

Chesapeake Union Exempted Village School District

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DOUG HALE
Superintendent

SHELBY DAVIDSON
Treasurer

The Honorable Jerry C. Cirino
Senator, Ohio's 18th Senate District
1 Capitol Square, Room 127
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Cirino -

On behalf of Chesapeake Exempted Village School district, it is my pleasure to provide a few items for your consideration House Bill 96 as it is currently written. While there are certainly many provisions of the bill that will serve both Ohio's kids and public schools, we are significantly concerned about the implications that the bill will have on school funding; particularly relating to the future of Fair School Funding as well as the proposed cap of 30% on carry-over balances.

We currently have a 44% carry over balance. Our High School was built in 1988 and we consider it a new build though it is 37 years old. We have taken a lot of pride in our facilities and keep them looking sharp for our students, staff and community. Our Boiler & HVAC systems in our district are 18 years old and working their way to the end of life. We have the carryover balance to aid in the Boiler/HVAC projects we know are coming our way.

First and foremost, Ohio's K-12 education structure relies on locally-elected school boards. However, the currently proposed carry over balance cap removes this local control from every community in Ohio. However, if the Ohio Senate is determined to retain a carry over balance policy we ask that the cap be removed and that each district be required to establish their own policy for carry over balances that establish both minimum and maximum thresholds.

Additionally, we ask that the Senate endeavor to preserve the principles embodied in the Fair School Funding plan even if inputs cannot be fully funded. FSF is currently the most effective and efficient way for the state to determine the costs to educate students across Ohio. We have negotiated with our Teachers Union and OAPSE units this spring. It was difficult trying to explain the budget to employees who work hard each day and come to work each day and have earned a raise to keep up with the cost of living. Our treasurer, our BOE members and myself find it hard to make financial decisions when we don't have the FSF to which we can plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these factors while developing Ohio's operating budget for the coming biennium.

Sincerely,


Doug Hale

Superintendent

Chesapeake Exempted Village Schools