



Waynesfield - Goshen Local Schools

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Written Testimony: Sub. H. B. No. 49, FY 2018-2019 operating budget

Chairman Hite, Vice Chairman Sykes, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee of Finance

Dear Chairman Hite

The funding formula that is in place in the current biennium helped us create opportunities for students and to meet state priorities. Thank you.

We are providing tutoring support for students and professional development for teachers to meet the significantly more rigorous standards and much more difficult state tests. In the past two years we have also put in place two Project Lead the Way classes in engineering, a manufacturing class tied to Rhodes State, internships, a seventh grade Career Connections class, 1:1 technology, computer applications, a second MS/HS English teacher (grades 6-12), a Growth Mindset and Character Education initiative via additional counseling support, a third Preschool class (increasing opportunities for 15 more preschoolers), eliminated all athletic fees (honoring your goal), and provided assistance with school fees for economically distressed families. We have put in place opportunities and effective support systems.

Based on the current House version for 2018-2019 we would be cut \$198,303 in foundation support. We project we will receive less local funding based on adjustments to CAUV (75% of local funding is generated by agricultural valuation, so the reduction could be significant). Federal funds will be less.

Since we know we will be under financial pressure next year, as most small districts across West Central and NW Ohio, we have made adjustments (must be done by June 1st by law). We have begun to dismantle a very good program; non-renewing two teachers and not replacing two (counselor and reading aide) that have accepted other positions. For example, to replace the counselor, we eliminated the business/technology pathway, assigned the teacher three periods of teaching and four periods of counseling, mostly state testing and other state mandated data functions (that do nothing to advance student achievement).

We understand there has been legislation to reduce sources of revenue and the state is collecting less revenue. We understand. We will do our part. However, it is clear that the proposed budget is detrimental to small districts that do great things for kids across the board, academics, character, and technical skills, a caring, family like culture, and allocates funding to the larger schools (like Lima City, increase of \$2.3 million).

It is disappointing that the funding allocation is based exclusively on enrollment and has no relation to two key elements:

- **Performance** - student results--academic, character building, and technical skill building
- **Fiscal Responsibility** - cost control

Cost per student says nothing about cost effectiveness, it is simply math (more students generates less cost per student, yet all spending categories could be much higher in a lower cost per student district, thus misleading) and revenue per student works similarly (less students, yet the per student revenue number will show a much higher amount).

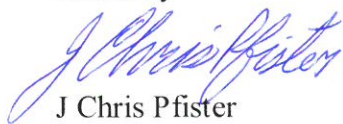
Additionally the formula does not adequately address local capacity to raise local dollars. Five of six districts in Auglaize County are cut, and our district, the lowest wealth district in the county, is cut the most.

We certainly do not want to diminish what is being done in other districts. To be quite honest I do not know what is going on in the far reaches of the state. But I do know that for districts in our region the proposed budget will be detrimental for our students and to the long-term financial stability of our district.

I know the budget is very complicated, but we would be very grateful if there could be some consideration given for a reallocation of resources or some type of adjustment introduced that would at least reduce the negative impact on our and other smaller districts in our region.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely



J Chris Pfister
Superintendent