



FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS

Excellence • Opportunity • Belonging

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February 15, 2021

Dear Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of House Bill (HB) 67. Findlay City Schools is located in the heart of Hancock County and is an excellent public school system. Presently, the district is comprised of one high school, one career center two middle schools, one intermediate (4-5) building, two intermediate (3-5) buildings, one K-5 building, two primary (K-2) buildings, two primary (K-3) buildings, one preschool building, and the Findlay Learning Center serving over 5,500 students.

Findlay City Schools delayed the start of school for ten days at the start of the school year. These days were used for professional development for staff to prepare for hybrid learning. Findlay City Schools started the year in a two day model but shifted to full remote for grades 6-12 for an extended period of time. Currently we operate in a four-day per week in-person model.

Students have missed a significant amount of instructional time with their teachers. Findlay City Schools worked closely with our local Health Department in order to determine the safest school model. In doing this, we avoided a spread of COVID within our buildings. However, the hybrid and remote learning models did not foster face to face instruction which we know to be the most effective.

The staff and families of Findlay City Schools have remained positive and flexible knowing that the health of our students and community had to remain paramount. Additionally, we were able to provide a device for all students, becoming one to one at all grade levels as well as providing internet when needed.

Though we believe in accountability, the priority must be to provide as much in-person instruction as possible not to take instructional time away from students for testing. Conducting the assessments takes a great deal of time away from our students, including students who are served on an IEP whose loss of instructional time is increased due to testing. This time with their teachers is critical and must be utilized in the most effective manner. Testing is not the best use of this time. Additionally, our teachers have continued to closely monitor student achievement through data collection and have navigated instruction to best meet the needs of students. Due to the circumstances of the pandemic this is not a year that mandated assessments are the best tool for determining student success.

We would also like to encourage committee members to amend House Bill 67 to address:

- The need for graduation flexibility;
- The need to continue remote learning flexibility into next school year.

We are deeply appreciative of Representatives Koehler and Bird for sponsoring the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of HB 67.

Sincerely,

Mr. Troy Roth, Superintendent