



## **City of Ashtabula**

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

### Agenda

- 1. Opening of Committee Meeting**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Sunshine Law Certification
- 2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Guest Presentation**
  - a. Mrs. Lisa Newsome, Ashtabula Area City School Superintendent
  - b. Dr. John Patterson - Fair School Funding Plan discussion
- 4. City Manager's Report**
- 5. Water Pollution Control Report**
- 6. Public Works Report**
  - a. WPC Report
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Next Meeting**
  - a. March 25, 2025
- 9. Adjournment**

# Fair School Funding Plan

A comprehensive, fair  
school funding plan for Ohio



# THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN

Sponsors: State Representatives Bob Cupp & John Patterson

# Legislators



Senator  
Peggy Lehner,  
6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate  
District



Senator  
Vernon Sykes,  
28<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate  
District



Representative  
John Patterson,  
99<sup>th</sup> House  
District



Representative  
Gary Scherer,  
92<sup>nd</sup> House  
District



Speaker  
Robert Cupp, 4<sup>th</sup>  
House District



Representative  
Jamie Callender,  
61<sup>st</sup> House  
District



Representative  
Bride Rose  
Sweeney,  
14<sup>th</sup> House  
District



**Current**

**4/5 of Districts**

**on Cap or Guarantee**

**The Formula Doesn't Work**

# Critical Values

Define

- What does it cost to educate every child and operate a district?

Ensure

- All students can achieve their greatest potential, regardless of their economic circumstances or their school district's property wealth.

Provide

- Fair and stable funding formula that does not favor one district over another.

Fund

- Dollars flow directly to where students are educated.

# WorkGroup Members

- **Michael J. Barnes, Ed.D.**, Superintendent, Lakewood City Schools
- **Jerome R. Brockway, Ph.D.**, Former Superintendent, Ashtabula County Career Technical Center
- **Jeff Brown**, Superintendent, Granville Exempted Village Schools
- **Jared Bunting**, CFO/Treasurer, Jackson City School District
- **Mike P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.**, Superintendent, Chardon Local Schools
- **Carrie Herringshaw**, Treasurer, PENTA Career Center, Wood County
- **Tom Hosler**, Superintendent, Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
- **Cajon Keeton**, Treasurer, Benton-Carroll-Salem Local School District
- **Matthew Ketcham**, Treasurer, Madison-Champaign ESC
- **Kevin Lillie**, Treasurer/CFO, Geneva Area City Schools

# WorkGroup Members

- **Jenni Logan**, Consultant, Butler County ESC
- **Randy Lucas**, Superintendent, ESC of East Central Ohio
- **Steve McAfee**, Treasurer, Logan Elm Local Schools
- **Kevin Miller**, Superintendent, Licking Heights Local School District
- **Ryan Pendleton**, Executive Director, North Coast Shared Services Alliance
- **Scot Prebles**, Superintendent, Bay Village City Schools
- **Maria Rellinger**, Treasurer/CFO, Apollo Career Center
- **Marlon J. Styles, Jr.**, Superintendent, Middletown City School District
- **Mike Sobul**, Former Treasurer, Granville City Schools
- **Dalton Summers**, Superintendent, Ohio Valley ESC
- **Michael Tefs**, Superintendent, Revere Local Schools
- **Claudia Zaler**, Treasurer/CFO, Chillicothe City School District

# NEW SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA:

$$\frac{L^2 g^2}{FitzG^3} = x$$

$$x^2 + x + 1 = Q^5 \quad T = \sum at^3 + \sqrt{b}$$



$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

$abc + lmnop^2$

$a > 0$   
 $a = 0$   
 $a < 0$

$$R(n) \sim 2\pi i \int \prod_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{pk-1}{pk-2} \int_2^n \frac{dx}{(\ln x)^2} \frac{y^2 k}{a}$$

