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The 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.**

BASA
Ohio's Superintendent Association

The slide is divided into two main sections. The left section has a dark blue background with the text 'The Mission' in a white, bold, serif font. The right section has a white background with the mission statement in a black, italicized serif font. The BASA logo is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

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BASA Professional Learning

New Superintendent's Transition program

OSLI (Ohio School Leadership Institute)

BASA Fall Conference

Women's Conference

OALSS Conference

Finance Workshops

Mentor Coaches

State and National conferences

And many more....



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Get Involved

BASA Committees

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Career and Technology | ➤ OHSAA |
| ➤ Communications | ➤ Report Card |
| ➤ Department of Higher Education | ➤ STRS |
| ➤ Equity and Diversity | ➤ Department of Education and Workforce |
| ➤ ESC | ➤ Technology |
| ➤ Exceptional Children | ➤ Women's Outreach |
| ➤ DEW Finance | |
| ➤ Legislative | |



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BASA Legal Assistance

- Available when there are contract issues with you and your Board
- Funds are available as a benefit to members



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2025 BASA FALL CONFERENCE

• BOLD LEADERSHIP •

In a time of evolving challenges and opportunities, strong, decisive leadership is more critical than ever. Join education leaders from across Ohio for two days of inspiration, collaboration, and empowerment at the BASA Fall Conference.

Save the Dates

 October 7-8, 2025 Tuesday-Wednesday	 Hilton Polaris 8700 Lyra Drive, Columbus, OH 43240
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Back to School Reminders



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Crisis management

Back to School Reminders

Crisis management is an important part of leadership

Remind staff to ask before making decisions, especially in times of crisis or controversy

Ask you supervisor, call BASA, consult with an attorney

Remember – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

Don't make a difficult decision worse



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Leading Before, During and After a Crisis on School Grounds

AASA's new Superintendent Response and Recovery Network empowers educational leaders to navigate school crises with confidence—from preparation to recovery—through **expert guidance** and **collaborative wisdom**.



Connect with SRRN
aasa.org/srrn



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AASA Crisis Hotline



520-565-4111

Connect with SRRN



aasa.org/srrn



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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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Loyalty Matters

Back to School Reminders



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HB 96 The Budget



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Governor's Veto



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Line-Item Vetoes

- **Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program and education tax credits**
- **STRS and SERS employee contributions**
- **Partisan school board elections**
- **County budget commission authority and procedure (partial veto)**
- **40% cash balance carryover**
- **20-mill floor calculation (which would have included fixed-sum levies)**
- **School district property tax restrictions (elimination of fixed-sum levies)**

Governor's veto message linked [here](#).



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Possible Veto Override Votes

The House voted to override the Governor's Line-Item Veto listed below:

School district property tax restrictions (elimination of certain levy types)

Speaker Huffman has stated his intention to schedule veto override votes at some point in the future on the following items:

20-mill floor calculation (which would have included fixed-sum levies)

County budget commission authority and procedure (partial veto)

NOTES:

The Senate would also need to vote to override a veto before any override takes effect

The Ohio General Assembly has until the end of 2026 to act.



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Administrative Cost Cap

No board of education of any school district shall expend more than **15% of its annual operating budget** on administrative salaries and benefits and other costs associated with the **district's administrative offices**.

DEW has **not yet** issued **guidance**

The **LSC analysis** of **traditional school districts** has been sent to all BASA members.

Expense coding for the 2025/2026 school year is **not due until August 2026**.

The **cap** applies to **ESC's and JVSD's** as well



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Final Funding Formula

The ***FSF formula*** (Cupp/Patterson) is the ***basis*** of the ***funding formula*** for the biennium.

The ***final two years*** of the ***formula*** will be phased in (83.33% in FY 26 and 100% in FY 27)

Inputs remain ***frozen*** at ***FY 22*** levels

Supplemental Targeted Assistance eliminated



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Final Funding Formula

Includes an ***Enrollment Growth Supplement*** with payments of ***\$225 per pupil in FY 26*** for districts with enrollment growth of more than 5% from FY 22 to FY 25 and ***\$250 per pupil in FY 27*** for districts with enrollment growth of more than 3%.

Implements a “***performance supplement***” for districts that meet specified criteria on the school district report card overall performance rating, progress component or improvement of the progress component. ***Payment of \$13 per pupil times the number of stars*** received on Overall Performance or Progress report card rating (funded outside of the funding formula).

