

[Your Name]
[Street Address]
Springfield, OH 455 __
[Email] | [Phone]

The Ohio Senate Building
Attn: Senator Lois Blessing
1 Capitol Square
First Floor, 143
Columbus, Ohio 43215

[Date]

Dear Senator Blessing,

I am writing as a concerned [student | parent | community member] in the Springfield City School District (SCSD) to urge you to fairly and fully fund Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan in the upcoming biennial budget. Our district serves approximately 7,500 learners across seventeen schools—100 percent of whom are economically disadvantaged, with over 1,500 English Learners and nearly 400 homeless students. These realities demand a funding system that keeps pace with actual educational costs and recognizes Springfield's concentrated poverty and multilingual needs.

How current policy is eroding support for Springfield students

- **Real-dollar decline in state support.** While Springfield's nominal state foundation aid will rise only 1.5 percent from FY 2023 to FY 2025 —far below cumulative inflation—its purchasing power is shrinking by more than \$500 per pupil. This represents a real revenue loss approaching \$4 million annually, shifting costs to local taxpayers and families of the district whose median family income hovers just above \$30,000. [Ohio Archives Bureau of Labor Statistics](#); [FY2024 District Profile Report](#)
- **Springfield millage generates meager revenue.** In the Springfield City Schools, one mill of property tax produces just \$803,484.92 per year—about \$107 per pupil. Nearby districts enjoy far deeper tax bases: Beavercreek City Schools collects roughly three times that amount per mill (\$2.4 million), and the high-wealth Olentangy Local Schools realizes \$180.65 per pupil—more than \$3.5 million per mill. Because of this stark disparity, an 8-mill levy in Springfield would yield only about \$6.4 million—barely a single month of operation in a district whose annual expenses already top \$116 million. Asking an economically distressed community to shoulder an 8-mill burden that merely keeps the lights on is neither fiscally prudent nor socially feasible.
- **Stagnant base-cost inputs.** Because the Fair School Funding Plan still relies on FY 2022 staffing and cost data, the formula understates today's true instructional, life skills, and transportation expenses—particularly acute in districts like ours with escalating multilingual and student wellness needs. [HONESTY FOR OHIO EDUCATION](#)
- **Proposed 30 percent (90-day) cash-balance cap.** Imposing a 30 percent ceiling on reserves would compel Springfield to draw down the fiscally responsible fund balance that stabilizes operations between semi-annual tax settlements and internally “floats” state and federal grants—an advance of roughly \$1.5 million per month, or \$18 million annually, while awaiting reimbursement. Eroding this cushion would undermine the district's capacity to meet payroll, sustain transportation, and deliver mandated special-education services, pushing Springfield toward fiscal emergency and forcing more frequent levy requests.

Funding priorities we respectfully request

1. Do not reduce the State’s share of Springfield’s base cost in the FY 2026–27 biennium, and preserve the district’s \$2.7 million in supplemental targeted assistance—funding outside the base-cost formula that current proposals would have eliminated, spared only by House Bill language maintaining FY 2025 levels.
2. Update all cost inputs to current-year data, so the formula reflects actual salaries, benefits, and service contracts.
3. Fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan using the updated data and higher minimum share.
4. Remove the 30 percent/90-day cash-balance restriction from any budget-related legislation.

Why this matters

Springfield’s mission is “to foster a consistent, collaborative learning culture where each student is engaged, encouraged, and empowered to achieve full potential.” Fair, reliable State funding—free from arbitrary caps—will:

- Sustain wrap-around services that mitigate poverty, homelessness, and language barriers.
- Reduce the size and frequency of local levies in a community already shouldering a heavy tax burden.
- Preserve financial stability and avert state fiscal-distress interventions.

I respectfully ask you to champion these priorities throughout the budget process and vote for a final package that fully funds Ohio’s public schools. Springfield’s students, educators, and families are counting on your leadership. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to Ohio’s children.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Printed Name]

[Relationship to SCSD—e.g., Parent of Two SCSD Students]