



Eastern Local School District

50008 State Route 681 Reedsville, OH 45772

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

On behalf of Eastern Local in Meigs County, I hoped to give my perspective in consideration on House Bill 96. We are significantly concerned about the implications that the bill will have on school funding; particularly relating to the future of the Fair School Funding Formula as well as the proposed cap of 30% on carry-over balances. First and foremost, Ohio's K-12 education structure relies on locally-elected school boards whose members are farmers, small business owners, nurses and residents from dozens of other backgrounds and who have often lived for decades in the school community. They are best-equipped to make decisions impacting the financial position of local school districts. We have also worked with our County Commissioners and Auditor to determine that we do not feel this top down approach is best for our community. The currently proposed carry over balance cap removes this local control from every community. 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 keep the Fair School Funding plan even if inputs cannot be fully funded. We feel having a formula that our treasurers can count on year in and year out is the most effective and efficient way for the state to determine the costs to educate students across Ohio and allows us to plan for the future accordingly and responsibly. Thank you for your consideration of these factors while developing Ohio's operating budget for the coming biennium.

Sincerely,

Nick Dettwiller - Superintendent
Eastern Local School District
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