

Stark County Rally for Public Education

Retired teacher and President of Public Education Partners (PEP) attended the Stark County Rally for Public Education on June 10 in Canton. Below are her observations and a recommendation.

Recently a state Senator in Ohio told school representatives that opposing the Senate's education funding plan proposed in the budget could lead to worse outcomes.

"I would suggest that you do everything you can to support the Senate plan, because as we go into conference, there's going to be other competing viewpoints on how to do this, and it only could get worse for you," he said. "So, I suggest that you support the Senate plan."

When state lawmakers refuse to consult with education experts and collaborate on adequate and equitable education policies, people really get fed up.

Opposition to the proposed state funding changes for public schools continues to grow as mayors, city council members, local elected officials, and community members join education leaders, school staff, and educators in the fight against the ongoing attacks on public education in the Buckeye State.

Kudos to the Mayor of Canton who initiated a pro-public education event that took place at the Canton Memorial Civic Center on June 10th! He invited Stark County school superintendents to speak at A Rally for Public Education to discuss how the proposed state funding changes will negatively affect local students and communities.

"We need to remain unified in our resolve in support of children, educators and schools in our community in the long term and we need to help to do that," the mayor said to the audience. "You can say this is not my lane or my problem, but this is all of our problems right now."

One local school superintendent added, "We are one county united in one goal- bring awareness to what is happening in Columbus. In our opinion, this will quickly destroy and dismantle public school districts in Stark County."

"The state is taking money from us. It is criminal and the most brazen attempt I've seen in 26 years to destroy public education," said a local BOE member.

One by one, local leaders repeated that the rally was a call for unity to ask educators, parents, and voters to speak out in defense of Ohio's public schools.

Over 1,000 audience members left the rally with information on how to contact legislators to make sure that they hear from the community about the need for fair funding for Ohio schools. They were urged to tell their State Senators and representatives:

- Do not decrease the state's share of school funding in the budget.
- Use current data to determine the actual coast to educate- NOT 2022 data.
- Increase the minimum state share of the base cost from 10% to 20%.

- Fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan with the above changes.
- Remove the provision restricting school district cash balances.

The state budget will be finalized in the next few weeks, and Ohio legislators need to hear from their constituents as soon as possible about removing items that are clearly destructive to public school districts and the children and families they serve.

Ohio local government officials are encouraged to follow in the steps of Stark County by hosting county-wide public education rallies to educate community members and provide resourced action plans.

Silence is often interpreted as compliance. It's time to push back on legislators who use threats to silence their constituents into compliance!

Resource: <https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/education/2025/06/10/stark-public-school-leaders-public-education-is-under-attack/84132271007/>