

3/3/25

To the Honorable Members of the Ohio General Assembly Finance Committee:

The state budget proposed by Governor Mike DeWine and under review by the Ohio General Assembly would basically erase the operating revenue provided by the levy, the levy which Columbus voters voted for in November 2023.

Based on the governor's proposed state funding formula, Columbus City Schools is set to lose over \$45 million over the next two school years. CCS is projected to lose these state funds because the governor's formula calculations include increased property tax valuations but does not update what it costs to educate a child in 2025. Under the governor's proposal, CCS's state share of education dollars would be cut in half by the end of 2027. The Columbus City Schools district is not as wealthy as their neighboring affluent suburbs, and these students have much greater barriers to success.

All the dollars the voters approved for the \$38 million general operating portion of the levy would now need to be used to fill this \$45 million gap. The state government does not intend to return those millions of dollars to district taxpayers, but rather spend them on other priorities. Why would families be forced to continue to pay for the levy they voted for, but not get all of the essential educational services they were promised?

This is wrong, unfair and breaking trust for the district, the families, the children and the Columbus community.

A state that cares about children invests in children.

Thank you.

Nan Moorman

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