



**Senate Finance Committee
HB 33 Testimony**

**Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus, Ashtabula County
R. Scott Wludyga, Superintendent**

May 31, 2021

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill (HB) 33.

My name is Scott Wludyga and I serve as the Superintendent for the Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus (A-Tech) in Ashtabula County. A-Tech provides career technical education to Ashtabula County, the largest county in the state. We serve seven public school districts, with an enrollment of about 600 students on our campus. Adding the satellite programs in our partner schools, more than 2800 students participate in a career technical course in our county. Ashtabula County is mostly rural, with a total population of about 97,000 according to the 2020 Census.

I think about the Fair School Funding Plan every day when I drive to school as I pass the home of former Representative John Patterson. He lives right up the street from our campus. As you know, he was part of the bipartisan team that collaborated with experts in Ohio Education and members of our communities to devise a plan that will help our state thrive.

The Fair School Funding Plan is an objective, rational, and transparent solution to school funding. However, for the formula to work, it needs to be fully implemented. We are off to a good start, but we're just 1/3 of the way there. I am writing to ask on behalf of my students, my district and the entire county I serve that you move forward with fully implementing the formula enacted in the last biennial budget.

We need the predictability this formula provides. We need to ensure that the weighted funding for career technical education is available to provide meaningful learning experiences in our labs to train the workforce of the future. We ask that you keep the updated FY 2022 base cost inputs included in the House-passed version of the bill. Continuing the phase-in of the formula with the updated cost inputs, Ohio schools will have the much-needed stability and predictability. Our enrollment has grown steadily over the past four years. We need to have more accurate five-year forecasts and the ability to implement career technical educational programming for our students based on this accurate long term plan.

A-Tech supports the Fair School Funding Plan because it clearly outlines an approach for funding the cost of educating Ohio's children. In our district this means expanding opportunities for students helping them gain the necessary skills in our labs and connecting them with work-based learning opportunities with our local business and industry partners. This enables students to be workforce ready to lead Ohio into the future.

Chair Dolan and members of the committee, thank you for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Scott Wludyga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

R. Scott Wludyga
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