

April 1, 2025

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lynn Mangan. I am a resident of District 28 and a current member of Loveland City School's Board of Education. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio, proud graduate of Ohio public schools, and the mom to four graduates of Loveland City Schools. Over the last six years, I have worked closely with the Loveland City Schools community to support school funding. First, as a private citizen and mother, I have worked on the district's Board Planning Commission, the political action committee in support of operating levies for our district and on the district's strategic plan committee. In the last 15 months, I have served as a member of Loveland City School District's Board of Education and a member of the Community Advisory and State Funding committee that our district established to connect with our community. Through all of these community groups, we have worked to understand school funding and the unique attributes of Loveland City Schools. It is through this work that I urge the committee to take three actions:

1. Protect the guarantee,
2. Include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, including updating the inputs, and
3. Update the state minimum share from 10% to 20%.

As a member of Loveland's Board of Education, I am held responsible for the children of our community. In addition to the community engagement noted above, we have also engaged our local chamber of commerce organizations (Little Miami River Chamber Alliance and Clermont County Chamber of Commerce and they are both in support of our public schools – letters of support are attached). Nothing is more important than an investment in our children's education.

Loveland is a district that has approximately 4,000 students. 85% of Ohio's districts receive more funding than Loveland. And 55% spend more per pupil than we do. Despite property value increases of over 36%, Loveland's revenue only increased by 2.4%. But it is more than about the spending – what are our results? We are in the top 3% of districts in the state. Perfect scorecard and lower than average cost per pupil—outstanding outcomes for our students at a below-average price. In business terms – that is an excellent return on investment. All with a focus on the kids in our community – our children's growth is most critical to us.

And under the current proposal, our funding would decrease by \$2.5 million between now and FY2029. Our local share is 61%, and our state share is 28%. The same taxpayers in Loveland are in the State of Ohio. If the state decreases funding (a 5.2% decrease for FY26 & 27), we will be forced to return to local taxpayers for even more funds. Loveland is on the guarantee due to the

charge-off, not due to empty seats. We have adjusted our expenses as enrollment has changed. I implore you to please reject the current budget and make the following modifications:

1. Protect the guarantee,
2. Include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, including updating the inputs, and
3. Update the state minimum share from 10% to 20%.

There is no greater investment than the investment we make in our children. We are accountable for the results of our children – the future leaders of our communities, state, country, and world. Please invest in our kids. Like you, I represent all the taxpayers in our school district. And I cannot rest with the state share decreasing so dramatically. We must support ALL our children and ALL our taxpayers. Nothing outshines the vital role of education in shaping the future of our community's children. Investing in quality education isn't just a necessity; it's an unwavering commitment we owe to every child in our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.

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Related documents:

- **Letters from Little Miami River Chamber and Clermont County Chamber of Commerce**
- **OEPI Report** (state funding drops to 45th out of 50th)
<http://www.oepiohio.org/index.php/post-derolph-study-on-school-funding/post-derolph-studies-on-school-funding/oepi-review-and-summary-of-ohio-auditor-of-state-longitudinal-school-finance-study/>
- **LSC Report on Impact to Local Districts** – 5.2% decrease for Loveland
<https://ohioschoolboards.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46b9982a825bb2bfd09ad0352&id=437c8bd64d&e=fc90acee28>
- **Board of Education Meeting Reflecting Loveland's Decrease Under HB96**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjG3CIzbFxc&t=0h53m0s>