

May 12, 2025

RE: FY2026-2027 State Budget Proposal

As Treasurer/CFO of Bellefontaine City Schools, I want to express our deep concern regarding several provisions in the Ohio House's proposed version of the FY2026–2027 state budget. While we appreciate the ongoing efforts of the legislature to address Ohio's broader fiscal challenges, certain proposed changes—particularly those related to property tax reform and school district cash reserve limits—pose significant risks to the long-term financial stability of public schools like ours.

The proposed elimination of replacement levies and the potential cap on district cash reserves may unintentionally undermine the financial tools local school districts rely on to provide consistent, high-quality educational services. These measures could restrict our ability to adapt to future economic shifts, respond to emergencies, and make responsible long-term investments in student learning and staff support.

We urge lawmakers to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as originally designed. Proper funding is essential to ensure the formula works as intended—providing public school districts across Ohio with adequate, equitable, and predictable resources to meet the needs of all students.

Bellefontaine City Schools has always prioritized transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. We maintain prudent reserve levels to ensure stability during economic downturns and to avoid reactive, short-term decision-making that could harm students and programs. Imposing artificial constraints on local budgeting or limiting voter-approved funding options may weaken—not strengthen—our public schools.

We encourage lawmakers to continue working collaboratively with school leaders across Ohio to develop a final budget that preserves local flexibility, promotes long-term planning, and supports sustainable public education funding for every community.

Respectfully,



Joshua L. Wasson
Treasurer/CFO
Bellefontaine City Schools