



HB 33 Interested Party Testimony
House Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services
March 7, 2023
Inspirededucation
Alexandra Greene, Co-Founder

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services, thank you for letting me testify today as an interested party on HB 33, Ohio's biennial operating budget. My name is Alex Greene, and I am the Co-Founder of Inspirededucation.

Inspirededucation is a Columbus-based nonprofit working to ensure every student has a PURPOSE and a PATH after high school or after they turn 18. We work to advise, motivate, and empower underserved, TANF-eligible students to realize their best individual post-secondary path. Because many high school students see graduation as the end goal and the school counselor to student ratio in Ohio is 1:400 countless students graduate high school or turn 18 with no clear path forward.¹ Far too many students are left without appropriate guidance to an attainable and individual post-secondary plan. Without a researched, strategic, and individualized plan, these young adults often fall into poverty in addition to social and psychological hardships.

Inspirededucation provides personalized, data-driven career readiness support to students empowering them to make informed decisions for their post-secondary path. Spanning up to 40-hours, our collaborative advising includes work internalizing personal responsibility for educational and financial decisions, goal setting and planning, and informed decision making based on personal skills and strengths. Whether our enrollees head to a university, a technical workforce training program, or directly into the workplace, they all find their own individual path to success.

Last biennium, Inspirededucation received a TANF earmark of \$100,000 per fiscal year in the operating budget and we are pleased to report this has provided over 1,000 service hours with students while creating a dollar-per-dollar return on investment for our 2022 graduating class of over 2,000 percent. We are asking your consideration and support in reauthorizing our TANF earmark and increasing it to \$300,000 per fiscal year to facilitate service expansion and reach even more students. I also want to mention this is a TANF earmark request, not a General Revenue Fund request.

This increase will help ensure more TANF-eligible students who need our services can access them. It will triple our service impact by providing for an additional 4,000 service hours of capacity—equivalent to 200, 40-hour work weeks. Students who utilize our program emerge prepared to make responsible decisions about their future helping break cycles of poverty.

On the next page of our testimony, you will find some of the students you have helped support and the positive impact created by your investment in Inspirededucation.

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as an interested party on HB 33, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/238f136e-ec52-4bf2-94b6-f24c39447022/Ratios-20-21-Alpha.pdf>

Student Experience



Sixto M.

Sixto is a TANF eligible student from Dublin, OH. In the Fall of 2021, he attended Dublin Scioto High School for his senior year. Sixto was not only struggling to navigate his purpose and path but also the post-secondary system. After with Inspirededucation, he received a total of \$78,192 in scholarships from 4 schools. Ultimately, Sixto committed to Ohio University, where he will start Fall 2022, studying Mechanical Engineering.

Victoria M.

Victoria is a Gahanna Lincoln High School junior. Her and her family moved to Gahanna, OH in Summer of 2021. Victoria is severely hearing impaired and did not receive the services or assistive technology she needed until Spring 2022. She is currently engaged in self-discovery and career research activities, exploring paths in the Health, Business, and Technology fields, with her Inspirededucation advisor. Victoria is interested in attending a 4-year program at a HBCU.



Levi F.

Levi is a TANF-eligible student born and raised in Columbus, OH. Levi attends the Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS) and is exploring collegiate, 4-year programs specializing in Theater Technology/Lighting and Visual Communication Design. At this time, Levi would like to stay within Ohio and is considering commuting to school from his childhood home, though he is keeping his options open and researching programs within a 3-hour drive.

