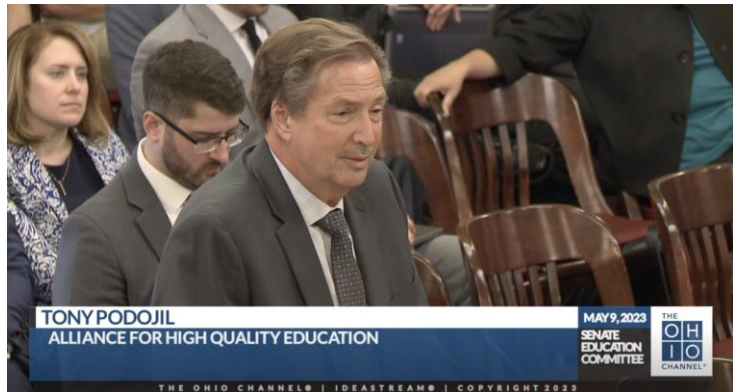




### **Week of May 8, 2023**

#### **Alliance executive director testifies on budget bill**

Testimony on the biennial budget bill, [House Bill 33](#), concluded this week in the Senate Education Committee. Tony provided proponent testimony, [accessible here](#), which focused on increasing the minimum state share percentage from 5% to 10% and providing additional funding to educational service centers, among other priorities. Budget hearings resume next week in the Senate Finance Committee, which will begin holding topic-specific hearings. K-12 education has not yet been scheduled. [You can view Tony's testimony here.](#)



Republican committee members expressed concerns on the cost of the House's change to update the formula's base cost input data to fiscal year 2022. They also highlighted record-high school district cash balances and the potential imbalance in the state and local share of funding when property valuations rise or fall in future years.

#### **Action needed on Alliance budget priorities, advocacy resources available**

Tony and Will spent the week meeting with various members of the Senate Republican Caucus advocating for an increase in the minimum state share percentage from 5% to 10%. Members are strongly encouraged to contact their senator and ask them to support and submit that amendment - SC0358 – as one of their budget amendments. A copy of the amendment is attached to this newsletter. May 17 is the Senate's amendment deadline.

Advocacy resources on increasing the minimum state share are available. They include the budget amendment language, funding simulations of the impacted school districts, and talking points and data insights into state funding for Alliance school districts. Please use these resources in your advocacy over the next few weeks!

#### **Legislature advances constitutional resolution, will appear before voters on Aug. 8 special election**

A resolution to authorize voters to increase the threshold to amend the state constitution from 50% to 60% was approved Wednesday by a vote of 62-37. [Senate Joint Resolution 2](#) also was amended to place the issue on the Aug. 8 special election. Legal experts are questioning the legality of including the August election change in the resolution, despite House and Senate Republican attorneys believing otherwise. A lawsuit is expected to be filed soon. Five Republicans – Reps. **Jay Edwards, Tom Patton, Brett Hudson Hillyer, Jamie Callender, and Jeff LaRe** – joined House Democrats in opposing the measure. Less than a day after the vote, four influential and well-funded business groups – the Ohio Chamber of Commerce,

NFIB Ohio, Ohio Restaurant Association, and the Ohio Hotel and Lodging Association – announced their support for the ballot issue as more groups marshal forces and resources.

#### **Committee action: Save Women’s Sports Act, TGRG retention elimination advance**

Two bills cleared committees this week that would require same-sex sports teams ([HB 6](#)) and eliminate the retention component of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee ([HB 117](#)). HB 117 is included in the House budget, currently pending in the Senate. HB 6 – a House priority bill – is not in the House budget.

Meanwhile, the following bills received testimony in the House:

- [SB 1](#) (fourth hearing), which creates the Department of Education and Workforce and revises the duties of the State Board of Education. Senate President **Matt Huffman** indicated he intends to insert SB 1 into the Senate version of the budget bill.
- [HB 8](#) (fourth hearing), which requires public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content.
- [HB 103](#) (second hearing), which creates the Ohio Social Studies Standards Task Force to develop academic standards in social studies for grades kindergarten through twelve based on the standards published in "American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards."
- [HB 146](#) (second hearing), which establishes a contribution-based benefit cap that limits the retirement allowance for SERS members.

#### **Woolard selected to be Interim State Superintendent, search firm selected**

The State Board of Education on Tuesday voted 12-4, with two abstentions, to select **Chris Woolard**, Chief Program Officer with the Ohio Department of Education, as the next Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction. Woolard will succeed current Interim Superintendent **Stephanie Siddens** who retires at the end of June to join the Upper Arlington City School District.

The Board also voted 12-6 to select a search firm to assist with the search for a permanent state superintendent.

#### **Heard around the Statehouse**

“One of the issues with 600 school districts is we get the big 8s and the rurals, and the rurals who have money and the rurals who don’t have money. And then we have the suburban schools, who don’t allow open enrollment from the urban schools. So, there’s a lot of different kinds of public schools and even schools within districts. It’s hard to make a generalization.” - Senate President **Matt Huffman** [speaking to the Cleveland Plain Dealer about cash balances and other education issues](#).

Sub. H.B. 33  
As Passed by the House

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

- In line 37619, strike through "0.95" and insert "0.90" 1
- In line 37621, strike through "0.05" and insert "0.10" 2
- In line 37625, strike through "0.95" and insert "0.90" 3
- In line 37637, strike through "0.05" and insert "0.10" 4
- In line 37638, strike through "0.05" and insert "0.10." 5
- Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the minimum state share percentage shall increase in each fiscal year, in a manner determined by the general assembly, until it is 0.20" 6-8
- In line 40099, strike through "0.05" and insert "0.10" 9
- In line 40101, after the period insert "Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the minimum state share of the base cost shall increase in each fiscal year, in a manner determined by the general assembly, until it is 0.20." 10-13
- In line 157155, delete "\$195,850,000 \$196,850,000" and insert "\$196,850,000 \$197,850,000" 14-15
- In line 157157, delete "\$7,879,550,000 \$8,198,797,000" and insert "\$7,888,550,000 \$8,211,797,000" 16-17
- In line 157163, add \$10,000,000 to fiscal year 2024 and \$14,000,000 to fiscal year 2025 18-19

In line 157216, add \$10,000,000 to fiscal year 2024 and 20  
 \$14,000,000 to fiscal year 2025 21

In line 157745, delete "\$38,000,000" and insert "\$38,500,000" 22

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS

**Increase minimum state share percentage** 23

**R.C. 3317.017 and 3317.16** 24

Increases from 5% to 10% in FY 2024 and FY 2025 the minimum 25  
 state share percentage used to calculate several payments for 26  
 school districts in the school funding formula. 27

Beginning in FY 2026, requires increases in the minimum state 28  
 share percentage in each fiscal year, as determined by the General 29  
 Assembly, until it reaches 20%. 30

**Department of Education** 31

**Sections 265.10 and 265.250** 32

Increases GRF appropriations by a total of \$10,000,000 in FY 33  
 2024 and \$14,000,000 in FY 2025 by doing the following: 34

-Increasing GRF ALI 200550, Foundation Funding - All 35  
 Students, by \$9,000,000 in FY 2024 and \$13,000,000 in FY 2025. 36

-Increasing GRF ALI 200540, Special Education Enhancements, 37  
 by \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year and increasing the earmark from 38  
 that ALI for payments for special education and related services 39  
 at county DD boards and institutions by \$500,000 in each fiscal 40  
 year (the remainder of the appropriation increase, \$500,000 in 41  
 each fiscal year, is used to fund payments for preschool special 42

education services).

43