



State Representative

Juanita Brent

Dear Governor Mike DeWine,

This letter serves as feedback received from six School Districts in House District 12. House District 12 represents 10 cities: (**Bedford, Bedford Heights, Highland Hills, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, North Randall, Orange Village, Pepper Pike, and Warrensville Heights**). During all of the meetings, we discussed the main concerns that the school districts have as we approach the reopening of the state. Here were the top 11 concerns that were highlighted:

1. **Connectivity**- Making internet a utility like gas and electricity. Equitable access to internet.
2. **State Report Cards**- Right-sizing state report cards. Safe Harbor year.
3. **Extend school learning**- Keeping students engaged over the summer.
4. **State Funding**- Maintain or increase state funding but no decreases. Budget Stabilization.
5. **School Day**- Redefining the school day and possibly expanding hours of availability for teachers.
6. **Free Meals Program**- Additional funding (state or federal) required.
7. **PPE Concerns**- Providing schools with appropriate personal protective equipment.
8. **Social Distancing**- Will 25 kids to a classroom be practical with social distancing? Staggered class schedules?
9. **Mental Health Services**- Funding for Wellness Programs and Mental Health Services for students.
10. **Remote Learning**- Improving effective remote learning. Some parents wary of sending their kids back to high-risk environment of school.
11. **Guidance**- Early June is timeframe on when school districts need guidance to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition to the top topics that came up, it was also discussed what things the state could fund to improve the safety of the children and staff of the schools. The suggestions were hand-sanitization stations throughout the school, daily temperature checks, and funding of face masks (sanitizing used masks for re-use).

As you continue to develop and assemble your Task Force to address Ohio school issues, I believe it is important to have all parts of Ohio be represented in the decision-making process; Rural, Urban, and Suburban areas. That is why I recommend Superintendent Donald Jolly of Warrensville Heights and Superintendent Andrea Celico of Bedford for this Task Force as they represent diverse communities within Ohio. Their contact information will be included.

Certainty and clarity for Ohio families is essential during these trying and uncertain times. By handling the concerns of Ohio families seriously and with great care, we can keep the Ohio Promise; that the safety of Ohioans will always take priority over special interests. I strongly urge you to heed the concerns of our school districts as the plan to reopen Ohio develops.

Sincerely,

State Representative Juanita Brent
Ohio House District 12

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Juanita Brent".

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