

Testimony on the Educator Standards Board

Sunset Review Committee
Representative Tim Brown, Chair
December 7, 2015

Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee, I am Jessica Voltolini, director of the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the Ohio Department of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to present you with information regarding the Educator Standards Board.

Senate Bill 2 of the 125th General Assembly established the Educator Standards Board to promote educator quality, professionalism and public accountability on behalf of the students and citizens of Ohio. Per its original charge, the board proposed a career ladder system and developed leveled standards for teachers and principals. The board also created the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators, pursuant to House Bill 190 of the 127th General Assembly.

Subsequent legislation has given the Educator Standards Board additional responsibilities, including developing:

- Standards for school treasurers and business managers;
- A model teacher evaluation system based on the *Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession*;
- Rules for school nurse and school wellness coordinator licenses; and
- Recommendations for school building and school district leadership academies.

Most recently, House Bill 64 directed the board to develop standards for school counselors to promote more effective academic, personal, social and career counseling for students. The board continues to collaborate with the department of education on implementation of the Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems, the Resident Educator Program and to recommend rule changes to the State Board of Education. It also works with the department on Ohio's Peer Assistance and Review Program, which encourages teachers to join forces to learn from each other and continually improve their instructional practices.

Generally, three department staff members devote roughly 25 percent of their time to board-related work, although two additional employees have supported the board in the development of school counselor standards. Board members meet seven to eight times a year over a two-day period. The board's \$100,000 annual budget covers travel costs for members, substitute teachers for teacher members and project costs.

We respectfully recommend that the Educator Standards Board be continued.

Thank you for your consideration. I'd be happy to address any questions that the committee may have.