

Fair School Funding Plan, Inc.

Dear Fellow Educator,

The Fair School Funding Plan brought clarity, objectivity, and needs-based funding concepts to school funding in Ohio, along with the state's largest ever projected investment increase in public education.

For example: Base cost immediately prior to FSFP \$6,020 per pupil; current average calculated base cost for FY 2024-2025 \$8,240 per pupil.

BACKGROUND

Because it was crafted from the ground up by Ohio educators - those who know best the needs of Ohio students and how to operate Ohio's schools - it has instilled confidence in Ohio's education community that the continually evolving educational requirements of Ohio's youth can be met fully, consistently, and fairly if the Plan is fully implemented and permanently kept in place.

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

For years, Ohio educators have been frustrated by school funding formulas that changed every few years, provided inconsistent allocations for similarly situated districts, lacked objectivity and transparency, and were often funded based upon the availability of resources instead of the needs of students. Now, the FSFP's reasoned, objective, need-based approach, plus its inherent fairness to students, schools, and taxpayers, provides adequate justification to maintain the necessary funding levels, even when the State's revenue is less abundant.

To remain current, effective, and constructive, the provisions of the FSFP need to be continuously monitored, analyzed, and, when necessary, adjusted by the same people who built the Plan, Ohio Educators.

THE PATH FORWARD

Appropriately, the current members of the FSFP WorkGroup have established a not-for-profit Corporation to make that happen. Twelve members of the Workgroup constitute the first Board of Trustees and all will be limited to two terms. Their replacements, both on the Board and the Workgroup, will be an equal number of currently active Ohio Superintendents and Treasurers/CFOs. As before, no member of the WorkGroup or the Corporation's Board of Trustees will be compensated.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

They need your support to fund the timely research, analysis, interaction with the education community, advocacy in the Statehouse, as well as a paid executive director and other essential staffing to ensure this effort will be successful.

The Board is asking that every district, CTC, community school, and STEM school contribute 30 cents/pupil per year, with a minimum amount of \$225 for those with 750 students or fewer. Because the permanent funding mechanism for ESCs is yet to be determined and their per pupil funding from the State is at a much different level, that request has not yet been finalized. Entities that contribute will become members of the Corporation and have a voice in determining its actions in the future.

Checks should be made payable to Fair School Funding Plan, Inc. and sent to 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio, 44131.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and working with you on behalf of Ohio's 1.5 million public school students for many years to come.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Betts at 614-565-0591, or jbetts@fairschoolfundingplan.com.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Fair School Funding Plan WorkGroup

How to Support FSFP, Inc.

To support this cause, please provide the information requested in the form below (also linked for your convenience), and mail it, along with a check to:

Fair School Funding Plan, Inc.
6393 Oak Tree Blvd.
Independence, Ohio 44131

FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN, INC.

The members of the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) WorkGroup have formed a not-for-profit corporation, The Fair School Funding Plan, Inc., to ensure that efforts to sustain the Fair School Funding Plan - the first in the history of the state of Ohio to have been crafted exclusively by currently active Ohio Superintendents and Treasurers/CFOs – will be continued effectively by currently active Ohio Superintendents and Treasurers/CFOs. The Corporation and WorkGroup will constantly monitor the operations of the FSFP, analyze its impact on districts, community and STEM schools, CTCs, ESCs, etc., recommend improvements and modifications for the Plan, and maintain ongoing advocacy and lobbying efforts targeting the members of the Ohio General Assembly and appropriate officials of the current State administration.

The intent will be to perpetuate the implementation of a viable, up to date, fair and efficient FSFP indefinitely.

We need your financial support to make this happen, so please respond to the very modest request indicated below at your earliest convenience.

District, CTC, Community or STEM school name: _____
(ESCs will be considered under a different system, now in the process of being developed.)

2023/2024 student count _____ x \$.30 per student for calendar year 2024 = \$ _____
Total Amount Due

_____ Check here if district, CTC or school with a student count of less than 750. Total due: \$225.00.

Send checks to:
Fair School Funding Plan, Inc.
6393 Oak Tree Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

Contact Name: _____ Phone No _____

Contact Email: _____

Any questions, contact Jim Betts at 614-565-0591; or jbetts@fairschoolfundingplan.com

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU
Members of the Fair School Funding Plan WorkGroup

[Click for a printable copy of the Fair School Funding Plan, Inc. Invoice](#)

IT IS A PERMANENT SOLUTION...

Objective

Built upon the needs of students and schools

Justifiable

Based on research, best practices, demonstrable successes

Transparent

Every dollar allocated, reflects an identifiable component

Amendable

The legislature can modify specific components as their substance or cost change

Fair to All

The same components or calculations apply to students or schools in the same way, making it fair to all students, schools and taxpayers

Fair School Funding Plan Benefits

- **Base Cost** - An entirely new needs-based, objective, variable base-cost calculation in which every dollar authorized represents a specific resource required to meet an identifiable student need. This new provision has raised the state's base cost from \$6,020 per pupil to an average of \$7,350 in FY 2022 and 2023, and, because of a data year change effective July 1, 2023, to \$8,240 in FY 2024 and 2025.
- **State/Local Share** - A new local share calculation, which support levies; based 60% on property valuation and 40% on income; with no arbitrary minimum.
- **Special Education** - A change in the funding methodology for the various disability classifications from specific amounts to weights that are based on percentages of the new base cost funding levels.
- **Economically Disadvantaged** - A temporary \$150/per pupil increase (from \$272 per pupil to \$422 per pupil), resulting in approximately \$600 per pupil increase in maximum pupil amount for CEP districts; expanded expenditure eligibility.
- **Gifted** - Increased funding levels from recently completed ODE study.
- **Career Technology Centers** - A new base cost calculation utilizing the same basic components that
- **Community Schools** - New base cost concepts with each school having its own classroom instruction calculation, but using traditional school averages for the other components; a new allowance for rental of necessary facilities.
- **Open Enrollment** - Eliminated transfer of funds from resident districts and inclusion of incoming students in teaching district's local share calculations, thereby implementing a "funding where taught" concept.
- **ESCs** - A new, temporary formula wherein each ESC receives the same base amount (representing certain personnel and facilities costs) plus tiered per pupil amounts, beginning when the ESC's total pupils served exceeds 5,000; (still working on permanent formula approach).
- **Transportation** - A new calculation methodology based upon ridership, not enrollment; a gradual increase in state minimum share from 25% to 50% in FY 2027; a major increase in transportation funding for special education students; a new bus purchase program for FY 2022, 2023 (program was suspended by the General Assembly for FY 2024, 2025 due to availability of federal ESSER funds);

make up the new traditional school base cost, but using different pupil/teacher ratios and equipment allowances.

interim per pupil increases for non-traditional riders (community and nonpublic school students).

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Betts at 614-565-0591, or jbetts@fairschoolfundingplan.com.