

## *Manning assumes JEOC leadership role*

As is generally the case for joint legislative committees comprised of Ohio Senate and House members, chairing responsibilities for the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) rotate annually between the two chambers. Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) has assumed the leadership role for 2018, replacing Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima).

With Cupp at the helm, JEOC drafted reports – to be released later this year – on childhood education, career tech programs and district-level assessments.

Manning is most interested in addressing state report cards and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, but will prioritize the committee’s work based on member input.

“This isn’t going to be driven by me, it’s going to be driven by the members,” she said.

JEOC members recently heard from representatives of SAS – the North Carolina-based analytics firm that calculates Ohio schools’ progress (value-added) scores on state report cards. The discussion on the importance of measuring student growth occurred against the backdrop of legislation recently introduced by Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) to revamp Ohio’s report cards.

Among Duffey’s concerns is district anxiety regarding the fact that they cannot replicate – and check the accuracy of – progress scores.

Senior Director for SAS’ Education Value-Added Assessment System John White disagrees with the notion that its uses a private model to measure growth.

“Our model itself is not proprietary,” White told JEOC members. “It is absolutely listed out in ... public documentation. What we do not provide is our actual computer programs we have spent years and year and years writing.”

Manning expects the committee’s interest in how student growth is measured to continue. “We’re trying to figure out how to fix this,” she said.

She plans to hold JEOC meetings on the third Thursday of every month throughout 2018.

