

Barnesville Exempted Village School District

BARNESVILLE, OHIO 43713

Superintendent
210 West Church Street
740-425-3615
Fax 740-425-5000

Special Education Department
910 Shamrock Drive
740-425-3617
Fax 740-425-9254

Treasurer
210 West Church Street
740-425-3615
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May 26, 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 Barnesville Exempted Village School District, it is my pleasure to provide a few items for your consideration regarding House Bill 96 as it is currently written. While there are certainly many provisions in the bill that aim to benefit Ohio's students and public schools, we are significantly concerned about the implications it may have on school funding—particularly regarding the future of the Fair School Funding Plan and the proposed 30% cap on carryover 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 a variety of backgrounds—many of whom have lived in the community for decades. They are best equipped to make decisions that impact the financial position of their local school districts. Generally, a “one-size-fits-all” approach to education funding and regulations has not produced the best outcomes. However, the currently proposed carryover balance cap removes local control from every community in Ohio. If the Ohio Senate is determined to retain a carryover balance policy, we respectfully ask that the cap be removed and that each district be allowed to establish its own policy for carryover balances, setting both minimum and maximum thresholds.

High School Principal
910 Shamrock Drive
740-425-3617
Fax 740-425-9254

Middle School Principal
970 Shamrock Drive
740-425-3116
Fax 740-425-9204

Elementary Principal
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740-425-3639
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Additionally, we urge the Senate to preserve the principles embodied in the Fair School Funding Plan, even if inputs cannot be fully funded. FSF currently represents the most effective and equitable method for the state to determine the costs of educating students across Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns as you develop Ohio's operating budget for the upcoming biennium.

Sincerely,



Micah Fuchs
Superintendent of Schools
Barnesville Exempted Village School District

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