BASA Update

August 2026

BASA

Ohio's Superintendent Association

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Buckeye Association of School Administrators

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Buckeye Association of School Administrators is to inspire and support its members, develop exemplary school system leaders and advocate for public education.

Serving with HEART.

Strong Leaders. Strong Schools. *Stronger Together.*

2026 BASA FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 6–7, 2026 | HILTON POLARIS

Power of Positive Leadership

Positive leaders don't just manage—they inspire. When leaders model positivity, they inspire confidence, strengthen communities, and drive meaningful change.

TWO DAYS of inspiration

COLLABORATION with colleagues

EMPOWERMENT for your leadership

Join education leaders from across Ohio for two **days of inspiration, collaboration, and empowerment** at the **BASA Fall Conference.**

JON GORDON

Best Selling Author and Keynote Speaker

Jon Gordon helps organizations build positive leaders, stronger teams, and winning cultures. His principles have been put to the test by numerous Fortune 500 companies, professional and college sports teams, school districts, hospitals, and non-profits. He is the author of 32 books including 18 best sellers and 5 children's books.

ROBERT HUNT, PH.D.

Superintendent, Upper Arlington Schools & 2020 Ohio Superintendent of the Year

The toughest leadership lessons often come from life itself. Dr. Hunt will share a powerful, personal story about keeping perspective and navigating work-life balance in the superintendency.

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SERVING WITH HEART

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SLOW DOWN.
THINK.
Move Forward
WITH PURPOSE.
PAUSE
Give yourself the gift of slowing down.
REFLECT
Clarity comes when you make space to think.
LEAD
Thoughtful leaders create a better future.
SLOWING DOWN AND TAKING TIME TO THINK ALLOWS YOU TO SHAPE YOUR DECISIONS
by what you feel in your heart.
TAKE THE TIME TO GET THINGS RIGHT.
PAUSE.
REFLECT.
Lead.
Better Decisions
Stronger Leadership
Greater Impact


TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN –
give the situation some "air"
Pause. Listen. Understand.
DO YOUR RESEARCH
Seek facts. Understand context. Make informed choices.
DATA
REPORTS
INSIGHTS
PERSPECTIVES
THOUGHTFUL today.
BETTER tomorrow.
HAVE CONVERSATIONS
Different perspectives lead to stronger decisions.
Listen deeply. Share openly. Build understanding.
DON'T GLOSS OVER A SITUATION –
intentionally engage your heart.
Stay present.
Show you care.
Do what's right.
SPACE TO THINK. COURAGE TO ENGAGE. HEART TO LEAD.
Take the time. Get it right.

The leaders we admire

LEAVE A MARK *on our hearts.*

THINK ABOUT
a leader you admire.

WHAT IS SPECIAL
about them?

HOW DID THEY
make you feel?

GREAT LEADERS...

Inspire trust
through their actions and values.

See the potential
in others and help them grow.

Listen deeply
and make people feel heard.

Lead with empathy
and treat everyone with respect.

SERVING *with Heart*

= patience, being a calming presence, and taking the time to make people feel valued.

PATIENCE
You give people the time they need to grow and succeed.

A CALMING PRESENCE
You bring steady energy in any situation and help others feel at ease.

MAKING PEOPLE FEEL VALUED
You see people, listen to them, and let them know they matter.

People may not remember everything you said or did,
BUT THEY WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

GREAT LEADERS ARE

Always Learning.

TAKE THE TIME TO MEET
with leaders you admire.

ASK GOOD QUESTIONS
and learn from their answers.

ASK QUESTIONS WITH FEELING AND GRATITUDE –
and then listen to your heart.

MENTORS ARE IMPORTANT
for all us to become more effective leaders.

