RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN OHIO K-12 EDUCATION

The members of the State Board of Education ("the Board") affirm their constitutional charge to provide general supervision of the system of public education in Ohio. Based on Ohio's Constitution, oversight of education is a responsibility shared by the General Assembly, Governor, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and education leaders throughout Ohio to ensure all students are well-prepared for success. To preserve transparency and public participation in Ohio K-12 education, the Board hereby **ADOPTS** the following:

WHEREAS, in 1953, the citizens of Ohio voted to amend Article VI, Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution by removing the Department of Education from the executive office of the Governor and creating the State Board of Education. Section 4 states that the Board shall appoint a Superintendent of Public Instruction and that the respective powers and duties of the Superintendent and the Board shall be prescribed by law, for which the General Assembly has provided enabling language for nearly 70 years; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.07, has granted the State Board of Education policy forming, rulemaking, planning and evaluative functions for all public schools of the State of Ohio, duties which the Board performs transparently and with public and stakeholder input; and

WHEREAS, the Board provides the proper balance between state-mandated policy and local education autonomy, thereby contributing to Ohio's proud tradition of local control in education; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board stay in frequent communication with constituents, parents, teachers, administrators, students, and stakeholders, bringing their input and concerns into the rulemaking process and to the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, a system that includes duly-elected representatives in the direct oversight of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of the Ohio Department of Education, and of the most important aspects of education, including state standards and model curriculum, provides the greatest assurance that the will of the public will be well represented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education should retain the voice of Ohioans and transparency in all facets of public education through its public meetings, public decision-making, and public input; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education should retain complete rulemaking authority under Title 33 of the Ohio Revised Code; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education urges legislators to involve State Board of Education leadership in the policymaking process to avoid delays between the enactment and implementation of legislation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education urges legislators to contact their State Board of Education member should communication problems arise with the Ohio Department of Education; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the General Assembly restructures the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, it should require that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be a member of the Board of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education directs the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction to send a copy of this resolution to each member of the General Assembly; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction and Department of Education staff are authorized to advocate on behalf of the Board's work and its constitutional role in educational oversight in Ohio; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that with this action the Board reasserts its commitment to transparency and public participation in Ohio K-12 education, to minimizing rather than expanding government bureaucracy, and to continue improving its policies and procedures in the service of all Ohio students and the future of our state.