



Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Thomas J. Siloy
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4035 W. Central Ave.
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February 27, 2025

The Honorable Representative Gary Click
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: Urgent Need for Change to Governor DeWine's Budget Proposal

Dear Representative Gary Click,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the projected funding cuts to many Ohio school districts, including Ottawa Hills Local Schools, under Governor DeWine's biennium budget proposal. Based on current estimates, our district is expected to lose over \$500,000 in funding over the next two years—despite stable enrollment. This significant reduction will place an unsustainable financial strain on our schools, students, staff, and community.

Ottawa Hills Local Schools has long prioritized high-quality education, and our residents have consistently supported our schools through local levies. However, the expectation that local taxpayers must continually bear an increasing financial burden is no longer viable. With property taxes in Ottawa Hills Local higher than any other district in Ohio, increasing the burden on our residents is neither fair nor feasible.

State funding should provide stability for all public schools, ensuring that every child—regardless of their ZIP code—has access to a quality education. The current funding formula, coupled with the proposed reductions and the failure to adjust key inputs to reflect current costs, disproportionately affects districts like ours, where local capacity is already stretched to its limit. Without adequate state support, school districts will be forced to make difficult decisions that will directly impact academic programs, staffing, and student opportunities.

I urge you to advocate for increased state funding to support public education across Ohio. Our students deserve a strong and well-funded education system.

Your time and consideration on this critical issue is appreciated. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to ensure that Ottawa Hills LSD and all Ohio public schools receive the funding they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Siloy
Treasurer/CFO, Ottawa Hills Local Schools