Email/letter to staff and parents

To: Staff & Parents

Subject: Bring State Tax Dollars Home to <DISTRICT NAME>

Dear Staff and Families:

Today I want to share with you some urgent and exciting news about the future of school funding in Ohio. The state of Ohio is in an excellent position to fully fund K-12 education and we need the help of the <DISTRICT NAME> community to ensure the future of our children remains bright.

The Ohio General Assembly took a giant step forward for Ohio schools and Ohio children by enacting the Fair School Funding Plan as part of the last biennial budget. This funding plan provides stability and predictability to our local school budget and ultimately provides our community with the information needed to make local decisions about our schools to meet the needs of students.

The Fair School Funding Plan, when fully phased in, will ensure that Ohio’s children will have the quality educational opportunities they all deserve. However, for the plan to be effective and constitutional, there is still work to be done! For the Fair School Funding Plan to work – for it to provide an equitable and adequate education for our students – it must be fully funded.

Ohio is in excellent financial shape because the state’s tax revenues for fiscal year (FY) 2022 finished $2.7 billion above the state’s original estimates. In addition, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) increased the state’s tax revenue estimate for FY 2023 by $1.65 billion (6.3%). Additionally, legislators have maxed out their annual contributions to the state’s rainy day fund (currently at $2.7 billion) which remains untapped. This means that the state’s average annual $400 million annual contribution will have to be invested somewhere else for the next two years.

**The state now has a plan in place that will, once and for all, fund schools through a constitutional and predictable formula. However, this requires that the plan be fully funded. The Fair School Funding Plan will fairly fund Ohio schools with *ZERO* state tax increases.**

Under the Fair School Funding Plan, our District knows the exact amount of state funding each year. However, due to the phase-in, we are receiving only 1/3 of that amount from the state. The state is in a great financial position to fund the remaining amount. A fully funded formula would create stability and would help us make smart financial decisions as a community to continue providing the programs and services our community has come to expect from <INSERT DISTRICT NAME>.

Based on its planned phase-in, our District [will see an additional OR continue to receive at least an estimated] $<INSERT DOLLAR AMOUNT> in state funding with no increase in state taxes for our residents. This is money our residents are currently paying in state taxes that will come back to our schools.

Now is the time to invest in our students and our schools. This plan is good for Ohio schools, students and taxpayers. We are meeting with our state representatives and state senator to share our support for fully funding this plan, and we will continue to educate our community about the importance of bringing our state dollars to <DISTRICT>.

There are many ways you can join us in supporting this legislation to fund Ohio schools and bring our state tax dollars back home.

1. Learn more about what this new funding plan would mean for your taxes and our schools - join me and our treasurer <TREASURER NAME> for a brief presentation and Q&A about school funding on <INSERT DATE AND TIME AND REGISTRATION DETAILS/LINK>. [Alternatively, revise to note the presentation of the five-year forecast.]
2. Write to or call your state representatives and state senator and share your support for our schools and ask them to invest Ohio’s excess revenue and available tax dollars in our students’ futures. <LINK TO LEGISLATOR CONTACT PAGES>.
3. Follow me on social media @<INSERT HANDLE AND PLATFORM>. I will be sharing more information in the coming weeks, especially on social media about the plan and how you can support bringing state tax dollars back to our local community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of our students.

Sincerely,

<SIGNATURE>