Seek wisdom. Show gratitude. Listen deeply. **SERVE WITH HEART.**

Overview of GRF Revenues for FY 2026

FY 26 Bottom Line

Plus $2.105 Billion

Total GRF revenues were $1.327 billion ahead of projections for the fiscal year

GRF expenditures were $778 million below estimates for the fiscal year

*Source – *OEPI* - Dr. Howard Fleeter

FY 26 Bottom Line

The Ohio General Assembly appropriated $1.2 billion of the surplus as part of budget correction bill HB479 (Schmidt). Those appropriations include the following:

- **$35 million to the state's Rainy-Day Fund, taking it slightly over $4 billion - "the highest balance ever."**
- **$320 million for the Expanded Sales Tax Holiday Fund in 2027**
- **$350 million for a one-year property tax reduction for those who receive the homestead exemption**
- **$310 million to replenish funds transferred out of the Medicaid Reserve Fund to pay the state's share of money owed Ohio nursing homes under the Supreme Court's 2025 decision in *LeadingAge Ohio v. Ohio Dept. of Medicaid***
- **$200 million to the state's Debt Service Reduction Fund to use for a portion of the capital appropriations in lieu of issuing debt or to pay down existing debt to "save future interest costs,"**

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General Updates

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STRS Years of Service

Retirement dates	Unreduced benefit*	Reduced benefit*
June 1, 2025–May 1, 2035	Any age and 32 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 27 years; or age 60 and 5 years
June 1, 2035–May 1, 2037	Any age and 33 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 28 years; or age 60 and 5 years
On or after June 1, 2037	Any age and 34 years; or age 65 and 5 years	Any age and 29 years; or age 60 and 5 years

STRS Governance Lawsuit

The ***state and educator unions*** will argue their cases in ***September*** in the dispute over a ***now-frozen governance overhaul*** at the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS).

The ***10th District Court of Appeals*** so far has ***declined*** the ***state's request*** to allow the budget provisions to go into effect while litigation proceeds.

STRS board leadership positions are ***now held*** by ***trustees*** who would be ***barred*** from doing so should HB96 language take effect

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Levy Guidance Reminder

Ohio law prohibits use of public funds or public time to influence a levy or bond campaign (ORC 9.03; ORC 3315.07)

November 2021 – unique legal action against a Superintendent and Board members

Provide only ***FACTUAL information*** about a levy or bond issue

Do NOT advocate for a levy or bond issue on public time

Advocacy can only occur on ***personal time*** (e.g., using a vacation day or other non-work time)

The burden is on YOU to show that you were using personal time

Do not allow vendors (architects, PR firms, research firms) to engage in conduct that influences the outcome of a levy or bond issue under a district contract

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OHIOANS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SERVICES

THE OHIO SENATE

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DR. AMY ACTON

FOR GOVERNOR

STATE OF EXCELLENCE

VIVEK

FOR OHIO

Bills recently signed by Governor DeWine

HB 455 – Deregulation Bill

Reps. Manning (R) & Bird (R)

Revises the ***performance measures*** used to calculate performance ratings for the ***state report card's*** Graduation and the ***College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness*** components.

Graduation component - New 4- and 5-year adjusted cohort graduation performance measures must include as ***graduates any students with an IEP*** who have satisfied the conditions for a diploma but ***opted not to receive it but*** will receive it prior to the student's 22nd birthday and are still receiving services. 4- and 5- year cohort graduation rates now a report-only measure.

Physical education and wellness reporting on report cards ***repealed***.

HB 455 – Deregulation Bill

Reps. Manning (R) & Bird (R)

Increases the number of appointed ***State Board of Education*** members from ***five to seven***.

Board of education vacancies

Absences - If a board member is absent from meetings for a period of ***90 days***, the remaining members may vote to declare the reasons for the absence as insufficient. H.B. 455 requires this vote to be taken not more than 45 days after such absence, rather than not less than ***30 days***. Specifies that this provision applies to school district and ESC boards.

Military exception – A board must ***not*** consider a person's reasons for absence insufficient if the person is a ***member of the armed forces or Ohio national guard*** and is ***deployed*** outside the territory of the district or ESC.

Filling vacancies – For elected boards, board ***must fill a vacancy*** at any regular or special meeting within ***45 days*** (rather that its next meeting). Probate court must fill the vacancy if the board fails to fill it within 45 days (rather than 30) after the vacancy occurs.

HB 455 – Deregulation Bill

Reps. Manning (R) & Bird (R)

The ***bill permits*** a city school district and a city to enter a ***written agreement*** that ***exempts*** the district, in whole or in part, from the jurisdiction of the ***city's civil service commission***.

Removes a provision that exempts educational service center governing boards from the prohibition on a board of education spending more than ***15% of the board's*** annual operating budget on ***administrative costs*** (an identical provision was enacted by H.B. 184 of the 136th General Assembly, effective March 20, 2026).

