

I am writing to you today as the Superintendent of Fairfield City School District to express my strong opposition to provisions in the proposed state budget bill that would significantly and negatively impact public education in Ohio.

One of my greatest concerns lies with the proposed punitive measures for school districts that maintain a carryover balance from year to year. These measures effectively penalize districts like Fairfield for practicing sound fiscal management and planning responsibly for future needs. Carryover funds are not a sign of excess-they are a sign of prudence. They allow us to weather economic uncertainty, respond to unexpected needs, and invest in student programs that cannot always be fully funded within a single fiscal year.

Under the current budget proposal, districts with healthy carryover balances stand to lose critical state funding, regardless of their unique needs, demographics, or long-term financial planning. This approach undermines our ability to serve students effectively and threatens the sustainability of the programs we have worked diligently to build.

For Fairfield City Schools, the impact of this proposal would be devastating. It would force us to make impossible choices-reducing or eliminating student programs, cutting staff, and limiting educational opportunities. These are not abstract consequences. They affect real students, real classrooms, and real futures.

Public schools are already navigating increasing expectations with limited resources. Penalizing districts for fiscal responsibility sends the wrong message and harms the very students we are all working to support.

I urge you to reconsider these provisions in the budget bill. Let us continue to prioritize and invest in our public schools-not punish them for responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your time and your continued support of Ohio's students and educators.

Billy Smith

Superintendent

Fairfield City School District