

Keep the Fair School Funding Plan

Hello,

My son, Jacob, is in his last week of kindergarten at Big Creek Elementary, a part of Berea City Schools. I'm reaching out not only on his behalf, but also on behalf of other public school students, parents, and teachers who see the Fair School Funding Plan as a way to more equally and effectively distribute resources to our children.

My son has both autism and a speech disability, yet has made great strides in preschool and kindergarten due to current funding and resources. His progress includes vastly improved speech (speech therapy), improved writing skills (occupational therapy), the exciting start of reading by himself (library class), receiving a healthy breakfast and lunch provided by the school, and much, much more.

While the state is promoting an increase in public education funding, the proposed budget falls short of what the Berea City Schools was forecasted to receive from the state through the full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan. The Fair School Funding Plan was designed to make school funding more equitable by calculating the real cost of educating each student and ensuring the state pays its fair share. This plan replaced an unconstitutional system the Ohio Supreme Court ruled inadequate.

Under the House's proposed budget, Berea City Schools would receive only a 4.5% increase in funding—far short of the 7.9% projected under full implementation of the plan.

This is especially frustrating when you consider that Berea, Middleburg Heights, and Brook Park send over \$33 million in tax revenue to Columbus each year.

Despite that contribution, our district is receiving the lowest per-student funding percentage the state allows.

As a single mom of a child with more than the usual challenges to learning - including autism, a speech disability, and a single-parent home - please consider keeping the Fair School Funding Plan on behalf of Berea City Schools.

Thank you for your public service, time, energy, and consideration in this important matter. My son shows great potential, despite his challenges, and I know from first-hand experience that every resource provided helps immensely. **Please advocate to keep resources for these public school students - they are our future!**

Sincerely,

**Jacob's Mom,
Rachel Garofolo**