



March 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the Budget Bill. I am writing today to express my strong support for the Yellow Springs Exempted Village School District and to urge your continued commitment to fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan. As Superintendent of Yellow Springs Schools, I deeply appreciate the strength of our local community and its unwavering dedication to public education. Our schools play a critical role in shaping the future workforce and ensuring economic growth for our region.

In 2021, the state legislature took a historic step by implementing the Fair School Funding Plan, addressing long-standing issues of inadequacy, inequity, and over-reliance on local property and income taxes. However, while this plan was a necessary step forward, its full benefits can only be realized if fully implemented.

We are now in the fourth year of a six-year phase-in process. The proposed state budget includes funding for years five and six but fails to update cost inputs, instead freezing them at 2022 levels. This oversight does not account for inflation and rising educational costs, forcing local communities to bear a larger financial burden. Without proper adjustments, districts like Yellow Springs Schools will receive less state funding than needed, making it harder to provide students with the high-quality education they deserve.

As you know, every dollar invested in our schools strengthens our local economy and prepares students for successful careers. Yellow Springs Schools is committed to workforce development, aligning our project-based learning pedagogy with business and industry needs to create a pipeline of skilled future employees. A fully funded Fair School Funding Plan is essential to sustaining and expanding these opportunities. However, the current proposal for years five and six of the Fair School Funding Plan will cost Yellow Springs Schools a loss of \$540,960 in state funding for the same number of students we have today. This is hard to sustain when you are a small school district.

I humbly ask that you:

- Complete the next two years of the phase-in process as originally designed (FY26 @ 83% and FY27 @ 100%);
- Update the base cost inputs to current (FY24) data; and
- Add a permanent formula for educational service centers (ESCs).



While Ohio's economic outlook has shifted since the last state budget, investing in our schools remains one of the most effective ways to secure long-term economic prosperity. Fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan will provide districts with the resources needed to prepare students for success, ensuring Ohio remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Fully funding this plan has the power to transform education in our district and across Ohio. Your voice matters in securing a stable and prosperous future for our students.

Thank you for your continued support of our local schools as we work to keep Ohio as a leader in the country for both education and workforce development.

Best regards,

Terri L. Holden, Ed.D
Superintendent