



Monroe Local Schools

Superintendent: Kathy Demers ■ Treasurer: Holly J. Cahall, CPA

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Dear Committee Members,

I am a proponent of the Fair School Funding Plan because it supports equity in funding. I live in Monroe, Ohio. Because over the years it was a District growing in enrollment, our school is now one of the most capped Districts in the State. We receive 50% of the State funding - half the funding we would receive if the Fair School Funding formula and our tax base were being used in a formula.

Other communities with similar wealth and property values receive more per student in State funding than Monroe. This has come about through the years of no formula, when schools were shorted funds to keep other schools from losing funds. What this means is that our local taxpayers must pay more property taxes than taxpayers in other communities just like Monroe. And yet, our taxpayers still pay income tax like everyone else.

While our property values per student rank in the bottom third of Ohio communities, our local taxpayers are taxed as much as top one fourth of schools in Ohio. As such, we are only able to offer basic K-12 programs, in comparison to other schools. We do with less but want to offer more, but know offering more requires local support and we are tapped out.

Like other public schools, we do have children going to other schools but not many, and out of the \$7.5 million dollars we receive from the State, the State takes \$1.2 million for 6% of our students to send to scholarship programs. This takes more local funds away.

I speak for our citizens who must bear a financial burden that is beyond their means because they chose to live here. Policies like this are not only a detriment to educational programs, but they also harm communities, and over time, I suspect they will discourage people and companies from coming to our State.

Thank you for considering the Fair School Funding Plan. It is about educating our children and it is about being fair to our tax paying citizens.

Thank you,

Holly J. Cahall, CPA
Treasurer/CFO,
Monroe Local Schools