



**House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
HB 33 Testimony**

**Perrysburg Exempted Village School District, Wood County
Randy Drewyor, CFO/Treasurer**

March 22, 2023

Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill (HB) 33.

My name is Randy Drewyor and I serve as the CFO/Treasurer for the Perrysburg Exempted Village School District in Wood County. We are a suburban district covering approximately 28 square miles with eight school buildings educating about 5,800 students. We are a growing district adding about 100 students per year. As a district, Perrysburg relies very heavily on local taxpayers for our funding.

Previous testimony from members of the Fair School Funding Committee have addressed the philosophical and big picture issues of the funding formula. Today I want to focus my comments on how the fair funding formula impacts my district and my community.

We greatly appreciate the Governor including the fair funding plan and its continued phase-in in his executive budget. Maintaining the fair funding formula and its phase-in is good but it is not enough. I not only want to address the formula and its phase-in but also discuss how updating base costs and fully funding the fair school funding formula impacts Perrysburg families.

You have heard many times that one of the benefits of the fair funding formula is that it lays out a predictive model on funding. Whether the formula generates additional funding for my district or not, the predictive nature of the formula helps me produce more accurate 5-Year Forecasts and thus providing a solid basis for discussions with the Board of Education and the community on operating levies. For my district, the consistency of this model is critically important as I balance the impact of student growth with valuation changes.

One of our biggest challenges is funding all-day kindergarten. Currently, to offer all-day kindergarten, we charge tuition. We have 80% of our families opting in to all-day kindergarten and thus paying tuition generating approximately \$700,000 per year. With the continual phase-in of the fair funding plan tuition all-day kindergarten becomes a viable option for Perrysburg families in school year 2025. Besides the obvious of reducing the financial burden on kindergarten families the phased-in formula will give more families access to tuition-free all-day kindergarten.

The single most important portion of the fair school funding formula is the update of the base costs. Below is a table that shows the impact of not updating base costs from their current 2018.

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Per Pupil Base Cost	\$ 7,291	\$ 7,292	\$ 7,285	\$ 7,287	\$ 7,289
State Per Pupil Share	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,328	\$ 1,139	\$ 974	\$ 798

With base costs remaining stagnant at 2018 levels, while allowing for district wealth to increase, the state funding per student falls quite dramatically. Assuming FY 2020 funding levels are maintained, this pushes the district deep into the guarantee thus essentially making the formula moot.

With even just a modest update to the base costs (2020 costs)- see table below), the formula stays relevant with the state share adjusting to an increase in base costs. This change keeps Perrysburg on the formula and off the guarantee.

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Per Pupil Base Cost	\$ 7,291	\$ 7,562	\$ 7,554	\$ 7,841	\$ 7,843
State Per Pupil Share	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,598	\$ 1,409	\$ 1,528	\$ 1,352

Fundamentally the Fair School Funding Plan formula works but only if it's implemented, funded and allowances make for base costs to increase.

Ms. Chairwoman, this concludes my testimony. I urge the committee to continue the fund and continue the phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan. I will be happy to address your questions.

Randy Drewyor
 Treasurer/CFO
 Perrysburg Exempted Village School District