



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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OEA Legislative Watch

An OEA Newsletter

Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

Take action — Become an OEA Member Lobbyist!

Questions?

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House Bill 59 Analysis: Kasich's Budget Shortchanges Students

House Bill 59, the state budget bill for Fiscal Years 2014-2015, continues to receive hearings in House Finance subcommittees. The current version of the bill contains Governor Kasich's budget proposal, including his proposed new school funding formula. The OEA testified in opposition to the new funding formula and many other provisions of HB 59 on Friday, March 1.

Under the new school funding proposal, 60% of Ohio's school districts will receive no increase in funding over the two-year period, essentially locking in the reductions districts experienced from the last budget cycle. Those cuts resulted in lost opportunities for Ohio's students. Further, the formula fails to define what is needed for each child to have access to a high quality education - instead establishing a base amount of \$5,000 per pupil, which is a significant decrease from the existing \$5,732 per pupil figure under the existing formula. This cut puts even more pressure on local property taxpayers to fund public schools.

While students will receive less money under the proposed formula, Kasich is prioritizing income tax cuts that will benefit the wealthy and will result in approximately \$4.3 billion less in revenue to the state to fund key programs like education.



Additionally, Governor Kasich's budget proposal contains a number of changes to education policy that are of great concern. These issues include:

- Lack of funding for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- Statewide expansion of vouchers
- Elimination of the single salary schedule for education employees and state minimum salary for teachers
- Elimination of minimum staffing ratios for school psychologists and speech pathologists
- Conversion of the school calendar from days to hours
- Increase in workload for higher education faculty

You can read more about these proposals in [OEA's testimony](#) before the Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee and a detailed analysis of the budget proposal is available [here](#).

If we are going to make this budget better for our students, our schools and our communities we will all need to get involved. OEA has scheduled a number of Member Lobby Days. [Click here](#) for more information. We will continue to keep members informed and issue calls to action throughout the budget process.

