



# LONDON CITY SCHOOLS

380 ELM STREET, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor LONDON, OHIO 43140 TEL: 740-852-5700  
[WWW.LONDON.K12.OH.US](http://WWW.LONDON.K12.OH.US)

## Senate Local Government Committee House Bill 186

### London City School District, Madison County November 12, 2025

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee — thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 186. My name is **Kristine Blind**, and I am the **Treasurer/CFO of London City School District in Madison County**.

First, I want to express my appreciation for the House's amendment to hold school districts harmless and prevent retroactive revenue impacts. That was an important and thoughtful step. However, **HB 186 remains deeply concerning in its current form**.

The "as introduced" version of the bill included a logical and necessary adjustment to the state funding formula to reflect the cap on property tax revenue growth. Without this adjustment, the state share of funding to schools will decrease because the formula will fail to recognize that our local revenues are now limited by law. The local capacity measure will continue to rely on **full assessed values**, even though our districts are no longer able to collect taxes on that full amount. Our local "capacity" will appear higher on paper than it is in practice, and that means less support for students in our classrooms.

For London City Schools, that disconnect translates into **financial harm**. It means less funding to support every child who walks through our doors. All costs are climbing across the board. Inflation continues to drive up expenses, and our population of students with special needs is growing. Our utility costs alone have surged. We've spent **25% more this year** than last for the same electricity usage, and we expect another **21% increase next July**.

It has taken years of careful planning to rebuild financial stability after the district experienced financial hardship in 2012 and made significant cuts. We've restored vital programs, replaced outdated curriculum, improved facilities for our community, and eliminated all student and pay-to-participate fees. These accomplishments reflect our deep commitment to fiscal responsibility and educational excellence. We are proud of the district we've become and our report card shows the progress we've made.

We fully recognize that property taxes have become a heavy burden for Ohioans, and we want to be part of the solution. But placing that burden disproportionately on **public school districts**, who did not create this problem, is neither fair nor sustainable.

That's why we **urge you to support HB 186 as it was originally introduced**, with the adjustment that keeps the funding formula fair and accurate. We can solve this problem **together**, without undermining and penalizing the schools that educate our children and anchor our communities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Preparing every student for life's challenges and opportunities in an ever-changing world. #londonpossible

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