional and appropriate funding for capital improvements for districts in need of bringing buildings up to 21st century standards.
- J. Provide additional and appropriate funding for technology equipment and staff training for districts and ensure adequate funding to provide the necessary equipment and broadband access to students required for effective remote and hybrid learning.
 - That provides school districts access to affordable pricing for technology needs through consortium and group pricing programs.
- K. Require accurate accounting for and reporting of the distribution of public funds for public K-12 education.
- L. Provide full and permanent reimbursement for the phase-out of the business tangible personal property tax and personal utility tax.
- M. Prohibit the loss of revenue to local school districts that may result from new residential construction; repeal HB 920.
- N. Hold harmless school districts that lose revenue and/or academic rating due to credit programs such as college credit plus, credit flexibility, etc.
- O. Reimburse school districts for revenue lost due to College Credit Plus.
- P. Oppose any and all policies that provide taxpayer-funded vouchers for private school tuition, or that divert public tax dollars to for-profit charter schools.

PROFESSIONAL DUES, ANNUITIES, ETC.: OASSA supports requiring Treasurers of boards of education to forward all monies withheld from employee paychecks for optional deductions such as professional dues, tax sheltered annuities, credit union, etc., to all designated agencies within ten working days of the deductions. OASSA supports the practice of public school districts providing professional dues to state associations to full time licensed school administrators as a contractual fringe benefit.

RETIREMENT: OASSA will support legislation which will provide a maximum retirement and affordable health care from Ohio’s public retirement systems while still protecting the fiscal integrity of the retirement systems. In addition, we oppose any state and/or federal legislation that will require Ohio’s retirement systems to be placed under the Social Security System.

LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR/DAY: OASSA will support the state’s fully funding any increase in the number of hours or days in the school year, the length of the school day, and mandatory summer school programs. OASSA will support legislation which gives school districts and career technical centers flexibility in scheduling nontraditional students (i.e. fifth year students).

TEACHER EVALUATION: OASSA supports legislation that extends the evaluation deadline for teachers who are absent during the required evaluation periods a number of days equal to the number of days the teacher has been absent.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION: OASSA supports legislation that requires non-renewal of an administrator’s contract to be based on performance as reflected in a standards-based evaluation system that includes goals and objectives that are mutually agreed upon by the administrator and the evaluator.

OASSA supports legislation that re-instates the deadline for acting on administrators’ contracts to March 31.

STAFF EVALUATION IN GENERAL: OASSA supports legislation that requires input from the education community when changes to the evaluation process are mandated by the General Assembly.

HOME SCHOOLING: OASSA supports legislation that provides the building principal the final authority in determining the successful completion of curricular requirements and/or units of credit required by local boards of education to be awarded to home schooled or non-chartered school students wishing to enroll in a regular school program.

OASSA opposes legislation that will remove the local public school district’s control over any student not enrolled in the district’s curricular program and that student’s participation in extra-curricular activities.

COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS: OASSA continues to support legislation that would require all Ohio schools to meet the same accountability and reporting standards.

STUDENT DUE PROCESS: OASSA endorses the concept of due process for students but opposes any legislation which would require more extensive due process procedures than the law now requires.

DISCIPLINE: OASSA opposes legislation that affects the decision-making process of the local board of education as it relates to discipline policies and programs.

- OASSA Does not support any legislation that takes away the discretion or ability of an administrator to employ any aspects of a progressive discipline program, specifically the use of suspension and/or expulsion.
- OASSA supports legislation requiring firm, fair and consistent discipline in all schools with maximum emphasis placed on the safety and improvement of student behavior.
- OASSA supports legislation that promotes safe schools by not counting suspensions against the attendance rate and state funding formula and expulsions against the dropout rate and graduation rate.
- OASSA will continue to support legislation that takes a strong and decisive position against weapons, violence, the threat of violence in the school, and/or the possession, use, concealment, or trafficking of any alcohol, drugs, or controlled substance.
- OASSA will support federal legislation providing for equal discipline measures for all students regardless of their abilities or handicaps.
- OASSA supports the statutory language on reasonable use of restraint [ORC 3319.41(g)] and encourages legislation which would reconcile conflicts in the interpretation of ORC 3319.41 and 2919.22, and provide adequate funding.
- OASSA supports legislation that mandates the establishment of formal behavioral programs in public schools that focus on positive behaviors (PBIS), or other social emotional or mental health programs when those mandates are accompanied by funding for the acquisition or development of programming and the training of staff.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD:

- OASSA supports legislation or policy that recognizes approved educational options as programs that do not count against the school dropout rate and graduation rate; students who graduate on or before September 15 and special education students who take more than four years to graduate should not count against the school graduation rate. Dropout students who return and complete the high school program should not be counted against the school or district.
- OASSA supports legislation that reduces state and federal assessments to absolute minimums. Additionally, OASSA supports legislation that would bring stability to state and federal assessments eliminating the practice of constant change.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: OASSA supports the reinstatement and/or development of alternative pathways to meet the High School graduation requirements.

ACCOUNTABILITY: OASSA supports legislation that would modify state mandated testing windows, providing increased flexibility for local school calendars and building schedules.

OASSA supports legislation that develops accountability plans that identify a single data point in a specifically tested area for an individual student, eliminating student, building, and district data penalty for any student retaking any high-stakes test.

STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: OASSA will support legislation that will enable a school district to withhold the grades and credit of a student who does not return funds raised in a school sponsored fund-raising activity or who does not return equipment issued for an extracurricular activity.

LICENSURE: OASSA will support legislation that establishes rules for reciprocity with other states in regard to licenses or certificates of teachers and educators other than teachers (i.e. administrators, school counselors, library/media personnel, and paraprofessionals). OASSA also supports the necessity of criminal records background checks for educator licensure.

STATUS AND WELFARE: OASSA supports legislation which would repeal the provision of HB 269, ORC 3311.72, that requires administrators in the Cleveland City Schools to work “at the pleasure of the Chief Executive Officer,” thereby including them under the provisions of administrative contract law as stated in ORC 3319.02.

PANDEMIC: OASSA supports legislation that provides local school districts flexibility for compliance with State and Federal mandates during periods of altered school calendars, modified educational programming and/or non-traditional models of delivery as a result of a pandemic or any other state of emergency as declared by national, state, or county officials.

OASSA supports legislation that holds local public school districts harmless for the consequences identified under all State and Federal accountability systems during the school year in which there are periods of altered school calendars, modified educational programming and/or non-traditional models of delivery as a result of a pandemic or state of emergency.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS: OASSA supports a legislative process that incorporates input and feedback from the educational community when legislation is proposed that affects educators and /or schools.

Recommended by the Legislative Committee at its meeting on October 2, 2023

Approved by the OASSA Board of Directors on October 2, 2023