

Lordstown Local Schools

Administration Offices

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(330) 824-2001	•	Bus Garage	•	Fax (330) 824-3693

April 10, 2019

Lordstown Schools community,

We are fortunate every day to serve a great group of students and have supportive families and a community unmatched in their passion for their schools. We share a common goal of supporting and preparing our students for an exciting future where they can follow their individual dreams.

A hurdle Lordstown and many other schools have continued to struggle with is school finance. Not only has the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the school funding formula in Ohio is unconstitutional but the current funding formula funds only 18% of districts on its formula leaving 82% of districts outside the formula. This is the definition of a formula that is not working for students in Ohio.

The Lordstown Board of Education supports the recently introduced Ohio Fair School Funding. Unlike the current plan it is based on the actual costs of educating students in the 21st century. It maintains local control and was developed through a research-based approach over eighteen months.

One of the Fair School Funding Formula's admirable qualities is beginning the process of eliminating the gain cap that has impacted Lordstown Schools and about 120 of the 610 school districts in Ohio. Lordstown Schools alone loses nearly half of the state of Ohio's school funds its own formula states we should get. Next year it has been projected we would lose nearly \$1,000,000.00 due to the cap placed on the formula. The Fair School Funding Formula will eliminate this cap as part of this new formula.

The bi-partisan Fair School Funding Formula was developed under the leadership of Ohio State Representatives Robert Cupp (R) and John Patterson (D) and included 18 months of research by Ohio-based superintendents and treasurers. It is widely accepted that this plan may be the one realistic opportunity to build a new school funding system for the future of Ohio schools, but this can only happen with support being expressed to legislators.

You can help move the Ohio Fair School Funding Formula by reaching out to our local legislators and encouraging their support for this plan. An example would be as follows (to be individually customized):

Senator O'Brien/Representative O'Brien/Representative Holmes,

My name is _____ and I am a (parent, teacher, taxpayer, etc.) who lives in Trumbull County. Representatives Cupp and Patterson have recently introduced the Ohio Fair School Funding Plan.

That plan would make a very positive difference in funding for schools in Ohio and in Lordstown, especially since it begins the process of eliminating the arbitrary funding cap that exists in the outdated current funding formula. I urge you to support this plan!

Respectfully,

Your name and contact information

You can reach out by email, mail, or telephone using the contact information below:

Representative Glenn Holmes

Mailing Address:

**77 S. High St
10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215**

Office Phone # (614) 466-3488

Official email: Rep63@ohiohous.gov

Representative Mike O'Brien

Mailing Address:

**77 South High Street
10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215**

Office Phone # (614) 466-5358

Email: Rep64@ohiohous.gov

Senator Sean O'Brien

Mailing Address:

**1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

Office Phone # 614-466-7182

Email: SD32@ohiosenate.gov