



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Taxpayers Deserve Greater Transparency in Schools

By Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams)

A movement by conservative lawmakers nationwide would require school districts to post classroom curriculum online so the public can see what is being taught in their local schools. Many of these lawmakers insist such measures increase transparency in schools while also ensuring that critical race theory and other progressive social philosophies have no home there.

I agree.

Legislation that I co-sponsored and was approved by the General Assembly late last year, would have made it easy for parents and others to go to their school district website to view their child's classroom curriculum and books any time they wished.

House Bill 1332, which would have taken effect this fall - the 2022-23 school year - passed on party line votes in both the House and Senate, with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed. However, the measure failed when Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed the bill in late December.

I supported this legislation because it would have given taxpayers, many of whom are parents, the power they deserve. They are the ones who pay for our schools and have a vested interest in what is taught there.

As voters, we elect our school board members who routinely decide on personnel, curriculum, books, department policies and budgeting. In essence, it is the school board's responsibility to ensure our schools are operating appropriately and efficiently, and that our children are receiving the best education our tax dollars can buy.

Currently, K-12 education accounts for about 34% of Pennsylvania's annual state budget or \$13.5 billion. If our governor and school boards do not want to be accountable to taxpayers and put school curriculums and books online and answer for their choices, they can and should be replaced.

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