

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education committee,

My name is Mike Broadwater and I am the Superintendent of Loveland City School District. I am currently in my 38th year of education, fourth year as the Superintendent of LCSD.

In the Loveland City School District, we strive every day to teach our students care, respect, and responsibility. We believe in the power of community, as demonstrated by our #beLOVEland strategic vision's goals—specifically Goal 3, which states: *Loveland City School District is a vital part of the Loveland community and will provide opportunities for two-way engagement and communication.*

I have never seen a community as strong as Loveland, and the support our schools receive is deeply appreciated. ***Loveland City School District was one of only 18 public school districts, out of more than 600 in Ohio, to receive five stars in every category on the Ohio School Report Card.*** This success is built on the hard work of our students, the commitment of our experienced staff, and the support of our amazing families and community.

As Superintendent, I have worked extremely hard to maintain the academic excellence our community expects while continually monitoring our expenditures. ***Loveland City Schools currently ranks in the bottom 3% of the more than 600 public school districts in Ohio in terms of student-to-teacher ratio.*** This is a strong indication the district has adjusted to enrollment. Simply put, we do more with less. Our amazing staff works hard each and every day for our students, knowing that 97% of districts in the state have more teacher support.

Mike Broadwater - Superintendent

As a district, we are focused on 3 key components in regards to HB 96:

1. **Maintain the current guarantee.**
 - a. Losing the guarantee would be catastrophic for our district's future and ability to meet the needs of our students.
2. **Provide increases that are at or closer to the predicted inflationary levels of 2.3%.**
3. **Remove the cash balance provision from HB96**

I believe our Loveland students deserve a high quality education at a fiscally conservative price, and Loveland currently provides both. According to a report from the Ohio Education Policy Institute, Ohio ranks 45th among the 50 states in U.S. Census Data ratings of the percentage of public school operating revenue coming from state sources. Loveland's state funding per pupil is in the bottom 15% of all public school districts in Ohio. This low state contribution, in a state already ranking near the bottom nationally, highlights why Loveland schools rely heavily on local community funding.

While I understand the desire to decrease the burden on taxpayers from property taxes, what HB 96 achieves in its current form is reductions in state funding that will push districts to return to voters for larger, more frequent levy requests, to make up for the lost revenue. Thus, the property tax burden will increase, not decrease.

Chair Brenner and members of the committee, thank you for your time and attention. Our Treasurer, John Espy, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Mike Broadwater - Superintendent
