

Esteemed House Education committee members:

I urge House Education Committee members to ONLY support a state operating budget that includes the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan.

Public education available to all of our citizens has been the foundation of our country's success. While private and charter schools have a place in our country, it should not be supported at the expense of public schools which is being proposed in the Governor's budget.

Our two children went through the public schools in Kent that has consistently passed its school levies. They got a great education that propelled them to universities and they eventually found great jobs. Kent is fortunate to have a university that partnered with the schools to offer courses that high school students could take. However, other areas of Portage are less fortunate and especially with the higher property taxes, are reluctant to add more tax burdens to their family budgets even to support education.

90% of Ohio students attend public schools. It makes sense to fully fund what is most useful to our citizens.

Everyone deserves a good education and the vouchers would not cover enough of the cost of going to a private or quality charter school for most families. The vouchers are primarily helping wealthy families that could afford private schools without the vouchers. Because there is no cap put on the voucher expansion, this pattern of underfunding for public schools and overfunding tuition subsidies at private and charter schools will see no end in the foreseeable future. Another problem with charter and private schools is that they are unregulated. Why waste money on unregulated education?

The way public schools are funded in Ohio, heavily reliant on property taxes, has been deemed unconstitutional many years ago (1997) and 4 times since by the Ohio Supreme Court. It's time to change that and comply with the law!! You can do that by supporting the Fair School Funding Plan.

Our state is losing population. A quality public school system could keep tax paying people in our state and could even draw people into our state. This would be a great benefit especially with new high tech industries planning to open shop in the next years and needing an educated population to hire.

In summer, I strongly urge the committee to make sure that state operating budget includes the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan. The governor's plan as it is now does not.