FREDERICKTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, OH 43019
Phone: 740.694.2956 Facs: 740.694.0956
www.fredericktownschools.com

Every day, everyone learning and adapting to excel in a changing world

March 10, 2025

Ohio legislators are preparing a state budget that will determine whether to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan. This plan, designed by education experts, allocates resources fairly based on student needs and local funding ability. The plan was enacted in 2021, but the final phases (years 5 and 6) still need budget approval. Without updates to adjust for inflation, schools could lose the necessary funding.

The Fair School Funding Plan represents a move toward equitable and adequate funding for Ohio schools. It translates real student needs into concrete resources by accounting for essential education components like appropriate class sizes, student support services, and educational technology. The formula treats all taxpayers fairly based on their community's ability to raise local funds.

Additionally, the Governor's budget calls for reducing "guarantee funding." Fredericktown Local Schools will move towards this guarantee in Fiscal Year 2027. The funding guarantees the District does not receive less state funding than we received in FY20.

There are several reasons why school districts receive this type of funding:

- Increased "wealth" from rising property values triggered this funding.
    - If a district's property values increase, the State assumes it has a more substantial local tax base and may reduce funding accordingly.
- Declining enrollment
    - Less funding is provided as student numbers decrease.
- Historical stagnant or minimal increases in state budgets over time lead to the guarantee.

Why does this matter?

This guarantee serves as a financial safety net, preventing drastic funding cuts in a short period. The Governor's budget is the reduction of "guarantee funding," which ensures schools don't receive less than they did in 2020. Fredericktown Local Schools may lose nearly $620,000 annually starting in 2027 due to property value increases, declining enrollment, and past minimal state budget growth. This funding cut could lead to program reductions or higher local taxes, something the Board of Education wants to avoid.

At the same time, state funding for voucher and charter school programs is set to increase significantly. House Bill 96 proposes $2.4 billion for voucher programs, representing a 16.5% increase – an additional $265.4 million over two years. Similarly, charter and private schools will receive an 11.7% funding boost, totaling $2.7 billion, or an additional $221.8 million. These increases reflect a growing push for taxpayer-funding EdChoice vouchers, which allow any Ohio family to participate, shifting resources away from the 80% of students who rely on

public education.

Every dollar invested in our local schools impacts our local economy and our future workforce. Once fully implemented, the Fair School Funding Plan will bring predictability and stability to Ohio Schools, allowing districts to sustain and develop programming to prepare all students for success. That means Ohio will remain a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Fredericktown has managed our funds and has not had a new levy since 1986. The District has only asked for renewals of the levy. How many businesses can say that they have not increased their prices in over 40 years?

It is often said that what we value, we are willing to fund. As our legislators begin discussions of priorities for the biennium budget, they need to hear from you about the importance and urgency of investing in Ohio's children.

I urge you to join me in reaching out to House of Representative Beth Lear and Senator Andrew Brenner to share your support for the full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan and the importance of investing in Ohio's future.

Sincerely,

Heather Darnold
Treasurer

It is vital that legislators hear from you regarding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Over the next week, please take the time to call or email our legislators who represent the Fredericktown Local School District:
-Representative -Beth Lear at #614-466-1431 or email at rep61@ohiohouse.gov
-Senator -Andrew Brenner at 614-466-8086 or email at brenner@ohiosenate.gov

What do you say?

- Tell them who you are and from what viewpoint you are writing (community member, parent, teacher, school staff member, etc.). *My name is NAME and I am a ROLE in the Fredericktown Local School District.*
- 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. *I am writing/calling to ask Rep. LEGISLATOR NAME*
support the full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan with updated inputs to account for inflation. This is important to me because…
- Emphasize that to represent the Fredericktown Local School District and our community, the legislator needs to support full implementation of the Fair School Funding along with supporting updating of the base cost inputs. *Please represent our community in Columbus by fully phasing in the Fair School Funding Plan with updated base costs.*