Revises the automatic ***closure criteria*** for ***community schools***.

Required postings - Permits certain policies that school districts are required to post in a central location in each school district building to instead be posted on the ***district's website***.

HB 455 – Deregulation Bill

Reps. Manning (R) & Bird (R)

The bill ***requires an early learning and development program***, in consultation with the county department of job and family services, to **determine if a preschool-aged child is eligible** to participate in the ***Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program***. The bill also expressly permits the family of an eligible child to use the ECE Grant Program instead of another source of state funding.

If a child is ***adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant***, the bill ***allows the juvenile court*** issuing the adjudication to ***maintain jurisdiction*** over the child during the subsequent school year for purposes of monitoring the child's attendance.

Allows a 14- or 15-year-old to be ***employed*** between ***7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m***. any night preceding a day school is not in session if the minor has ***approval*** to do so from a ***parent or legal guardian.***

HB 479 – Budget Corrections

Rep. Schmidt (R)

Requires the ***calculation of the 20-mill floor*** (for school districts) and ***2-mill floor*** (for joint vocational school districts) to ***reflect the inflationary reductions*** made to rate of inside millage under R.C. 5705.316 for that tax year.

Specifies that ***the inflation limitation for inside millage*** is ***calculated before*** other ***property tax reductions*** (the owner-occupied rollback, the nonbusiness credit, and the homestead exemption), instead of after these reductions.

For a ***tax levied by a unit*** located in ***multiple counties*** with ***different reappraisal/update years***, the ***reduction is triggered*** when ***principal county*** undergoes a reappraisal/update. The adjusted rate ***applies uniformly*** throughout taxing unit's territory.

Applies to ***tax year 2026*** and after for real property, and ***2027 for manufactured/mobile homes***.

Homestead exemption must be ***calculated before*** the ***inflation cap credit*** for districts on the ***20-mill floor.***

HB 479 – Budget Corrections

Rep. Schmidt (R)

Implements a ***one-time reduction*** in ***real property*** or manufactured home taxes for ***property*** subject to the ***homestead exemption***.

Creates the $350 million Property Tax Relief Fund to ***reimburse schools and local governments*** for revenue lost as a result of a one-time property tax reduction for homestead exemption recipients.

Requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to determine a school district's portion of the basic project cost for a project under the ***Expedited Local Partnership Program*** (ELPP) based ***only*** on the ***required percentage of the basic project costs***, determined based on the school district's percentile ranking.

Permits OFCC and a qualifying district participating in the ELPP to elect to ***recalculate the district's portion of the basic project cost using the district's most recent percentile ranking*** when the district becomes eligible for assistance under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP).

SB 19 – Intervention Plans

Sen. Brenner (R)

Diagnostic assessments for reading and mathematics

Reading: DEW must ***approve up to 6*** (rather than 5) diagnostic assessments

Math: DEW ***must add a 6th assessment*** to the list of approved math diagnostic assessments

Existing contracts for reading diagnostic assessment: If school has ***contract that existed*** prior to ***Sept. 30, 2025***, may ***continue to use*** until contract expires or ***July 1, 2028***

Prohibits districts from ***administering reading or math diagnostic assessments from multiple providers*** to the same student in grades K-3, with ***certain exceptions including when a diagnostic assessment is used to inform instruction.***

SB 19 – Intervention Plans

Sen. Brenner (R)

Academic intervention services and math improvement

Requires each district or school to ***provide evidence-based academic intervention*** services, ***free of cost***, to students who demonstrate a ***limited level of skill*** in either a prescribed ***state diagnostic assessment or a state assessment***, in ***math, English language arts, or both subject areas***.

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires each district or school to develop a math achievement improvement plan if ***51% or less of a building's or school's students*** who took the ***third grade math achievement assessment*** attained ***at least*** a ***proficient score*** on the assessment.

Beginning with the ***2027-2028 school year***, and each school year thereafter, requires the Department of Education and Workforce to randomly select ***5% of districts and schools for a review*** of their academic intervention services.