$pk^n$   $AC \leq DC$

FOR A GOOD TIME  
CALL 614-555-1234

$D = RUOK?$



# of pupils per class  
# of pupils per pupil

HOW MUCH  
WOOD COULD  
A WOODCHUCK  
CHUCK

# of  $POWER^2 = !$

$\sqrt{IMOK!}$

$\alpha + b = ?$

$(a+z)x = b \%$



$$\int \left[ \frac{d}{dz} Li_2(z \ln z) \right] dz$$

1 2 3

$$= - \int \left[ \frac{(\ln z + 1) \ln(1 - z \ln z)}{z \ln z} \right] dz$$

BUS  
# of people  
not on the  
bus

# + Time = ☺

$$a = \frac{MVP}{CBJ} = \pi y a^3$$

$$\int \left[ \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}(az) \operatorname{erf}(bz) \right) \right] dz$$

$\cos xa^2$

$$E = mc^2$$

$$= \int [be^{-b^2 z^2} \operatorname{erf}(az) + ae^{-a^2 z^2} \operatorname{erf}(bz)] dz$$

$b = \dots$  columns

$a$

$\sqrt{=} \# \# \#$

$a^2 = \text{Teachers}$   
 $b^2 = \text{Janitors}$   
 $z^2 = \text{E}^2 + z^3$

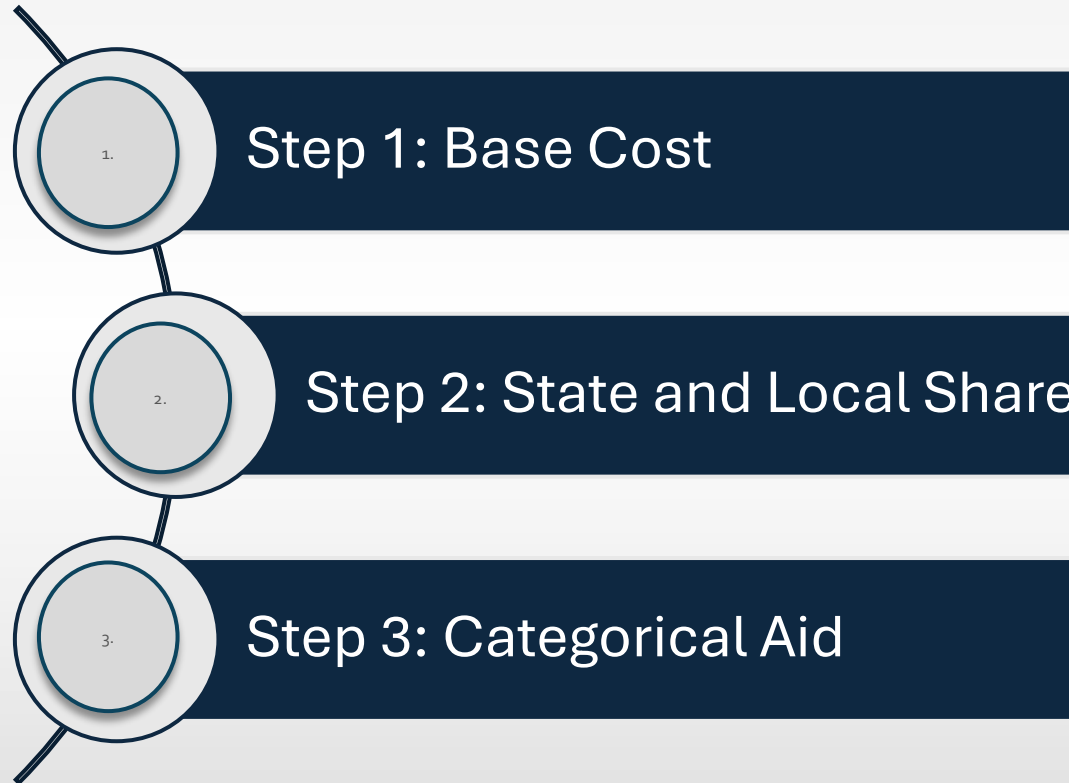
$\frac{xy^2}{pda}$

$\frac{z^2}{\pi}$

IT'S  
SIMPLE,  
REALLY!



