

**Ohio Senate**  
**Primary & Secondary Education Committee**  
**H.B. 110 Proponent Testimony**  
**April 27, 2021**

Chairman Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and Members of the Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee: thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

My name is Carrie Herringshaw, and I am the Treasurer at Penta Career Center in Perrysburg, Ohio. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the School Funding Workgroup as co-chair of the subcommittee on Educational Service Centers, Career Technical Education, and STEM. My co-chair Jerry Brockway, former superintendent at Ashtabula County Career and Technical Center and long-time school administrator, is unable to be here today.

**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Ohio is one of the few states in the nation with a comprehensive career technical education system. Career technical education in Ohio:

- offers high school programs that meet the needs of employers in the local economy
- prepares students to enter the workforce with credentials, seek additional training, or go to college
- is responsive to the needs of business and industry and is designed to provide flexibility in programming to their needs

Career technical education is provided at the high school level in three formats:

- Career technical centers (formerly Joint Vocational School Districts-JVSDs) – independent entities formed by area school districts to exclusively provide career technical courses/programming to the member school districts – there are 49 across the state
- Comprehensive districts – traditional school districts that provide career technical programming to their own students
- Compacts – districts who have partnered to provide career technical programming to students in those partner districts (programs are located within partner district facilities)

Hundreds of thousands of students in the state of Ohio experience career technical education each year

## Funding Model Prior to FY20

Similar to K-12 districts, the funding formula in effect prior to FY20 was not working. Only 28% were on the formula while the remaining 72% were on the cap or guarantee.

The prior funding model for career technical centers was similar to that of traditional school districts including the base amount of \$6,020 per pupil. In addition, districts providing approved career technical education courses received categorical CTE funding (also known as tiered funding or weighted funding) which allowed for an additional amount to cover the additional costs of providing a career technical education (i.e. supplies, materials, equipment).

## H.B. 110

H.B. 110 provides for Career Technical Education as follows:

1. An updated base aid calculation similar to the proposed K-12 funding model
  - a. While a student is in his/her career technical program (lab), the pupil teacher ratio will be calculated at one teacher for every eighteen students; otherwise pupil teacher ratio will be calculated as indicated by the Base Aid calculation for traditional schools at each grade level
  - b. "Specials" component of the base cost for career centers will be replaced with "health and physical education, employability/soft skills, development and coordination of internship/job placement, career technical student organization activities, pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeships coordination, testing (i.e. web exam/work keys/ industry credentialing)
  - c. "Co-curricular including Athletic Director" component of the base cost will be replaced with "career tech curriculum specialist/coordinator, career assessment/program placement, recruitment/orientation; student success coordination, analysis of test results, development of intervention/remediation plans and monitoring of same; satellite program coordination
2. Continuation of supplemental career technical (tiered or weighted) funding and return to a multiplier rather the current dollar amounts
3. Funding Career Technical Planning Districts (CTPD) to deliver relevant career awareness programs to all K-12 students within the CTPD in the amount of \$10/student in the CTPD

**Overall, H.B. 110 provides for a base aid calculation similar to that of traditional districts, maintains supplemental career technical funding, and adds funding for the essential career exploration component.**

## **STEM (SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATH)**

Standalone STEM schools are currently funded in the same manner as charter/ community schools. H.B. 110 follows the same methodology as the funding proposal for charter and community schools: students will be funded where taught.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS**

Craig Burford of the Ohio Educational Service Center Association testified last week regarding funding for ESCs. As Mr. Burford testified, Educational Service Centers (ESCs) “have a statutory mandate to support state and regional education initiatives and efforts to improve school effectiveness and student achievement.”

ESCs are essential in supplying high quality educational opportunities to Ohio schools. Ohio has 51 ESCs, no two of which are alike. The smallest ESC serves just over 5,800 students in a rural county where most districts are small (average enrollment for eight of its nine districts is 543) and have limited resources. The largest ESC serves many more districts in a three-county area including urban, suburban and rural districts with a total student count of more than 200,000 (average enrollment – removing the two largest and the two smallest districts – is 3,388). State per pupil aid of \$26/student correspondingly ranges from \$151,346 to \$5,343,650.

ESCs are required to provide certain services, but the majority of their time and resources are spent on services specifically requested by their member districts. Those requests vary widely due to the size of the districts and their available resources, demographics, special needs and other characteristics of the student population. ESCs services reflect the needs and wants of their member districts and the entrepreneurial inclinations of their boards and staff. In addition, because districts may change ESCs every two years, active competition exists among neighboring ESCs.

All of these factors make the development of a single funding mechanism difficult at best, but the current per pupil amount has no discernible relationship to any objective or costs related services provided. In addition, significant reductions have occurred in recent years with no rational explanation.

### **Base Aid**

In keeping with the base aid recommendation and the components therein, H.B. 110 includes language establishing an increase in funding so that ESCs would receive state aid in the amount of \$356,250 to cover certain fixed costs: superintendent, treasurer and administrative assistant salary and benefits plus a flat amount for facility costs. In addition, ESCs would receive per pupil amounts at one or two levels based on enrollment.

An increase in ESC funding will help cover basic costs ESCs incur by their mere existence. Like the Base Aid calculation, the funding calculation is not a “prescribed” model for spending funds but a way to calculate funds an ESC will receive which may then determine the best way to spend those funds based on the needs of the districts it serves.

H.B. 110 modifies H.B. 1 language and phases in the recommended funding level for ESCs at the same rate as the rest of the formula (1/6 per year). In addition, S.B. 310 passed in December 2020 authorizes a study to be completed by December 31, 2022, to analyze ESC costs and provide a basis for a permanent funding methodology.

### Conclusion

ESCs are the central component of the Ohio Educational Regional Service System (ERSS) under Chapter 3312 of the Ohio Revised Code, which was created by the Ohio General Assembly to increase efficiency, reduce duplication and redundancy, and provide school improvement and other technical assistance and support functions.

A funding model that provides for basic fixed costs for all ESCs plus additional per student funding is essential for ESCs of all sizes to continue to provide services as required by the Ohio Revised Code.

Thank you again for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

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