

**Brunswick City School District**  
**Senate Finance Committee - House Bill 96**  
**May 29, 2025**

**Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,** thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 96.

My name is Jason Niedermeyer, and I serve as the Superintendent of the Brunswick City School District in Medina County. I'm joined today by our Treasurer, Mark Pepera, and Board of Education leaders Mary Weinhauer and Kim Goessler. Brunswick is a high-performing suburban district, serving 6,000 students across a community of 44,000 residents. We are proud of our 4.5-star rating and recognition from the State Auditor for exemplary financial stewardship.

We strongly oppose the cash carryover limitations proposed in House Bill 96.

This bill undermines the principles of local control and financial responsibility that our community has upheld for decades. Our elected Board of Education is accountable to Brunswick voters every day—not just at the ballot box. Our residents have consistently supported our fiscal plans through the passage of levies and bond issues.

The proposed cash carryover cap would require Brunswick to forfeit an estimated \$20 million in voter-approved funds—resources essential for maintaining educational services and operational stability. These are not excess or “rainy-day” funds, but part of a responsible, long-term financial strategy. They help us manage economic shifts, address capital needs, and reduce the frequency of levy requests.

Our district has been repeatedly recognized by Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber for outstanding financial management. He has personally commended us as “among the best of the best” in public finance. We take a fiscally conservative approach because it’s the right thing to do—for our students, staff, and taxpayers.

The recent increase in our cash balance is largely due to a one-time federal subsidy (ESSER) and property valuation changes—factors beyond our control and not indicative of ongoing trends.

This bill sets a troubling precedent. It penalizes districts that plan responsibly and incentivizes short-term thinking. That’s not what our communities need—or deserve.

We urge you to protect local control, support fiscal responsibility, and reject provisions like those in House Bill 96 that would compromise a district’s ability to plan and operate sustainably.

Thank you for your time and consideration.