Adds a base ***per-pupil supplement*** of ***\$27*** in FY 26 and ***\$40*** in FY 27



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Final Funding Formula

Modifies DPIA funding by facilitating a transition *away from CEP* and to a direct certification model.

DPIA funding in **FY 26** will be based on **75% FY 25** economically disadvantaged student count and **25% direct certification** count, and in **FY 27** will be based on **65% FY 25 count** and **35% direct certification** count.



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HB 96

Voucher Update



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Voucher Program History

Ohio currently has 5 voucher programs:

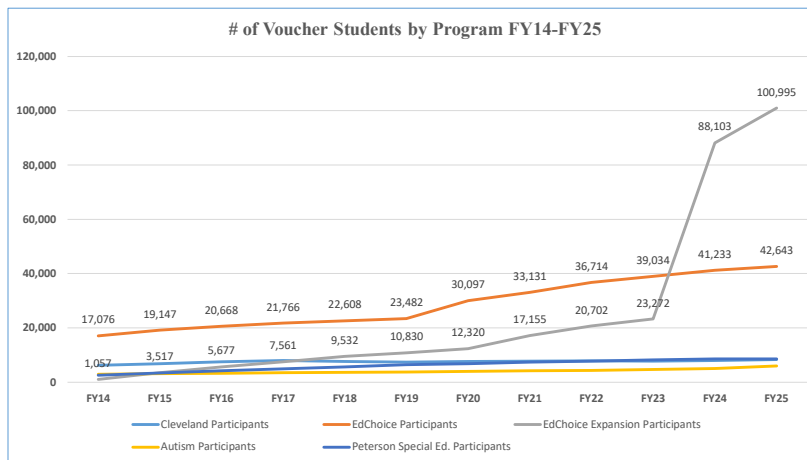
1. The **Cleveland** voucher program began in FY97. The number of Cleveland voucher students has increased from 1,994 in FY97 to **8,363** in FY25.
2. The **Autism** voucher program began in FY05. The number of Autism voucher students has increased from 300 in FY05 to **6,091** in FY25.
3. The **EdChoice** performance-based voucher program began in FY07. The number of EdChoice voucher students has increased from 3,071 in FY14 to **42,643** in FY25.
4. The **Jon Peterson Special Needs** voucher program began in FY13. The number of Jon Peterson voucher students has increased from 2,601 in FY14 to **8,767** in FY25.
5. The **EdChoice Expansion** income-based voucher program began in FY14. The number of EdChoice Expansion voucher students has increased from 1,057 in FY14 to **100,995** in FY25.

- **Total number of voucher students in Ohio in FY25 was 116,739**
- Total number of private school students in Ohio in FY25 was 181,244
- **Thus in FY25 92% of Ohio private school students received a voucher**



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Ohio Voucher Program Participation by Program, FY14-FY25



Source: Data from ODE Reports Portal Scholarships webpage

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EdChoice Voucher Lawsuit

On June 24, 2025, a **Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge** ruled that Ohio's **EdChoice voucher program** was **unconstitutional**. The lawsuit was filed in January 2022 by a coalition of school districts, as well as several students attending public schools in those districts. The June ruling awarded summary judgment to the plaintiffs on 3 of the 5 counts they submitted:

1. System of Uncommon Schools - The ruling held that the EdChoice program violates Article VI section 2 provision of the Ohio Constitution which requires the state establish "a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state" by unconstitutionally creating a second system of uncommon schools.

2. Thorough and Efficient – The Franklin County ruling also found that the EdChoice program violated the "thorough and efficient" clause of the Constitution by not fully funding the Fair School Funding plan while simultaneously spending large sums on the EdChoice program, thereby resulting in a system that is not thorough and efficient.

3. Unconstitutional State Funding of Religious Schools – The ruling held that the EdChoice program is unconstitutional by virtue of its operation involving the direct payment of state funds to private schools.

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EdChoice Voucher Lawsuit

On July 21st the State of **Ohio** announced its ***intention to appeal*** the June Common Pleas Court ruling and the case will now head to an ***appellate court*** where it will likely be advanced to the ***State Supreme Court***.

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HB 96

Property Tax Reform



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County Budget Commissions (CBC)

The as-passed budget (**HB 96**) included a provision which allows “county budget commissions (**CBCs**) to **reduce millage** on any **voter-approved tax levy** aside from a debt levy if the commission finds it **reasonably prudent** to avoid **unnecessary, excessive or unneeded** property tax collections.”

