

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent of fully funding the Fair School Funding Formula in this year's biennial budget. I am Dr. David Glasner, Superintendent of the Shaker Heights City School District.

The proposed budget coming from the state will be adverse for many and catastrophic for some public school districts in Ohio. That's why I join a chorus of superintendents from across our state in urging you to fully fund the Fair School Funding Formula – our best chance of maintaining and improving programs and services for every Ohio child. This includes accounting for inflation and using the 2025-2026 cost inputs. Without doing so, you are shifting additional burden to local taxpayers, who already face rising taxes and other inflationary costs.

In Shaker Heights, we have been responsible stewards of our community's resources. We have not had to be on the ballot for a full operating levy in over 10 years. We have allocated resources strategically to meet student needs without overspending. Our students' positive academic outcomes are evidence of the effective use of community and government resources.

The budget proposals currently being considered would require the school district to go to local taxpayers earlier, more often and for more money. Under Governor DeWine's proposed budget, for example, we are projected to see state funding cuts of over 4 percent in both the first and second years of implementation. We are already experiencing deficit spending and our cash reserves are projected to run out within the next few years.

In Shaker Heights, our motto is: "A community is known by the schools it keeps." Like communities all across Ohio, the Shaker Heights City School District is a cornerstone of this region. Please keep it that way by sustaining the state's share of funding for public schools.

Thank you.