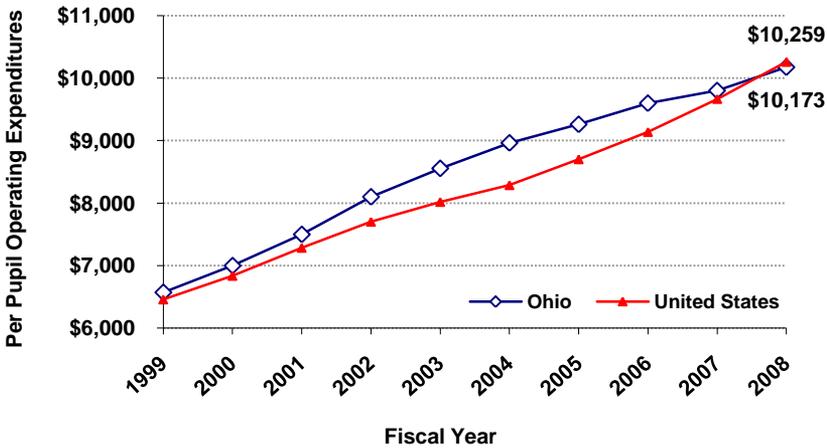




Ohio's Public School Per Pupil Operating Expenditures Fall Slightly Below National Average

Per Pupil Operating Expenditures for Ohio and U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- In FY 2008, Ohio's public school per pupil operating expenditures were \$10,173, \$86 (0.8%) below the national average of \$10,259.
- Ohio had been above the national average since FY 1991. In FY 2004, Ohio's per pupil expenditures were \$676 (8.2%) above the national average. The difference has narrowed in each subsequent year.
- During the ten-year period from FY 1999 to FY 2008, Ohio's per pupil operating expenditures increased by \$3,601 (54.8%). The national average increased by \$3,801 (58.9%). During the same period, inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), was 28.6%.
- In FY 2008, Ohio's per pupil operating expenditures of \$10,173 ranked 18th among the 50 states. The following table shows the ranking and per pupil expenditures for Ohio's neighboring states. Ohio's per pupil expenditures were higher than all of these states except Pennsylvania.

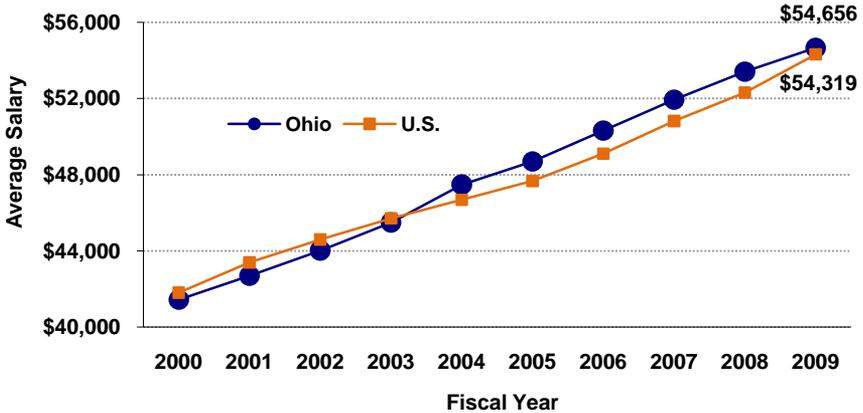
Public School Per Pupil Operating Expenditures for Neighboring States, FY 2008

Neighboring State	National Rank	Per Pupil Expenditures
Pennsylvania	11	\$12,035
Michigan	20	\$10,069
West Virginia	23	\$9,852
Indiana	37	\$9,036
Kentucky	39	\$8,686



Ohio's Average Teacher Salary Maintains Edge over U.S. Average

Average Teacher Salaries for Ohio and U.S.



Sources: National Education Association; Ohio Department of Education

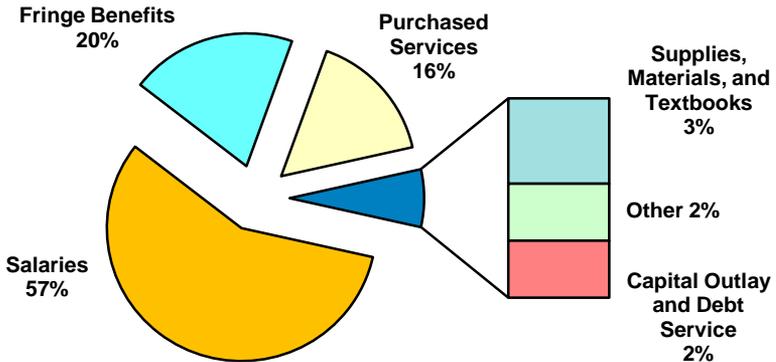
- After trending at or below the national average from FY 2000 to FY 2003, Ohio's average teacher salaries have been slightly above the national average since FY 2004.
- Ohio's average teacher salary for FY 2009 was 0.6% (\$337) higher than the national average.
- Ohio's average teacher salary increased by 31.9% from \$41,434 in FY 2000 to \$54,656 in FY 2009. The national average increased by 29.9%, from \$41,807 in FY 2000 to \$54,319 in FY 2009. During the same period, inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), was 26.8%.
- In FY 2009, Ohio's average teacher salary of \$54,656 ranked 15th in the nation. The following table shows the ranking and average teacher salary for Ohio's neighboring states. Ohio's average teacher salary was higher than all of these states except Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Average Teacher Salaries for Neighboring States, FY 2009

