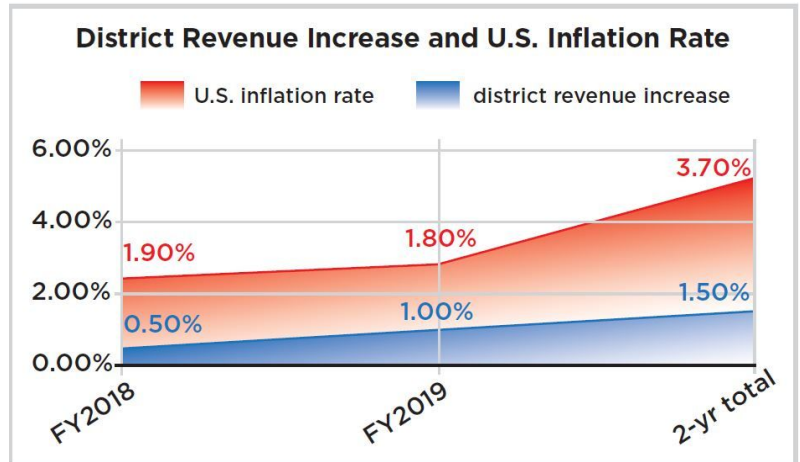


DOVER CITY SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS November 2019

Why can't the District just live within its means?

Dover School District DOES live within its means.

When district revenue does not increase with the pace of inflation, "living within your means" results in reductions in staff and services.



If we wait long enough, won't the State fix the funding issues in Ohio?

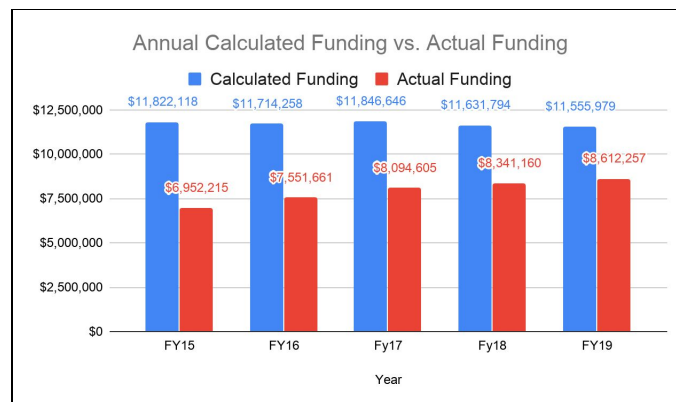
If history is any indicator, **NO**. It has not been fixed since it was **declared unconstitutional in 1997** -- 22 years ago. While many school districts in Ohio face funding challenges, Ohio's **flawed model has left Dover more than \$19 million underfunded in the last five years** alone. In the past 22 years, many proposals to Ohio's school funding issue have been suggested, but none to improve this situation for Dover Schools have passed.

OK ... so the State didn't help Dover Schools, but did the district really lose State funds for operating?

The State of Ohio determines how much state funding a district should receive per student. For many years, and only **for some districts, Ohio has not fully funded this amount.** Districts like Dover with increasing enrollment -- including an increase of economically disadvantaged students -- **should receive more money** according to that formula. However, **Dover does not.**

The State has withheld a total of more than \$19 million from our schools over the past five years just by not funding its own formula.

Over the past five years, the total State UNDERFUNDED difference was more than \$19 million!!



So how in the world did Dover Schools go 11 years without additional operating money? You said you'd make the money in 2008 last 5 years ... how did you get it to last 11?!?

In efforts to keep costs low, since 2008, Dover City Schools has:

- **Reduced maintenance/custodial** staff
- **Reduced** the number of kindergarten **classroom assistants and library aides**
- **Reconfigured** the **high school** and **middle school schedules** to educate more students without adding teachers
- **Eliminated 19 high school and middle school teaching positions** between 2008 and 2018
- **Eliminated three teaching positions for the 2018-19** school year
- **Eliminated seven elementary teaching positions** through the elementary reconfiguration **in 2019-2020**
- Implemented **pay-to-participate for MS and HS** students, and added a small **fee for senior citizen passes** in 2019

These efforts allowed the district to **go twice as long as promised in 2008** before returning to voters in need of new operating money.

If this levy does not pass in 2019-2020, what reductions will the District have to make?

Like all school districts, **84% of our budget is allocated to people**: both salaries and benefits. People is who we are and the service we provide.

Given that staff reductions are the only significant long-term impact to the budget. If we have to continue to reduce expenditures, **we will reduce (4-8) staff members in 2020-2021.**

To make reductions, the district will begin with any retirements and/or resignations, and move to a "Reduction in Force" plan, if needed. Staff reductions will result in **increased class sizes** and **reduction or elimination of extracurricular/athletic programs and academic options.**

Did the Board know that the District would be in need of operating money now when they put the new high school bond issue on the ballot?

In 2016, the Board of Education knew operating money would be needed in the next 3-5 years. During the 2016 campaign, that was communicated consistently.

Dover is a locally funded district, with 51% of all General Fund revenue coming from local dollars. The need for new local operating dollars in districts like Dover will always exist. It's just a matter of when.

In 2008 -- right after the last passage of new operating money -- the district began to plan for building a new high school. That overdue building need made it necessary to push the request for new operating money out from a promised five years to today's eleven-year span.

Then why did it take so long to get to the new high school construction ... so that the operating money is needed so close to the opening of a new school?

