



The Southern Local School District

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FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget
Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee
Tony Deem, Superintendent
Southern Local Schools
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Introduction

Good Afternoon Chairman Terhar, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking member Fedor, and members of the Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee. My name is Tony Deem, and I am the Superintendent of the Southern Local School District in Racine, Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today in support of language included by the House in Amended Substitute House Bill 166 that would increase participation in the School Breakfast Program by ensuring that all high-poverty public schools in Ohio are working to reach the national benchmark of 70% participation in their free and reduced-price school breakfast program.

Body of Testimony

Southern Local School District is an example of how schools can successfully expand the number of students eating breakfast.

Here at Southern we have seen a direct positive influence of having breakfast, especially Breakfast in the Classroom impact our academics. We also have had less behavior referrals, less visits to the nurse's office especially for early morning tummy aches, fewer absences and tardies, and improved attention in our classes. There have been fewer referrals to the principal's office for behavioral problems, classrooms are calmer with less fidgety-more focused students, and graduation rates we anticipate being much higher.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Chairman Terhar and committee members, I would urge your support for the provisions included by the House in Am. Sub. HB 166 that would strengthen Ohio's School Breakfast program.

Sincerely,

Tony Deem,
Superintendent, Southern Local Schools