Neighboring State	National Rank	Average Salary
Michigan	11	\$57,327
Pennsylvania	12	\$57,237
Indiana	24	\$49,569
Kentucky	31	\$47,875
West Virginia	44	\$44,701

School Districts Spend an Average of 77% of Their General Funds on Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Breakdown of a Typical School District Budget, FY 2009



Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Salaries and fringe benefits accounted for approximately 77% of school district general fund budgets statewide in FY 2009. This percentage has decreased over the past five years from 80% in FY 2005.
- The portion of school district budgets spent on fringe benefits has remained essentially flat at 20% over the past five years, while the portion spent on salaries has decreased from 60% in FY 2005 to 57% in FY 2009.
- The cost of fringe benefits as a percentage of the cost of salaries has remained at about 36% since FY 2007, up from 34% in FY 2005.
- Public schools in Ohio employed about 246,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers in FY 2009, including about 118,900 FTE teachers.
- As the percentage of district budgets spent on salaries has declined, the percentage spent on purchased services such as pupil transportation, utilities, maintenance and repairs, and other services not provided by district personnel has increased, from 13% in FY 2005 to 16% in FY 2009.
- State law requires each school district to set aside a uniform per pupil amount for textbooks and instructional materials and for capital and maintenance needs. In FY 2011, the required set-aside amount is about \$172 per pupil for each category.



Per Pupil Operating Spending Varies Across Different Types of Ohio School Districts

Spending Per Pupil by District Comparison Group, FY 2009				
Comparison Group – Description		Number of Districts	Enrollment %	Spending Per Pupil
Rural	Very low socioeconomic status (SES), very high poverty	97	8.9%	\$9,164
Small Rural	Low SES, low poverty	161	12.4%	\$8,680
Rural Town	Average SES, average poverty	81	7.9%	\$8,870
Urban	Low SES, high poverty	102	15.7%	\$9,764
Major Urban	Very high poverty	15	15.6%	\$13,116
Suburban	High SES, moderate poverty	107	24.3%	\$9,869
Suburban	Very high SES, low poverty	46	15.2%	\$11,085
State Total*		609	100%	\$10,254

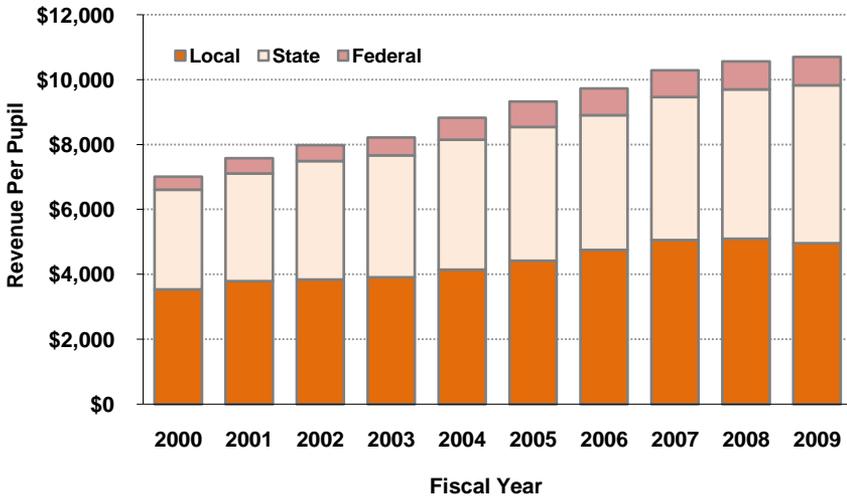
* Three small outlier districts are not included.

