

FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING FACTS

The Fair School Funding Plan brings tax dollars home to local communities and fixes school funding and we can do it right now with zero tax increase.

- ✓ It is a **constitutional** solution to school funding (providing for adequacy and equity) that will fix school funding once and for all.
- ✓ It allows for **more local control** as it will bring predictable state dollars to local communities where they belong. And, it **reduces the over-reliance on local taxes.**
- ✓ It benefits Ohio schools and provides predictable funding to school district budgets.
- ✓ It can be funded with existing state dollars and at **zero** tax increase.
- ✓ The time is now as **Ohio is in excellent financial shape.**

The Fair Funding Plan is a constitutional solution to school funding. What we have now is a broken, unpredictable and non-existent funding system. It's difficult for schools to make long-term plans with short-term fixes.

- Ohio has not had a school funding formula since the 2018-19 school year, and prior to that, an estimated 80% of Ohio school districts were not on the state's funding formula.
- School funding in Ohio has been ruled unconstitutional three times since 1997.
- The Fair Funding Plan can be broken down into three main components: (1) the base cost; (2) the state and local share; and (3) additional targeted assistance/ categorical aid.
 - It's adequate.
 - › The base cost is a per pupil rate that takes into account the actual cost that is needed to adequately educate each child in Ohio and is provided based on actual enrollment.
 - › The additional targeted assistance and categorical aid supports students with different needs (economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, gifted students, etc.)
 - It's equitable.
 - › The state and local share portion of the formula accounts for the local fiscal capacity through both property values and income levels in each community.
 - › Not overly reliant on local taxes.

It benefits Ohio schools and provides predictable funding to school district budgets.

- Alternative educational options (EdChoice) for students which are causing hemorrhaging in many district budgets would be paid by the state and not local school districts in the plan.
- Ohio schools will benefit from stability and predictability in the state share of school funding that has been either unconstitutional or non-existent for nearly three decades.

It allows for more local control and reduces the overreliance on local taxes. A vote for this legislation is a vote for Ohio schools, students, and communities.

- Local control is best for all—Ohio taxpayers expect a fair funding system to support quality education in their local schools and communities.
- Supporting this plan means we can bring predictable funding to our local communities and in some cases it will reduce the frequency by which schools are pushed to the ballot box for operational funding.
- When we stabilize school budgets, we invest in Ohio's future—this plan ensures that school districts can focus on educating students rather than worrying all the time about how to make ends meet.

FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING FACTS

It can be funded right now—with existing state funds—and at zero tax increase.

- This plan calls for a six-year phase-in of incremental, annual increases to Ohio's public school funding.
- The plan calculates the actual base cost to adequately educate each child, the cost to adequately educate students with different needs (economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, gifted students, etc.) and the equitable portion of the state and local share to fund public education in each community without an over-reliance on local taxes.
- The incremental rollout of the Fair School Funding Plan can easily come from a number of places within Ohio's existing budget, with zero tax increase such as:
 - Ohio's Rainy Day Fund is maxed out at the statutory limit of \$2.7 billion. Essentially, the state has maxed out their contributions to their savings account (depositing an average of \$400 million annually in seven of the last ten years)—an account which went untouched even during the pandemic—which means now we can choose to invest some of these dollars in education.
 - Ohio's budget is in excellent shape, as of March 2021, revenues are running \$763 million ahead of estimates and \$1.5 billion ahead of where we were one year ago in March 2020.

Ohio is in excellent shape financially. The time to act is now. This plan has been thoroughly vetted and researched and it has broad, bipartisan support.

- The plan, as it is currently written, is reasonable, stable, objective, fair, and transparent; it complies with the adequate and equitable constitutional requirements.
- This bipartisan bill implements a constitutional and fair funding system that is simple. It takes into account what it costs to educate a child in the state of Ohio and what each district needs to operate effectively.
- The plan has strong bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and it is supported by over 1,000 school district leaders representing more than 500 school districts in Ohio.
- Dr. Howard Fleeter, economist and leading Ohio school funding expert who serves as a consultant to the Ohio Education Policy Institute, agrees that the Fair School Funding Plan meets the constitutional standards of equity and adequacy: ***"In order to be adequate, the state must use objective cost-based methodologies to determine the cost of educating a typical student. And that's exactly what this plan does."***
- Dr. Howard Fleeter also said: ***"The new state-local share, provided in the Fair School Funding Plan, meets the equitable standard as charged by the courts. In doing so, it ensures that the state system of school funding is not 'overly reliant on local property taxes' as detailed in the DeRolph ruling, meeting the constitutional standard of equitable."***