One constant had been a need for a new high school. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's continuous designation of Dover High School as first on its list of Ohio schools in need of replacement also supported the need to replace our 100-year-old high school.

The plan for the new high school included a great deal of community engagement and planning. **After many community meetings, surveys, and even ballot issues in 2011, 2014, and 2016, the plan became more defined and widely supported.** The Board of Education worked with the community all these years, and in 2016, the decision was made to take the HS construction plan to voters, and it was finally successful.

Are you in need of this operating money to complete or run the new high school?

NO. This operating levy request will not be used to build the new high school. All of the money needed for the new high school was secured with the passage of the bond issue in November 2016 and completely funds the project.

Funds generated by this operating levy will pay for daily operating expenses of the entire district: employees; academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs; student technology; buses and transportation; and utilities/fuel. Dover Schools would be in need of operating money with or without a new high school.

Levies seem like they would be expensive. How much does it cost to put a school levy on the ballot?

Actual levy **campaigns are funded by outside political action groups.** In Dover, that group is “Foundations for the Future.” This organization works from private donations and fundraising activities.

For the election, the District shares costs with other public entities on the ballot, so the cost **varies based upon the number of issues for that election date.** This cost is an **investment** and is a regular “cost of doing business” for a school district.

Election Date	Cost to Dover Schools
** November 2017	\$9,560
November 2018	\$1,775
** May 2019	\$29,295

** November 2017 also included the cost of School Board Member elections.

** In May 2019, the school levy was the only issue on the ballot.

Why does Dover Schools rehire some of its retired employees?

Dover is always looking for the best candidate to fill a position. The ability to rehire a retiree **provides the District more staffing options.** A retired teacher who is rehired goes back to five years of experience on the pay scale. The **value to the district is that our students have a teacher with 30 or more years of experience for the cost of a five-year teacher.** On the current pay scale, this is almost **\$13,000 in savings.**

Has our district and its needs really changed much since 2008?

YES. With each of these changes, there are additional costs and services needed.

	2008	2019	a decade's change
student enrollment	2478	2679	↑ 200 students
economically disadvantaged students	545	852	↑ 307 students (10% increase)
English language learner students	35	204	↑ 169 students (8% increase)
household median income	\$29,273	\$33,479	↑ \$4,206

Why doesn't Dover have an on-line school or digital learning options for students?

Dover does have on-line learning options for students in grades 8-12. Supervised, online instruction is provided during the school day and, at this time, is used for credit recovery and some summer course offerings. Currently, school officials are researching all options of online and blended learning to expand this program in the best way to meet the needs of our community.

Academics ... OK, but why is it my responsibility to pay for the extras: clubs, music groups, athletics?

Every program Dover Schools provides for its students has a purpose and contributes to a positive school experience and the development of well-rounded adults.

Implementation of **pay-to-participate fees** and a **small fee to offset free senior passes** is a way for the families accessing these programs to assume some of these costs instead of the taxpayer.

Why did my taxes increase so much after 2016?

The new high school issue was not the only local tax issue passed in 2016.

Tax bills in 2017 included an increase for all of the following:

- the county's property **re-appraisals**
- approval of an **increase** to the Tuscarawas County **Senior Center levy**
- approval of a **tax levy for the City of Dover for the fire station and safety forces**

The cost of the new high school was approximately \$7.00/month per \$100,000 of value for a Dover homeowner.

Why does Dover Schools have "so many administrators?"

Dover Schools' administrative costs are actually **36% below the state average**. The District has the lowest administrative costs per pupil in Tuscarawas County.

Since 2008, the last time the District taxpayers supported a new operating levy, the district has **reduced the administrative staff by 7%**. The teaching staff was reduced by 4% in the same time period.

We have found a way to maintain a **lean leadership team even in the face of increasing state and federal requirements**.

Why did the District reorganize the elementary schools after only one attempt at levy passage?

The Board of Education and district administrators had **two choices** to reduce our deficit spending: **pass a levy or make reductions**.

Elementary reorganization provided a **long-term solution**: the ability to reduce staff in a way that saved money year after year, while not eliminating any specific programs.

For **2019-20 alone, the district reduced more than \$535,000** from the operating budget: a reduction sustainable into the future. We reduced spending and **did not cut programs or opportunities for students**.

Prior to the election, the potential changes were explained via meetings with staff and community members, radio, newspaper, social media, direct mail, and in a detailed Financial Prospectus mailed to all homes in the Dover School District in October 2018.

DOVER CITY SCHOOLS
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS THAT ARISE
November 2019

Why did the district eliminate the free passes for senior citizens?

In trying to preserve programs and opportunities for students, the decision to eliminate free passes for senior citizens was made to increase revenue that supports extracurricular programs. Senior citizens have the option of purchasing an event pass for \$40 that can be used for all athletic events, theater productions, and concerts.

Why was class and bus information mailed to parents this year?

In respecting and protecting our students' privacy, we no longer post class lists on the exterior doors of the school. Since this is important information, we wanted to mail it directly to our parents. This information was included with other letters/mailers that are mailed every year -- it was not an additional or "extra" mailing.

I understand this is a reappraisal year for our property taxes. Will Dover Schools receive more tax money from this reappraisal?

No, this levy is for \$2,631,975 and will only collect that amount, even if property values are increased through the reappraisal.

Why is this levy called an 'Emergency' Operating Levy?

An "Emergency" Operating Levy is simply the state's name for a levy that is for a fixed amount of money for a specified number of years. The language is determined by state law. In Dover's situation, that request is for \$2,631,975 for 5 years.