Source: Ohio Department of Education

- In FY 2009, the average per pupil spending for different district comparison groups varied from a low of \$8,680 for small rural, low poverty districts to a high of \$13,116 for major urban, very high poverty districts. The state average was \$10,254.
- Rural districts tend to have the lowest spending per pupil, averaging \$8,879 per pupil for the three rural comparison groups, which is 13.4% (\$1,375) below the state average. These districts include 29.2% of total state enrollment.
- Very high poverty major urban districts and the highest income suburban districts had the highest spending per pupil among all district comparison groups in FY 2009, spending 27.9% (\$2,862) and 8.1% (\$831), respectively, above the state average.
- On average, school districts spent 55.4% on instruction, 19.5% on building operations, 11.7% on administration, 10.2% on pupil support, and 3.2% on staff support.
- This spending allocation varies only slightly across district comparison groups. Rural districts tend to spend a higher than average percentage on building operations, which includes pupil transportation, suburban districts tend to spend a higher than average percentage on instruction, and urban districts tend to spend a higher than average percentage on staff support.

Per Pupil Operating Revenue for Schools Increases 53% Since FY 2000

Per Pupil Operating Revenue Statewide



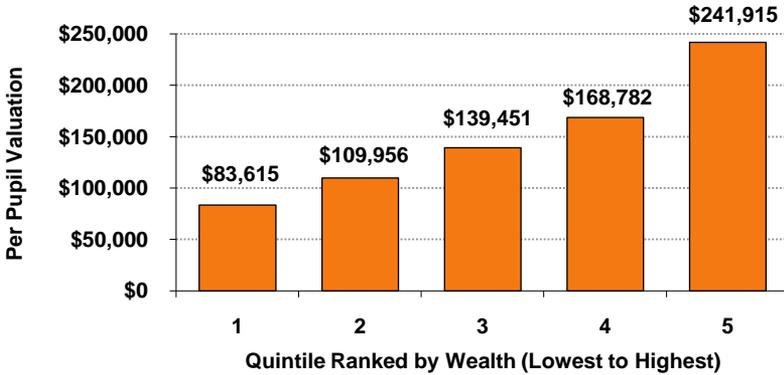
Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Ohio schools' per pupil operating revenue from all sources increased 52.6% from \$7,016 in FY 2000 to \$10,706 in FY 2009.
- During this ten-year period, local revenue per pupil increased 40.3% from \$3,540 to \$4,966; state revenue per pupil increased 58.3% from \$3,070 to \$4,861; and federal revenue per pupil increased 116.5% from \$406 to \$879.
- Local revenues comprised 46.4% of total school revenues in FY 2009. Locally voted property taxes and school district income taxes accounted for 96.4% and 3.6%, respectively, of local revenues.
- State revenues comprised 45.4% of total school revenues in FY 2009. State funding comes mainly from the General Revenue Fund, which receives revenues primarily from the state income and sales taxes. Most state funds are distributed through the school funding formula, while some are distributed through competitive and noncompetitive grants.
- Federal revenues comprised 8.2% of total school revenues in FY 2009. Federal revenues mainly target special education and disadvantaged students.
- With passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the federal share of total school revenues has increased from an average of 5.9% between FY 1996 and FY 2002 to an average of 8.0% between FY 2003 and FY 2009.



School District Property Values Vary Widely Across Ohio

Average Per Pupil Valuation by Wealth Quintile, FY 2010



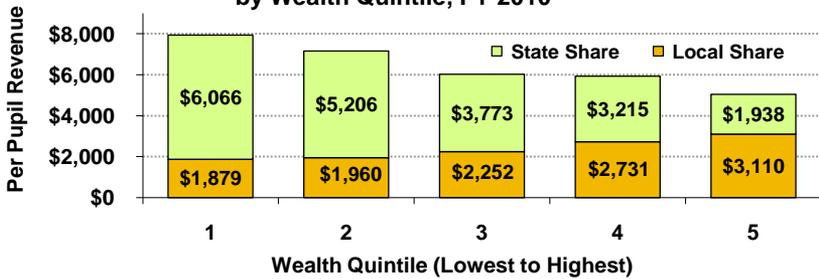
Sources: Ohio Department of Taxation; Ohio Department of Education

- In FY 2010, approximately 20% of Ohio's students resided in school districts with per pupil property valuations that averaged about \$84,000 while another 20% resided in school districts with per pupil property valuations that averaged about \$242,000. The statewide average valuation was \$145,200 per pupil.
- A 20-mill (2%) property tax levy generates \$1,680 per pupil for a district with a valuation per pupil of \$84,000 and \$4,840 per pupil for a district with a valuation per pupil of \$242,000.
- Since locally voted property tax levies represent 96.4% of school district local revenues, per pupil valuation (also called district property wealth) indicates each district's capacity to raise local revenue.
- To create the quintiles used on this and the following three pages, school districts are first ranked from lowest to highest in property valuation per pupil. They are then divided into five groups, each of which includes approximately 20% of total students statewide. As can be seen in the chart above, districts in quintile 1 have the lowest wealth and districts in quintile 5 have the highest wealth.
- Since FY 1991, a major goal of the state's school funding formula is to neutralize the effect of local property wealth disparities on students' access to a common, basic level of education as defined by the state.
- To achieve this goal, the formula first assumes a local contribution based on a uniform tax rate (for example, 22 mills or 2.2%), which results in different local contribution dollar amounts depending on a district's wealth. The formula then requires the state to make up the difference to bring the total up to a state-defined amount for each district.



