



Symmes Valley Local Schools

Greg Bowman
Superintendent

Brad Carpenter
Treasurer

14778 State Route 141
Willow Wood, Ohio 45696
(740) 643-2451
Fax: (740) 643-1219

5/23/2025

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

Chairman Cirino,

On behalf of Symmes Valley Local 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.

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. Generally, a "one-size fits all" change in education funding and regulations is often not met with the best outcomes. 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 carryover balance policy, we ask that the cap be removed and that each district be required to establish their own policy for carryover 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



Mission Statement

The mission of the Symmes Valley Local Schools is to academically prepare all students to become lifelong learners.

and efficient way for the state to determine the costs to educate students across Ohio. Another consideration we would ask is to have greater predictability in funding, so that schools can plan as best they can to ensure sustained operations for our school district.

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

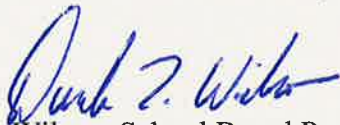
Sincerely,




Greg Bowman, Superintendent



Brad Carpenter, School District Treasurer



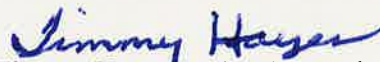
Derek Wilson, School Board President



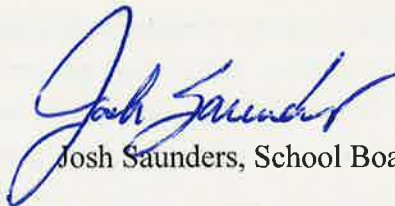
Uriah Cade, School Board Vice-President



Adam Corn, School Board Member



Timmy Hayes, School Board Member



Josh Saunders, School Board Member