

MY NAME IS VANGELA BARNES and I am the President of the Canal Winchester Local Schools Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of CWLSD and myself as a taxpayer.

I support proper public school funding as the board President and taxpayer. I am against using public school dollars to fund charter, private or home school students. These taxpayer dollars need to stay in our public school districts. This continues to drive up the cost to educate our public school students and eventually could prevent them from receiving the education they deserve.

The base cost per student is not keeping up with the per pupil expenditure. By not adjusting the base cost, the state is putting the cost on property owners and workers in our city. We have been fiscally responsible in our school district using other available means to meet the gap between the base cost and the actual cost even though the state has not kept up. We have used funds from Covid and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. I must say this program has been a success in for the students of our district. I pray it continues.

We need your help! We need you to develop a budget and a law that requires public schools to be fully funded regardless of students who leave and choose charter, private or home school. The constitution requires all student to get a free public education. Without the funding from the State and Federal government, the burden falls completely on property owners and workers, who at this time are already being faced with increased taxed due to the rising costs of real-estate in our area and inflation.

Please review the Base Cost to educate the student, get input from the local school districts and allow each school district to establish the base cost based on real numbers. Every district will be different and there is not one calculation that would provide equitable funds per student across the board. If you can't adjust the number or tie it to a measurement that meets the needs of each school district, then please consider using inflation rates or cost of living rates or even the rate at which the school district is growing. But the Base Rate must be adjusted systematically to avoid more taxes from property owners and local employees.

I am urging the Ohio General Assembly to act and fully fund the Ohio Fair Funding Plan by increasing the Base Cost to reflect the % of Change and moving forward to tie it to a measure that will more fairly match the actual cost to educate a public school student.

As President of the Canal Winchester Local School District, thank you for this opportunity to provide input. I hope that you will act now and fully fund our students to ensure our tax payers are not burdened with the cost in the near future. The time to act is NOW.

Sincerely,

Vangela Barnes, Board Present

Canal Winchester Local School District