Low Wealth Districts Receive More State Aid Per Pupil than High Wealth Districts

State and Local Contribution to Basic Education by Wealth Quintile, FY 2010



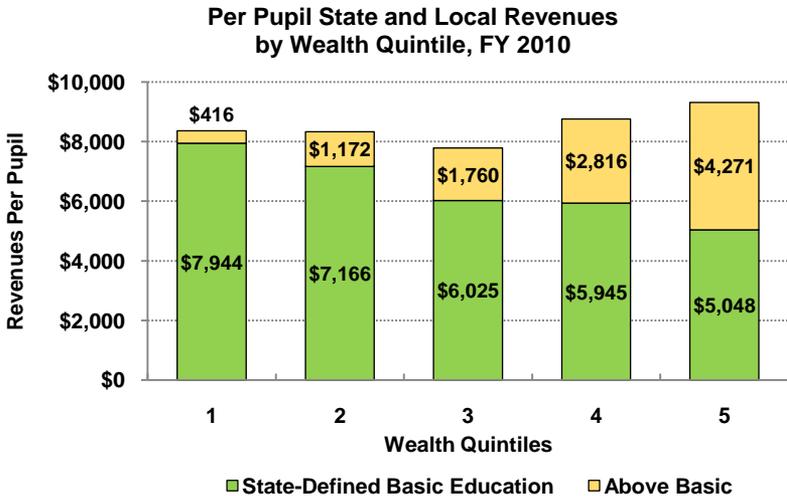
Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Low wealth districts receive more state aid per pupil than high wealth districts. In FY 2010, the quintile with the lowest wealth received \$6,066 per pupil on average whereas the quintile with the highest wealth received \$1,938 per pupil on average.¹
- More state aid is directed toward lower wealth districts through two major avenues. The first is the Educational Challenge Factor (ECF), which causes the total state-defined basic education level per pupil to be higher for lower wealth districts. The second is the local share formula that uses a uniform tax rate, which results in a relatively lower local share per pupil for lower wealth districts.
- The ECF, which also directs more funding to districts with high poverty rates and low educational attainment rates, as well as the guarantee and the cap in the current formula cause a nonlinear relationship between wealth and the state-defined basic education level per pupil. The guarantee tends to increase the state share, whereas the cap tends to decrease the state share.
- The total state-defined basic education level per pupil for FY 2010 was \$7,944 for quintile 1, \$7,166 for quintile 2, \$6,025 for quintile 3, \$5,945 for quintile 4, and \$5,048 for quintile 5.
- The formula assumes a uniform 22-mill local tax effort for the local contribution to the state-defined basic education. In FY 2010, the revenue raised for the local contribution varied from an average of \$1,879 per pupil in quintile 1 to an average of \$3,110 per pupil in quintile 5.
- For the state as a whole, the state share of basic education revenues in FY 2010 was 62.8%. This share averaged 76.4% for quintile 1, 72.7% for quintile 2, 62.6% for quintile 3, 54.1% for quintile 4, and 38.4% for quintile 5.

¹ See page 43 for an introduction to this analysis and a description of the quintiles.



Local Revenues Above the State-Defined Basic Education Level Cause Revenue Disparities

