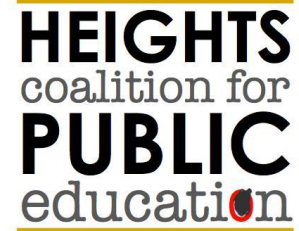


How does Ohio fund public school districts?

- The legislature sets a bare-bones amount for educating a child which is *meant* to ensure there is adequate funding regardless of local capacity.
- The legislature uses a formula to decide how much the state will contribute.
- Local school districts raise local property taxes to fund services to meet local needs.



How does the formula work?

- The legislature's formula is based on property values, income of residents, students identified with special needs and English Language Learners.
- The wealthier the district, the less state funding per pupil it receives.
- State funding per district ranged between \$600 and \$10,000 per student in 2018-2019.

What are vouchers?

- Vouchers are scholarships to private/religious schools paid with public dollars.
- Ohio has four voucher programs.
 - "Traditional" EdChoice Vouchers are only available in districts where an individual school has low test scores. These districts are typically high poverty.
- The other three types are available in all districts:
 - EdChoice Expansion – based on income. This is the only voucher directly funded through the state
 - Autism - based on diagnosis
 - Jon Peterson – based on special education diagnosis

How much do voucher cost?

- EdChoice Vouchers: \$4,650 per student for K-8 and \$6,000 per student for 9-12
- Autism: up to \$27,000 per student
- Jon Peterson special education vouchers: \$7,500 to \$27,000 depending on diagnosis

How does voucher funding affect public schools?

- The school district receives the same level of funding for voucher students as it does for students using its public schools.
- Traditional EdChoice, Peterson and Autism vouchers are funded by the deducting the cost of the voucher from the school district state funding – the "deduction method."

What is the problem?

- The state sets the voucher amount, but only funds a portion of it.
- The school district where a private school student lives is forced to subsidize the rest.
- Public school resources are depleted and depleted at different rates.
- This worsens funding inequality among districts.

Do some districts lose more money than others?

For example:	Richmond Heights	CH-UH	Cincinnati
State Aid	\$1,889	\$3,200	\$4,530
EdChoice Voucher for K-8 Cost	-\$4,650	-\$4,650	-\$4,650
Unfunded Voucher Expense (local cost)	(\$2,761)	(\$1,450)	(\$120)

What was the financial impact of vouchers on my district in 2019?

- The CH-UH district was the home district for 1,322 students who received vouchers.
- Average per pupil aid from the state for the district was \$3,239
- The average cost per pupil for 249 special education vouchers was \$12,760 (a loss of \$3.1 million)
- The average cost per pupil for 883 EdChoice vouchers was \$4,740 (a loss of \$4.2 million)
- 335 Charter School students cost the district another \$2.5 million
- Over \$930,000 was lost to CH-UH for 149 Inter District Transfers (mostly open enrollment)
- State aid per pupil was reduced to \$2,074 for the remaining 5,111 students, \$1,165 per student.

How much money do school districts lose?

- There were 18 districts out of 612 that lost more than 10% of their state aid for unfunded voucher payments.
- Of these 18 districts, funds for public school students were reduced by between \$150,000 (Kirtland) and \$4.3 million (CH-UH) because they of unfunded voucher costs.
- There were an estimated 200 school districts where no one uses a voucher and budgets are untouched.

The legislature froze state education funding for the next two school years at the 2018-19 level. The formula is no longer distributing funds based on enrollment. What will this do to school district budgets?

Imagine a family of 4 suddenly being asked to feed 3 additional people every day who eat at a fancy restaurant. That's what happened when the state budget froze state aid to districts without warning and without freezing the growth of vouchers.

- For every new student enrolled in school the district will receive \$0 new dollars
- For every new voucher the district will pay the ENTIRE amount of the voucher (\$4,650 up to \$27,000)
- There are 99 school districts where residents may use EdChoice districts for the first time. All of these districts will be responsible for the full cost of vouchers.
- The CH-UH district has 600 new EdChoice vouchers in 2019-20. Only 25 of them left the public schools. State funds are now spread over 575 more students than last year and negligible change to the school district's enrollment. Voucher students have been prioritized by the state so they will get their money first. Public school students will get what is left over.

What should the legislature do?

- Reimburse school districts for part of the unfunded cost of vouchers in districts that carry an unfair burden of voucher costs. If the state ensures that no district lost more than 10% of its state aid to pay for vouchers in 2018-19, the cost to the State would be \$4.8 million. \$9.4 million for 2019-20.
- Keep the unfunded cost at 5% in high poverty districts where students can least afford to lose funds.
- Cap the amount of funding a district can lose to vouchers.
- Direct fund all vouchers.
- Pass a new funding bill that ensures that the formula provides all district adequate funds and distributes those funds fairly.

Call to Action!

- Be informed. Spread the word. Be a change agent.
- Share this talk with another group.
- Share your concerns with your elected officials.
- Endorse the Heights Coalition for Public Education position on high-stakes testing and privatization.

Download our white paper at: <http://chuh.net/Coalition> under the "about us " tab there are *positions and links*