

Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Report



Fiscal Year 2025



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Executive Summary

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's strategic priorities are literacy, accelerating learning, workforce readiness, and student wellness. Under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jim Tressel, and the Ohio General Assembly, Ohio's districts and schools receive Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to offer initiatives that support academic success and provide wraparound services to build skills, improve health and wellness, or fulfill a student or family need.

Ohio law outlines the uses for [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid](#) and [Student Wellness and Success Funds](#) and requires districts and schools to report utilization of funds to the Department. The Department collected data from Ohio's public and community schools from May through September 2025. There were 1,007 districts and schools eligible to receive funding. A total of 997 districts and schools reported utilization of funds during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.¹ This report includes details on initiatives implemented and amount of funding spent.

Key Takeaways

- Districts and schools spent a total of \$1,004,933,930 of state funding in the 2024-2025 school year on various initiatives to enhance student well-being.²
- Districts and schools implemented 3,586 initiatives (10.5% of these were newly established).
- The allocated funds supported 4,608,286 student service instances statewide.³
- Mental health services were the top expenditure category (\$346,392,452 of state funding spent), an increase of \$74,720,733 from FY24.⁴
- Mental health services were the most frequently reported initiative category (1,068 initiatives implemented by 816 districts and schools).
- For community partnerships, 70.5% of districts and schools reported educational service centers (ESCs), and 67.3% of districts and schools reported partnerships with community-based mental health providers.
- Districts and schools reported funding staff positions totaling 6,450.9 new and 16,195.92 existing full-time equivalent.

¹ Of the 10 districts and schools that reported no use of funds, two had no students enrolled during the school year. The Department will review the reporting information from the eight remaining districts and schools that reported no use of funds during FY 25 and provide technical assistance as needed.

² State funding refers to Student Wellness and Success Funds from Fiscal Years 2020-2025 and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid from Fiscal Years 2022-2025. Initiatives that were not funded by Student Wellness and Success Funds or Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid are not included.

³ Many districts and schools implement multiple initiatives that may impact the same students in different ways. The total of 4,608,286 includes duplicated counts of students who accessed services under more than one initiative.

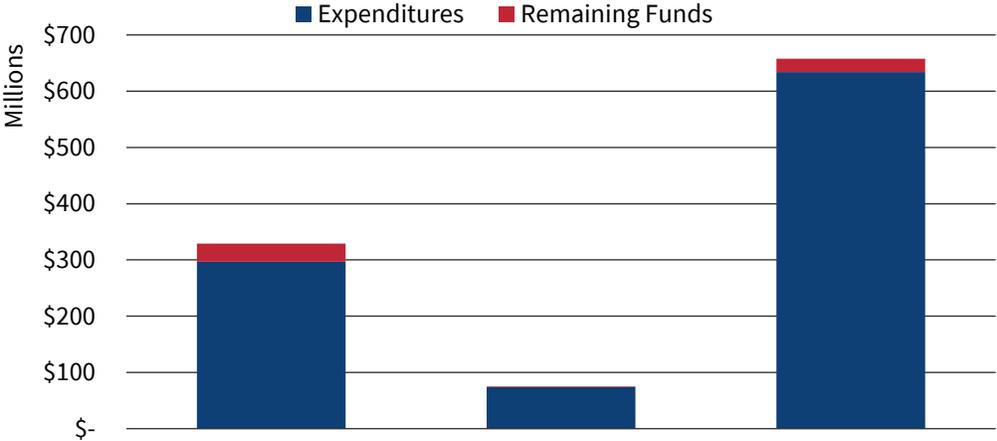
⁴ Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Report: Fiscal Year 2024.

Funding

During FY25, the Department allocated \$932,225,184 in Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to districts and schools. Districts and schools reported spending a total of \$1,004,933,930 of state funding on various initiatives. This amount includes a combination of both FY25 funds allocated and remaining funds from FY20-FY24. Specifically, districts and schools reported using \$296,682,839 in FY25 Student Wellness and Success Funds, \$74,102,098 in FY20-FY24 remaining Student Wellness and Success Funds, and \$634,148,993 in Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid.

The chart below illustrates the funding disbursement, expenditures, and remaining balances based on information collected from districts and schools.

FY25 Expenditures and Remaining Funds



	FY25 Student Wellness and Success Funds	FY20-FY24 Remaining Student Wellness and Success Funds	Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid
FY25 Expenditures	\$296,682,839	\$74,102,098	\$634,148,993
Funds Remaining after FY25 Expenditures	\$23,487,867	\$1,161,078	\$32,458,763

Figure 1

Planning, Goals, and Outcomes

The Department encourages districts and schools to collaborate with community partners to conduct a needs assessment for planning the use of funding. By assessing needs and reviewing data, districts and schools can identify gaps in current services.