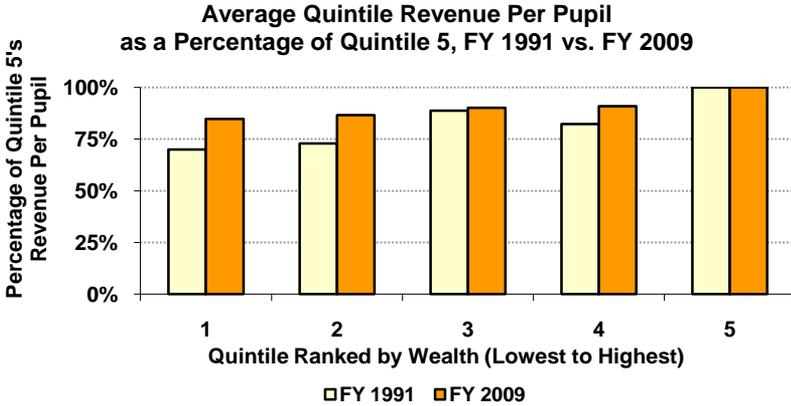


Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Although low wealth districts receive more state revenue per pupil, local revenues above the state-defined basic level continue to cause revenue disparities that favor the highest wealth districts.¹
- Local revenues are determined by a combination of the wealth of the district as well as the ability and willingness of the district's taxpayers to approve tax levies. In Ohio, there is no limit on the amount of taxes local voters may approve for their schools.
- The biggest disparity occurs between the highest wealth quintile and the other four quintiles. For FY 2010, the average per pupil local revenue above the basic level in quintile 5 (\$4,271) was more than 10, 3, and 2 times higher than that in quintiles 1, 2, and 3, respectively. It was also about 1.5 times higher than that in quintile 4, the second highest wealth quintile (\$3,146).
- The state-defined basic education formula that directs more total funding and more state aid to low wealth districts helps narrow revenue disparities across Ohio's school districts. When taking into account state and local funding for education, quintile 5 districts still have the highest average revenue per pupil, at \$9,319 for FY 2010. However, this amount was only 11%, 12%, 20%, and 6%, respectively, more than that in quintile 1 (\$8,360), quintile 2 (\$8,338), quintile 3 (\$7,786), and quintile 4 (\$8,761).

¹ See page 43 for an introduction to this analysis and a description of the quintiles.

Interdistrict Equity Improves Since FY 1991



Source: Ohio Department of Education

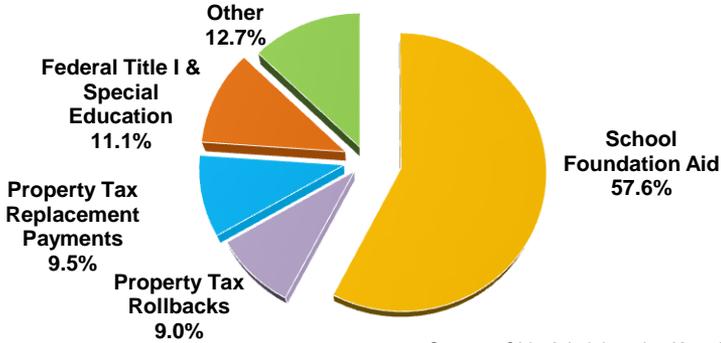
- From FY 1991 to FY 2009, the average revenue per pupil of the districts in the four lower quintiles got closer to that of the highest wealth districts (those in quintile 5).¹
- The biggest changes came in the two lowest wealth quintiles. In FY 1991, the districts in quintile 1 received on average 70.0% of the revenue received by the districts in quintile 5. By FY 2009, the districts in quintile 1 received 84.7% of the revenue received by the districts in quintile 5. Likewise, the percentage for quintile 2 rose from 72.9% in FY 1991 to 86.6% in FY 2009.
- In FY 2009, the average revenue per pupil for the bottom four quintiles (representing 80% of students) was 88.1% of the average revenue per pupil for the highest wealth quintile, up from 78.5% in FY 1991.
- From FY 1991 to FY 2009, per pupil revenues grew on average by 162.6% (\$6,041) in quintile 1, 157.8% (\$6,112) in quintile 2, 120.4% (\$5,681) in quintile 3, 139.6% (\$6,103) in quintile 4, and 117.0% (\$6,214) in quintile 5.
- A few very wealthy districts continued to raise revenues well above the state average of about \$10,400 per pupil in FY 2009. In fact, two districts raised over \$20,000 per pupil.
- In FY 1991, approximately 76% of the variation in per pupil revenue across districts could be explained by the variation in per pupil property valuation. In FY 2009, this percentage dropped to about 28%. This means that the amount of financial resources available for the education of a student now depends less on the wealth of the district where the student lives than it did in FY 1991.

¹ See page 43 for an introduction to this analysis and a description of the quintiles.



School Foundation Aid Comprised Over Half of Department of Education's Total Spending in FY 2010

Department of Education's Spending by Component, FY 2010



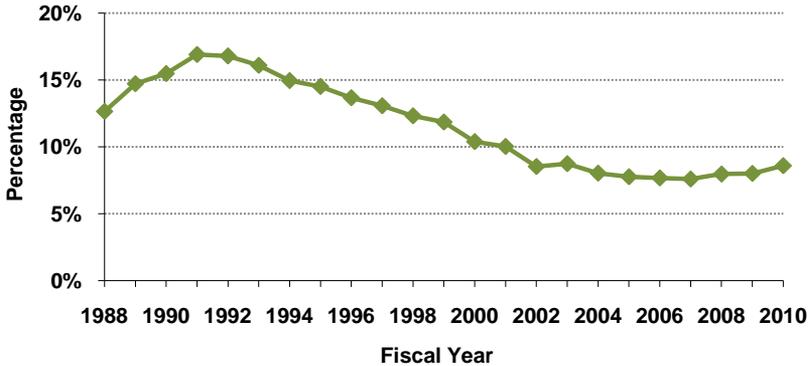
Source: Ohio Administrative Knowledge System

