

North Fork Local School District

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North Fork Local Schools Community,

We want to share important information about potential legislation that could significantly impact how our schools are funded.

Why This Matters

Many Ohio families are experiencing higher property tax burdens than in previous decades. Seniors worry about staying in their homes, and families are struggling to make ends meet. Ohio now has the **8th-highest property taxes in the nation**, but this isn't because schools are overspending — it's the result of decades of **state tax policies** that have shifted more of the burden from businesses and the state onto homeowners.

- In 1991, Ohio homeowners paid **47% of school property taxes**.
- Today, homeowners pay nearly **70%**.
- Since 2000, **state revenues for education have declined** (after adjusting for inflation), and per-student funding has increased by only **6% in 22 years**.

During that time, schools have consolidated, shared services, and stretched every dollar to continue providing quality education.

What's Being Considered

Two bills currently being discussed in the Ohio House could greatly reduce local school funding:

- **House Bill 186 (HB 186)**: Caps the revenue schools can receive after property reappraisals. As written, it would also apply **retroactively to 2023**, meaning schools could lose funding already built into current budgets.
- **House Bill 335 (HB 335)**: Limits annual growth in local school funding from "inside millage" (a portion of property taxes) to **1% per year**. If inflation rises faster than that, schools will fall behind financially.

The Impact on North Fork

If HB 186 passes as currently written, **North Fork Local Schools could lose approximately \$1.8 million each year**.

These cuts would directly affect students, staff, and the broader community, including:

- Fewer elective and core classes
- Increased athletic and activity fees
- Reduction or elimination of student programs
- Job losses for teachers, administrators, and support staff

These cuts wouldn't just affect classrooms—they would impact our entire community, including local jobs and economic stability.

How You Can Help

We encourage families and community members to reach out to state legislators. Let them know that **you support strong, stable, and fair funding for public schools**.

Please share the following message:

- Support **balanced funding reform** that helps both families and schools.
- For **HB 186**, ask legislators to support the **original version** of the bill (without retroactive cuts).
- For **HB 335**, ask them to **tie the funding cap to inflation**, not just 1%.

We believe Ohio can provide both tax relief and strong public schools. With your voice, we can help shape a better future for our students and community. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact the district administrative office.

Sincerely,



Scott Hartley, Superintendent



Kellie Breehl, Treasurer