Districts and schools benefit from utilizing [Ohio’s Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) when developing a comprehensive plan for wraparound services and the delivery of effective,

data-informed supports for all students. In FY25, 81.8% of districts and schools reported conducting a needs assessment.

Categories and Frequency of Initiative Implementation

Ohio’s districts and schools used Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to implement wraparound services to meet students’ physical, behavioral, emotional, and safety needs. In FY25, Ohio law required districts and schools to use this funding for specific types of initiatives or services. The Department’s [Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid webpage](#) includes a list of initiative categories included in Ohio law. Of the 1,007 districts and schools that completed a report, 997 (99%) reported spending funds in FY25. The funding supported 3,586 initiatives, impacting 4,608,286 student service instances. Among these initiatives, 10.5% were new, while 89.5% were existing.

The figure below includes a breakdown of the initiative categories.

Initiative category	Number of initiatives	Number of districts and schools implementing initiatives	Number of students directly impacted
Mental health services	1,068	816	1,362,176
Physical health care services	603	499	936,980
Prevention education	155	129	228,917
Reading improvement and interventions	355	341	283,130
School safety	266	244	529,823
Dropout prevention	214	191	165,785
Community liaisons and programming	183	177	270,080
Family engagement	151	138	277,680
Instructional technology or blended learning	123	113	218,256
Academic interventions grades 6-12	113	108	73,983
Before and after school programming	105	99	94,185
Extended school day or school year	69	68	48,253
Child welfare-involved youth services	66	54	47,085
Professional development in science of reading	53	51	35,759
Homeless youth services	51	51	26,956
Community learning centers	9	9	7,545
Employment of Bright New Leader	2	2	1,693

Figure 2: Combined totals for both Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid.

Student Wellness and Success Funds – Top Expenditures

[Ohio law](#) requires districts and schools to use Student Wellness and Success Funds for eight types of initiatives or services to help ensure students are in school, healthy, ready to learn, and prepared for future success. Beginning in FY24, [Ohio law](#) requires districts and schools to spend a minimum of 50% of their Student Wellness and Success Funds on either mental health services, physical health care services, or a combination of the two. In FY25, districts and schools spent \$317,193,129 of Student Wellness and Success Funds on either mental health services or physical health care services. In total, 93% of districts and schools reported spending more than 50% of their Student Wellness and Success Funds on either mental health services, physical health care services, or a combination of the two. The investment of Student Wellness and Success Funds was highest in the following categories:

- Mental health services, including telehealth services (\$224,857,804);
- Physical health care services, including telehealth services (\$92,335,325); and
- Prevention education (\$18,195,435).

Mental Health Services

Districts and schools used funds to increase the programs and services available to support the mental health of Ohio’s children. During FY25, the number of districts and schools using funds to implement mental health services increased by 52 schools and 42 programs or services from FY24.⁵

Districts and schools reported using funds to hire counselors and contract for services for psychologists and social workers. Below are highlights from districts and schools that utilized Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to support the identified mental health needs of their students.

Story of Success: Kettering City School District (Montgomery County)

Kettering City School District is ensuring students have rapid access to high-quality mental health support. This includes offering, often in under 24 hours, in-house counseling from their partners at South Community and telehealth tier II and III services with their partners at Cartwheel. Cartwheel provides a full range of services, including vital wrap-around support for families, which has led to 95% of participating families strongly recommending the service.

⁵ Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Report: Fiscal Year 2024.

Story of Success: Lowellville Local School District (Mahoning County)

Lowellville Local School District provided mental health services to students by employing two full-time counselors and a Behavioral Health and Wellness Coordinator with state funding. The district worked with partners to select evidence-based programming for the coordinator to provide to the students. The district reported 461 students impacted by this initiative.

Physical Health Care Services

Ohio's districts and schools reported partnering with health care providers, educational service centers, and community organizations to improve student access to health care by providing on-site and mobile primary care, dental care, and vision services. School nurses are vital to monitoring and coordinating student health services internally and with community partners. Districts and schools reported expanding or sustaining school nursing services as part of 330 physical health care initiatives. Other physical health care initiatives included the development of school-based health centers, physical therapy, contracts for services of athletic trainers, and medical supply purchases. These school-based physical health care services improve access to care and eliminate barriers such as transportation challenges and parental missed work time. Below are highlights from districts and schools that utilized Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to increase students' access to physical health care services.

