

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

EXPRESSING the support of Council for continued implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan and **URGING** the Ohio Senate and Governor to ensure that the FY 2026-2027 budget includes continued implementation and full funding for the Fair School Funding Plan.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Constitution, Article VI, Section, 2, guarantees a “thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state” and the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that the state must fund schools adequately and equitably; and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (“FSFP”) was developed to meet the Ohio Constitution’s requirement of adequate and equitable funding by ensuring that all of the nearly ninety percent of Ohio students attending Ohio public schools receive necessary resources for a high-quality education, regardless of their ZIP code; and

WHEREAS, the 134th Ohio General Assembly passed into law a six-year phase-in of the FSFP which appropriated funding amounting to one-third of the cost of full implementation; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026-2027 budget, as passed by the Ohio House of Representatives in House Bill 96 and currently under debate by the Ohio Senate, threatens the FSFP, undermining public schools’ ability to plan their budgets and serve their students; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 96 caps school districts’ carryover funds at thirty percent of the prior year’s operating expenses, redirecting the excess to reduce property taxes which inhibits schools’ ability to effectively plan for the future; and

WHEREAS, if implemented, this carryover cap would reduce funding for Cincinnati Public Schools by \$32,391,394, compared to funding provided under the FSFP; and

WHEREAS, the fully implemented FSFP would ensure predictable, adequate, and equitable funding for all Ohio public schools and their students; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 96 undermines schools’ financial stability, forces school budget cuts, and increases school reliance on local levies for funding; and

WHEREAS, providing property tax relief by decreasing school funding is fiscally irresponsible, and any property tax provisions in the FY 2026-2027 budget should be considered separately; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council supports the Fair School Funding Plan (“FSFP”) and urges the Ohio Senate and Governor Mike DeWine to eliminate the thirty percent carryover fund cap provision included in House Bill 96 and to ensure that all future State budgets fully fund the FSFP and update cost calculations to reflect the actual costs of educating Ohio’s students.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be provided to Governor Mike DeWine and all members of the Ohio General Assembly whose districts include the City of Cincinnati.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, President Pro Tem Victoria Parks, Councilmember Scotty Johnson, and Councilmembers Anna Albi, Jeff Cramerding, Mark Jeffreys, Evan Nolan, Meeka Owens, and Seth Walsh