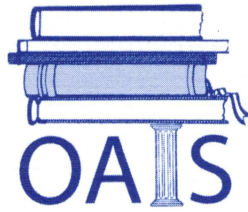


- Agnon School
- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School
- Canton Country Day
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown School
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- Lawrence School
- Linden Grove School
- Lippman Day School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day
- McGuffey Foundation School
- Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ratner School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School - Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori School - Rocky River
- Schilling School for Gifted Children
- Seven Hills School
- Spring Garden Waldorf School
- Springer School and Center
- Summit Country Day
- University School
- Village Academy Schools
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy



Ohio Association of Independent Schools
P.O. Box 400, Hebron, OH 43025
Phone: (740) 928-0595 Fax: (740) 527-2082
Dan Dodd, Executive Director
dandodd@oais.org • www.oais.org

House Education Committee

Testimony Re: House Bill 383

Dan Dodd

Ohio Association of Independent Schools - Executive Director

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Derickson, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as an interested party regarding House Bill 383. OAIS members do not oppose some of the requirements of HB 383 as they pertain to higher education and the disclosure of certain data regarding affordability. However, OAIS continues to oppose the insistence of state government to add more mandates of what must be taught at Ohio's private schools.

The parents and students at OAIS member schools choose our schools because they trust and believe in a course of study and curriculum that is created, updated and refined by administrators, faculty, parents and students. Parents make a decision to forego a free public education available for their children and instead devote resources to pay for an education they believe is more appropriate for their children. It is not adherence to government mandates that brings students to our schools. Furthermore, parents from other states or countries sending their children to one of six OAIS member schools with boarding school components do so not because of Ohio's government mandates but because of the educational experience those schools provide.

Current law requires public and private schools to integrate financial literacy into the existing curriculum. While it is unfortunate that some school districts may not do enough, a one-size-fits-all graduation requirement that mandates a certain amount of time be spent on financial literacy is not appropriate for the ISACS-accredited private schools that are members of OAIS. We believe little consideration was given to whether or not this new requirement is appropriate to force upon all private, independent schools.

Over 99% of our graduates attend college after high school. The colleges our graduates attend, our professional educators, our parents and our students have clear expectations of what an OAIS member private school should provide in terms of an education. Please allow our schools to rely on those informed judgments when drafting a curriculum rather than the opinions of legislators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your service to our state.