

ADVOCATING FOR **FAIR** FUNDING



WHY THIS MATTERS **NOW**

The proposed state budget is currently under review in the state legislature, and its impact on school funding is both immediate and long-term. The complete fulfillment of the Fair School Funding Plan is crucial in the state upholding its obligation to public school students and lessening the burden on local taxpayers.

The reappraisal of property values in Franklin County has created an opportunity for the state to pull funding from our local school District. The recent state budget proposal goes deeper in funding cuts and threatens minimum guaranteed funding.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to advocating for a fair and equitable funding system. We will continue to advocate for what is best for our students, ensuring that every child has access to the necessary resources to succeed. It is critical that lawmakers address these funding gaps to support all districts.

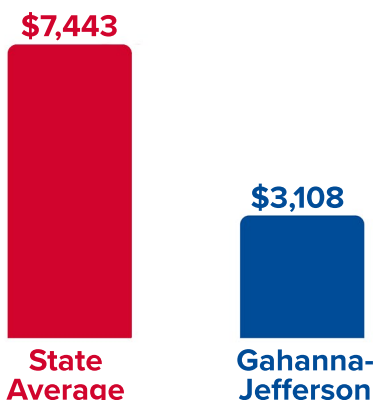
DOING MORE WITH **LESS**

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools operates with significantly less state funding than the state average, yet we remain committed to providing a high-quality education for our students. Through careful financial management, we keep our expenditures well below the state average per pupil while ensuring that the majority of our resources go directly into the classroom. This efficiency allows us to maximize student learning despite financial constraints.

The success of our students is a direct result of our community's investment in education. Local tax dollars play a crucial role in bridging the funding gap, allowing us to maintain strong academic programs, support services, and opportunities that prepare students for the future. THANK YOU for your contribution to our success.

While we continue to stretch every dollar, sustainable and fair funding remains essential to maintaining and enhancing the high standards our students deserve.

STATE FUNDING PER PUPIL



FY24 EXPENDITURES

State Average Per Pupil	Gahanna-Jefferson Average Per Pupil
\$12,397	\$11,515

% OF DOLLARS DIRECTED TO CLASSROOM

State Average	Gahanna-Jefferson Average
66.9%	73.6%

All chart data attributed to
Ohio Dept. of Education & Workforce
Cupp Patterson

WHEN FUNDING FALLS **BEHIND** INFLATION

From FY11 to FY24, state funding for public education has increased by only 19.9%, while inflation has risen by 38.9%.

This gap continues to widen, and under the current trajectory of the Fair School Funding Plan, our District faces an estimated **\$5 million shortfall by FY27** when adjusted for projected inflation.

IMPACTS

LARGER CLASS SIZES will become a reality, making it harder for teachers to provide individualized attention.

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT special education, gifted students, and English learners will be stretched thin, limiting opportunities for some of our most vulnerable populations.

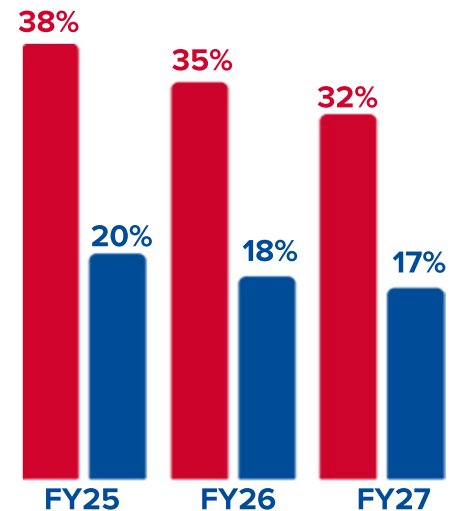
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT will decrease, leading to fewer resources for staff and students alike.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS who play a crucial role in student well-being and academic success, will see their caseloads grow, making it more difficult for personalized guidance.

THE **TAXPAYER** BURDEN

As state funding continues to erode under the Fair School Funding Plan and the current budget bill, the financial burden shifts more and more to local taxpayers. While our community has always supported our schools, recent changes in state funding policy have made it even harder to sustain the level of education our students deserve. In FY27, we will receive less from the state than we did in FY21, despite the rising costs of operating our schools.

As we work through our state-mandated five-year forecasts, the unpredictability of state funding makes financial planning increasingly difficult. A stable and reliable funding structure is essential to ensuring that we can continue to provide high-quality education without placing an excessive burden on local taxpayers.



The percentage of funding that GJPS (in blue) receives from the state is much less than the state average (in red). Over the next three years, those percentages continue to decline.

YOUR **VOICE** MATTERS



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Sample Letter to
Legislators