

FUNDING UPDATE and CALL TO ACTION

Take 5 for Education!

Support the Fair School Funding Plan with Grassroots Action.

CALL and/or EMAIL

- **Senator Matt Huffman (R), President, Senate.** 614-466-7584 <https://ohiosenate.gov/senators/huffman-m/contact>
- **Senator Matt Dolan (R), Chair, Senate Finance Committee.** 614-466-8056 <https://ohiosenate.gov/senators/dolan/contact>
- **Your representative and senator:** www.legislature.ohio.gov

Ask friends, family, colleagues to call/email also.

TALKING POINTS

- Keep the Fair School Funding Plan in its entirety in Sub. HB 110.
- Ohio's school funding system is completely broken and can wait no longer.
- The Fair School Funding Plan includes:
 - a constitutional solution to school funding that will provide adequacy and equity at last,
 - a carefully crafted system based on the actual needs of our students, schools and communities that will adjust over time as those needs change,
 - benefits for every school system including stability for school district budgets (No district loses funding.),
 - a reduction of the reliance on local taxes, and
 - funding with existing state dollars - a zero tax increase solution.
- The Plan—the bipartisan product of years of dedicated research, development, and testing—has been fine-tuned with simulated testing of the effects of each component. Keep it whole.

BACKGROUND

- **Today Ohio's system of funding education is 100% broken.** Not even one of Ohio's 610 school districts is now funded by the dysfunctional formula. This is not adequate, equitable or logical.
- **24 years ago**, the Ohio Supreme Court in *DeRolph v. Ohio* declared Ohio's system of funding schools unconstitutional and required the legislature to invest more in its public schools, reduce reliance on local property taxes, and base the state formula on the actual costs to educate Ohio's student. We are still waiting.
- **Six years ago**, the bipartisan Cupp-Patterson Fair School Funding Work Group, comprised of 19 school superintendents and treasurers representative of the diversity of school districts throughout Ohio, was brought together by state representatives Robert Cupp, a Lima Republican, and John Patterson, an Ashtabula County Democrat to tackle the long-neglected problem of school funding. The Fair School Funding Plan is the product of their ongoing efforts.
- **Last session**, the Senate failed to consider the Fair School Funding Plan although the Plan had passed the Ohio House with overwhelming bi-partisan support.
- **On April 13**, the Ohio House rolled the Fair School Funding Plan—now House Bill 1—into Substitute House Bill 110 – the budget bill for FY 2022-2023. Sub HB 110 was approved by the House on April 21.
- **Now**, the Senate begins deliberations on Sub. HB 110; the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee begins hearings regarding the education components of the bill.

COMPONENTS OF THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN

- **Base Cost** is determined on the actual cost of preparing a typical child for success.
- **Local Capacity**—the ability to raise local revenue—is no longer dependent solely on property values. Local capacity will be based on a district’s unique blend of income level and property values and independent of changes in other districts or in statewide averages. Every district benefits.
- **Categorical Aid** includes costs not covered in the base cost of educating a typical child. These include costs related to poverty, special education, gifted education, preschool, and English language learners.
- **Additional considerations** are included for Educational Service Centers, career-technical education, and stand-alone STEM schools.
- **Transportation** funding addresses the actual costs as well as the disparate costs associated with districts that are compact and those that are sprawling.
- **Students** attending school in each district provide the basis for district funding.
- **School district deduction funding for charters and vouchers** is eliminated, thereby removing unpredictable and often costly variables in district funding. Funding for charters and vouchers is disentangled from funding for traditional public school districts and is provided for separately in the new budget.
- **A six-year phase-in is provided.** Funding for economically disadvantaged areas would be funded immediately rather than in phases.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Ohio Fair School Funding <https://sites.google.com/view/ohiofairschoolfunding/home>
- Jan Resseger <https://janresseger.wordpress.com/2021/04/16/29510/>
- Ohio Legislative Service Commission <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/budget/134/MainOperating/H1/CompareDoc/EDU.pdf>