

Honorable Chair Cirino  
Vice Chair Chavez  
and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

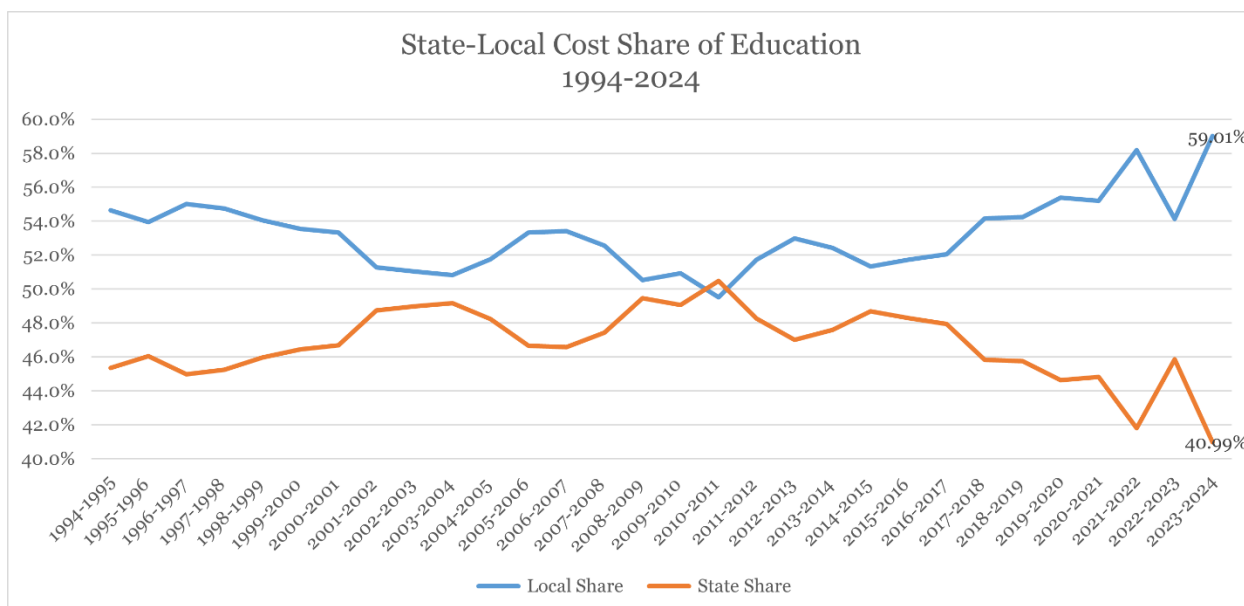
### Testimony on Am. Sub. H. B. No. 96: Fair School Funding Formula

My name is Kathryn Garvey. I served eight years on the Chagrin Falls Board of Education and received an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. As a former school board member, and someone who has a working knowledge of school finance, I urge you to continue to apply the Fair School Funding Formula in the biennial budget and to commit State dollars to cover the State's full share of what it costs to educate 90% of Ohio's students in today's economy.

The State budget must reflect Ohio's priorities. If Ohio is the heart of it all, then public schools are the heartbeat. Ohioans love their public schools. Our schools are the anchors in our communities that bring together old and young alike to enjoy Friday Night Football games, spring baseball tournaments, high school musicals, and even pancake breakfasts for support organizations. We have fond memories of our favorite teachers – the ones who motivated us, who listened to us, and understood how to help us learn and grow.

Ohioans are fiercely loyal to their public schools. Ohioans will tell you that funding public education for our community's kids is a top priority. As our elected representatives, we look to you to make it your top priority in the State budget.

Our public schools cannot continue to do more with less, and our teachers are not overpaid. Yet in the House version of the budget, the State share of K–12 funding falls from 42% in FY24 to a projected 32% by FY27 – the lowest State share in history.



You can do better. You must do better. The communities you represent are counting on you to do better. Ohioans want you to value our public schools as we do, and to fund these institutions that reflect the values of our communities.

The House budget proposal vastly underfunds public schools. Ohioans also know that when the state chooses not to pay its share for public schools, we end up paying more in property taxes.

Table 1 shows that the combined shortfall in funding to public schools in your Senate districts totals **\$1.1 billion**. This is in contrast to what the Fair School Funding Formula calculates our public schools need in order to continue current operations and provide current programming and maintain current teacher-student ratios. In essence, what our public schools require to adequately educate our kids.

