

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my strong support for the full implementation of the third phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan as part of House Bill 96. As an Ohio resident, a parent, school employee, and an advocate for quality public education, I urge you to ensure our schools receive the constitutional funding they deserve.

Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan was developed through extensive research and bipartisan collaboration to address the inequities in our education system. This plan provides a more accurate and equitable way to fund public schools, ensuring that every child—regardless of their zip code—has access to high-quality education. The final phase of this plan must be fully implemented to maintain progress and prevent further disparities.

Public schools educate 90% of Ohio's students, yet funding gaps continue to threaten their ability to provide essential resources, qualified educators, and critical support services. Without full implementation, our schools will struggle to meet the needs of students, forcing them to rely on outdated materials, underpaid staff, and limited academic opportunities. Meanwhile, taxpayer dollars continue to be diverted to private and unregulated charter schools, undermining the stability of public education.

The time to act is now. I urge the committee to support a state operating budget that fully phases in the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan. Ohio's children deserve nothing less than a fully funded education system that prioritizes their success and future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensuring Ohio's public schools are properly funded. Please stand with students, families, and educators by making the Fair School Funding Plan a priority in HB 96.

Tonya Hinke