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The **OHIO** 8

**THE OHIO 8 COALITION TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION**
*School Superintendents and Union leadership Make Joint Recommendations
Regarding Multiple K-12 Funding and Policy Issues*

COLUMBUS, OH- Today, on behalf of [The Ohio 8 Coalition](#), Canton City School District Superintendent Adrian Allison [testified](#) before the legislature on issues ranging from school funding, tangible personal property taxes, and transportation, to charter school reform among others.

Although the testimony spanned ten funding and policy issues, Allison began his comments with an overarching request to provide stability to all Ohio districts regarding existing and future school policy changes.

“We are requesting that legislators understand that we’ve seen changes to how our schools are funded in 5 out of the last 7 years.” said Allison “As a result, every district in Ohio has faced considerable challenges. The constant evolution of our school funding formula and related policies has prevented us from planning in as strategic of a manner as would otherwise. We need more stability in policy decision making and implementation.”

The Coalition also requested that the legislators address the following recommendations:

Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPP)

As was the original intent of the TPP phase out, ensure that the school funding formula does indeed offset the TPP and Public Utility Tangible Personal Property (PUTPP) tax phase out through a reliable and ongoing increase in overall school funding. Existing language does not yet make clear if the proposed funding formula fulfills this intent.

Funding for Special Populations

That Gifted, English Language Learners, and economically disadvantaged students receive increased funding of at least 2 percents, as the need of these students are no less significant than any other student classified as a special population.

Transportation

- That the state continue the state share of transportation costs at a minimum of 60%. The proposed reduction to 50% of state share will exacerbate an already widening gap between district transportation costs and state reimbursement levels.
- That the state establish a commission to address transportation funding from a holistic perspective as all districts, urban, suburban and rural experience deficits between state reimbursement levels and their actual annual transportation costs.

Charter School Reform Recommendations

- That any increase in funding for charter school must be matched with an equal level of accountability and transparency.
- That the state establish requirements that charter school financial records be publicly audited and disclosed as is mandated for traditional public schools.
- That the state prohibit a charter school from reopening under a new name with the same sponsor, operator, board, or treasurer.

Despite The Ohio 8's concerns with the budget, "The Ohio 8 Coalition believes the focus on supporting low-wealth districts through the proposed funding formula is a positive one," said Kevin Dalton, Co-Chair of The Ohio 8 Coalition and President of the Toledo Federation of Teachers. "But we want to ensure that the funding formula does not unintentionally pit districts against one another as all districts around the state - urban, suburban, and rural - are working to fulfill our commitment to provide excellent educational opportunities for all of our students. While a state budget must balance many priorities we believe there must always be resources that support educational opportunities for all Ohio students."

Superintendent Allison's full testimony can be found here <http://ohio8coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/HB-64-Testimony-3.18.15.pdf>

The Ohio 8 is a strategic alliance composed of the superintendents and teacher union presidents from Ohio's eight urban school districts – Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. The Ohio 8 Coalition's mission is to work with policy makers to improve academic performance, increase graduation rates and close the achievement gap for urban children throughout Ohio. The Coalition carries out its mission by working closely with legislators, educators, parents, labor and community officials. The Coalition brings a shared administrator-teacher voice to help shape state education policy.