Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services

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Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Greenbook

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services

Quick look…

- Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services (ODBES) oversees the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) and the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB), which provide free educational and related services to students from birth through age 22 who are deaf or hearing impaired and those with visual, sensory, and developmental disabilities, respectively.
- In FY 2025, 242 students enrolled at the schools, with 105 of those students living on campus as part of the schools' residential programs, and an additional 34 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled in ODBES's early learning services (ELS) programs.
- As of July 2025, ODBES employs 285 staff, including 252 full-time employees and 33 part-time employees.
- Total appropriations: $36.1 million for FY 2026 and $36.9 million for FY 2027.
  - Sources of the budget: GRF (90.7%), federal grants (6.5%), and dedicated purpose funds (2.9%).

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual*	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue	$29,859,052	$31,055,259	$32,700,258	$33,454,668
Dedicated Purpose	$591,207	$809,632	$1,042,467	$1,053,141
Federal	$1,631,666	$1,866,356	$2,362,500	$2,362,500
Total	$32,081,925	$33,731,247	$36,105,225	$36,870,309
% change	--	5.1%	7.0%	2.1%
GRF % change	--	*4.0%*	*5.3%*	*2.3%*

*The FY 2024 actual includes small amounts of funds spent that year from FY 2023 funds appropriated in previously separate OSD line items.

Agency overview

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services (ODBES) oversees the Ohio School for the Deaf (OSD) and the Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB), both located in Columbus. Prior to FY 2024, OSD and OSSB were separate state agencies. H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly established ODBES and placed OSD and OSSB under it. OSD is a state-supported public school and residential facility for deaf and hearing-impaired children from birth through age 22. Likewise, OSSB is a state-supported specialized educational and residential facility that provides free educational and related services to Ohio students from birth through age 22 with visual, sensory, and developmental disabilities. The schools were established in 1829 and 1837, respectively. Both schools operate under the control and supervision of the Department of Education and Workforce. Their educational programs must meet the same minimum state standards that apply to any other public school, including the state Operating Standards for Ohio Schools Serving Children with Disabilities. In the past, both schools have maintained additional accreditation with Cognia (formerly Advanced ED). They are currently working toward national accreditation through the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the

Deaf (CEASD) and Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) by the summer of 2025.

Most of Ohio's school-aged children who are visually impaired or hearing impaired are educated in their resident school districts. Student placement decisions for OSD and OSSB are initiated by the parents and the student's school district of residence following an evaluation team report. In FY 2025, OSD and OSSB educated a total of 242 students, including 129 at OSD and 113 at OSSB. Of these, 105 students resided at the school during the week and participated in afterschool activities, with 70 residing at OSD and 35 residing at OSSB. An additional 34 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were enrolled in ODBES's early learning services (ELS) programs. The schools offer a number of services in an effort to provide additional care and support to students and their families, including additional academic and guidance support, social and emotional support, academic and career planning, and parent-to-parent support. In addition to the education and residential programs, the schools operate several outreach programs for families with children who are visually or hearing impaired and for the school districts that serve those children across the state.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services' (ODBES) appropriations total $36.1 million in FY 2026 and $36.9 million in FY 2027. The FY 2026 level represents a $2.4 million (7.0%) increase from FY 2025 spending of $33.7 million. FY 2027 funding increases by about $765,100, or 2.1%. Of the $73.0 million in total funding over the biennium, 90.7% comes from the GRF, 6.5% from federal funds, and 2.9% from dedicated purpose funds.

In this analysis, each appropriation item's actual expenditures for FY 2022 through FY 2025 and appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are listed in a table. Following the table, a narrative describes how the appropriation is used.

Operations (ALI 226321)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 226321, Operations					
$13,481,454	$13,021,341	$29,483,116	$31,055,259	$32,700,258	$33,454,668
% change	-3.4%	126.4%	5.3%	5.3%	2.3%
GRF ALI 221321, Operations (merged into ALI 226321 beginning in FY 2024)					
$14,625,843	$14,265,231	$375,936	$0	$0	$0
% change	-2.5%	-97.4%	-100.0%	N/A	N/A
Total					
$28,107,297	$27,286,571	$29,859,052	$31,055,259	$32,700,258	$33,454,668
% change	-2.9%	9.4%	4.0%	5.3%	2.3%

Item 226321 is ODBES's main source of support for all of its programs. It supports staff payroll and fringe benefits, maintenance of the school grounds and facilities, and equipment for

OSD and OSSB. Prior to their move under a single state agency in FY 2024, OSD and OSSB used separate GRF line items for operations (ALIs 221321 and 226321, respectively).

