

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 33
Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Lethichia Banks, Columbus City Schools Alumna

Chair Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair Sandra O'Brien, Ranking Member Catherine Ingram, and members of the Education Committee of the Ohio Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lethichia Banks.

I am a former Family Ambassador and an Alumna of Columbus City Schools. I am in support of fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) outlined in HB33.

While serving as a Family Ambassador, I engaged families and provided community resources to help them overcome non-academic barriers (e.g., food, shelter, clothes, and transportation) and prevent chronic absenteeism. After surveying families about what they wanted the most, the consensus was social-emotional learning and extracurricular activities for students with special needs. Families are seeking emotional support and skills to de-escalate and co-regulate during emotional disturbances. After speaking with an expert, I realized the need for year-round therapeutic programming is necessary for optimal and long-lasting results.

With equitable fixes to the FSFP formula, these families would be prioritized for funding that supports therapeutic programming for students with special needs. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you.

Tish Banks, M.Ed.