

Manvel Public School

Inspiring 21st Century Learners to Influence 22nd Century Successes



February 13, 2023

Good morning Chairman Heinert and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Dave Wheeler and I am the Superintendent for Manvel Public School. Please consider this testimony as neutral for HB 1398. We all understand the importance of cyber education with children in the 21st century and schools can certainly support and help with the teaching of best practice.

I would encourage this committee to also reflect on the other various mandates that have been assigned to our teachers in the past few years. In our elementary setting, teachers are held to a standard of success for Reading and Math scores yearly. Our teachers at all grades of elementary school spend an inordinate amount of time with those content areas. In 2022, our teachers in K-3 were required to learn the Science of Reading philosophy and begin implementation of that philosophy with the intent of increasing reading scores. Legislation was passed not to long ago that requires professional development to include trauma, social emotional learning (SEL), suicide prevention, and bullying. There does come a time where teachers' plates are full and they become overwhelmed with responsibilities, some that maybe they don't feel qualified to support.

While I understand that the cybersecurity standards could fall under the library specialist in our district, I'd also like to note that, in districts like Manvel, our library specialist sometimes fills other roles as well. It could be as a Title teacher, a Math teacher, or any other content area. Library Specialists also have a set of standards they are expected to teach when they have students in the library each week also. For them, knowing when to teach and what to teach can become difficult if 1398 passes and requires them to teach another set of standards.

I ask you to please take all these factors into consideration when you review HB 1398. The role of the teacher is difficult as it is today, adding more to their plates won't lessen the difficulty.

Dr. Dave Wheeler
Superintendent
Manvel Public School