



**NEW ALBANY
PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS**
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

**House Ways and Means
House Bill 335**

**New Albany-Plain Local School District, Franklin and Licking Counties
Rebecca Jenkins, Treasurer/CFO**

October 14, 2025

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 335. My name is Rebecca Jenkins, and I serve as the Treasurer/CFO of New Albany-Plain Local School District in Franklin and Licking Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I understand and share the concern about the impact of rising property taxes on our communities. We all want meaningful relief for taxpayers, but it's critical that such efforts do not come at the expense of the financial stability our schools need to serve students well. Our district is 85% locally funded. We are not a 20-mill floor district, and we do not use emergency levies as a strategy to get to the 20-mill floor.

All of our current operating levies have been approved by voters. Through prudent financial management and strategic planning, we have avoided returning to the ballot for additional operating funds for nearly 12 years. This stability has been supported, in part, by modest revenue growth generated through inside millage.

House Bill 335, as currently written, would limit local revenue growth from inside millage. For districts like mine, this proposal would have significant consequences. New Albany-Plain Local Schools would lose over \$7.4 million annually. This reduction would limit our ability to keep pace with inflation, maintain existing academic programs, and support the needs of more than 5,100 students. Over time, these funding constraints would force difficult decisions, from larger class sizes to reductions in programming that directly benefit students and families. Programming that has shown tangible results as seen in our local report card's 5-star rating.

Capping local revenue growth through HB 335 places an even greater financial burden on local communities, many of which are already stretched thin by increasing costs. This shift undermines the state's shared responsibility and disrupts the constitutional balance intended to ensure equitable and adequate school funding.

This proposal jeopardizes the stability necessary to maintain our focus on core educational priorities, including literacy, mathematics, workforce readiness, and overall student success. Predictable and stable funding streams are fundamental to responsible long-term planning, sustaining a high-quality workforce, and upholding the educational outcomes that Ohio's families both expect and are entitled to under the state's commitment to public education.

The New Albany-Plain Local School District is deeply committed to our mission to create a culture of accountability that achieves the best academic and developmental outcomes for each student. We fully recognize the significant tax contributions made by our community, particularly as a district that receives minimal state funding due to our local wealth. Our operations rely on continued community support, along with modest revenue growth from inside millage and new construction, to sustain and enhance our educational programs. We prioritize students in every decision we make and take pride in our strong fiscal stewardship—having avoided returning to voters for additional operating funds for nearly 12 years.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 335 or consider alternative approaches that protect taxpayers while preserving the financial stability schools need to educate Ohio's children. Any solution must strike a balance between taxpayer relief and the continued success of our students and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and can be reached at Jenkins.5@napls.us or 614-413-7114.