State Grants (ALIs 226602 and 226401)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 4H80 ALI 226602, Blind School State Grants					
$150,579	$83,480	$65,948	$209,956	$350,000	$350,000
% change	-44.6%	-21.0%	218.4%	66.7%	0.0%
Fund 4M10 ALI 226401, Deaf School State Grants (ALI 221602 prior to FY 2024)					
$51,908	$153,522	$140,382	$117,200	$25,000	$25,000
% change	195.8%	-8.6%	-16.5%	-78.7%	0.0%

These funds are from a combination of funding from the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and other small grants. These grants vary in size and disbursement schedules. Generally, they are used for career-technical education, broadband connectivity, and parent mentoring and support groups.

Educational Program Expenses (ALIs 226601 and 226400)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 4M50 ALI 226601, Blind School Educational Program Expenses					
$264,658	$172,448	$262,056	$285,738	$330,000	$340,000
% change	-34.8%	52.0%	9.0%	15.5%	3.0%
Fund 4M00 ALI 226400, Deaf School Educational Program Expenses (ALI 221601 prior to FY 2024)					
$52,819	$87,838	$102,225	$160,247	$250,000	$250,000
% change	66.3%	16.4%	56.8%	56.0%	0.0%

These funds come from revenues associated with OSD and OSSB fundraising activities, athletic ticket sales, vocational work programs, and donations. Funds may be used for school operating expenses, student activities, scholarships, food service programs, and student work experience programs. The budget requires investment earnings on money in the Educational Program Expense funds of the State School for the Deaf (Fund 4M00) and the State School for the Blind (Fund 4M50) be credited to the funds.

Early Childhood Education (ALI 226402)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 5H60 ALI 226402, Early Childhood Education (ALI 221609 prior to FY 2024)					
$0	$0	$120	$15,075	$65,000	$65,000
% change	N/A	N/A	12,462.5%	331.2%	0.0%

This line item is used as a reserve for special projects or emergencies associated with early childhood education services. The ongoing revenue that supports this line item consists of a minimal amount of fees collected for preschool summer day camps, generally under $10,000 annually since FY 2017.

Employee Food Service Charges (ALI 226622)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 5NJ0 ALI 226622, Employee Food Service Charges					
$7,169	$10,411	$20,476	$21,416	$22,467	$23,141
% change	45.2%	96.7%	4.6%	4.9%	3.0%
Fund 5NK0 ALI 221610, Food Service Program (merged into ALI 226622 beginning in FY 2024)					
$5,957	$9,020	$0	$0	$0	$0
% change	51.4%	-100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total					
$13,127	$19,431	$20,476	$21,416	$22,467	$23,141
% change	48.0%	5.4%	4.6%	4.9%	3.0%

This line item is used to offset a portion of the payroll costs for a kitchen manager position at the schools. Revenue received from staff purchases of meals at the schools funds this line item, in compliance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's regulations requiring the schools to separately account for the fees paid by staff for meals. Previously, OSD and OSSB used separate non-GRF line items for this purpose (ALIs 221610 and 226622, respectively). ALI 221610 was combined into ALI 226622 starting in FY 2024 to coincide with the move to a single state agency to oversee the schools.

Federal Grants (ALIs 226626 and 226403)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 3100 ALI 226626, Blind School Federal Grants					
$968,449	$890,966	$963,274	$922,575	$1,099,000	$1,099,000
% change	-8.0%	8.1%	-4.2%	19.1%	0.0%
Fund 3110 ALI 226403, Deaf School Federal Grants (ALI 221625 prior to FY 2024)					
$641,708	$531,698	$396,642	$498,639	$574,000	$574,000
% change	-17.1%	-25.4%	25.7%	15.1%	0.0%

These funds are from a variety of federal grants passed through DEW or other state agencies. These include Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), preschool special education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and School Breakfast and School Lunch Program funding. The funds are used as specified in the federal grants for purposes that include special education and related services, child nutrition, afterschool programs that offer academic enrichment services, and other activities.