Your decision to underfund public schools will force your constituents from all across Ohio to pay more property taxes in the next couple of years - over a billion dollars more. This is because schools will need to make up the State's shortfall in funding through property tax increases. This is the opposite of what your constituents are begging you to do. They don't want higher property taxes, and they don't want weakened schools. They know that without these funds, schools will be forced to cut programs and fire teachers. They will not be able to provide the current level of educational excellence for our kids that we all value.

Ohioans want you to support public schools and make a real dent in property taxes by increasing the State's share to the calculated amount in the Fair School Funding Plan.

Ohioans want fairness. We are willing to pay our fair share, and we expect the State to pay its fair share. We know that when the State pays its fair share, that is REAL property tax relief.

As you attempt to balance the budget, don't manipulate the Formula. Update the inputs so they are accurate and current. Trust the math. Meet your commitments to your constituents by funding what we value – our public schools.

I urge you to:

- Maintain the Fair School Funding Plan.
- Update Base Cost inputs FY 24 inputs in FY 25, and FY 25 inputs in FY26.
- Trust the math.
- Listen to your constituents and prioritize public schools.
- Provide real property tax relief by fulfilling your responsibility to fund the State's share of what it actually costs to educate our students in Ohio's public schools.

Table 1: Budget Shortfall in Funding for School Districts Represented by Senate Finance Committee Members

