



## **OLENTANGY SCHOOLS<sup>SM</sup>**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OLENTANGY ASKS FOR SUPPORT FOR OHIO FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN**

For the first time in nearly three decades, the Ohio General Assembly has brought forward a plan to adequately and equitably fund Ohio schools with the Fair School Funding Plan.

House Bill (HB) 110, the budget bill, includes the Fair School Funding Plan. The Fair School Funding Plan, as introduced in House Bill (HB) 1, bases state school funding on what students actually need to succeed. It is a plan that was developed over the last three years by a team of educational leaders, and treats all Ohio school districts and taxpayers fairly, based on capacity to pay. The Fair School Funding Plan, when fully phased in, will ensure that Ohio's children will have the quality educational opportunities they all deserve.

Board President Julie Wagner Feasel is committed in her efforts to improve the district's state and federal funding by working to repair the distribution of pandemic relief and the school funding formula. Mrs. Wagner Feasel states, "While Olentangy has had compounding pandemic expenses, we did not receive any funding in the second round of CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funds based on the distribution formula. Decision makers need to address these discrepancies, and pass a permanent resolution to the broken school funding system."

Olentangy Schools currently receives \$467/pupil in funding from the state, which is only an \$80/pupil increase since 1999. While Olentangy has one of the lowest per pupil expenditures in the state (\$11,875/student), the funding gap places a significant burden on its taxpayers for education. The new school funding formula in the budget bill would significantly increase Olentangy's state funding.

Olentangy Schools Treasurer Emily Hatfield shares, "The time has come to fix the current school funding distribution method. The current school funding methodology ranks school districts against one another to receive funding. It causes districts with capped funding to lose local tax dollars in support of scholarship deductions. These same caps cause per pupil funding to decrease as enrollment continues to rise.

"The Fair School Funding Plan, included in House Bill 110, creates an understandable base cost, allocates funding for additional needs such as student wellbeing, special education, and transportation." Hatfield continues, "The FSFP eliminates the need for scholarship deductions and allows for increased per pupil funding with enrollment gains."



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Olentangy Schools is working hard to support these needed changes to school funding. We request the community's help by contacting their Senator to ask for his support. More information about the FSFP may be found at [bit.ly/FairSchoolFundingPlan](https://bit.ly/FairSchoolFundingPlan).

Treasurer Emily Hatfield and President Julie Wagner Feasel are open to speaking with media outlets to share the urgency and importance of passing Fair School Funding before the budget deadline at the end of June. This plan will have a huge impact on the future of Ohio education.

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