

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to urge you to take legislative action that would assist the failing financial situation in the Lancaster City School district.

As a member of the Ohio State Legislature, you not only have an opportunity but also a responsibility to work to solve the severe and unequal school funding issues that plague and destroy our public school system in this district and others like it around the state. Lancaster public schools are facing a crippling blow by the State of Ohio with the loss of 4.8 million dollars in school funding cuts for the 2006-2007 school year, with more cuts to come. No school district, as economically diverse as ours, could endure such extreme loss without sacrificing educational goals for our children, transportation assistance to and from school buildings, musical and artistic instruction for our youth, valuable breakfast and lunch programs, healthy after-school athletic programs, the maintenance and upkeep of existing buildings and grounds, and a myriad of other educational, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs and teams far too numerous to mention in one letter.

The time has come for you to act, and it is imperative that you do so with conscientiousness, devotion, and expediency on behalf of Lancaster's students and others like them around the state. In 1994, the Ohio State Supreme court found the state's school funding system to be in violation of the state constitution. The legislature was directed to solve the inequitable school-funding problem in the state. Since that time, the legislature has been directed **four more times** to solve this problem, yet you and your colleagues remain inactive and silent on this pressing issue. I encourage you to act now to save our failing public school district.

Sincerely,