

Written Testimony - Fair School Funding Plan
John B. Espy
Resident, Loveland, OH

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is John Espy. I am a resident of Loveland and proud Treasurer/CFO of the Loveland City School District. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Loveland City Schools already receives 85% less funding per pupil than other Ohio Schools while achieving in the top 3% of Ohio School Districts. Loveland City Schools earned 5 stars in every category in 2024; one of only 18 school districts to do so. LCS also operates below the average per pupil expenditures. We are a proud district that does the best it can for students while being mindful of our budget. We constantly work to provide the best on a shoestring budget. LCS would see a \$2.5M reduction over the life of our current Five Year Forecast should the reductions to the guarantee occur. Reducing the guarantee over the next two fiscal years and beyond will be catastrophic for our district and further cause division in our community.

Through engaging our community and listening to our School Funding committee, Loveland City Schools has the following requests :

- Protect the guarantee for Loveland and similar districts
- Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including the phase-in, and update the inputs (updating of the inputs means we are updating for the current cost of living - the current proposal is to have us stay at costs from four years ago)
- Increase the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility.

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 again for the opportunity to testify.