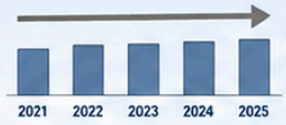
1 UNDERSTANDING THE 2026 TAX INITIATIVE

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WHY IS THE DISTRICT ASKING FOR AN EARNED INCOME TAX?

Revenues have not kept pace with rising costs, and the district is facing an ongoing financial gap. The proposed 1% earned income tax would provide a stable, local source of funding to help maintain the quality of education in Wadsworth.

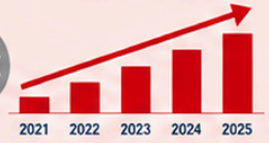
REVENUES
Have Remained Relatively Flat



State funding and local property tax revenue have remained relatively flat over the past several years.

WHILE

EXPENSES
Continue to Increase



Operating costs continue to rise due to inflationary pressures, including salaries, benefits, utilities and contracted services.

THE RESULT: A STRUCTURAL GAP

This is not a one-time shortfall, but an ongoing gap between recurring revenues and recurring expenses.

2 AT A GLANCE

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THE PROPOSAL AT A GLANCE

A 1% EARNED INCOME TAX FOR RESIDENTS OF THE WADSWORTH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

5 YEARS	1.0%	$8.8M	-$2.4M
Duration of the tax	Earned Income Tax Rate	Estimated annual revenue generated	Projected deficit in FY 2029

If current trends continue, the deficit grows to **-$13,000,000 in FY 2030**

All estimates are based on current law and information available as of August 2026.

KEY PURPOSE

To generate sustainable revenue to maintain student programs, services, and opportunities and to address projected deficits of approximately **-$2,400,000** in Fiscal Year 2029 and approximately **-$13,000,000** Fiscal Year 2030 and in future years.

3 STATE FUNDING & THE BIGGER PICTURE

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OHIO'S SHARE OF SCHOOL FUNDING HAS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY.

While property tax revenue has increased, state funding has not kept pace with student needs or inflation.

OHIO'S SHARE OF SCHOOL FUNDING

50% (2016) → **37%** (2025*)

"As students return to classrooms, Ohio is expected to cover a smaller share of the cost calculated by its public school funding formula than at any point in more than two decades."
– Source: FOX 8 News (Aug. 20, 2026)

	2016	2025*	CHANGE
Total Property Taxes	$19,315,840 (50%)	$33,855,874 (63%)	↑ + $14,536,034
Total State Aid	$19,071,630 (50%)	$19,478,794 (37%)	↑ + $407,164

*FY 2025 data based on estimates.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

State funding has not kept pace with student needs or inflation, placing a greater burden on local communities.

4 WHAT COUNTS AS EARNED INCOME

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WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

A 1% EARNED INCOME TAX FOR RESIDENTS OF THE WADSWORTH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

1% EARNED INCOME TAX

ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE:
$8.8 MILLION

WHO PAYS?
Only individuals who reside in the Wadsworth City School District.

WHO DOESN'T?
Someone who works in the district but lives outside the district does not pay the tax.

WHAT COUNTS AS EARNED INCOME?
- Wages, salaries and tips
- Self-employment income (sole proprietorships and partnerships)

WHAT DOESN'T?
- Retirement income
- Interest or dividends
- Capital gains
- Unemployment benefits

5 SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

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SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Local funding helps maintain the programs and services that make Wadsworth a great place for students and families.

Smaller class sizes in K–2	Neighborhood elementary schools	Safe, reliable transportation	Diverse electives to prepare students
Affordable extracurricular activities	Access to current technology resources	Student well-being and mental health support	A safe and supportive learning environment for every student

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Wadsworth City Schools, in cooperation with families, school personnel, and the community, is committed to providing a quality education that will empower students to reach their highest potential while promoting a culture of mutual respect and acceptance of all.

wadsworthschools.org

Got Questions? Contact: Superintendent Andy Hill
ahill@wadsworthschools.org