

**Subject:** A Message from Lexington Local Schools: State Budget Threatens Vital School Funding

Dear Lexington Families and Community Members,

As state leaders debate Ohio's next budget, we continue to speak up about provisions that could severely damage the future of public education, including right here in Lexington.

One proposal under serious consideration is the elimination of what's called *unvoted inside millage*, a critical source of funding for school districts across Ohio. For Lexington Local Schools, this change would result in a loss of **just under \$2.2 million each year**.

To put that in perspective, this is the equivalent of losing funding for **36 teaching positions** in our district. That would mean larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, and diminished services for our students.

And this is just one part of a broader and deeply troubling trend. The state is already pursuing other changes that further strip away public school funding. Without a plan to replace this lost revenue, these actions amount to disinvestment in our children, our schools, and our community.

We are not opposed to property tax reform, but it must not come at the cost of gutting our schools. Ohio's public schools rely on property taxes because that is how the system was built. Dramatic changes without a plan to sustain local funding will harm students and communities across our state.

Lexington Local Schools has always been committed to excellence, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility. We are proud of our staff, our students, and our supportive community. But we cannot maintain that standard if we are asked to do more with drastically less.

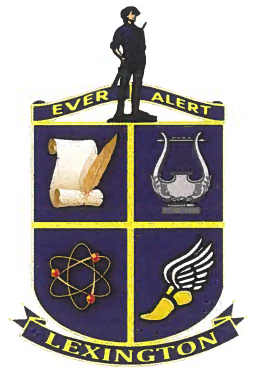
Please join us in standing up for our schools. Contact your state legislators today and let them know that Lexington deserves better—and so does every child in Ohio. For residents of Lexington Local School District, appropriate contacts are State Senator Mark Romanchuk at 614-466-7505 or [romanchuk@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:romanchuk@ohiosenate.gov) and Representative Marilyn John at 614-466-5802 or [rep76@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep76@ohiohouse.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeremy Secrist, Superintendent

Jason Whitesel, CFO/Treasurer

Lexington Local Board of Education



## Subject: Speak Up to Protect Lexington Schools

Dear Lexington Community,

We need your voice.

Ohio lawmakers are considering legislation, HB 96, Ohio's biennial budget, that could significantly impact Lexington Schools and our ability to provide students with the high-quality education they deserve. These proposed changes threaten funding we rely on to support classroom learning, retain quality teachers and staff, and maintain essential programs.

### What's at stake:

- **Loss of Inside Millage:** One provision under consideration would eliminate districts' ability to access inside millage. For Lexington, that would mean an annual loss of just under **\$2.2 million** — a direct hit to our general operations.
- **Emergency Levy Restrictions:** Another provision could prohibit school districts from renewing emergency levies. If passed, Lexington would lose an additional **\$2.7 million** annually in future revenue, impacting our next scheduled renewal in Spring 2026.
- **Loss of Local Control:** These changes would limit the authority of locally elected school boards to make financial decisions — including how and when to place levies on the ballot — transferring control away from our community.

These proposals are confusing by design. But the outcome is clear: they would destabilize school funding and put student programs and staffing at risk.

### What you can do:

Please contact the members of the HB 96 Conference Committee and urge them to:

- Oppose provisions that eliminate inside millage and emergency levy renewals
- Preserve the authority of local school boards and communities
- Protect stable, fair funding for public schools

### **Ohio House Conferees**

- **Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Ashville), Chair, House Finance Committee**  
Email: rep12@ohiohouse.gov | Phone: (614) 466-1464
- **Rep. Michael Dovilla (R-Berea), Vice Chair, House Finance Committee**  
Email: rep17@ohiohouse.gov | Phone: (614) 466-4895
- **Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland), Ranking Member, House Finance Committee**  
Email: rep16@ohiohouse.gov | Phone: (614) 466-3350

### **Ohio Senate Conferees**

- **Sen. Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland), Chair, Senate Finance Committee**  
Email: cirino@ohiosenate.gov | Phone: (614) 644-7718
- **Sen. Brian Chavez (R-Marietta), Vice Chair, Senate Finance Committee**  
Email: chavez@ohiosenate.gov | Phone: (614) 466-8056
- **Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Akron), Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee**  
Email: hicks-hudson@ohiosenate.gov | Phone: (614) 466-5204

You can also find your local legislators at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov>

Together, we must ensure Lexington students continue to have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Secrist, Superintendent  
Jason Whitesel, Treasurer/CFO  
**Lexington Local Schools**