



## A CRITICAL TIME FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The Fair School Funding Plan formula is a move toward **equitable** and **adequate** funding of Ohio's schools. For decades, school funding was inadequate, inequitable and overly reliant on local property and income taxes. This plan addresses those issues, but **its success hinges on full implementation of the model as designed.**

The Governor's budget, now being considered in the House, includes the "final phase-in" of the plan. However, the budget does not include updates to base costs; rather, it freezes them at 2022 levels. **If these changes pass, the formula will no longer function as designed.** In this budget proposal, the formula will no longer account for inflationary increases in costs to educate a student. As a result, school districts will collectively experience reduced state funding, necessitating increased local financial support for education.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO DOVER SCHOOLS?

The exclusion of inflationary base cost updates from the Governor's budget equates to **a reduction of approximately \$1.7 million over the next two years**, compared to the full implementation of the model as it was *designed* and *promised*. Without these funds, the District would need to take necessary actions to reduce spending by reducing programming or increasing locally generated revenue in order to balance the budget.

### WHO DO WE CONTACT and HOW CAN WE HELP?

#### **Representative Jodi Salvo**

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11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-8035  
[rep51@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep51@ohiohouse.gov)

#### **Senator Al Landis**

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square Ground floor 038  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-5838  
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### ***How Do I Share My Thoughts with Our Representatives?***

1. Share your name and your perspective (community member, parent, teacher, school staff member, etc.).
2. Share in a few sentences why you support your public school, providing examples of how your public school provides value to you, your family, and the community. *This is YOUR STORY and it matters.*
3. Specifically ask for your legislator to **support BOTH** the (1) **full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan AND** the (2) **updated inputs** to plan for today and the future.
4. *Thank them.* Locally, we are blessed with legislators who take time to hear our concerns and engage in our community. They have a history of supporting strong public schools in many different ways, and we count on and appreciate their continued support on this important issue.

## KEY IMPORTANT POINTS ...

### ALL OHIO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE COUNTING ON US.

For perspective, **90% of Ohio's students attend public schools** and **97% of students in Tuscarawas County attend public schools.**

*YET... under the current budget proposal ...*

1. More than half of the public school districts in Ohio will experience a **reduction in state funding**. Many of these districts increased in enrollment in the last year.
2. The **state share of the cost to educate a student decreases both years**, which is contrary to the DeRolph school funding decision ruling that the state's school funding system was unconstitutional because it relied too heavily on local property taxes.
3. **Charter schools and voucher programs will receive a half billion dollar increase:** a 1.9% increase the first year and 1.4% increase the second year ... while public schools' resources are reduced

### PROPERTY TAXES/VALUATIONS:

*In Ohio, when you talk about property taxes, you are talking about school funding.*

TRUTH: Increases in valuation do not always lead directly to increases in property tax due to the tax reduction factors for many districts who are not on the 20-mill floor.

TRUTH: Our property *values* (not property *tax rates*) increased 18% in our district in 2022. While your property taxes increased, eventually, with the absence of base cost inflationary inputs, these resources simply begin reducing the state's share.

*The last reappraisal in Tuscarawas County provided additional revenue because we are on the 20-mill floor. While this increase was a positive for Dover Schools, the absence of updates to inputs/base cost will trigger a reduction in the percentage of state funding we receive. As property values rise, local capacity (a district's ability to "pay their share") increases -- thus reducing the state share of base cost. **The result is a double-edged sword. Dover residents experience increased local property taxes due to inflation AND assume the remaining cost that the state is neglecting to fund by not making these necessary updates.***

### SB66: A CURRENT PROPOSAL TO CHANGE the "20-MILL FLOOR":

If approved, this would reduce property tax revenue that our district has depended on for decades.

The "floor" is what allows a district, being at the *minimum* millage collection, to see increases to revenue with property valuation increases. Senate Bill 66 would change how a school district's effective millage floor is calculated, making it include emergency levies, substitute levies, all inside (or reduced-over-time) millage, and school district income taxes in the 20-mill floor calculation. **This would have a significant negative impact on Dover City Schools.**

This creates serious constitutional concerns. **This action would fundamentally alter the terms under which the levies were originally approved by voters.** For Dover, these changes could pull us (substantially!) off "the floor" and freeze additional revenue through valuation growth.