

SOUTHEAST OHIO TEACHER DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

Testimony of Southeast Ohio Teacher Development Collaborative

Joint Education Oversight Committee

Robert R. Cupp, Chair

March 9, 2017

Chair Cupp and members of the Joint Education Oversight Committee—thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this most important topic. My name is Renée A. Middleton, Dean of the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education at Ohio University. I am presenting with Paul Madden, Dean of the College of Professional Studies at Shawnee State University. We are speaking on behalf of Education Deans who make up the Southeast Ohio Teacher Development Collaborative. SEOTDC's mission is to engage representatives of Institutions of Higher Education and practitioners within local educational agencies in action planning to support innovations in teacher preparation.

Teacher and School Leader Academies:

Ohio's draft ESSA plan does not specifically explain how teacher and school leader academies will be addressed. SEOTDC and the Patton College of Education are firmly opposed to development and the implementation of Teacher and School Leader Academies if they do not closely follow the same standards and requirements that current licensing requirements contain. In addition to the initial recommendations pertaining to these entities we reiterate these following points.

- All licensure programs must meet high standards for preparation of educational professionals as outlined in Ohio and national standards.
- States must be extremely careful about authorizing preparation academics. These academies must be a partnership between universities and communities.
- The state must not provide funding streams /policies to privilege independent programs without evidence.

- The Department of Education must monitor provisions in state and federal policies to prevent further stratification.
- If professional opportunities are made available to teachers and school leaders it is our desire licensing colleges and universities in Ohio are given the opportunity to participate and assist with planning and development.

SEOTDC appreciates the opportunity to provide stakeholder feedback in regard to Ohio's draft ESSA plan. ODE has made multiple attempts to solicit input, and SEOTDC hopes the suggestions provided here will be given the highest consideration. SEOTDC is particularly excited to see that Ohio's draft ESSA plan specifically identifies the need to support rural schools because we feel rural schools in Southeastern Ohio have historically been under-represented in major decision-making. In describing the supports for rural schools, the draft overview document refers to "leveraging" federal funds. SEOTDC is adamant that the state should not place any additional restrictions on the use of federal funds earmarked for rural school improvement.

ESSA is a major legislative piece for American schools, and will require a great deal of time and funding for successful implementation. SEOTDC believes it is in the best interest of Ohio's schools to thoroughly develop the ESSA plan, and, therefore, urges the Ohio Department of Education to delay its formal federal submission until September 18 rather than hurriedly meeting the April 3, 2017, deadline. Additional time is warranted to work through such significant decision-making.

Respectfully submitted,



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