Ohio Transition Collaborative (ALI 226621)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 3DT0 ALI 226621, Ohio Transition Collaborative					
$19,549	$109,103	$118,390	$244,699	$230,000	$230,000
% change	458.1%	8.5%	106.7%	-6.0%	0.0%

These federal funds, transferred from the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency, mainly support the payroll and other operating costs of OSSB's Employment, Development, Growth, and Education (EDGE) Program. According to OSSB, the program allows high school seniors to defer graduation for one year to remain at OSSB to receive job readiness training and improve social, communication, and adult living skills, with the goal of achieving greater independence upon completion of the program. OSSB partners with the students' resident school districts and OOD to operate the program.

Medicaid Professional Services Reimbursement (ALI 226643)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
Fund 3P50 ALI 226643, Medicaid Professional Services Reimbursement					
$15,841	$85,438	$152,010	$200,433	$459,500	$459,500
% change	439.3%	77.9%	31.9%	129.2%	0.0%
Fund 3R00 ALI 221684, Medicaid Professional Services Reimbursement (merged into ALI 226643 beginning in FY 2024)					
$8,805	$18,966	$1,350	$0	$0	$0
% change	115.4%	-92.9%	-100.0%	N/A	N/A
Total					
$24,646	$104,404	$153,360	$200,433	$459,500	$459,500
% change	323.6%	46.9%	30.7%	129.2%	0.0%

This line item is used for the provision of qualifying specialized care, including speech therapy, audiology services, and occupational and physical therapy, for Medicaid-eligible students. The federal government reimburses qualified expenditures incurred by the school. Reimbursement fluctuations are based on services rendered and student eligibility for Medicaid. Prior to FY 2024, OSD and OSSB used separate non-GRF line items for Medicaid services (ALIs 221684 and 226643, respectively) but have since been combined into a single line item coinciding with the schools' move to a single state agency.

OSB/zg

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
OSB	**Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services**							
GRF	226321	Operations	$29,483,116	$31,055,259	$32,700,258	$33,454,668	5.30%	2.31%
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			**$29,483,116**	**$31,055,259**	**$32,700,258**	**$33,454,668**	**5.30%**	**2.31%**
4H80	226602	Blind School State Grants	$65,948	$209,956	$350,000	$350,000	66.70%	0.00%
4M00	226400	Deaf School Educational Program Expenses	$94,563	$160,247	$250,000	$250,000	56.01%	0.00%
4M10	226401	Deaf School State Grants	$110,775	$117,200	$25,000	$25,000	-78.67%	0.00%
4M50	226601	Blind School Educational Program Expenses	$262,056	$285,738	$330,000	$340,000	15.49%	3.03%
5H60	226402	Early Childhood Education	$120	$15,075	$65,000	$65,000	331.18%	0.00%
5NJ0	226622	Employee Food Service Charges	$20,476	$21,416	$22,467	$23,141	4.91%	3.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			**$553,938**	**$809,632**	**$1,042,467**	**$1,053,141**	**28.76%**	**1.02%**
3100	226626	Blind School Federal Grants	$963,274	$922,575	$1,099,000	$1,099,000	19.12%	0.00%
3110	226403	Deaf School Federal Grants	$245,408	$498,639	$574,000	$574,000	15.11%	0.00%
3DT0	226621	Ohio Transition Collaborative	$118,390	$244,699	$230,000	$230,000	-6.01%	0.00%
3P50	226643	Medicaid Professional Services Reimbursement	$152,010	$200,443	$459,500	$459,500	129.24%	0.00%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal			**$1,479,082**	**$1,866,356**	**$2,362,500**	**$2,362,500**	**26.58%**	**0.00%**
Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services Total			**$31,516,136**	**$33,731,247**	**$36,105,225**	**$36,870,309**	**7.04%**	**2.12%**
OSD	**Ohio School for the Deaf**							
GRF	221321	Operations	$375,936	$0	$0	$0	N/A	N/A
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			**$375,936**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
4M00	221601	Educational Program Expenses	$7,662	$0	$0	$0	N/A	N/A
4M10	221602	Education Reform Grants	$29,607	$0	$0	$0	N/A	N/A
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			**$37,269**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
3110	221625	Federal Grants	$151,234	$0	$0	$0	N/A	N/A

Detail by Agency	FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
OSD Ohio School for the Deaf						
3R00 221684 Medicaid Professional Services Reimbursement	$1,350	$0	$0	$0	N/A	N/A
Federal Fund Group Subtotal	**$152,584**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Ohio School for the Deaf Total	**$565,789**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**N/A**	**N/A**