SB 19 – Intervention Plans

Sen. Brenner (R)

Math and reading curricula, instructional materials, and intervention

DEW must establish list of ***high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials***, and ***evidence-based math intervention programs***, by ***April 15, 2027***

Districts may use curriculum and materials from the list – ***buildings*** required to implement a ***math improvement plan <u>must use</u>*** materials from the list

State report cards must include the reading and math curriculum used in each school building and whether it's designated as ***high-quality by DEW***

DPIA funds may be spent on professional development for effective math instruction and implementation of high-quality core curriculum in math

EMIS reporting must include math core curriculum and instructional materials, and math intervention programs, being used for K-12

SB 19 – Intervention Plans

Sen. Brenner (R)

Advanced learning opportunities in math

Requires districts to do the following for the **27/28 school year:**

Enroll each qualifying student in ***sixth grade*** in a math course in ***seventh grade*** that combines in one school year ***seventh- and eighth-grade math standards*** and in ***Algebra I*** in the ***eighth grade***;

Enroll each qualifying student in ***grades 3-5*** in advanced learning opportunities in math; and

Adopt a ***comprehensive math placement*** and ***promotion policy***.

SB 19 – Intervention Plans

Sen. Brenner (R)

Qualifying students – A qualifying student is a student to whom either of the following applies:

A ***student*** who achieves an ***advanced level skill on a mathematics achievement assessment***, or

A ***student*** who meets a ***school district's choice*** of ***multiple measures*** under either (a) the student achieves an ***accomplished level of skill on a mathematics achievement assessment and*** the student holds an average class ***grade of "A" or "B"*** in a mathematics course; or (b) the ***student achieves*** a ***designated score*** as ***determined by DEW*** on a mathematics diagnostic assessment and an accomplished level of skill on a mathematics achievement assessment. A school district may redetermine its advancement policy for a student under this division annually.

Permits each public school to provide ***additional students*** advanced math learning opportunities.

SB 276– Interstate Compact

Sen. Roegner (R)

Interstate Compact for School Psychologists

Enters Ohio into the ***Interstate Compact for School Psychologists*** to improve public access to school psychological services by facilitating the interstate practice of school psychology in educational or school settings.

Success sequence curriculum

Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to review and maintain a list of curriculum for the ***success sequence*** for grades ***6-12***.

Requires school districts to provide instruction on the ***success sequence*** in at least one course ***required*** for high school graduation.

SB 276– Interstate Compact

Sen. Roegner (R)

Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act

Requires the governing body of a ***public high school*** to which the bill applies to ***adopt a policy*** that permits a student enrolled in a neighboring public high school that does not offer an extracurricular activity to petition to participate in that activity at its high school (note – ***both superintendents*** ***<u>must agree</u>*** in order to utilize this provision).

Applies the bill to each public high school that (1) offers an extracurricular activity and (2) is a member of an organization that regulates interscholastic athletics.

Hybrid assessment report

Requires the Department of Education and Workforce, by November 15, 2026, to submit a report to the House and Senate Education committees about a single, ***statewide hybrid assessment system*** that provides both ***criterion-referenced*** results aligned to state academic standards and nationally ***norm-referenced*** results.

Voucher Updates

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HB 715 - Voucher Accountability

Reps. Manning & Odioso (R)

Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to ***annually post*** for each ***chartered nonpublic school*** the school's ***total enrollment***, the ***number of scholarship students*** enrolled in the school, what kind of school each scholarship student attended in the prior school year, and the ***amount of state support*** the school received.

Requires the Department to post on its website the ***number of students participating in a state scholarship program***, ***disaggregated*** by family ***income***.

Requires the Department to ***establish a system*** to permit an individual to ***compare the performance data of scholarship students*** enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school with the performance data of similar students enrolled in nearby schools.

Requires the Department to require each EdChoice scholarship applicant to include the school, and if applicable the district, in which the applicant was enrolled for the school year prior to the one for which the applicant is submitting an application.

