

My name is Karen Bratburd. I am a product of Ohio public schools – Sycamore School District in Greater Cincinnati. My mother was a teacher in the North College Hill public school district for over 30 years. I would like to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

With Ohio ranking 45th out of 50 in funding for students, it is more critical than ever to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan phase 3 based on updated cost components, including accounting for the cost of educating students with special needs, economically disadvantaged students and English language learners.

I live in the Loveland City School District which would suffer a catastrophic loss if the Fair School Funding Plan is not fully implemented with updated inputs. Raising the state share minimum to 20% is critical to ensuring that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility.

While the Loveland City School District has received 5 stars in every category (per the Ohio School Report Card 2023-24), we are also in the lowest 85% of state funding per student. Additionally, the teacher to student ratio is in the lowest 97% of the state. As teachers and administrators are repeatedly asked to do more and more with less and less, there is a limit as to how many miracles they can accomplish.

As a proud graduate of an Ohio public school, completing all K-12 grades in the Sycamore School District (go Aviators), and the daughter of a lifelong teacher, I believe strong public education is one of the most critical things to our future. This can only be accomplished through sufficient funding.

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget. Thank you for your consideration.