



PREPARING STUDENTS  
**FOR LIFE**

To: The Honorable Larry Householder, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives  
The Honorable Larry Obhof, President of the Ohio Senate  
The Honorable Scott Oelslager, Chairman of the Ohio House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Matt Dolan, Chairman of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Jim Butler, Ohio House Speaker Pro Tempore  
The Honorable Dave Burke, Vice Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Jack Cera, Ranking Member Ohio House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Sean O'Brien, Member Ohio Senate Finance Committee

From: Laura Mitchell, Superintendent, Cincinnati Public Schools

Re: Am. Sub. HB 166

Date: June 25, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Conference Committee for Am. Sub. HB 166. Cincinnati Public Schools urges you to consider these items as the Conference Committee considers the bill.

#### **Student Wellness and Success Funds**

Cincinnati Public Schools prefers that the Conference Committee restore the investments made in the House version of the bill. CPS is one of the only school districts in the state to have a mental health partner in every school. And Cincinnati Public School's nationally-recognized Community Learning Center model also includes 26 school-based health centers, vision and dental clinics, and social-emotional learning services co-located in CPS schools.

These funds would invest in the social-emotional well-being of the District's nearly 36,000 students using the Student Wellness and Success Funds. The District is grateful that Governor DeWine, the Ohio House, and the Ohio Senate understand the critical need for additional resources.

#### **Academic Distress Commissions**

Cincinnati Public Schools knows there is a need for the State of Ohio to support failing districts, but opposes state efforts to circumvent or subvert local control. Cincinnati Public Schools' Board of Education recently passed a resolution calling for the repeal of HB 70. Cincinnati Public Schools supports the House version of the bill that would enact HB 154 and repeal HB 70.

#### **Graduation Requirements**

Cincinnati Public Schools supports the changes to the Graduation Requirements that creates more flexible pathways for students to achieve a high school diploma. The ability to create diploma seals locally will help CPS invest in our "Three E's" – to ensure our students are Enrolled in higher education, Enlisted in the military, and ultimately Employed in their chosen career pathway.