

A Public Policy Polling poll shows only 13% support for moving the state education department to the Governor's office.

A poll commissioned by David Pepper shows extremely low public support for the Governor's office taking over the state functions for education. In a statement to the Coalition, Pepper wrote:

“These days, you almost never see poll numbers this dramatic. It's clear that Ohioans across the political spectrum are united in their opposition to this attack on an independent and public state school board, and the right of the people to vote directly for members of that board. DeWine and Husted have embraced a third rail here.”

The poll numbers are:

Q7 The state of Ohio recently passed a bill to abolish the State Board of Education, whose members are directly voted on by Ohio voters, and instead have the Governor control major school and education decisions behind closed doors. Do you support or oppose this?

Support: 13%

Oppose: 74%

Not sure: 13%

Q8 Who do you trust more to make decisions on education curriculum and teaching strategies for Ohio children: the Governor and his cabinet, or the State Board of Education, whose members are elected by the voters?

Trust the Governor and his cabinet more: 12%

Trust the State Board of Education more: 68%

Not sure: 20%

It is apparent that state officials are out of sync with a majority of Ohioans. But that doesn't matter to politicians. As the Senate President said, “We kind of do what we want.”