

State Budget Testimony – May 25, 2017

**Purpose for Testimony -**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Hello, my name is Scott M. Paul; I am the Treasurer for Franklin Local School District in Muskingum County. My district is a guarantee district and is proposed to lose approximately $250,000 in the current proposed state budget due to losing 7% enrollment over the five year period. We understand that on the surface that this may appear to be fair; however there are many factors that affect expenditures apart from enrollment numbers. These factors that we would like for you to keep in mind when reviewing the proposed biennial budget are as follows;

1. Over the same five year time period inflation has grown by 6.5%.
2. Our district, along with districts all over the state, have had unfunded mandates such as increased testing including requiring testing to be completed electronically, increased intervention and remediation due to testing and graduation requirements, and college credit plus.
3. Increased deductions for open enrolled and community school students due to increases in per-pupil state aid.

**History -**

10 years ago our district forecasted drops in enrollment and we began addressing those issues then by closing a middle school and through attrition. This has allowed the district to remain fiscally healthy and has allowed our district to currently spend $600 less per pupil then the state average. However, these actions don’t stop inflation or increased unfunded mandates.

**Proposal –**

The school districts in this state and everybody in this room know that the school funding formula needs to be fixed. There is no data that shows that the money we have in the current school year is really enough for the students we have in our district. Please do not take money from districts like mine that are not properly funded in the first place nor place over half the districts in the state on the guarantee. We want a solution and the current proposed budget is not the solution. I would propose that the Senate fund all school districts at funding levels at least equal to FY2017 level with no per-pupil state aid increase until the formula can be properly addressed.

Thank You,

Scott M. Paul, Treasurer

Franklin Local School District