# The Fair School Funding Plan



Rational, Transparent and Clear Funding Plan

A wooden balance scale is shown in a state of equilibrium. On the left pan, three wooden blocks are stacked vertically, with the letters 'F', 'A', and 'R' on them from top to bottom. On the right pan, there is a roll of US currency, secured with a pink rubber band. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Fair School Funding Plan

## Step 1: Base Cost

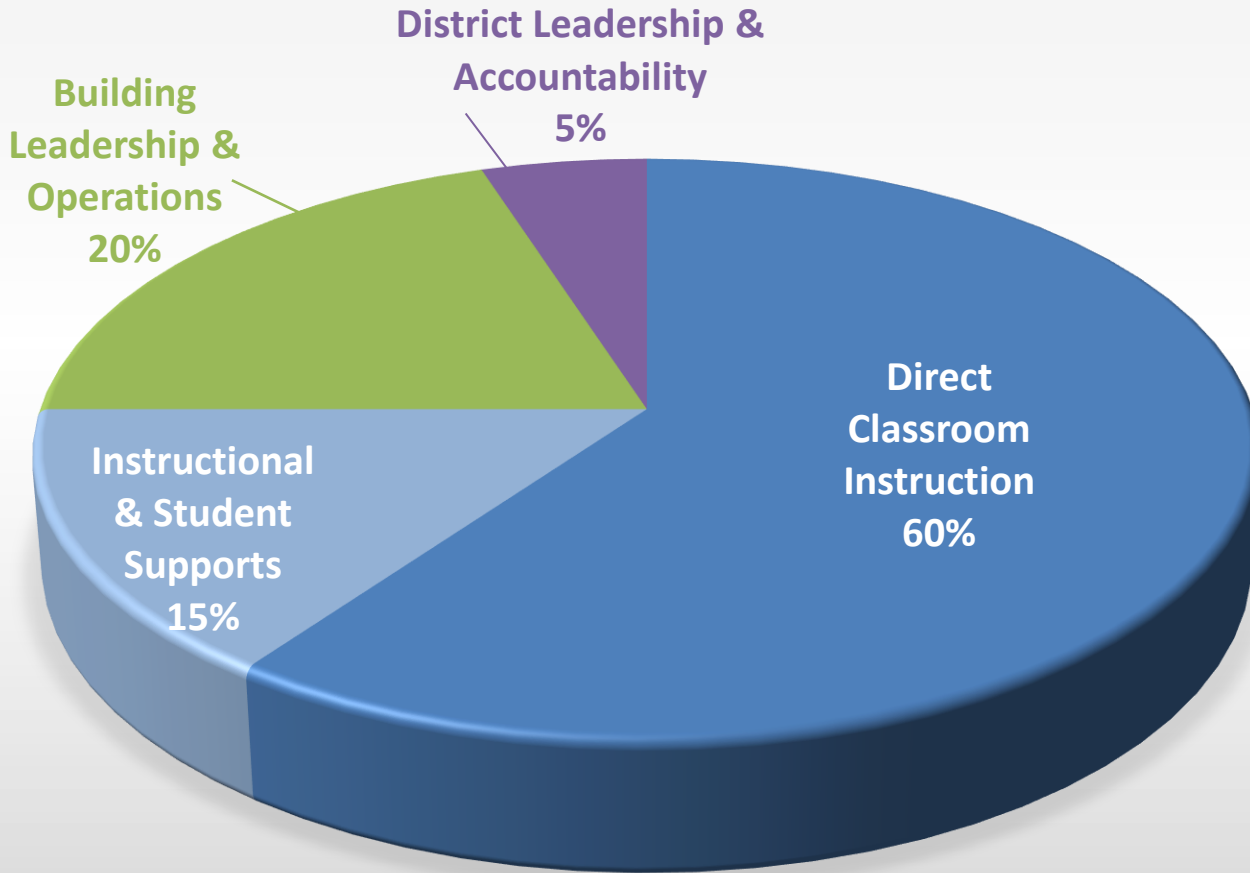
# Step 1: Base Cost - How is this approach different than the past?

- ✓ We built this formula around the student and the student's educational experience.
- ✓ We considered the “whole student” – instruction, co-curriculars, professional development, social-emotional needs, career readiness counselors and technology – these are just some of components that went into building our model that has never been in previous models.
- ✓ It is a unique model – built around Ohio's learners today and Ohio's workforce needs of tomorrow.