Senator	District	FSFP Calls For \$ Amount (Over 2025)	House Budget Provides \$ Amount (Over 2025)	State Funding SHORTFALL	Number of Public Schools	Affected by 30% Cap		School Districts in This Senate District
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>(\$1,100,073,228)</b>	266	209	<b>79%</b>	
Jerry Cirino	18	\$62,904,729	\$9,519,898	(\$53,384,831)	18	14	78%	Bedford City, Brecksville-Broadview Hts City, Chagrin Falls Ex Vill, Cuyahoga Heights Local, Fairport Harbor Ex Vill, Independence Local, Kirtland Local, Madison Local, Mayfield City, Mentor Ex Vill, Orange City, Painsville City Local, Perry Local, Richmond Heights Local, Riverside Local, Solon City, Wickliffe City, Willoughby-Eastlake City
Brian Chavez	30	\$113,646,892	\$16,022,391	(\$97,624,501)	34	25	74%	Maumee City, Oregon City, Ottawa Hills Local, Springfield Local, Toledo City, Washington Local, Alexander Local, Athens City, Barnesville Ex Vill, Bellaire Local, Belpre City, Bridgeport Ex Vill, Buckeye Local, Caldwell Ex Vill, Conotton Valley Union Local, East Guernsey Local, Eastern Local, Edison Local, Federal Hocking Local, Fort Frye Local, Frontier Local, Harrison Hills City, Indian Creek Local, Marietta City, Martins Ferry City, Meigs Local, Morgan Local, Nelsonville-York City, Noble Local, Rolling Hills Local, Shadyside Local, Southern Local, St Clairsville-Richland City, Steubenville City, Switzerland Of Ohio Local, Toronto City, Trimble Local, Union Local, Warren Local, Wolf Creek Local
Paula Hicks Hudson	11	\$167,528,755	\$9,120,373	(\$158,408,382)	6	4	67%	Maumee City, Oregon City, Ottawa Hills Local, Springfield Local, Toledo City, Washington Local
Lou Blessing	8	\$57,955,190	\$7,553,055	(\$50,402,135)	15	11	73%	Finneytown Local, Forest Hills Local, Indian Hill Ex Vill, Lockland City, Madeira City, Mariemont City, Mount Healthy City, North College Hill City, Northwest Local, Oak Hills Local, Reading Community City, Southwest Local, Three Rivers Local, Winton Woods City, Wyoming City
Andrew Brenner	19	\$48,495,197	\$13,260,426	(\$35,234,771)	17	16	94%	Big Walnut Local, Buckeye Valley Local, Centerburg Local, Coshocton City, Danville Local, Delaware City, East Holmes Local, East Knox Local, Fredericktown Local, Loudonville-Perrysville Ex Vill, Mount Vernon City, North Fork Local, Olentangy Local, Ridgewood Local, River View Local, West Holmes Local, Westerville City
Hearcel Craig	15	\$50,142,784	\$12,751,285	(\$37,391,499)	3	3	100%	Bexley City, Columbus City, Whitehall City
Catherine Ingram	9	\$44,443,355	\$2,147,348	(\$42,296,007)	4	3	75%	Cincinnati City, Mariemont City, Norwood City, St Bernard-Elmwood Place City
George Lang	4	\$127,399,067	\$10,244,464	(\$117,154,603)	10	8	80%	Edgewood City, Fairfield City, Hamilton City, Lakota Local, Madison Local, Middletown City, Monroe Local, New Miami Local, Ross Local, Talawanda City
Susan Manchester	12	\$127,094,671	\$10,726,210	(\$116,368,461)	42	36	86%	Allen East Local, Anna Local, Ansonia Local, Bath Local, Bellefontaine City, Benjamin Logan Local, Bluffton Ex Vill, Botkins Local, Bradford Ex Vill, Celina City, Coldwater Ex Vill, Delphos City, Elida Local, Fairlawn Local, Fort Loramie Local, Fort Recovery Local, Graham Local, Greenville City, Hardin-Houston Local, Jackson Center Local, Lima City, Marion Local, Mechanicsburg Ex Vill, Minster Local, Mississinawa Valley Local, New Bremen Local, New Knoxville Local, Parkway Local, Perry Local, Riverside Local, Russia Local, Shawnee Local, Sidney City, Spencerville Local, St Henry Consolidated Local, St Marys City, Triad Local, Urbana City, Versailles Ex Vill, Wapakoneta City, Waynesfield-Goshen Local, West Liberty-Salem Local
Nathan Manning	13	\$94,366,058	\$9,059,497	(\$85,306,561)	20	14	70%	Amherst Ex Vill, Avon Lake City, Avon Local, Clearview Local, Columbia Local, Elyria City, Firelands Local, Keystone Local, Lorain City, Midview Local, Monroeville Local, New London Local, North Ridgeville City, Norwalk City, Oberlin City, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City, South Central Local, Wellington Ex Vill, Western Reserve Local, Willard City
Sandra O'Brien	32	\$113,351,556	\$7,258,176	(\$106,093,380)	31	26	84%	Ashtabula Area City, Berkshire Local, Bloomfield-Mespo Local, Bristol Local, Brookfield Local, Buckeye Local, Cardinal Local, Champion Local, Chardon Local, Conneaut Area City, Geneva Area City, Girard City, Grand Valley Local, Howland Local, Hubbard Ex Vill, Jefferson Area Local, Joseph Badger Local, La Brae Local, Lakeview Local, Liberty Local, Lordstown Local, Maplewood Local, Mathews Local, McDonald Local, Newton Falls Ex Vill, Niles City, Pymatuning Valley Local, Southington Local, Warren City, Weathersfield Local, West Geauga Local
Tom Patton	24	\$24,929,709	\$3,024,075	(\$21,905,634)	8	7	88%	Berea City, Brecksville-Broadview Hts City, Brooklyn City, North Olmsted City, North Royalton City, Olmsted Falls City, Parma City, Strongsville City
Mark Romanchuk	22	\$53,074,353	\$3,643,940	(\$49,430,413)	21	16	76%	Ashland City, Black River Local, Brunswick City, Buckeye Local, Clear Fork Valley Local, Cloverleaf Local, Crestline Ex Vill, Crestview Local, Highland Local, Hillsdale Local, Lexington Local, Loudonville-Perrysville Ex Vill, Lucas Local, Madison Local, Mansfield City, Mapleton Local, Medina City, Ontario Local, Plymouth-Shiloh Local, Shelby City, Wadsworth City
Shane Wilkin	17	\$139,197,892	\$10,125,842	(\$129,072,050)	37	26	70%	Adena Local, Bright Local, Chesapeake Union Ex Vill, Chillicothe City, Crooksville Ex Vill, Dawson-Bryant Local, Eastern Local, Fairfield Local, Fairland Local, Gallia County Local, Gallipolis City, Greenfield Ex Vill, Hillsboro City, Huntington Local, Ironton City, Jackson City, Logan Elm Local, Logan-Hocking Local, Lynchburg-Clay Local, Miami Trace Local, Nelsonville-York City, New Lexington City, Oak Hill Union Local, Paint Valley Local, Rock Hill Local, City, Waverly City, Wellston City, Western Local, Zane Trace Local Symmes Valley Local, Union Scioto Local, Vinton County Local, Washington Court House Scioto Valley Local, South Point Local, Southeastern Local, Southern Local,

Source: Policy Matters Ohio