Story of Success: Gallipolis City School District (Gallia County)

Gallipolis City School District utilized Student Wellness and Success Funds, in coordination with Appalachian Community Grant funds and in partnership with Holzer Health System, Hopewell Health Centers, and Health Recovery Systems, to create a Community Wellness Center. The center opened at Gallia Academy High School in Oct. 2025 and offers primary care services, behavioral health services, vision care, school nursing, substance use, and counseling. The center will offer services to students, staff, families, and community members.

Story of Success: Toledo Public Schools (Lucas County)

Toledo Public Schools utilized Student Wellness and Success funds to employ registered nurses who address the health and wellness of students, staff, and families. These school nurses bridge healthcare and education by conducting required screenings, managing chronic health conditions, coordinating health services, and providing primary prevention. The district's nurses support the mental health needs of students by working collaboratively with mental health partners, school counselors, and school social workers.

Prevention Education

Ohio's districts and schools implemented a variety of prevention programs with available funding. Prevention services help students develop knowledge and skills to engage in healthy behaviors and decision-making and increase their awareness of the dangers and consequences of risky behaviors, including substance use, suicide, bullying, and other harmful behaviors. Prevention services reduce risk and increase protective factors that are likely to impact mental, emotional, and behavioral health disorders.

Story of Success: Switzerland of Ohio Local School District (Monroe County)

Switzerland of Ohio Local School District prevention services provided substance abuse prevention through the Too Good for Drugs program. This K-12 prevention education program provided students in the district with developmentally appropriate lessons on safe use of medicines and the effects of nicotine, alcohol, and marijuana use. This district-wide initiative impacted 2,010 students. The district also provided age-appropriate suicide prevention programming through Sources of Strength, Erika's Lighthouse, and Signs of Suicide.

Story of Success: Crestview Local School District (Richland County)

Crestview Local School District initiated a district-wide implementation of the Leader in Me Program. This program focused on leadership, school culture, and academics. Teachers worked with students to help develop those leadership and life skills needed to thrive in today's world. The primary focus of the programming is to instill the seven habits of highly effective people. The district reported 850 students impacted by the Leader in Me program.

Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid – Top Expenditures

[Ohio law](#) includes initiatives on which districts and schools can use Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid. Districts and schools reported the highest FY25 expenditures of Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid in the following categories:

- Reading improvement and intervention (\$146,400,238);
- Mental health services, including telehealth services (\$121,534,648); and
- School safety (\$69,598,452).

Reading Improvement and Intervention

Ohio recognizes that literacy is fundamental in education. The [ReadOhio initiative](#), launched by Governor Mike DeWine in 2023, aims to enhance literacy achievement through a collaboration among state agencies and educational partners, focusing on evidence-based practices and continuous improvement in literacy education. [Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement](#) details Ohio's framework to promote proficiency in both reading and writing for students.

A total of 341 districts and schools utilized over \$146 million in Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to implement 355 reading improvement initiatives during FY25. Districts and schools reported utilization of funds to implement over 40 different types of reading improvement curriculums from the [approved curriculum list](#).

Story of Success: East Bridge Academy of Excellence (Franklin County)

East Bridge Academy of Excellence implemented a reading improvement program based on the Science of Reading that proactively addresses reading challenges for young students. The program uses a structured approach, providing small groups or one-on-one high-dosage tutoring to reinforce phonics, phonemic awareness, and fluency. It integrates targeted intervention supports for those at risk and uses monthly progress monitoring to track student growth and adjust instruction, ensuring every child builds a strong foundation for reading success. The district utilized Department-approved core foundational skills curriculum materials from Bridge to Reading (Heggerty), as well as Department-approved evidence-based reading intervention programs, including 95 Literacy Intervention System (2024) + Instructional Materials (95 Percent Group) and Wilson Reading System (Wilson).

Story of Success: Lynchburg-Clay Local School District (Highland County)

Lynchburg-Clay Local School District utilized funds to hire a literacy coach. This individual works as an instructional leader to provide specialized support to teachers to improve literacy instruction and student achievement across the district. The coach works with teachers to implement evidence-based practices, align instruction with standards, and utilize data to inform their work. The coach acts as a bridge between teachers and the Science of Reading, helping educators translate research into effective classroom practices.

Mental Health Services

Districts and schools utilized Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, in addition to Student Wellness and Success funds as described above, for mental health wrap-around supports for students. Districts and schools utilized \$121,534,648 of Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to implement 350 initiatives statewide. This report provides highlights and stories of mental health services on page 5, as this category was also reported as a top expenditure for Student Wellness and Success Funds.