SB 443 - Voucher Accountability

Sen. Blessing (R) & Sen. Smith (D)

Enact the Take the Dough, We Gotta Know Act

Requires:

Annual State Audits
Academic Report Cards
Data Disclosures
Safety and Attendance Records

Voucher Participation

Table 1: Number of Participants in Ohio Voucher Programs, FY14-FY26

Fiscal Year	Cleveland Participants	EdChoice Participants	EdChoice Expansion Participants	Autism Participants	Peterson Special Ed. Participants	All Voucher Participants
FY14	6,352	17,076	1,057	2,976	2,601	30,062
FY15	6,816	19,147	3,517	3,169	3,404	36,053
FY16	7,531	20,668	5,677	3,323	4,207	41,406
FY17	7,977	21,766	7,561	3,500	4,887	45,691
FY18	7,682	22,608	9,532	3,670	5,622	49,114
FY19	7,438	23,482	10,830	3,813	6,437	52,000
FY20	7,621	30,097	12,320	3,982	6,857	60,877
FY21	7,793	33,131	17,155	4,229	7,407	69,715
FY22	7,899	36,714	20,702	4,405	7,791	77,511
FY23	7,802	39,034	23,272	4,698	8,186	**82,992**
FY24	8,029	41,233	88,103	5,067	8,551	**150,983**
FY25	8,345	42,605	100,938	6,016	8,680	**166,584**
FY26*	8,323	42,872	105,918	6,754	9,158	**173,025**
FY14-FY23 Increase	1,450	21,958	22,215	1,722	5,585	**52,930**
FY23-FY24 Increase	227	2,199	**64,831**	369	365	**67,991**
FY24-FY25 Increase	316	1,372	**12,835**	949	129	**15,601**
FY25-FY26 Increase	-22	267	**4,980**	738	478	**6,441**
FY14-FY26 Increase	**1,971**	**25,796**	**104,861**	**3,778**	**6,557**	**142,963**

* FY26 data is current as of July 2026 and is subject to change. All data from DEW (formerly ODE).

Voucher Payments

Table 2: Ohio Voucher Program Payments, FY14-FY26

Fiscal Year	Cleveland Payments	EdChoice Payments	EdChoice Expansion Payments	Autism Payments	Peterson Special Ed. Payments	Total Voucher Payments
FY14	$28,093,675	$70,447,176	$3,774,035	$50,537,962	$21,974,525	$174,827,373
FY15	$30,618,098	$79,737,365	$13,016,145	$54,507,201	$29,899,745	$207,778,555
FY16	$34,290,456	$94,362,348	$22,393,227	$74,514,171	$40,235,262	$265,795,464
FY17	$36,805,629	$102,299,793	$30,854,588	$79,555,109	$48,329,305	$297,844,425
FY18	$37,360,805	$107,650,285	$39,004,781	$84,412,259	$55,742,267	$324,170,397
FY19	$37,215,447	$112,879,763	$44,574,099	$87,788,307	$64,105,165	$346,562,690
FY20	$38,195,609	$147,837,322	$50,926,831	$89,485,100	$67,796,952	$394,241,814
FY21	$38,942,438	$163,673,216	$72,313,294	$96,502,832	$73,039,813	$444,471,593
FY22	$46,014,315	$212,551,175	$102,935,946	$116,462,084	$76,568,073	$554,531,593
FY23	$46,135,526	$229,257,493	$124,418,775	$128,646,623	$81,773,729	$610,232,145
FY24	$53,378,781	$272,325,235	$405,287,198	$137,476,762	$95,348,512	**$963,816,488**
FY25	$55,155,296	$283,137,080	$492,857,370	$160,018,883	$103,944,388	**$1,095,113,017**
FY26*	$55,013,127	$285,308,565	$533,550,070	$186,490,530	$113,689,329	**$1,174,051,621**
FY14-FY23 Increase	$18,041,851	$158,810,317	**$120,644,740**	$78,108,661	$59,799,204	**$435,404,772**
FY23-FY24 Increase	$7,243,256	$43,067,742	**$280,868,423**	$8,830,139	$13,574,783	**$353,584,343**
FY24-FY25 Increase	$1,776,514	$10,811,845	**$87,570,173**	$22,542,121	$8,595,876	**$131,296,529**
FY25-FY26 Increase	($142,169)	$2,171,485	**$40,692,700**	$26,471,647	$9,744,941	**$78,938,604**
FY14-FY26 Increase	**$26,919,452**	**$214,861,389**	**$529,776,035**	**$135,952,568**	**$91,714,804**	**$999,224,248**
% of FY14-26 Increase	**2.7%**	**21.5%**	**53.0%**	**13.6%**	**9.2%**	**100.0%**

* FY26 data is current as of July 2026 and is subject to change. All data from DEW (formerly ODE).

