



**Interested Party Testimony
Ohio House Education Committee 3/4/25**

Dr. Christina Collins, Executive Director, Honesty for Ohio Education

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 Dr. Christina Collins. I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of Honesty For Ohio Education. I'm also a proud parent of three children who attend Ohio public schools.

Honesty is a nonpartisan, statewide organization working closely with more than 70 organizations and thousands of students, families, and educators across the state. Our coalition believes firmly that every child, no matter their background, deserves a high-quality education in environments that are safe and supportive.

I am testifying today to ardently urge this committee to ensure that the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan is fully phased into the state operating budget, HB 96.

The vast majority of Ohio students attend public schools, so it logically follows that the majority of available education resources should go toward ensuring strong, high quality public schools.

[For well over two decades](#), Ohio schools were forced to educate our state's future leaders using overtly disproportionate resources allocated by [an unconstitutional funding system](#). Thankfully, [a bipartisan team of legislators, experts, and some of our state's most exceptional educators](#) spent years writing, debating, and amending a detailed blueprint for fixing Ohio's school funding system. This blueprint, which we all now know as the Fair School Funding Plan, is the clear path forward for Ohio schools.

As you also know, the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan was written to be phased in over a period of six years, or three state budget cycles. The third and final phase of the plan is scheduled to be implemented through this year's state operating budget.

To be blunt, there is simply no other proposed funding plan for Ohio schools that has even the vague potential to be as well thought out, as intensely debated, or as closely scrutinized as the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan. Ohio students — as well as the many dozens of professionals who worked for years to map out this formula — deserve to see it fully implemented so that future analyses of its impacts will be accurate.

Full implementation also requires updating data sets to ensure that the funding formula's calculations remain accurate. Without this crucial piece of the puzzle, it would be extremely difficult to later assess the impacts of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan. Therefore, we strongly urge this

committee to implement the final phase of the plan using the updated base cost inputs recommended by the [Fair School Funding Plan Workgroup](#), the [Ohio Education Association \(OEA\)](#), the [Ohio Association of School Business Officials \(OASBO\)](#), and many other esteemed professionals in this field.

I ask you to consider my testimony, as well as the testimony of our incredible partners, and pass a state operating budget that includes the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and the tools and data sets needed to implement it properly. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.