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UNDERSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES & SCHOOL FUNDING

HENRY COUNTY COMMUNITY,

As school leaders who live and work in the same communities we serve, we see first hand the strain that current property taxes place on seniors, homeowners, farmers, and local businesses. The state relies heavily on local property taxes to fund essential public services. Strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand but funding must be built on balance. We stand united in urging a more thoughtful and fair approach, one that supports public education and essential services without making it harder for families, agriculture, and small business to thrive. Today, we share a picture of what's happening in our state.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE: OHIO HAS SHIFTED THE BURDEN ON YOU

Over the past two decades gradual decisions have fundamentally changed how Ohio funds education and who pays the bill. While the national average shows states funding about 45% of education costs, Ohio now funds only 33.5%, leaving local communities to pick up the difference. We are not spending more on education per student than we should be. In fact, Ohio ranks 20th nationally in per student spending. We're simply required to fund it differently than other states, through your property taxes instead of through state resources.

Ohio now **45th** in the nation in state funding for public schools.

In 1991, homeowners and farmers paid **47%** of school property taxes. Today, they pay nearly **70%**



The cost of running schools goes up every year, but the state's support hasn't kept up.

Costs ↑
State Support →

In **22** years state school funding has grown less than **1%** a year when adjusted for inflation.



OUR CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER SOLUTIONS

Every child in Henry County deserves the same opportunities we had growing up; excellent teachers, safe schools, and educational programs that prepare students for success. These aren't luxuries but investments in our community's future. The data shows that Ohio's schools aren't the problem, but rather state disinvestment. Ohio has fallen from 24th to 41st nationally in state revenue per student. State funding per student is \$2,672 below the national average. Therefore, the burden inevitably falls on our local communities.

THE PATH AHEAD

The path forward requires all of us, residents, educators, and elected officials, working together to find solutions that provide adequate state funding for public education while pursuing meaningful property tax relief. Thank you for your continued support of public education and for being a county that puts children first.