

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Mike Broadwater, and I proudly serve as the Superintendent of Loveland City Schools. I am here to strongly urge the committee to include the third phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Loveland City Schools receives 85% less funding per pupil than many other Ohio districts, despite consistently performing among the top 3% of districts statewide. In 2024, our district earned 5-star ratings in every category—one of only 18 districts to achieve this distinction—all while operating below the state's average per-pupil expenditures. 97% of all public school districts in Ohio have more teachers per student than Loveland School District yet the district is in the top 3% academically. The district has adjusted staffing to enrollment to the point that the teacher to student ratio is in the bottom 3% of the state. We are committed to delivering a high-quality education while being fiscally responsible, but we are doing so on an increasingly strained budget.

The proposed reductions to the funding guarantee would have a devastating impact on our district. Over the life of our current Five-Year Forecast, Loveland City Schools would face a \$2.5 million loss if these reductions move forward. Decreasing the guarantee over the next two fiscal years and beyond would create significant challenges for our students, staff, and community, deepening inequities and limiting opportunities for our children.

Through extensive community engagement and the work of our School Funding Committee, we respectfully request the following:

- ***Protect the funding guarantee for Loveland and similar districts to prevent financial instability.***
- ***Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including its phase-in process, and update funding inputs to reflect current costs, rather than outdated figures from four years ago.***
- ***Increase the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure public education remains a shared responsibility between the state and local communities.***

I urge you to consider the impact of these funding decisions on the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please support the inclusion of the third phase of the Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget to ensure equitable and sustainable funding for all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.