Ohio's Residential Property Tax Problem: How We Got Here

An OEPI Analysis

Dr. Howard Fleeter
Dr. Greg Browning

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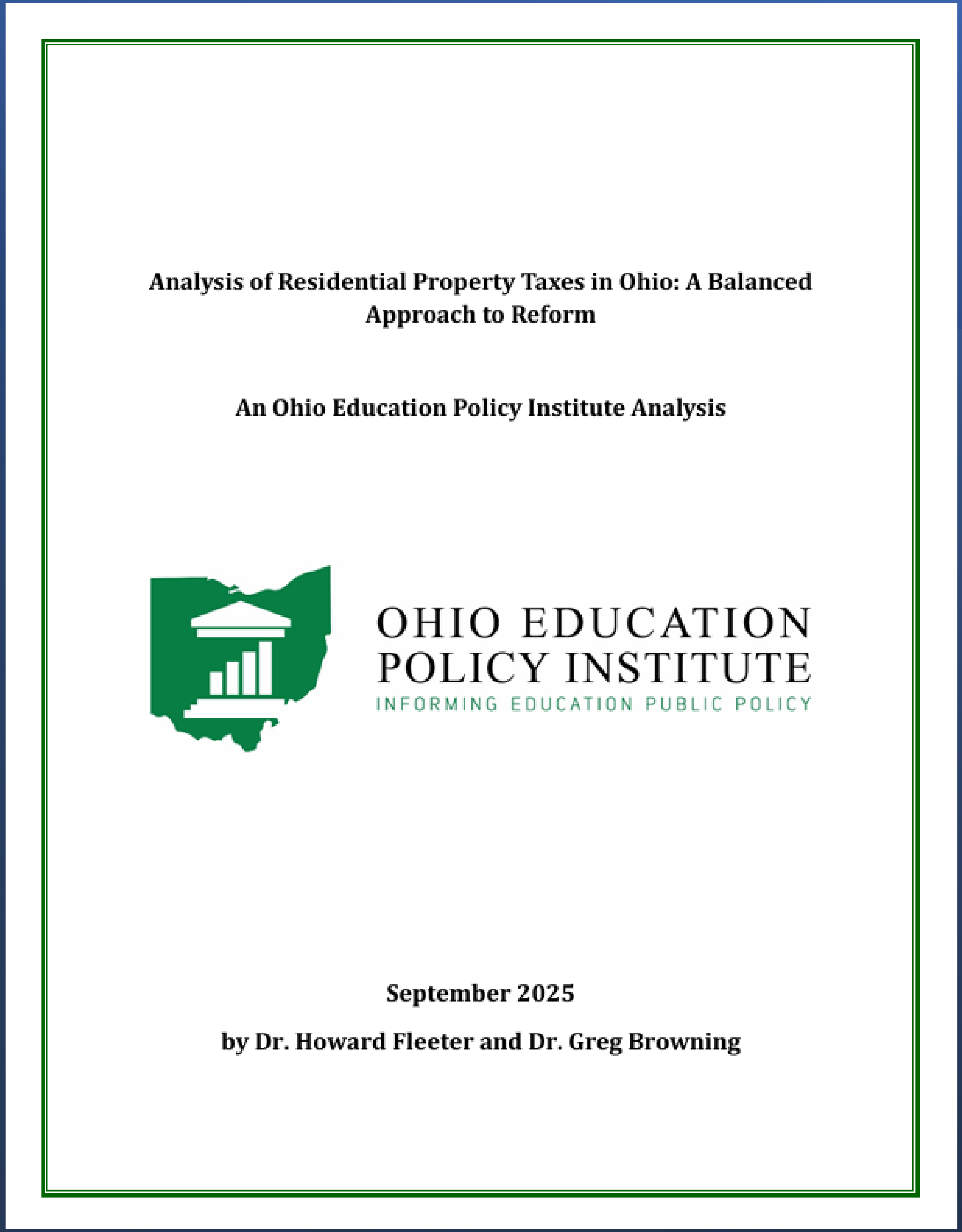


Analysis of Residential Property Taxes in Ohio: A Balanced Approach to Reform

An Ohio Education Policy Institute Analysis

OHIO EDUCATION POLICY INSTITUTE
INFORMING EDUCATION PUBLIC POLICY

September 2025

by Dr. Howard Fleeter and Dr. Greg Browning

SCAN ME

Ohio’s Property Tax Tipping Point

Rising home values, slow economic growth and **20 years of state tax policy changes** have intensified local school funding challenges.

