



Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
HB 166, Biennial Operating Budget FY 2020-2021

Eboney Eldridge, Program Manager
Communities In Schools of Central Ohio
April 10, 2019

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today. My name is Eboney Eldridge and I was the Communities In Schools site coordinator at Mifflin Middle School in Columbus until 2018 when I was promoted to my current position of program manager.

During my time at Mifflin Middle School, CIS partnered with the school to address many non-academic barriers impacting our students and their academic success. In 2015, Mifflin Middle received an overall F grade from the Ohio Department of Education, and the school was reconstituted. The following year, I worked closely with a new team of teachers, administrators and building staff to raise the level of achievement at the school. As the Communities In Schools site coordinator, I developed strategies for wrap-around services and integrated student supports that included mentoring groups, whole school supports, and working with 10% of the lowest performing students within each grade to help them improve their attendance, behavior and their grades.

Communities In Schools worked with many community partners such as Alliance Data, Easton Towne Center, Capital University, Nationwide Children's Hospitals, and three of the largest area churches to bring to the school over \$60,000 of goods and services and over 2,000 volunteer hours. On the 2016-2017 school report card, Mifflin Middle improved from an F to a D, with a 55% increase in the number of students on the honor roll from the prior year. Also that year, the school received the ODE Momentum Award. On the 2017-2018 report card, Mifflin Middle improved to a C, and is now the second highest rated middle school in the Columbus City School District.

Communities In Schools of Central Ohio still partners with Mifflin Middle School to bring much-needed resources and support to the whole school, and to individual students to help improve attendance and academic performance. I'm here today to ask you for your support to expand the important work of Communities In Schools. Thank you for your time.