- In FY 2010, the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) spending totaled \$11.79 billion across all funds. Of this total, \$6.80 billion (57.5%) was distributed as school foundation aid, the largest source of state funding for school operations. School foundation aid is funded by the state GRF (\$5.64 billion), lottery profits (\$745 million), and part of federal stimulus money deposited into the GRF (\$417.6 million).
- The second largest spending component was the federal Title I and special education programs at \$1.31 billion (9.5%). These federal funds target disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. In FY 2010, \$353.2 million (26.1%) of this funding was due to the federal stimulus.
- State direct payments for the phase-out of tangible personal property taxes accounted for another \$1.12 billion (9.5%) of the total. Part of those revenue losses are compensated through increased state aid as a result of a lower local share assumed in the formula.
- Property tax rollback payments (\$1.06 billion or 9.0%) reimburse school districts for revenue lost due to the 10% and 2.5% property tax rollback and homestead exemption programs.
- ODE's spending for FY 2010 was mainly supported by the GRF (\$7.75 billion or 65.7%), followed by federal funds (\$2.11 billion or 17.9%).
- In FY 2010, 98.0% (\$11.56 billion) of ODE's total spending was distributed as subsidies to schools and various other educational entities.
- ODE's payroll expenses of \$55.5 million accounted for 0.5% of the total. Excluding purchased service spending for student assessments and supply and maintenance spending for school food programs, ODE's operating expenses totaled \$112.0 million or 0.9% of its total spending in FY 2010.



Lottery Profits Comprise a Small Percentage of State Spending on Primary and Secondary Education

Lottery Profits as a Percentage of Spending for K-12 Education



Sources: Ohio Lottery Commission; Ohio Legislative Service Commission

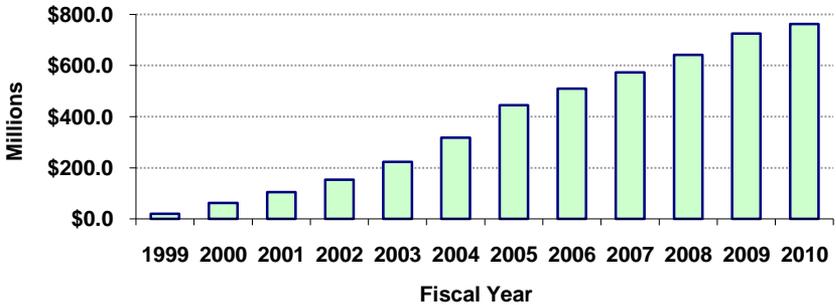
- Lottery profits in Ohio have always been a relatively small percentage of total GRF¹ and lottery spending on primary and secondary education. After reaching a peak of 16.9% in FY 1991, this percentage fell to a low of 7.6% in FY 2007 and has since increased to 8.6% in FY 2010.
- In 1973, voters amended the Ohio Constitution to allow the creation of the Ohio lottery. In 1987, voters approved an additional constitutional amendment that permanently earmarked lottery profits for education.
- Generally, lottery profits are combined with the GRF to support primary and secondary education in Ohio.
- The dollar amount of lottery profits spending increased by \$37.1 million in FY 2010 to \$745.0 million, the highest amount in the lottery's history. FY 2010 was the 3rd consecutive year lottery profits spending increased after nearly a decade of mostly declines since its previous high of \$718.7 million in FY 1999.
- From FY 1988 to FY 2010, total GRF and lottery spending on primary and secondary education increased by \$5.23 billion (151.8%). Of this growth, \$309.4 million (5.9%) was provided by the lottery.
- FY 2010 produced record lottery sales of \$2.5 billion. The increase in sales is due in part to the addition of Keno sales, which began in August 2008, and the multi-state jackpot game, Powerball, in April 2010.

¹ In FY 2010, GRF spending on primary and secondary education includes \$417.6 million in federal stimulus funding. There was no federal stimulus funding in prior years.



