



# New Bremen Local School

*Student Centered Learning... Making the Excellent Extraordinary*

## Central Offices

901 E. Monroe Street  
New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
PH: 419-629-8606  
FX: 419-629-0115  
Howard Overman,  
Superintendent  
Debra A. Meyer, Treasurer

## High School

901 E. Monroe Street  
New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
PH: 419-629-8606  
FX: 419-629-0115  
Brian Pohl, Principal

## Middle School

202-210 South Walnut Street  
New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
PH: 419-629-2373  
FX: 419-629-8113  
Jason Schrader, Principal

## Elementary School

202-210 South Walnut Street  
New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
PH: 419-629-3244  
FX: 419-629-8113  
Diane Kramer, Principal

## House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee House Bill 64 Interested Party Testimony New Bremen Local School District March 19, 2015

Good morning, Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Derickson, Ranking Member Phillips, and members of the House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding House Bill (HB) 64. My name is Howard Overman, Superintendent of the New Bremen Local School District, a small rural district in Auglaize County.

I am here today to offer my thoughts on the bill and the negative financial impact on our district and 53% of other districts in the state if the proposed biennial budget is approved. The New Bremen Local School district has earned an Excellent rating on the State Report Card every year since this data has been released, but yet we stand to lose funding according to this budget proposal. In fact, by our calculations we are set to lose a total of approximately \$2.3 million over the next 5 years if changes in the proposed budget aren't made. Very few districts can handle a decrease in their cash balance in this amount, especially a very small district.

The proposed budget initially looks good because of the yearly increases to the core aid base amount schools would receive for each student enrolled in the district. Then as you read on and make calculations, you quickly realize this budget proposal will again possibly force schools to ask members of their community to vote for more funds to sustain the quality of education that is expected, and to meet the many unfunded mandates passed down from the federal and state governments. For example;

- New Common Core & State Standards
- PARCC & AIR Testing
- Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- School Safety and Security Requirements
- College Credit Plus
- Ohio Teacher/Principal Evaluation Systems
- Resident Educator Mentoring Program
- Gifted Education Program and Requirements
- Special Education Program and Requirements
- STEM Education
- Increased Public Funding to Charter School

Once again we are asked to provide more in our public schools with less financial support from the governmental entities.

Another example of doing more with less is our district having to absorb past decreased amounts of overall state funding and the TPP Replacement Hold Harmless Payments. We have never been "held harmless". The original intention when tangible property taxes were being eliminated was that the District's decreased valuation would result in more state dollars, because it would lower the 23 mill charge off that was imbedded in the school foundation formula. Thereby, the districts would recover the revenue from the TPP loss by state dollars. At that time, the CAT tax was implemented to fund this change. However, that funding model has since been changed several times with the PASS funding, the Bridge funding, and currently the SFPS funding models, so that lost revenue was never realized by districts that heavily relied on TPP. To compound the school's financial situation, this proposed budget is also suggesting decreasing the Transitional Aid (AKA Guarantee) by up to 1% of a district's total state plus local resources in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Currently the decrease in both the State funding and the TPP revenue will impact our district with lost revenue of \$1.2 million per year compared to seven years ago. That amount is substantial for a small rural district that runs on an annual budget of \$8 million.

For New Bremen Local Schools and many other districts to sustain current academic standards and expectations along with adding the many new initiatives and technology to prepare all students for College and Career readiness, this budget proposal must produce a formula that will actually increase school funding and not make it look good by advertising the per pupil amount going up over the next 2 years.

Like ours, many districts have had to cut certified and classified positions, lessen benefits and prioritize physical plant repairs to keep the budget balanced. I thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns connected to the proposed budget and hope you take small, rural, successful schools into consideration when making decisions on the final biennial budget that will effect kids and their educational potential.

Sincerely,



Howard Overman

Superintendent

New Bremen Local Schools