



Testimony Regarding HB 3499
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I am greatly concerned about the proposal to provide technical assistance to schools. We have not yet done an exhaustive search to find best practices that are sustainable.

I have heard Rob Saxton on numerous occasions give testimony talking about the success of the focus and priority school program. Aside from the fact that the criteria for this program will need to be adjusted once the majority of students fail the SBAC test, using the current criteria my research shows that the focus and priority schools process leaves ELL students behind. Model schools are also designated in spite of lack of achievement for ELL students.

I went through last year's state report card and compared it to the list of priority, focus, and model schools on the ODE's website. My conclusions are:

- ALL of the priority schools that are rated for ELL still show a Level 1 designation for ELL proficiency on OAKS reading.
- For focus schools, only two schools have a Level 2 rating for reading, the remaining have a Level 1 or are not rated.
- For model schools with ratings there are four with Level 1 ratings, six with Level 2 ratings, three with Level 3 ratings, and one with a Level 4 rating.

The first charge of the task force should be to find successful programs that have been successful for at least three years. You need to look deeper than the numbers on a paper or the descriptions written on district plans. You need to go into schools and spend lots of time observing from the student, teacher, parent, and administrator perspectives.

Thank you for your consideration.