Homeowners and farmers now carry **67.5% of school property taxes**, up from 46.1% in 1975. Meanwhile, the **business share has nearly been cut in half**.

Cuts and eliminations of state taxes have reduced state support, forcing schools and local governments to **raise property taxes**, leaving Ohio with the **eighth-highest property tax rate nationally**. In contrast, the state tax burden (state income taxes and sales tax) ranks **46th**.

Ohio Revenue and Spending Data

The shift to residential property taxpayers

GRF Funding for ***primary and secondary education***, excluding the cost of the roll-back and owner-occupied credit, ***grew by 59%*** between 2005 and 2025 while the rate of inflation for that same period was ***66.5***% (note - Ohio schools saw enrollment decline during this period largely due to declining birth rates)

Ohio has **fallen from 35th nationally** on the state share of K12 revenue coming from the state in 2002 to ***45th nationally*** in 2023.

Ohio is ***slightly below average*** in ***per pupil spending*** and ranks 20th in the nation in per-pupil spending.

The Conclusion

This data, along with Ohio’s below-average per-pupil spending, shows that the state’s high property taxes (ranked 8th nationally) are not leading to relatively high school spending but, instead, are largely working to offset low state spending on primary and secondary education.

-Drs. Fleeter and Browning

BASA Property Tax Communications Toolkit

Please click here for more information.

Please click on each item

Fact Sheet/One Pager

Letter to the Editor

Social Media Posts

1 Instagram

2 Instagram/Facebook

3 Instagram/Facebook

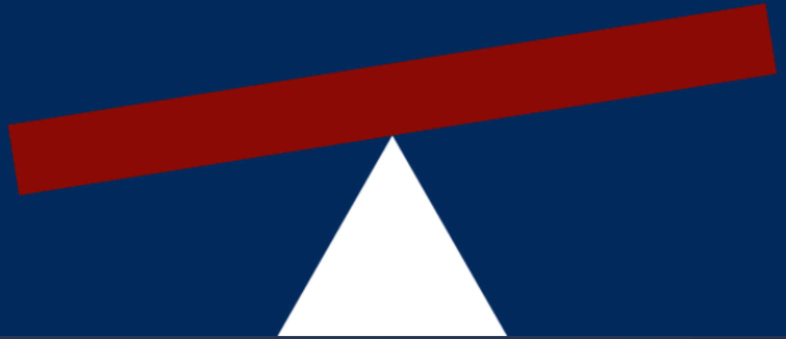
4 Instagram/Facebook

Newsletter Article (PDF Newsletter article)

Property Tax PPT Presentation (PPT Slide Deck)

SCAN ME

OHIO SCHOOLS WANT TAX REFORM! BUT IT MUST BE BALANCED



OHIO SCHOOLS FOR Balanced REFORM

HOMEOWNERS AND FARMERS NOW CARRY NEARLY 70% OF SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES — UP FROM 47% IN 1991.

1991 → 47%   2023 → 70%

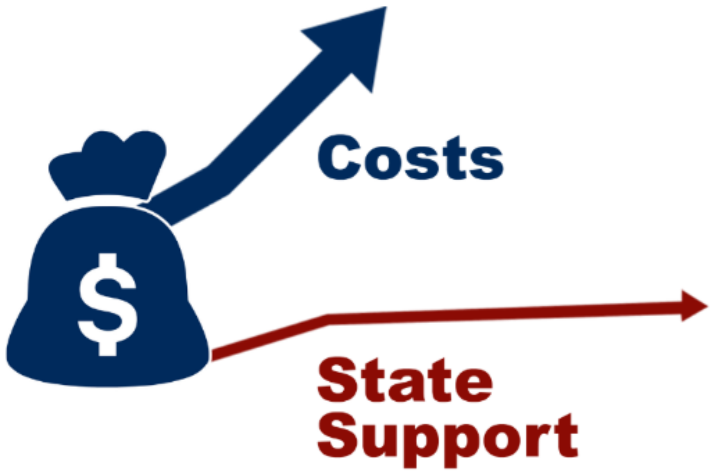
State policy shifted the tax load from businesses to homeowners and farmers. Schools have stretched every dollar — but the balance is broken.