**It is NOT prescriptive**

**Respects local control and frees you to do what you need to do.**

# Base Cost Breakdown



| District Funding Model - Base Cost                          |                                                    |                             |                        |                |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Direct Classroom Instruction                                | Base Aid Teacher Funding                           |                             | Pupil Teacher Ratio    | Headcount      | Funded   |
|                                                             |                                                    | Grade Level                 | Per FTE                | Enrollment     | Teachers |
|                                                             |                                                    | Kindergarten                | 20                     | 57             | 2.9      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 1st Grade                   | 23                     | 64             | 2.8      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 2nd Grade                   | 23                     | 51             | 2.2      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 3rd Grade                   | 23                     | 52             | 2.3      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 4th Grade                   | 25                     | 60             | 2.4      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 5th Grade                   | 25                     | 79             | 3.2      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 6th Grade                   | 25                     | 60             | 2.4      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 7th Grade                   | 25                     | 77             | 3.1      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 8th Grade                   | 25                     | 58             | 2.3      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 9th Grade                   | 27                     | 62             | 2.3      |
|                                                             |                                                    | 10th Grade                  | 27                     | 66             | 2.4      |
|                                                             | 11th Grade                                         | 27                          | 42                     | 1.6            |          |
|                                                             | 12th Grade                                         | 27                          | 40                     | 1.5            |          |
|                                                             | Base Aid Teacher Funding                           |                             |                        | 768            | 31.2     |
|                                                             | Other Direct Instruction                           |                             |                        | <b>Min/Max</b> |          |
|                                                             | Specials Teachers (Art, Music, P/E)                | 1 per 150 students          | 6                      | 6.0            |          |
|                                                             | Substitute Teachers                                | 5 Days per teacher per year |                        |                |          |
|                                                             | Professional Development                           | 4 PD days per year          |                        |                |          |
|                                                             | Other Direct Instruction                           |                             |                        |                |          |
|                                                             | <b>Total Direct Instruction</b>                    |                             |                        |                |          |
| Instructional & Student Supports                            | Co-curriculars - Academic                          |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | Co-curriculars - Athletic (Inc. Athletic Director) |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | High School Guidance Support                       |                             |                        | 1              | 1.0      |
|                                                             | Safety & Security - Non-Personnel                  |                             |                        |                |          |
|                                                             | Supplies & Academic Content                        |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | Library/Media Operations/Support                   |                             | 1 per 1,000 students   |                | 0.8      |
|                                                             | Social/Emotional/Security/Life Support             |                             | 1 per 250 students     | 5              | 5.0      |
|                                                             | Instructional Technology                           |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | Total Student Support Instruction                  |                             |                        |                |          |
|                                                             | <b>Total Instructional Costs</b>                   |                             |                        |                |          |
| Building Leadership & Operations                            | Building Leadership                                |                             | 1 per 450 students     |                | 1.7      |
|                                                             | Building Operations and Support                    |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | Building Leadership Support                        |                             | 1 per 400 students     | 3              | 1.9      |
|                                                             | Total Building Leadership & Operations             |                             |                        |                |          |
| <b>Total Building Leadership &amp; Operations Costs</b>     |                                                    |                             |                        |                |          |
| District Leadership & Accountability Data                   | Superintendent                                     |                             |                        | 1              | 1        |
|                                                             | Treasurer                                          |                             |                        | 1              | 1        |
|                                                             | District Leadership                                |                             | 1 per 750 students     | 2              | 2.0      |
|                                                             | Fiscal Support                                     |                             | 1 per 850 students     | 2              | 2.0      |
|                                                             | EMIS Support                                       |                             | 1 per 5,000 students   | 1              | 1.0      |
|                                                             | ITC Support, Technology Infrastructure Maintenance |                             | Amount per pupil       |                |          |
|                                                             | District Leadership Support                        |                             | 1 per 3 administrators | 1              | 1.0      |
|                                                             | Total District Leadership & Accountability Data    |                             |                        |                |          |
| <b>Total District Leadership &amp; Accountability Costs</b> |                                                    |                             |                        |                |          |


A wooden balance scale is shown in a state of equilibrium. On the left pan, three wooden blocks are stacked vertically, spelling out the word "FAIR". On the right pan, there is a roll of US one hundred dollar bills, secured with a pink rubber band. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

# Fair School Funding Plan


## Step 2: State and Local Share

# Fair Base Funding Distribution

Unlike the current formula, which is too dependent on property values, the new plan uses both property values and resident income to identify each community's capacity to pay their fair share.



A district's state and local share will be determined by its capacity to generate local dollars.



