

OHIO SCHOOL FUNDING

H.B. 920 Simplified

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WHAT IS HOUSE BILL 920 (1976)?

In 1976, Ohio passed H.B. 920, which essentially "freezes" the amount of \$ a local school district can collect from a property tax levy. This effectively forces many districts to ask their local communities for more money every two to three years. The Ross community last approved a property tax levy in 1999, after approving 4 in the two decades prior ('81, '87, '90, '95).

WHAT DOES H.B. 920 MEAN FOR SCHOOLS?

Due to H.B. 920, the amount of \$ a school district receives from a property tax levy does not increase as home values rise. In fact, from 1976-today, the Ross Community has approved 40.37 mills through property tax levies. Because of H.B. 920, though, the district only can receive the \$ from 17.34 mills in property tax revenue.



WHY IS H.B. 920 SO SIGNIFICANT IN THE SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL?



Local taxes constitute about 55% of average public school districts' revenue. As costs go up with inflation, however, the revenue a district receives from a voted property tax levy does not increase. As a result, school districts have to either pass additional tax levies to increase revenue or cut expenses in order to operate.

SHOULDN'T RLSD JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO "LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS"?

State and local revenue has been flat for the last decade +, but inflation has continued to rise. Unfortunately, there are many fixed costs in a school district, and unlike a business or a household, school districts don't have a whole lot of flexibility in those costs. A district can't just decide to pay its teachers less or not purchase curricular materials.

Consider operating a household budget in 2023 using the same income from 2010, or, even more difficult, from 1999.



THE ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GROWS STUDENTS.



The district's primary goal is to offer a quality, well-rounded educational experience for our families in a fiscally responsible way.