To: All Staff, All Parents, Non-parent resident list

Date: June 20, 2025

The following is a joint message from leaders of Delaware County school districts.

Dear Greater Delaware County families, district staff, and community members,

We write to you with an urgent, time-sensitive request to contact our legislators to **oppose** **Ohio House Bill 335** (HB 335). As the state budget proposals and discussions progress, a series of Ohio property tax provisions within HB 335 are under consideration. This legislation enacts sweeping property tax reforms that could significantly impact public schools statewide, including those in Delaware County, by eliminating the non-voted guaranteed funding provided by inside millage, banning new emergency and substitute levies, and granting county budget commissions the authority to override previous voter-approved levies. More importantly, HB 335—nor any of the current state budget proposals—introduces plans to replace the revenues that would be lost to districts and municipalities.

If HB 335 becomes law, the sweeping overhaul of Ohio's property tax system would erase nearly $2 billion in funding for the state's 609 public school districts ahead of the upcoming school year; it could represent the largest K-12 funding cuts in state history. The sudden and unexpected loss of this nature could see the elimination of nearly 20,000 teaching and other essential student support roles across the state. Without this essential operating revenue, the high-quality academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular experiences students and families across our Delaware County community expect and deserve will suffer.

As school districts and residents of our communities, we support meaningful property tax reform and welcome thoughtful examination of Ohio's taxation structure. However, we cannot support a rash measure that may destabilize public education and public services, placing public school districts and other public entities on a pathway to fiscal insolvency and emergency.[1] The forecasted tax relief for our residents would be short-lived, as school districts across our state would be forced to seek additional

operating funds immediately by unfairly shifting the tax burden onto local residents in the form of future levies.

Next Steps: The provisions in this bill could be added to the budget bill during the conference committee process. It is crucial that legislators hear from our Delaware County community during the committee's negotiations, **which must conclude by June 30**.

Find your members of the Ohio General Assembly by using your address: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/members/district-maps

We encourage you to reach out to our legislators and ask them to reject HB 335 and continue to support public education. The future of our shared community's economic health depends on maintaining strong schools. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Ryan McLane Superintendent Big Walnut Local Schools	Dr. Ric Stranges Superintendent Buckeye Valley Local Schools	Jay Poroda Superintendent Delaware Area Career Center
Scott Gooding Interim Treasurer/CFO Big Walnut Local Schools	Kelly Ziegler Treasurer Buckeye Valley Local Schools	Christopher Bell Treasurer Delaware Area Career Center
Heidi Kegley Superintendent Delaware City Schools	Todd R. Meyer Superintendent Olentangy Schools	Angela S. Hamberg Superintendent Westerville City Schools
Jill Corwin Treasurer/CFO Delaware City Schools	Ryan Jenkins Treasurer Olentangy Schools	Nicole Marshall Treasurer/CFO Westerville City Schools

Table 1: Inside Millage by District, Including Levy Purpose and Tax Revenues At Risk

School District	Inside Millage	Purpose	Tax Revenues At Risk*
Big Walnut	4.60	General Expenses	$8,100,998

Buckeye Valley	3.00	General Expenses	$3,554,109
	1.50	Permanent Improvements	$1,777,054
Centerburg	4.40	General Expenses	$1,300,216
Delaware City	4.40	General Expenses	$6,924,690
Dublin	4.40	General Expenses	$24,271,671
Elgin	4.30	General Expenses	$1,040,083
Highland	4.00	General Expenses	$1,810,232
	0.60	Permanent Improvements	$271,535
Johnstown Monroe	4.60	General Expenses	$3,253,011
North Union	3.50	General Expenses	$1,180,833
	1.05	Permanent Improvements	$354,250
Northridge	4.10	General Expenses	$2,101,635
Olentangy	5.00	General Expenses	$34,858,914
Westerville	3.80	General Expenses	$16,231,156
Grand Totals			$107,030,387
*2024 Public Utility Values unavailable by District, so 2023 used for estimate			

[1] Table 1 at the end of this document shows that public schools across Delaware County would lose at least **$107 million** in annual funding that provides educational services to our County's children daily.