Only a change in a district's resident income, property value or enrollment would cause a change in that district's local capacity.

# With New Fair Funding Plan Distribution Determination of Local Share of Funding



60% BASED ON PROPERTY VALUES



40% BASED ON RESIDENT INCOME

A wooden balance scale is shown in a state of equilibrium. On the left pan, three wooden blocks are stacked vertically, spelling out the word 'FAIR'. On the right pan, there is a roll of US currency, secured with a pink rubber band. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient.

# Fair School Funding Plan Step 3: Categorical Aid

# Step 3: Categorical Aid – Outside of Base Cost

- Poverty
- Preschool
- Special Education
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- Gifted Education
- Transportation
- ESC, CTE and STEM
- Community Schools, Vouchers and Open Enrollment

# Powerful Outcome

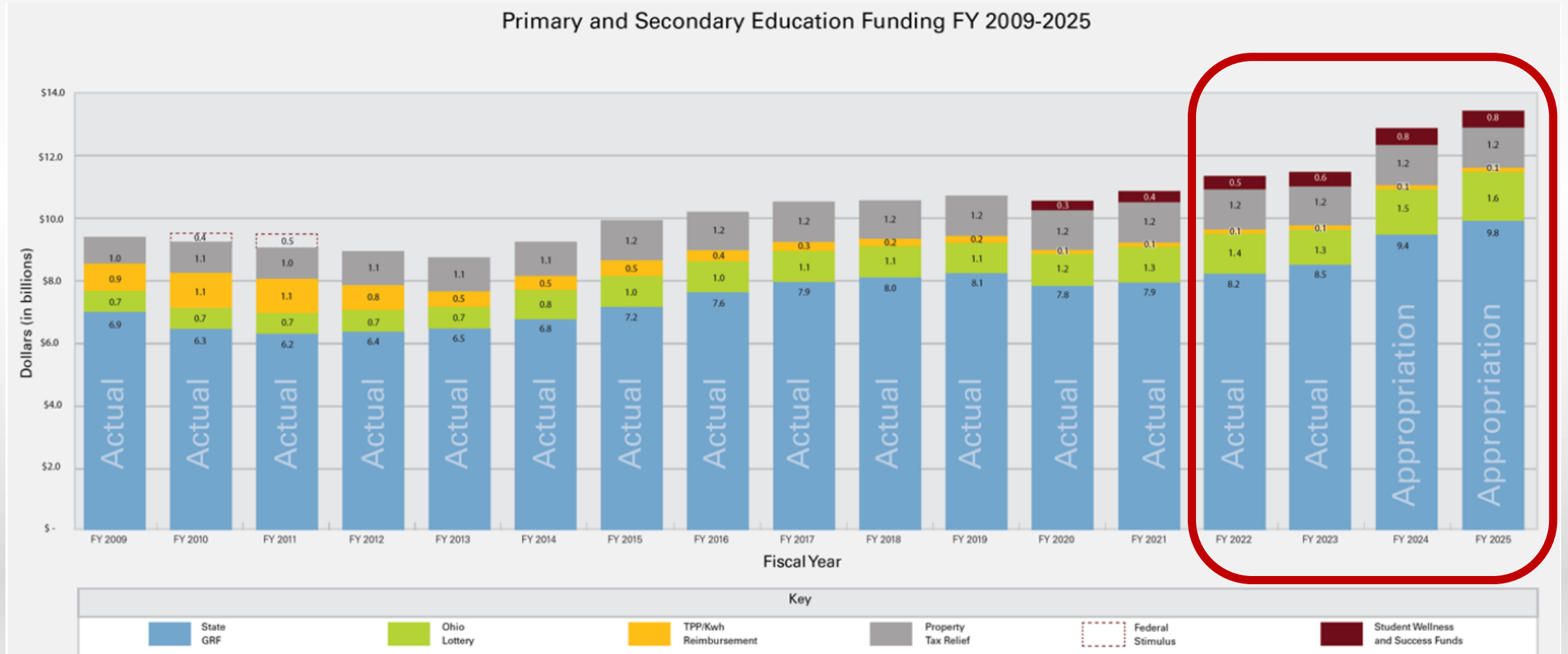
# How does the FSFP Help?

