State Foundation Aid

- Ohio's largest source of state support for public schools
- Distributed by formula to traditional districts, joint vocational school districts (JVSDs), community schools, and STEM schools
- Mostly based on enrollment, district property values, and district resident incomes

FY 2026

$10.03 billion

paid to school districts and other public schools

Formula Components

State Share of the Base Cost
Determines a per-pupil local contribution then requires the state to make up the difference to bring the total up to a per-pupil base cost amount that varies by district. The formula provides a higher state share per pupil to lower wealth districts.

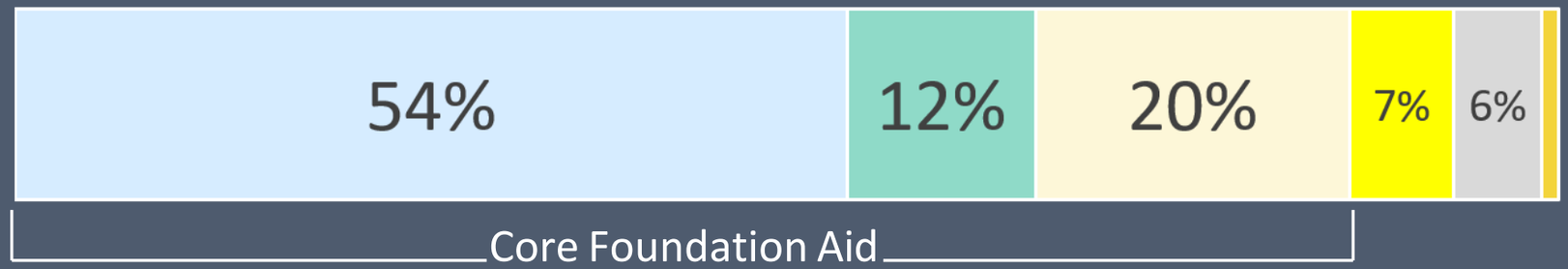
Targeted Assistance
Additional funding to school districts with lower capacities to raise local revenues and small school districts with relatively low total property and resident income

Categorical Add-ons
Additional funding based on unique needs of students: Special Education (10%), Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (6%), Career-Tech (3%), Gifted (1%), and English Learners (1%)

Transportation
Supports transporting students to and from school

Guarantees
Prevent state aid from falling below certain historical funding levels

Supplements
Additional funds to all districts and schools, extra funds for traditional districts with enrollment growth, and equity funds for site-based community schools (1%)

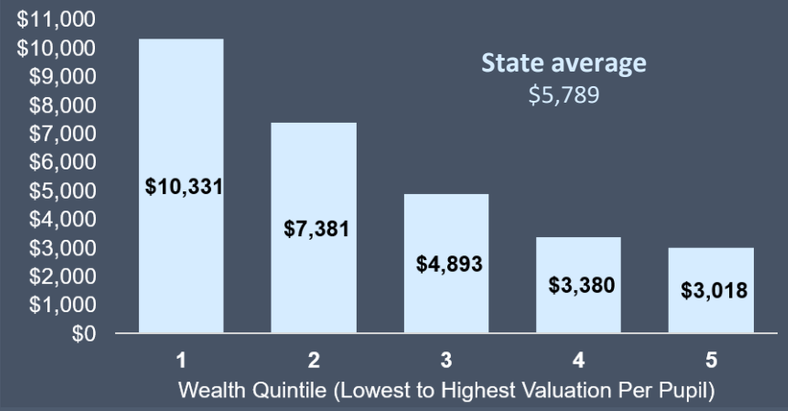


The formula is subject to a phase-in mechanism. Most components were phased in at 83.33% in FY 2026

Core foundation aid = FY 2020 funding + [Phase-in % x (New formula - FY 2020 funding)]

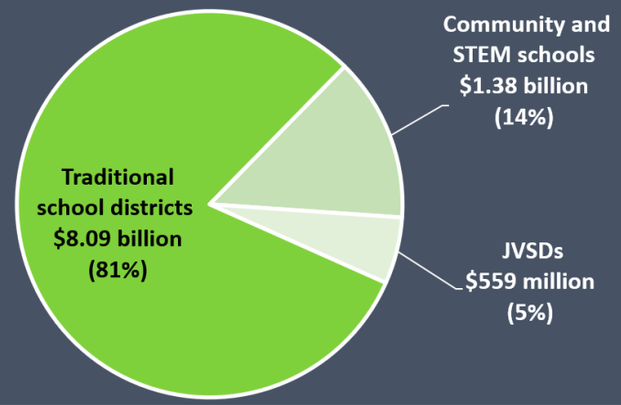
Lower wealth districts receive more foundation aid per pupil than higher wealth districts.

Per-Pupil Foundation Aid by Wealth Quintile, FY 2026



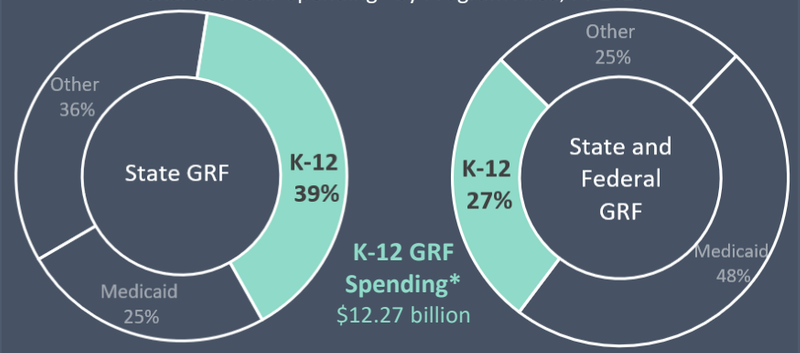
Community and STEM schools, Ohio's largest school choice program, received $1.38 billion in foundation aid in FY 2026.

Foundation Aid by School Type, FY 2026



Foundation aid is the largest component of state funding for K-12 education, which represents the largest share of state GRF and the 2nd largest share of state and federal GRF.

Shares of GRF Spending* by Program Area, FY 2026



* Includes non-GRF line items supported by GRF transfers