



Cupp - Patterson School Funding Proposal Highlights/FAQ

February 1, 2019

1. Who helped to draft this proposal?

- Reps. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson)
- Mike Sobul, School funding expert
- Workgroup including urban district representatives from Akron and Cincinnati

2. What is the goal of the suggested funding approach outlined in the proposal?

- Move away from overreliance on local property tax and inadequate state share/investment
- Capture increasing state revenue while providing stability, especially during downturns in economy
- Establish a state baseline funding amount for each district

3. What is the approach of the proposal?

- An inputs-based model where the statewide average cost of educating a student serves as a baseline for state funding. This was driven by two questions:
 - What does it cost to educate a child today?
 - What does every district need to operate?

4. Once the state baseline amount is determined, then what?

- The proposal would allow local districts to inject more funds into teacher salaries or other educational programs on top of that state baseline.

5. What about the impact of property devaluation and state share index?

- This proposal moves away from the current State Share Index (SSI) distribution system, in which economic changes (unpredictable property devaluation, loss of Tangible Personal Property tax) in one part of the state can have effects statewide

6. How does the proposal move away from SSI and property valuation?

- Each school district would have its local funding calculated based on a combination of property value and income factors, with the goal of eliminating the correlation of one district affecting another ('base costs')
- Detailed "base costs" were generated by looking at student-staff ratios for teachers and other school personnel
- Both a district's property values and its average income would serve as "weights" that modify its overall share of state funding

7. What are some examples of student-teacher ratios calculations?

- The proposal suggests a kindergarten student-teacher ratio at 20:1, and this ratio increased as children got older to 27:1 for 9th through 12th grade
- In a district with 57 kindergarten students, that district would receive state funding for 2.9 kindergarten teachers, based on the statewide average teacher salary
- The local community could then provide additional funding if it wanted to push the student-teacher ratio even lower for a given grade level
- Student-staff ratios differ for other school personnel, including "special" teachers, such as art, music and physical education teachers; substitute teachers; library and media operations professionals; social-emotional, security and life support personnel; building leadership; and district leadership

8. How would the proposed formula be implemented?

- A gradual phase-in to ease transition over several years

9. What about Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly?

- Discussions with Gov. Mike DeWine's staff as well as Senate and House leadership are ongoing
- Full report on the plan would be made available to lawmakers prior to budget talks