

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AMENDMENTS TO THE OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS, the Berea City School District is a member of the Ohio School Boards Association, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association consistently advocates on behalf of its member school districts with legislators in the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, part of that advocacy includes a "legislative platform" that is reviewed and amended each year by OSBA member school districts, and

WHEREAS, school funding systems that rely heavily on local property taxes, create funding disparities that disadvantage lower-wealth communities and challenge the equity of public education, and

WHEREAS, the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) offers an equitable and transparent funding model grounded in actual educational costs and student needs, thereby addressing structural flaws in previous funding systems, including an overreliance on property taxes, and

WHEREAS, regular updates and legislative commitment are necessary to ensure that the FSFP evolves with changing student demographics, cost drivers, and economic conditions across Ohio's diverse school districts, and

WHEREAS, maintaining local control of education—including governance, budgeting, and curriculum—ensures responsiveness to community priorities and preserves democratic accountability in public education governance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Berea Board of Education recommends the following language be changed or added to the legislative platform:

Amend the overall description of the "**Finance**" section as follows in the Finance plank:

Stable and adequate funding is essential to a sound educational system. OSBA supports **the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing** adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. The association believes that this is a constitutional responsibility of the General Assembly, with oversight from the courts. The association pledges to work with the governor and members of the General Assembly to **improve and update the Fair School Funding Plan or other comparable equitable funding system.**

Add a new plank titled, "**Fair School Funding Plan**" in the Finance section:

Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP), developed through bipartisan collaboration among educators, finance experts, and legislators, aims to rectify longstanding inequities in the state's school funding system. By employing a base cost methodology grounded in student-teacher ratios, minimum staffing levels, and actual district expenditures, the FSFP ensures that funding reflects the unique needs of each school district. This approach promotes a transparent and equitable partnership between the state and local communities to support public education for all Ohio students.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Allocates funding based on where students are educated, ensuring resources directly support the schools they attend.**

- **Implements an input-based funding model informed by professional judgment, resulting in a tailored per-pupil base cost for each district.**
- **Establishes a process for regularly updating the components and costs associated with delivering a high-quality education.**
- **Works to equalize funding by providing additional support to districts with limited local revenue-generating capacity.**
- **Provides supplemental funds based on specific student needs and demographics, including support for students with disabilities, English learners, gifted students, economically disadvantaged students, and those enrolled in career-technical education programs.**

Amends the "**Base-formula amount**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes a process for determining **and regularly updating all** the components and costs of a high-quality education in the Fair School Funding Plan as a preferred system of funding.

Amend the "**Categorical parity**" section as follows:

OSBA supports legislation that

- Establishes that the state, in addition to determining **and regularly updating** the cost of a high-quality educational program, must determine **and regularly update** the additional costs necessary to provide services to students with unique educational needs, such as students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, **English learners**, and students participating in career-technical education or gifted educational services.

Amend the "**Charter/community school funding**" section as follows:

Full transparency of the costs of both public schools and charter/community schools dictates that the flow of tax dollars be accurately reflected. Any transfer of state tax dollars to charter/community schools must be based on accurate enrollment information. The public school district of residence must be immediately notified when a student enrolls or withdraws from a charter/community school. ~~The current practice of deducting funding for charter/community school children from the state funds provided to traditional public school districts is unnecessary and confusing.~~ State funding for charter/community schools must flow directly to the charter/community school sponsor. All local dollars generated through local levies must remain with the local taxing authority.

OSBA supports legislation that

- ~~Eliminates the~~ **Avoids a** process of flow-through funding to charter/community schools.

Amend the "**Diversion of voter-approved tax revenue**" section as follows:

Voters must be assured that revenues raised through taxes will go directly for the purposes stated. Voter-approved tax funds generated for education purposes must be **received and** administered by locally elected boards of education and must be spent only for public education purposes.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Diverts voter-approved tax funds to another purpose without voter approval.
- **Reduces or eliminates tax revenues from voter-approved levies which should be received by locally elected boards of education.**
- **Forces school districts to return any revenues once received.**
- **Impedes locally elected boards of education from directing the proceeds of tax revenues for the purposes the voters approved.**

Amend the “**School-funding factors**” section as follows:

OSBA believes school-funding distribution formulas must be equitable and adequate across Ohio’s diverse public school districts. **OSBA supports the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) as a preferred system of providing adequate, equitable, and predictable funding for Ohio public schools. School funding must reflect differences in cost or need across students and school districts.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Makes **regular** adjustments in school funding based on **current** operational costs, needs of students and geographical challenges and funding capacity that exist among school districts.

Amend the “**Property tax relief**” section as follows:

Ohio’s overreliance on local property taxes to fund public education has and will continue to cause local burdens and hardships in fully funding the education system **until and unless the State of Ohio fully funds public education from the state budget. When the State reduces its investment in public schools, local property owners end up paying more, or school districts are forced to make cuts. When the state portion of school funding increases, schools are less reliant on local taxes, and the frequency and size of local property tax levies decreases. OSBA therefore supports the full funding of the current costs to educate students in Ohio from the state budget.**

OSBA supports legislation that

- Increases property tax relief, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair share of the cost of public education.
- Eliminates the overreliance on local property taxes.
- Enhances the Homestead Exemption Program to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens.

OSBA opposes legislation that

- Achieves increased property tax relief from the existing funding for elementary and secondary education.

Add a new plank titled “**Local control**” to the School Governance section:

Local control is a foundational principle of Ohio’s public education system, enshrined in the Ohio Revised Code, which grants locally elected boards of education the authority to determine policies and procedures for their schools. This principle ensures that educational decisions reflect the unique needs and values of each community.

Locally elected school boards are directly accountable to their constituents and are best positioned to provide responsive and fiscally responsible governance. Their autonomy encompasses control over financial matters, curricula, personnel, school calendars, and educational priorities. Maintaining this local authority is vital for fostering public trust and ensuring the long-term stability of school districts.

OSBA supports legislation that:

- **Affirms the authority of local school boards to make decisions regarding curriculum, budgeting, staffing, and scheduling, within the framework of state guidelines.**
- **Recognizes the capacity of local boards to address the distinct challenges and priorities of their local communities, whether urban, suburban, or rural.**
- **Encourages innovation and continuous improvement through locally driven initiatives and programs.**

- Ensures that local school boards have control over financial reserves and the discretion to determine the timing and amount of levies based on local circumstances.

OSBA opposes legislation that:

- Undermines the decision-making authority of locally elected boards of education.
- Imposes unfunded mandates or statewide policies that do not account for local contexts and needs.
- Erodes the ability of local school boards to manage resources effectively and respond to their communities.

2025-05-21
Date
President Board of Education
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Corinne A. Farris

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