

House Bill 67 Advances to the Governor

The Ohio Senate amended and passed House Bill 67 this week. The bill, which deals with high school graduation and testing flexibility, was passed by a vote of 32-1 on the Senate floor. The Ohio House concurred with the amendments made by the Senate by a vote of 96-0. Importantly, the final bill does include an emergency clause and will go into effect immediately upon being signed into law by the Governor.

Key changes made by the Senate include adding an additional graduation pathway for this year's seniors; limiting the ability to use course grades in lieu of test scores for the purposes of high school graduation to this year's 11th and 12th graders; and reinserting the emergency clause. OEA supports HB 67 as it will offer increased flexibility for high school students who have had their learning experience disrupted to progress towards graduation. However, OEA is disappointed that the flexibility was limited to 11th and 12th grade students. A summary of key provisions of the bill is below:

- Permit juniors and seniors to use course grades in lieu of test scores on end-of-course exams from the 2020-21 school year to satisfy conditions for a high school diploma
- Permit schools to grant a diploma this year to a senior student who is on track to graduate and for whom the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines the student has successfully completed high school curriculum or individualized education program
- Creates another graduation pathway for the 2020-21 school year only. Student must complete all required courses and earn the OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal
- Exempt schools from administering the state required American history end-of-course exam
- Extend testing windows later in the school year and requires deadline extensions related to assessments
- Require ODE to seek a waiver from federal accountability and school identification requirements
- Extend back the deadline for school district/building report cards to October 14