

Email/letter to business and community leaders

To: Local Business Leaders/Partners

Subject: Support <DISTRICT>: Bring State Tax Dollars Home

Thank you for your support of <DISTRICT>. We are grateful to have a strong local community that values education, our students and our staff.

It was monumental when the state legislature implemented a new school funding formula, the Fair School Funding Plan, into law in 2021. For decades, school funding was inadequate, inequitable and overly reliant on local support through property and income taxes. This plan addresses those issues, *but only when fully implemented*.

Ohio is currently in the fourth year of a six-year implementation. The budget bill as introduced includes years five and six of the phase-in but does not include an update of the cost inputs (freezing them at 2022 levels). By using outdated cost inputs, the formula is out of balance and does not recognize the inflationary increases we are all experiencing. This means districts receive less money from the state, resulting in local communities paying more of the costs to educate their children.

As you know, every dollar invested in our local schools impacts our local economy and your future workforce. Once fully implemented, the Fair School Funding Plan [will bring an additional OR provide at least] \$<INSERT DOLLAR AMOUNT> annually in state funding to <DISTRICT>. This will create predictability and stability for our community when making decisions about what our local schools provide for our students to prepare them for future success.

We recognize that Ohio's economic climate is not as favorable as it was heading into the last state budget. However, *every dollar invested in our local schools impacts our local economy and our future workforce*. Once fully implemented, the Fair School Funding Plan will bring predictability and stability for Ohio schools, allowing districts to sustain and develop programming that will prepare all students for success. That means Ohio will continue to be a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

I have already met with our state legislators to share our district's support for the Fair School Funding Plan, the need to fully fund the formula including updating the inputs, and the impact full funding will make locally for our students. You can join in supporting this legislation by also reaching out to State Senator <NAME> at <EMAIL ADDRESS> and Representative <NAME> at <EMAIL ADDRESS> to share your support for fully funding the formula.

I'm also attaching some facts about the plan to this email. I will be in touch soon to answer any questions you may have. Fully funding this formula has the potential to change the future of our district and Ohio's education system. It is important for our legislators to hear from everyone in our community about the stability that a fully funded formula will provide.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our local schools.

Sincerely,

<SIGNATURE>