

OEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Senate Bill 358 - Bill Summary (As Passed by Senate Education Committee)

Status: Passed by Senate Education Committee on November 30, 2020.

High School Graduation

- Extends to the 2020-21 school year a provision that allows students to use their final course grade instead of score on end-of-course exams for the purposes of high school graduation if the test was cancelled
- Further, allows qualifying students to use course grade in lieu of test score this includes: students under quarantine; those with medically fragile family members; those in areas where schools are closed due to health order; or those where school is being conducted remotely and the exam cannot be offered remotely.

Testing Waiver

- If the US Department of Education offers a testing waiver, requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to consult with stakeholder groups (including OEA) and then Superintendent *may* apply for the waiver
- If a waiver is granted, no school shall be required to administer testing

Report Cards

- Prohibits report card ratings for the 2020-21 school year. (The General Assembly previously prohibited report card ratings for the 2019-20 school year.)
- Extends the safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for districts and schools based on the absence of state report card grades for the 2020-21 school year. (The General Assembly previously established safe harbor from penalties and sanctions based on the absence of state report card grades for the 2019-20 school year.)

Academic Distress Commissions

- **ADC Review Committee Release:** Establishes a three-person committee (Governor or designee, House Education Chair, and Senate Education Chair) to review proposals submitted by boards of education that would allow the district to transition out of CEO/ADC control. If ADC review committee recommends approval of a proposal (by majority vote), the state superintendent shall determine whether to approve the proposal and release district.
- **Report Card Release:** Requires a district to begin transitioning out of CEO/ADC control if the district received a 'D' on the 2018-19 report card. This provision would apply to Lorain City Schools (CEO/ADC would be terminated on May 30, 2021). ODE must pay remainder of CEO contract upon dissolution of ADC.

Safe Harbor

- The absence of report card ratings for the 2019-2020 (Effective; see HB 197) and 2020-2021 school year years shall have no effect in determining sanctions or penalties, and shall not create a new starting point for determinations that are based on ratings over multiple years. The report card ratings of any previous or subsequent years shall be considered in determining whether a school district or building is subject to sanctions or penalties.
- Prohibits progressive consequences for ADC districts in school years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 (e.g. CEO/ADC powers and duties in each ADC district are frozen at 2019-20 levels, which is determined by HB 70-133rd G.A. and is based on how many years the district has been under CEO/ADC control).