

NEWS RELEASE

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Business Leaders Praise DeWine Administration and General Assembly for Strong, New Graduation Requirements

COLUMBUS, OH – Ohio business leaders today praised the DeWine Administration and the Ohio General Assembly for putting together a state budget that focuses on the needs of Ohio's children and Ohio's workforce, including new, long-term high school graduation requirements and supports for Ohio students.

"As students and educators prepare to return back to school, our state policymakers helped solve an important issue to strengthen quality education and make sure students are prepared for success after high school," said Lisa Gray, president of Ohio Excels, a coalition of business leaders committed to ensuring that all Ohio students have access to excellent early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary education experiences. "We are grateful for the support of so many lawmakers to help make this happen, particularly Sens. Peggy Lehner and Lou Terhar."

Joe Roman, president and CEO, Greater Cleveland Partnership and board chair of Ohio Excels said, "Ohio's business community looks forward to partnering with educators across Ohio to prepare our students for success and to continue building a robust economy in Ohio. This is an important step in keeping Ohio economically competitive."

Knowing that the long-debated issue of graduation requirements was hampering Ohio's ability to prepare students for success in the rapidly changing economy, Ohio Excels worked closely with the Alliance for High Quality Education and the Thomas B. Fordham Institute to [develop a plan](#) that allows a high school student to earn an Ohio diploma by completing their required coursework, demonstrating competency in mathematics and English language arts, including through non-test options, and preparing for college or career. That plan received broad support from educators, business leaders and other education advocates across the state.

Under the plan developed by Ohio Excels and signed into law as part of the state budget bill, graduating students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 will be given flexible options as schools transition to new requirements. The class of 2023 (this fall's 9th grade students) will be the first to be fully affected.

“Approving this plan has been a major achievement for our governor and state legislators, and a big win for Ohio students, their parents and teachers,” said Pat Tiberi, president and CEO of the Ohio Business Roundtable and member of the board for Ohio Excels.

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