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Media contacts at end of release

Statewide organizations respond to DeWine's guidance on reopening schools

COLUMBUS — Our organizations — the Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials — are pleased to see Gov. Mike DeWine's release of guidance for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. We appreciate the thoughtful manner used to provide a framework that allows for local flexibility for school districts, coupled with reasonable approaches to health and safety considerations.

We are particularly supportive of the broad flexibility and local control afforded to school district leaders through the school reopening guidance. This will allow for each district to make decisions that best suit its students, staff and community. There is a range of differences in how the coronavirus pandemic has affected communities and school districts; the solution to the various challenges school districts are facing cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. The governor's guidance for schools recognizes this fact.

Our organizations were fortunate enough to work with the DeWine administration and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria throughout the guidance development process over the past several weeks. DeWine and DeMaria also sought input from members of our three groups: the school board members, superintendents and school business officials who have been working hard in public school districts across the state.

We will continue to work with our members as they partner with state and local health officials to ensure the health and safety of students and school staff.

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