THE FACTS ABOUT OHIO SCHOOL FUNDING

Record Funding. Real Challenges. Honest Conversation.

Many headlines suggest Ohio schools are facing devastating state funding cuts.

The facts tell a more complete story.

FACT #1

OHIO SCHOOLS ARE SPENDING MORE THAN EVER.

Statewide spending has increased from approximately $14,500 per student in 2013 to nearly $17,000 per student in 2025, even after adjusting for inflation.*

BOTTOM LINE:
School spending is at an all-time high.

FACT #2

STATE FUNDING INCREASED AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Ohio's school funding increased by approximately $187 million from FY25 to FY26.*

BOTTOM LINE:
State support did not disappear—it continued to grow.

FACT #3

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE HAS SURGED.

Property value growth has generated billions in additional local revenue.

Between 2017 and 2025:

- Statewide local revenue per student increased 13%
- Columbus increased 22%
- Cleveland increased 29%**

BOTTOM LINE:
Many districts have significantly more local resources today than a decade ago.

FACT #4

COVID RELIEF FUNDING IS GONE.

Federal ESSER funding provided schools with billions of temporary dollars.

Those funds have now expired.*

BOTTOM LINE:
Many districts are adjusting after a temporary funding surge—not because state funding disappeared.

FACT #5

EVERY DISTRICT FACES DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Some districts are growing. Some are losing enrollment. Some are seeing rising labor costs. Some have made long-term commitments based on temporary funding.

BOTTOM LINE:
There is no one-size-fits-all explanation for every budget challenge.

THE REAL QUESTION

Instead of asking:

"Why isn't the state sending more money?"

We should also ask:

"How can we ensure every education dollar is spent effectively and sustainably?"

OHIO FAMILIES DESERVE:

- STRONG SCHOOLS
- RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING
- TRANSPARENT SPENDING
- STUDENT-FOCUSED OUTCOMES
- LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

FUNDING REALITY

Ohio taxpayers have continued to invest heavily in public education.

The challenge now is ensuring those investments deliver results for students while keeping districts financially sustainable for the future.

School funding is at historic highs. But smart planning and responsible stewardship are essential to ensure long-term success for students and communities.

GOOD SCHOOLS REQUIRE BOTH INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Sources: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, "Expanded List" files; Statement of Settlement reports (June 2025 & January 2026). *See sources for details. **2017–2025