

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96
House, Education Committee
March 4, 2025

Jackelyn Jantzi

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso, and members of the Education committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony. My name is Jackelyn Jantzi.

I am a parent of 2 children at King CLC in Akron Public Schools. We live in a very diverse community and care deeply about the education of our kids and the kids of the community we live in. I am writing today to advocate for full funding of Ohio's public schools in the budget bill. It is supported by educators, parents, school administrators, and local leaders across Ohio. Please prioritize public school funding, fully phase in the Fair School Funding Plan, and update the cost calculations to reflect current economic realities.

My son is currently under a 504 plan. This partnership with his teacher, school, and myself helps my son become a successful student and learn to his full potential. The plan gives him the confidence to show his abilities and how much he truly comprehends. Without this partnership my son would struggle to complete tasks and would quickly lose interest in school. He is smart and the 504 plan gives him space to complete his work, build confidence, and like learning. Failing to include and fully resource the final phase of the plan with updated costs will punish many students already facing barriers due to learning challenges or other disabilities.

I live in Ohio's most diverse zip code with immigrant families from many different places. The schools are reliant on extra support for English Language Learning students. The ability for these families to learn English is essential to their success in school to become contributing members to our communities. Even though Akron passed a levy in November 2024, without fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan Akron Public Schools will lose the ability to support these students. Even now many students just starting to learn English do not have full time access to interpreters and ELL classes. Every kid deserves a fair shot at a great education - for some that means different kinds of support. The state is constitutionally required to provide that to all kids. Private schools get to pick and choose what kids they serve. Access to ELL resources are essential to the success of Akron Public Schools and this community.

I am testifying for every student in Akron and in Ohio, but especially for those with special needs and ELL students needing access to extra support in school. Gov. DeWine's budget proposal still shortchanges our kids. Using 2022 costs makes no sense to me as a parent trying to budget for a household - how can it make sense for our

schools? These students need full funding and the support of Ohio legislators to stay in the Public School system and to succeed as students.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan. Please prioritize public school funding, fully phase in the Fair School Funding Plan, and update the cost calculations to reflect current economic realities.

Thank you.

Jackelyn Jantzi

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