

The first and second paragraphs of Milestones: A History of the State Board of Education of Ohio 1956-1989 provides one more reason why the functions of the State Board of Education should not be transferred to the Governor's office: politics.

Decisions by the State Board of Education (Department of Education staff, superintendent of public instruction and the board, itself) should be as free of politics as possible. Returning the State Board of Education to the governor's office, as Senate Bill 1 would do, invites a heap of politics. An excerpt from the book mentioned in the title of the message:

"The year was 1953.

'Harold, you turned down Harvey J. McCarthy for a teaching certificate. He's got a family of thirty-four McCarthys down there in Pike County. I need those votes. Give him a certificate.'

At that time, any Ohio politician could phone such messages over to the offices of the Ohio Department of Education at 65 South Front Street in Columbus. Because the superintendent of public instruction was appointed by the governor, partisan politics dictated a myriad of key educational decisions that filtered down into the school districts of the state." (p.1)

The day-to-day politics in a governor-operated Department of Education will compromise the integrity of the state education agency.