School Choice Program Spending Continues to Increase

Annual Spending on School Choice Programs

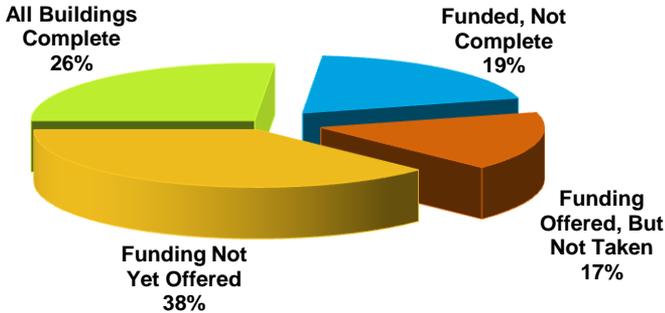


Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Ohio school choice programs include community schools, the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program (CSTP), the Educational Choice Scholarship Program, and the Autism Scholarship Program. Spending on these programs has increased from \$19.7 million in FY 1999 to \$762.6 million in FY 2010.
- Unlike traditional public schools, community schools do not have taxing authority and are funded primarily through state education aid transfers. Since the establishment of community schools in FY 1999, the amount of state education aid transfers has increased from \$11.0 million to \$680.4 million in FY 2010. Community school enrollment has increased from 2,245 to 93,893 students.
- The CSTP provides state-funded scholarships for students in the Cleveland City School District. After its establishment in FY 1997, the number of CSTP scholarship students grew from 1,994 to a peak of 6,272 in FY 2008 and declined slightly to 5,479 in FY 2010. State expenditures for CSTP have increased from \$5.0 million in FY 1997 to \$16.0 million in FY 2010.
- Starting in FY 2007, the Educational Choice Scholarship Program has provided scholarships to students entitled to attend a school that has been in academic emergency or academic watch for two of the three most recent years. Scholarships are financed by deductions from state aid to scholarship recipients' districts of residence. From FY 2007 to FY 2010, the number of students receiving scholarships increased from 3,169 to 11,784; funding for the program increased from \$10.4 million to \$46.1 million.
- The Autism Scholarship Program provides scholarships to qualified autistic children. Since its inception in FY 2004, funding for the program has increased from \$3.3 million to \$20.1 million in FY 2010. Scholarships are also financed by deductions from state aid to scholarship recipients' districts of residence.

Full-Facility Fixes Completed in 26% of Ohio School Districts and JVSDs

Status of Districts Completing Master Facility Plans, July 2010



Source: Ohio School Facilities Commission

- At the end of FY 2010, 26% of school districts and joint vocational school districts (JVSDs) had completed projects that fully addressed their facility needs as assessed by the School Facilities Commission (SFC). These include 169 (28%) of the 612 regular school districts and six (12%) of the 49 JVSDs.
- Another 19% of districts have been funded, but their projects are not complete. These include 120 (20%) of the regular districts and eight (16%) of the JVSDs. These districts may already have buildings in the design or construction phase or may still need local funding.
- An additional 17% of districts have been offered funding, but have either deferred the offer or allowed it to lapse because they were unable to secure the required local share. These include 102 (17%) of the regular districts (64 deferred and 38 lapsed) and seven (14%) of the JVSDs (all deferred). These districts will be eligible for funding in the future.
- The final 38% of districts have not yet been offered funding. These include 222 (36%) of the regular districts and 28 (57%) of the JVSDs. Of these, 12 regular districts are participating in the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), whereby local funds spent on master facility plans now will be credited to the districts' local shares when they become eligible for state funding.
- The total estimated cost of all projects funded by the end of FY 2010 was \$16.7 billion. Of that total, the state share was \$10.7 billion (64%) and the local share was \$6.0 billion (36%).
- Through the end of FY 2010, the General Assembly has appropriated nearly \$10.9 billion and SFC has disbursed a total of \$8.6 billion for school facilities projects.



Ohio Schools Show Improvement on Report Card Ratings

Number of Districts by Report Card Rating, FY 2006-FY 2010					
Rating	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Excellent with Distinction	-	-	74	116	81
Excellent	192	139	152	154	215
Effective	299	347	292	251	240
Continuous Improvement	112	113	83	79	64
Academic Watch	7	11	9	9	9
Academic Emergency	0	0	0	1	1

Source: Ohio Department of Education

- In FY 2010, 536 districts (87.9%) were rated effective or higher, compared to 491 districts (80.5%) in FY 2006.
- A district's report card rating depends on four basic measurements: (1) the number of state academic standards met, (2) the performance index score, (3) whether adequate yearly progress (AYP) has been met, and (4) the value-added designation, which was added in FY 2008.
- Ohio's 26 academic standards include minimum proficiency rates on all 24 achievement assessments, as well as minimum graduation and student attendance rates. In FY 2006, the state as a whole met 17 out of a possible 25 standards at that time. In FY 2010, the state met 18 of the current 26 standards.
- The performance index, ranging from 0 to 120, is a composite measure of achievement of all students on all achievement assessments. The index for the state as a whole improved from 92.9 in FY 2006 to 93.3 in FY 2010.
- AYP, a rating established by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, requires districts to meet annual performance goals for student subgroups. In FY 2006, 193 districts (31.6%) met AYP, compared to 283 districts (46.3%) in FY 2010.
- The value-added measure tracks an individual student's test scores from one year to another. Districts are rated on how their students' academic growth, as measured by the achievement assessments, compares to the expected growth standard set by the state.
- In FY 2010, 202 districts (33.1%) were above, 179 districts (29.4%) had met, and 229 districts (37.5%) were below the expected growth standard. In FY 2008, the first year the value-added measure was used, 274 districts (44.9%) were above, 142 districts (23.3%) had met, and 194 districts (31.8%) were below the expected growth standard.

