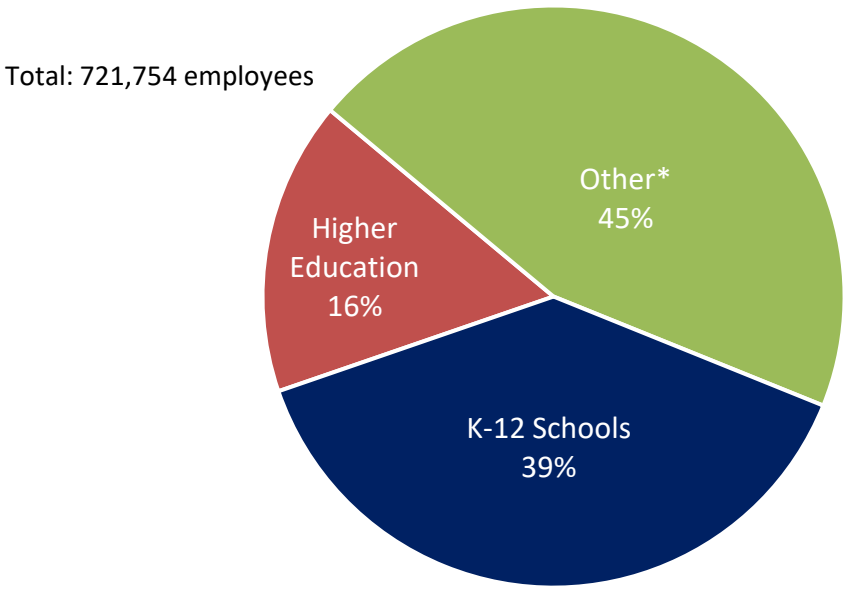
Over half of Ohio's public employees worked for K-12 schools and higher education institutions in 2025

State and Local Government Employee Head Count by Function, 2025



*"Other" represents the five sectors listed at right plus 18 more with small shares of the total, including judicial and legal, other government administration, highways, parks and recreation, financial administration, various public utilities, and local libraries.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- Education employees accounted for 55.0% (396,630) of the total 721,754 Ohio public employees in 2025.
  - 38.6% (278,653) worked for K-12 schools.
  - 16.3% (117,977) worked in higher education.
- From 2016 to 2025, the total education employee headcount decreased by 1.7% (6,841 employees).
  - -6.4% (-8,089 employees) in higher education.
  - +0.4% (+1,248 employees) in K-12 schools.
- The next five largest public employee sectors were:
  - Hospitals and health (7.6%, 54,781 employees).
  - Police protection (4.8%, 34,683 employees).
  - Fire protection (4.2%, 30,474 employees).
  - Public welfare (3.4%, 24,216 employees).
  - Corrections (3.0%, 21,776 employees).