

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Columbus City School funding. My name is Anisha Liesner, and I am a parent of two children from Winterset Elementary. I am writing to urge you to prioritize the allocation of public school funding to ensure equitable access to quality education for all students across our great city of Columbus.

Public education serves as the foundation of our society, preparing students to become engaged citizens and contributors to our economy. However, many schools face chronic underfunding, leading to larger class sizes, outdated resources, and limited access to extracurricular programs. Insufficient funding disproportionately affects students from low-income communities, widening the educational achievement gap and limiting opportunities for success. Our community worked hard this past voting season to ensure CCS had our support.

School funding would directly address critical needs, including:

1. **Reducing Class Sizes:** More funding would allow for the hiring of additional teachers, ensuring that students receive individualized attention and a more supportive learning environment.
2. **Enhancing Teacher Salaries and Professional Development:** Competitive salaries and ongoing professional development opportunities are essential for retaining high-quality educators.
3. **Expanding Access to Educational Resources and Technology:** Many schools lack access to modern textbooks, technology, and STEM programs that prepare students for the workforce.
4. **Supporting Special Education Services:** Additional funding is necessary to meet the needs of students requiring specialized support, ensuring that every child receives the education they deserve.
5. **Maintaining and Improving School Infrastructure:** Many school buildings are in dire need of repairs and renovations to create safe and conducive learning environments.

Investing in public education is an investment in our future. Research consistently demonstrates that adequately funded schools produce better academic outcomes, higher graduation rates, and stronger long-term economic growth. By ensuring CCS funding, we can achieve that every child—regardless of zip code—has access to a high-quality education that equips them for future success.

I respectfully urge the members of this committee to support Columbus City Schoolspublic in the upcoming budget. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve nothing less. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anisha Liesner

614-214-4647