Families deserve relief. Communities deserve strong schools.

1991
HOMEOWNERS/
FARMERS
47%

2023
HOMEOWNERS/
FARMERS
70%

THE COST OF RUNNING SCHOOLS GOES UP EVERY YEAR, BUT THE STATE'S SUPPORT HASN'T KEPT UP.



In **22** years state school funding has grown less than **1%** a year when adjusted for inflation.

Current Legislation

Link to Ohio General Assembly legislative search engine

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Court Cases

West Virginia, et al. v. B.P.J. and Little v. Hecox

(U.S. S. Ct., 6.30.2026)

U.S. Supreme Court rules limiting girls' sports teams to biological females does not violate Title IX or Equal Protection Clause

- In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court held state laws and school policies limiting participation on women's and girls' athletic teams to biological females are permissible under both Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment
- Title IX – Court distinguished *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which involved employment discrimination under Title VII, while these cases concerned athletic participation under Title IX, and athletics are expressly permitted to be sex-segregated under Title IX regs
- Equal Protection – The Court concluded the challenged laws further two important objectives: preserving competitive fairness in women's athletics and protecting athlete safety

Defending Education v. Olentangy Local School Dist. Bd. of Educ.

(6th Cir., 11.6.2025)

En banc Sixth Circuit rules school district cannot punish students for the commonplace use of biological pronouns

- The Sixth Circuit ruled Defending Education was entitled to an "appropriately tailored" preliminary injunction "barring the district from punishing students for the commonplace use of biological pronouns."
- However, the district is not foreclosed "from enforcing its anti-harassment policies against the abuse of transgender students just as it enforces those policies against the abuse of all other students."

Olentangy Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn. v. Delaware Cty. Bd. of Revision

(Ohio S. Ct., 5.29.2026)

- Olentangy LSD contended that because it could no longer appeal board of revision decisions to the Board of Tax Appeals for property it did not own, a path was opened to appeal to a court of common pleas under R.C. 2506.01, the general statute governing appeals of administrative decisions
- The Ohio Supreme Court held:
- "Board-of-revision decisions concerning the valuation of real property are not appealable to a court of common pleas under R.C. 2506.01(A), because R.C. 2506.01(C) precludes such an appeal. Moreover, property-valuation decisions are appealable to a court of common pleas under R.C. 5717.05 only when the appellant owns the property at issue."

Ohio Supreme Court rules board of revision decisions cannot be appealed to a court of common pleas under R.C. 2506.01(A)

Bahorek v. Franklin Cty. Bd. of Revision

(10th Dist. Franklin County, 4.28.2026)

Tenth District Court of Appeals rules R.C. 5715.19(A)(6)(a) is unconstitutional

- H.B. 126 (2022) restricts the ability of school districts and other political subdivisions to challenge the valuation of properties.
- Provision challenged in this case prohibits a legislative authority, mayor, or third party complainant from filing an original complaint regarding property it does not own unless two exceptions met
- Court ruled this provision violates the state constitutional guarantee of taxation uniformity
- The court certified a conflict between its decision and a decision of the 5th Dist. Ct. of Appeals to the Ohio Supreme
- 10th District's judgment stayed

State ex rel. Yost v. Columbus City Schools Bd. of Edn.

(Ohio S. Ct., 5.26.2026)

- The attorney general brought a mandamus action seeking a writ to compel the school board provide interim transportation for families who requested mediation of transportation impracticality determinations.
- The Ohio Supreme Court ruled the attorney general lacked standing because his office would not directly benefit from the relief requested, and he did not cite any statute authorizing him to act on the families' behalf.

Ohio Supreme Court rules attorney general does not have standing in mandamus action to compel district to comply with transportation statute

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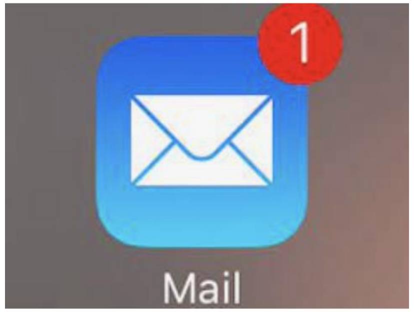

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