





CLARK-SHAWNEE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE


Brian Kuhn
Superintendent

Tom Faulkner
Treasurer

Adam Billet
Assistant Superintendent

 (937) 717-2401

 (937) 717-2411

 3680 Selma Pike
Springfield, OH 45502

 clarkshawnee.org

October 22, 2025

Dear Clark-Shawnee Community,

No one enjoys opening a property tax bill. That sense of concern and frustration is real, and we feel it, too. But behind those numbers is a bigger story about how Ohio funds education, and why the burden has shifted so heavily on local communities like ours. The Superintendents of the school districts here in Clark County have been advocating for reform of Ohio's school funding system and wanted to share this information with our respective communities.

The Shift in School Funding

Over the last twenty years, state leaders have steadily reduced Ohio's share of school funding. The numbers tell the story:

- In 2002, the state covered 44.8% of school costs. Today, it is just 33.5%.
- Meanwhile, the national average is 45%. That means Ohio is asking local homeowners to pay far more than almost every other state.
- Local property taxes now cover 53.1% of school costs, up from 49.5% two decades ago.

Here is the bottom line: Ohio ranks in the bottom ten states for state support of education, even though per-student spending is right in the middle nationally. The problem is not overspending; it is how the state expects schools to be funded.

Why This Matters Beyond Schools

Property taxes do not just fund classrooms. They also support fire and emergency services, roads, parks, and community programs that make our county strong. Eliminating or slashing property taxes without a plan would cut nearly \$24 billion in local revenue statewide, crippling services that make Springfield Township our home.

What Our Children Deserve

Every child deserves safe schools, caring teachers, and programs that prepare them for success. Those are not extras; they are the foundation of a thriving community. When Ohio provides \$2,672 per student less than the national average, the gap falls on us. That is not sustainable or fair.

Real Solutions for Property Tax Relief

There are ways to bring relief without dismantling schools and services:

- **Targeted relief for those who need it most**, expanded exemptions for seniors, citizens with disabilities, and low-income families.
- **Smart growth protections**, limits tied to inflation and income growth, so tax bills do not skyrocket.
- **Local control and transparency**, flexibility in managing abatements and ensuring tax incentives are fair and accountable.

Moving Forward Together

This is not about politics. It is about protecting our kids and our community. The state must step up and take on its fair share of funding, just as most other states already do.

The [Dayton Daily News reported](#) on the over \$12 billion dollars in tax breaks and abatements that have been awarded to companies and developers in the State of Ohio. These tax breaks continue to shift the burden of funding public schools to residential property owners and change is needed in this area.

We encourage you to stay informed, ask tough questions, and demand accountability from state leaders. Together, we can find solutions that keep our schools strong and our community services intact while ensuring property taxes remain fair and affordable. State leader contact information can be found on our [Legislative Advocacy Web Page](#), as well as the [Senate Directory](#) and the [House Directory](#).

We invite you to join us for a State of the Schools presentation on October 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the Shawnee MS/HS Media Center.

Thank you for standing with our students, staff, and schools. Your support ensures that Springfield Township and Clark County remain a strong community where students can thrive.

Sincerely,

Brian Kuhn
Superintendent
Clark-Shawnee Local

Tom Faulkner
Treasurer
Clark-Shawnee Local

Adam Billet
Assistant Superintendent
Clark-Shawnee Local