

JENNINGS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Nicholas T. Langhals
419-286-2238

P.O. Box 98 ~ 1 Musketeer Drive
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098
Fax 419-286-2240

Treasurer
Kari M. German
419-286-2238

May 27, 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 Jennings Local School District, a very small, rural district in northwest Ohio, 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 of the bill that will serve both Ohio's students and public schools, we are significantly concerned about the implications this bill will have on school funding—particularly the future of Fair School Funding and the proposed cap of 30% on carryover balances.

In 2012, Jennings Local had a carryover balance of just 12%. Through years of conservative budgeting and careful planning, we have grown that balance to 58% this year. This was done deliberately—not to stockpile funds—but to sustain our buildings, make essential campus updates, and begin developing new programs and opportunities for our students. A blanket cap on carryover balances would penalize districts like ours that have worked diligently to be fiscally responsible in planning for the future.

First and foremost, Ohio's K–12 education structure relies on locally elected school boards—comprised of farmers, small business owners, nurses, and other long-standing members of our community—who are best equipped to make financial decisions in the interest of their districts. A “one-size-fits-all” mandate rarely yields the best outcomes. The currently proposed 30% cap on carryover balances removes critical local control from all Ohio districts. If the Ohio Senate is determined to retain a carryover balance policy, we respectfully ask that the cap be removed and that districts instead be required to adopt local policies that define both minimum and maximum thresholds appropriate for their unique circumstances.

Additionally, we urge the Senate to preserve the principles and structure of the Fair School Funding Plan, even if full funding cannot be immediately achieved. FSF remains the most equitable and transparent framework for determining the true cost of educating students across Ohio's diverse communities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these concerns as you continue to shape Ohio's operating budget for the coming biennium.

Sincerely,

Nick Langhals, Superintendent

Kari M. German, Treasurer

Fort Jennings High School
Principal Todd Hoehn
P.O. Box 98
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098
419-286-2238



Fort Jennings Elementary School
Principal Matthew R. Dubé
P.O. Box 98
Fort Jennings, OH 45844-0098
419-286-2762