School Safety

Districts and schools are required to implement a variety of strategies to promote a safe school environment including student instruction, anonymous reporting systems, threat assessment teams, emergency management plans, and staff training. Districts and schools can review [Ohio's Comprehensive School Safety Framework](#), [Ohio School Safety Center's Pre-K-12 website](#), and the [Department's Suicide Prevention, Violence Prevention, Social Inclusion and School Safety Requirements website](#) for information on requirements and resources.

Districts and schools utilized funds to support 266 initiatives focused on school safety. These initiatives included hiring resource officers, purchasing automated external defibrillators, using tools to monitor online activity, and deploying crossing guards to help students get to school safely.

Story of Success: Western Reserve Local Schools (Huron County)

Western Reserve Local Schools utilized funds to enhance student safety and mental health through the implementation of GoGuardian Beacon, a suicide and self-harm prevention AI tool. This AI tool is designed to help schools proactively identify students in need, by identifying signs of distress or self-harm. The tool supports early intervention by notifying counselors and staff when an alert is noted. Funds for this initiative were used for the cost of the software license, staff training, and integration with the district's existing mental health services further strengthening school safety, prevention, and crisis response.

Story of Success: Howland Local Schools (Trumbull County)

Howland Local School District utilized Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid to purchase three automated external defibrillators designated for use off-site during extracurricular events including athletics, band competitions, field trips and other school-sponsored activities where immediate access to life-saving equipment is critical. The impetus for the district's purchase of these additional AEDs is the understanding that sudden cardiac arrest of student athletes and spectators is a real thing. After witnessing firsthand a student's life being saved with the use of an AED, the school administration has become a strong advocate for strategically placed AEDs and has added these to their emergency action protocols to ensure they have these life-saving devices and training available to any student or spectator, even when away from campus.

Allowable Community Partners

When districts and schools collaborate with community partners, they gain access to unique perspectives and valuable resources. Community partners can collaborate with districts and schools on assessing needs, developing plans, and implementing initiatives.

Beginning in FY24, Ohio law required districts and schools to coordinate with community partners when developing their [Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid](#) and [Student Wellness and Success Funds](#) plans. The eight types of community partners listed in [Ohio law](#) are provided in the chart below.

Community partner type	Number of districts and schools with partnerships	Percentage of districts and schools working with the partners
Educational service center	710	70.5%
Community-based mental health treatment provider	678	67.3%
Nonprofit organization with experience serving children	446	44.3%
Board of alcohol, drug, and mental health services	324	32.2%
Board of health of a city or general health district	197	19.6%
County department of job and family services	178	17.7%
Public hospital agency	178	17.7%
County board of developmental disabilities	136	13.5%

Corrective Action Plans

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, [Ohio law](#) requires corrective action plans for districts and schools that did not spend at least 50% of [Student Wellness and Success Funds](#) on mental health services or physical health care services or did not spend funds in accordance with [Ohio law](#). The Department will review FY25 reports for any corrective action and issue corrective action plans as needed in accordance with [Ohio law](#).

Unused Student Wellness and Success Funds

Starting in FY24, Ohio's General Assembly included deadlines for the use of Student Wellness and Success Funds, and districts and schools must spend the funds by the end of the next fiscal year after receipt. Unused funds from FY20 through FY24 were required to be utilized by June 30, 2025 or returned to the Department. In FY25, 99% of districts and schools reported using all remaining funds before the deadline. The Department contacted the seven districts and schools that reported remaining FY20 through FY24 Student Wellness and Success funds to verify the amount of remaining funds to be repaid to the Department by [Ohio law](#). The Department requested reimbursement from these schools for the total of \$1,161,078 to be repaid, and all unspent funds have been returned.

Summary

Districts and schools reported spending \$1,004,933,930 in Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid during FY25 on a combined 3,586 total initiatives, resulting in 4,608,286 student service instances. Through the implementation of 1,671 initiatives focused on either mental health services or physical health care services, there were nearly 2.3 million student service instances. Ohio's districts and schools have shown their continued commitment to improving the wellness of students statewide.

What to Expect in 2026

The Department will continue to support Ohio's school communities with a focus on literacy, accelerating learning, student wellness, and workforce readiness. When districts and schools provide students with a strong academic foundation along with wraparound services that support their health and wellness, students are better equipped to develop essential life skills that will benefit them at school and beyond.

The Department will continue to provide districts and schools with guidance on using Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid. This support includes:

- Sending notifications and reminders to districts and schools who reported unspent FY25 Student Wellness and Success Funds, emphasizing the requirement to utilize funds prior to June 30, 2026; and
- Conducting a random sample review of FY25 reporting in November and December 2025 and initiating corrective action plans if necessary to ensure proper use of funds.