Governor DeWine **vetoed** this language

The House intends to vote to override the veto at some point in the fall

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Elimination of Certain Types of Levies

The final ***budget included*** a provision to ***eliminate*** the ***following levy types***:

- ***Replacement levies*** for all political subdivisions
- ***School district fixed sum emergency levies***
- ***School district fixed sum substitute levies***
- ***Combined school district income tax and fixed sum levies***
- ***Renewals*** with an ***increase***

November 2025 will be the last opportunity to place these levies on the ballot if the Senate votes to override the veto.

The ***Governor vetoed*** this provision and the ***House successfully*** voted to ***override*** his veto. The ***Senate*** has ***not*** taken up the ***override*** question yet.

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Cash Balance Cap

The as-passed budget (***HB 96***) included a ***40% cash balance cap***.

The budget also included a ***sliding scale*** to ***reduce the impact*** on districts with ***smaller cash balances***.

The ***Governor vetoed*** this provision.

No override vote has been scheduled



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Changes to the 20 Mill Floor

The as-passed budget (**HB 96**) included a **change** in the way the **20 mill floor** is calculated.

Emergency, Substitute, incremental growth, conversion, and property tax portion of combined income tax property tax levies **would count** in the **calculation of the 20 mill floor** (2 mill floor for JVSD's).

This provision would **take effect** beginning with **taxes paid in 2026** and would occur as each district goes through its next reappraisal or triennial update.

Approximately half of the **400 "floor"** districts in Ohio **would be removed** from the floor with this provision.

The Governor vetoed this item and an override vote has not occurred yet.



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Property Tax Reform Working Group

- Co-Chairman Pat Tiberi, President and CEO of the Ohio Business Roundtable
- Co Chairman Bill Seitz, former State Representative and State Senator
- Krista Bohn, Allen County Treasurer
- Chris Galloway, Lake County Auditor
- Matt Nolan, Warren County Auditor
- Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens
- Dr. John Marschhausen, Superintendent of Dublin City Schools
- Dr. Stephanie Starcher, Superintendent of Fort Frye Local Schools
- Denise Drieaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Gary Scherer, Pickaway County Commissioner
- Jeff Chattin, Pike County Commissioner



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HB 96

State Board of Education and STRS



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State Board of Education (SBE)

Reduces membership to five members appointed by the governor. One member will represent each of the following:

- ✓ Rural district
- ✓ Suburban district
- ✓ Urban district
- ✓ Community school
- ✓ Private school

Abolishes the offices of elected members when the term expires or a vacancy occurs.

Abolishes offices of the first three appointed members when their term expires or a vacancy occurs.

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STRS

Reduces the number of contributing members from five to two

Reduces the number of retired members from two to one

Adds the following:

**Chancellor of Higher Education or designee;
Treasurer of State investment designee;
Investment expert appointed by Speaker of the House
Investment expert appointed by President of the Senate**

Prohibits appointed members from having contributions on deposit with STRS.

Prohibits any STRS board member with contributions on deposit with STRS from serving as chair or vice chair.

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STRS Pick Up

The as-passed version of ***HB 96 prohibited*** a Board of Education from paying the ***employee portion*** of ***STRS*** (pick-up) for ***superintendents, treasurers, and principals.***

The ***Governor vetoed*** this provision and ***no override*** is scheduled.

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HB 96

Board of Education Policies



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Cell phone policy

Requires each district to adopt a policy by January 1, 2026, prohibiting the use of cell phones by students during the instructional day.

Exceptions provided for:

**Student learning based on IEPs and 504 plans; and
Students needing to monitor or address a health concern with a
written statement from the student's doctor.**

Eliminates the requirement that ODEW develop a model policy.

DEW expected to issue guidance clarifying that *instructional day* is defined as the entire day including class changes and lunch.

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Cell phone policy

Requires school administrators to include in its comprehensive emergency management plan a protocol that addresses student use of cell phones during an active threat or emergency if permitted under the building's comprehensive emergency management plan.



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Religious Release Time Instruction (RRTI)

Requires districts to permit students to attend a released time course for at least ***one period per week***.

Limits attendance to no more than:

- ✓Two periods per week for elementary and middle school students
- ✓Two units of high school credits per week for high school students

Requires districts to allow students to ***bring external educational and program materials*** to school.



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What's Next?



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What's Next

Property Tax Reform

Possible Constitutional Amendment to Prohibit all Property Taxes

Gubernatorial Election

Pay for Outcomes

Deregulation Bill in the House

Omnibus Education Bill in the Senate to correct issues in the budget and other items



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