

“New” state report cards would be subject to change under proposed bill

Ohio House Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) has announced his intent to introduce legislation aimed at revamping state report cards slated for full implementation for the current school year, with overall A-F grades to be assigned for the first time for the 2017-2018 school year.

A number of districts across the state – including wealthy suburbs like Worthington in Duffey’s legislative district – have voiced concern that the new report cards fail to paint accurate pictures of schools’ performance.

“We’re headed toward a disaster next year,” Duffey said in a late 2017 interview with Gongwer News Service. “Nationally, I think people are going to start to rebel against summative scoring that tries to treat them like apples to apples.”

Duffey, who began working on the issue after state report cards were released Sept. 2017, will introduce legislation that would prohibit the Ohio Department of Education from assigning overall school ratings. Report cards would report data used strictly for informational purposes.

He believes that scoring schools based on how all students perform fails to account for student demographic and lifestyle factors that impact learning outcomes.

“If your child were going to a school and your child got a perfect SAT, perfect ACT, perfect GPA and were ready to go to Harvard, but every other student did really poorly, that district would look terrible,” Duffey said.

“What matters to parents is how is the district treating my child,” he continued. “Other children’s performance is not indicative of how my child is going to perform if my child is not the same as those other children.”

The State Board of Education is also focused on the issue with plans to recommend changes. Board members have suggested collecting stakeholder feedback through regional meetings and surveys.