School Enrollment in Ohio Declines

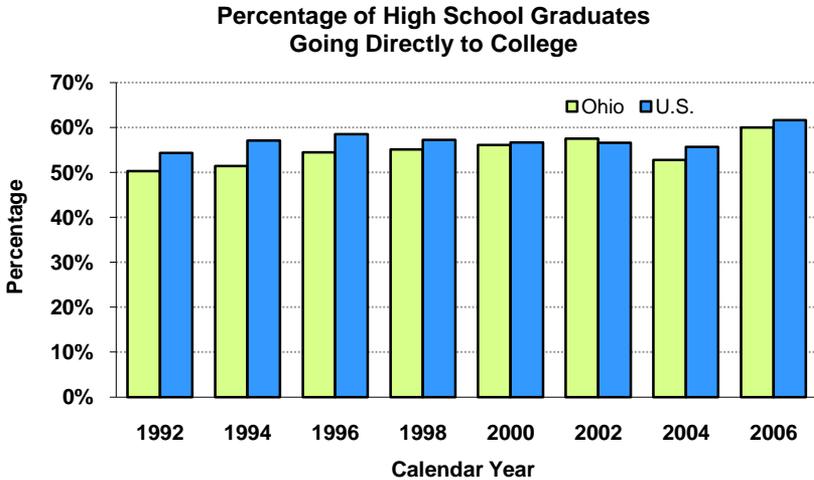
Ohio School Enrollment, FY 2000-FY 2010						
Fiscal Year	Public		Nonpublic		Total	
	Enrollment	Annual Change	Enrollment	Annual Change	Enrollment	Annual Change
FY 2000	1,836,491	--	242,989	--	2,079,480	--
FY 2001	1,834,888	-1,603	242,845	-144	2,077,733	-1,747
FY 2002	1,830,958	-3,930	239,080	-3,765	2,070,038	-7,695
FY 2003	1,838,068	7,110	232,092	-6,988	2,070,160	122
FY 2004	1,843,898	5,830	222,830	-9,262	2,066,728	-3,432
FY 2005	1,845,351	1,453	213,312	-9,518	2,058,663	-8,065
FY 2006	1,842,943	-2,408	207,054	-6,258	2,049,997	-8,666
FY 2007	1,835,188	-7,755	204,402	-2,652	2,039,590	-10,407
FY 2008	1,825,997	-9,191	202,301	-2,101	2,028,298	-11,292
FY 2009	1,815,952	-10,045	196,979	-5,322	2,012,931	-15,367
FY 2010	1,815,377	-575	189,521	-7,458	2,004,898	-8,033
Total Change		-21,114		-53,468		-74,582

Source: Ohio Department of Education

- Total school enrollment in Ohio has decreased by 74,582 students over the last decade, from 2.08 million in FY 2000 to 2.00 million in FY 2010.
- Except for FY 2003, total school enrollment in Ohio has declined every year during this same period.
- Of the total enrollment decrease since FY 2000, 71.7% (53,468) occurred in nonpublic schools and 28.3% (21,114) occurred in public schools. This represents a 22.0% decline in nonpublic school enrollment over those ten years, compared to a 1.1% decline in public school enrollment.
- In FY 2010, nonpublic school enrollment represented approximately 9.5% of total enrollment in Ohio, compared to 11.7% in FY 2000.
- Public school enrollment increased in fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, for a total increase of 14,393 over these three years. Except for FY 2003, however, these increases were more than offset by decreases in nonpublic school enrollment (a decrease of 25,768 over these three years).
- Public school enrollment has decreased every year since FY 2005. During these five years, the largest annual decrease in public school enrollment was 10,045 students in FY 2009. The smallest annual decrease during these five years was 575 students in FY 2010.



Percentage of Ohio High School Graduates Going Directly to College Increased in 2006



Sources: ACT; College Board; NCHEMS; Ohio Board of Regents

- After a dip in 2004, the percentage of Ohio high school graduates going directly to college increased 7.2 percentage points from 52.8% to 60.0% between 2004 and 2006. The national average increased by 5.9 percentage points in the same period, from 55.7% to 61.6%.
- From 1992 to 2006, the percentage of Ohio high school graduates going directly to college has been below the national average every year except 2002. In 2006, Ohio's percentage was 1.6 percentage points below the national average.
- In fall 2007, 45% of graduates from Ohio public high schools enrolled directly in an Ohio college or university – 29% in a four-year institution and 16% in a two-year institution.
- ACT and SAT scores are indicators that help predict how well students will perform in college. Since 1992, ACT and SAT scores for Ohio high school seniors have been consistently higher than the national average.
- The average Ohio ACT score was 21.7 in 2009, in comparison with the national average of 21.1. The average Ohio SAT score was 1606 in 2009, in comparison with the national average of 1509.