



Ohio Association of Independent Schools
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- Agnon School
- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School
- Canton Country Day
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown School
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- Lawrence School
- Linden Grove School
- Lippman Day School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day
- McGuffey Foundation School
- Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ratner School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School - Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori School - Rocky River
- Schilling School for Gifted Children
- Seven Hills School
- Spring Garden Waldorf School
- Springer School and Center
- Summit Country Day
- University School
- Village Academy Schools
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy

EXTENDED SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Testimony of Dan Dodd, Executive Director Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Chairman Amstutz and Ranking Member Sykes, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding school funding before this committee. My name is Dan Dodd and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS), an association of 44 chartered nonpublic schools representing over 17,000 students throughout Ohio.

Traditionally, OAIS has not actively advocated for specifically increasing the amount of funding available to chartered nonpublic schools through the establishment or expansion of programs such as the Cleveland Scholarship Program, EdChoice, the Autism Scholarship or the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship. Of the 44 OAIS member schools, only 12 participate in any of the scholarship programs and only one school accepts all three scholarships. To the extent that our association advocates for funding for chartered nonpublic schools, most of that attention is spent asking for proper support of existing programs, such as auxiliary funds, administrative cost reimbursement, mandatory transportation or the alternative payment-in-lieu of transportation for nonpublic students.

With this in mind, OAIS member schools would like to see any new school funding system retain the concept of auxiliary funds and administrative cost reimbursement. Those funds should also not be tied to any kind of so-called "accountability" measures that some want applied to public funds going to nonpublic schools, especially since the measures discussed as ways to address "accountability" have little, if anything, to do with the use of the funds.

Any changes to the model of school transportation based on the move to shared services by public entities should retain the right of students to transportation if they live within 30 minutes of their school. We also support clarifying the law to allow chartered nonpublic schools that purchase buses with private funds to assess a fee for service it provides to families that a public school district refuses to provide. Finally, any shared services model for governments should also make available opportunities for nonpublic schools to participate when appropriate.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions the members of the committee may have.