**The FSFP has led to significant funding increases for Ohio's public schools:**

- There has been an approximate **\$1.5 Billion** increase in State Funding since FY 2022 **and a 12.1% Increase** to traditional PK-12 school funding in the latest budget
- **Raised State's Base Cost** from \$6,020 per pupil in FY 2021 to an average of \$7,350 in FY 2023, and \$8,240 in FY 2025

# Powerful outcome

## How does the FSFP Help?



Source: DEW Overview of School Funding | Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

# Powerful outcome

- **Base Cost** - A complete overhaul to base cost, answering the question what does every student need and what does every district need to operate.
- **State & Local Share** – A new local share calculation which determines, with much greater accuracy, the capacity of districts to develop local support for levies, based on both property valuation and personal income.
- **Categoricals** – A road map that addresses additional educational needs, such as special education, English Language Learners, economically disadvantaged students, gifted and transportation.

# The truth about guarantees

## There are four types of guarantees

- **FY20 Guarantee:** Ensures that no district receives less funding than it did in FY20.
- **FY21 Guarantee:** A temporary guarantee ensuring no district gets less funding than in FY21. This is set to expire at the end of the FY24/25 biennial budget unless renewed.
- **Transportation Guarantee:** Ensures that minimum transportation funding levels remain at the FY19 amounts, supporting districts' transportation needs.
- **Supplemental Targeted Assistance:** A form of aid based on prior funding levels, supporting a small number of districts with specific challenges, such as low wealth and significant open enrollment out.

# Flush with cash?



DUE TO ONE-TIME FUNDS AND VIRTUAL OPERATION (COVID) DISTRICTS HAVE SEEN HISTORICALLY HIGH CASH BALANCES



BASED ON THE MAY 2024, FY24 FORECAST SUBMISSION, **315** DISTRICTS SHOWED **DEFICIT SPENDING** IN FY25



NOVEMBER 5, 2024, SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION RESULTS SAW **71 OF 142** SCHOOL LEVIES FAIL

# 20 mill floor – Key points

## Key Points About the 20-Mill Floor:

- **Purpose:** It was implemented to maintain a minimum level of funding for school districts and to align property tax revenue with state funding formulas.
- **Revenue Growth:** When districts are at the 20-mill floor, any increase in property valuations (such as through reappraisal or updates) can lead to increased revenue from property taxes because the effective rate cannot be reduced below the 20-mill threshold.
- **State Aid Requirement:** Historically, districts needed to levy at least 20 mills of taxes to qualify for basic state aid, which is why the 20-mill floor was put in place.
- **Uniform Application:** The 20-mill floor applies uniformly across all school districts, ensuring consistency in the minimum amount of property tax revenue collected for current expenses.

This provision helps to stabilize school district funding and ensure that districts maintain a basic level of revenue to support their operations, regardless of fluctuations in property values.

# School Funding – Fair School Funding Plan

## What happens when we update only certain inputs?

- Updated capacity inputs (increased property values and income).
- **Kept base cost inputs** at **FY22** values and statewide base cost per pupil at FY24.
- Results in the **increase in local capacity per pupil** being **greater** than the **increase in the base cost per pupil**, decreasing state share and placing more districts on a guarantee.

|                               | FY19 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| # of Districts on a Guarantee | 339  | 389  | 326  | 182  | 217  |

Water Pollution Control Update

- **Plant**
  - Replacement overhead door for maintenance center has been delivered. Waiting on scheduling for installation.
  - Outfall relocation efforts – Received comments from OEPA regarding the PTI. Still awaiting response from the Army Corps.
  - Confined space training was completed on 2/5/25 at our facility. Training was provided by Mtech Company. 10 WPC staff completed the training, with the remaining three staff to complete their training on 4/11/25 at Mtech’s facility.
  - Matthew Copeland (Maintenance Mechanic) – passed his Class II Wastewater Treatment Exam on February 12<sup>th</sup>. There are currently only 753 people in the State of Ohio with this level of certification.
  - Digester Building – We are working with Chaltron Company to install atmospheric monitoring for the building.
  - Lab scale and thermometer calibrations are scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Collection System**
  - Lateral repair projects, currently on hold due to weather conditions.
  - Ohio Ave. Extension Sewer project – ongoing.
- **Misc.**
  -