

## *Legislators learn about world's top education systems*

Ohio was well represented at the recent National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) in Nashville with 16 members of the House and five members of the Senate in attendance.

Among the many public policy topics addressed at the conference was education, which included a discussion on the findings of an NCSL international education study group – a follow up to its 2016 report, *No Time to Lose*, which revealed state primary and secondary education systems “falling dangerously behind the world.”

“States have found little success. Recent reforms have underperformed because of silver bullet strategies and piecemeal approaches,” the report states. “Meanwhile, high-performing countries implement policies and practices and build comprehensive systems that look drastically different from ours, leading them to the success that has eluded states.”

The study group based the following recommendations on its study of educational efforts in Alberta, Ontario, Estonia, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Poland, Shanghai, Singapore and Taiwan:

- ◆ Build an inclusive team;
- ◆ Review the work of high-performing school systems;
- ◆ Adopt a statewide vision for education; and,
- ◆ Set benchmarks.

Maryland – consistently named among the best states in terms educational outcomes – was represented, and recommendations were shared from a state commission that reviewed Maryland's K-12 funding and policies, which included:

- ◆ Invest more in early childhood education;
- ◆ Increase wages for teachers;
- ◆ Boost requirements to become a teacher;
- ◆ Set college and career readiness standards for end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and,
- ◆ Spend more on the most disadvantaged students.

