

March 29, 2019

## Long-Awaited Bipartisan School Funding Plan Released

This week, Representatives Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Ashtabula) released the *Fair School Funding Plan* that would provide an additional \$400 million in FY 2020 for local public school districts. The plan represents more than 15 months of work by legislators, local school leaders, and education finance experts to craft meaningful alternatives to the current way in which Ohio funds its schools.

OEA believes Ohio's current school funding formula is a patchwork of band aids that fails to provide adequate funding. It is not functional nor is it driven by what constitutes a high-quality education. This is evidenced by the fact that currently over 500 - or 80% - of Ohio's school districts do not directly receive funding as calculated by the formula and are instead on a gain cap or funding guarantee.

The *Fair School Funding Plan* seeks to base decision-making on identifiable student needs and what it actually costs to provide a high-quality education. Those who crafted the plan believe it is fair, transparent, and easily understood. The proposal will end the use of gain caps and lessen the number of districts that rely on a funding guarantee. Under the plan, no school district would receive less funding than in FY 2019. The projected phase-in of the plan is four years.

You may view the details of the *Fair School Funding Plan* and district-by-district simulations by <https://www.ohea.org/bipartisan-school-funding/>

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