



**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**

# WELCOME

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## **Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council March 13, 2025**



**Department of  
Education &  
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# AGENDA ITEMS

- **Budget Update**
- **Workforce Literacy Presentation**
- **Resolutions**
- **DEW Updates**
- **New Business**

# BUDGET UPDATE

# EXECUTIVE BUDGET

This budget recommendation funds the disbursement of \$12.4 billion in FY 2026 and \$12.6 billion in FY 2027 from state sources to schools and districts to support Ohio's 1.7 million school children

# CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN K-12 EDUCATION

State Source Spending			
FY26	\$13.68 billion	\$306 million increase	2.3% ↑
FY27	\$13.85 billion	\$166 million increase	1.2% ↑

## Total New State Source Spending for Primary and Secondary Education

\$785 million in new spending over the biennium

Note: State source spending is comprised of GRF (including property tax reimb.), Lottery, Sports Gaming and ongoing Dedicated Purpose Funds with GRF cash transfers.

# ALL FUNDS BUDGET (FY25-FY27)

Fund Source	FY25 Approp.	FY26 Exec.	% Change	FY27 Exec.	% Change
GRF	\$9.8	\$10.0	1.9%	\$10.1	1.8%
Federal	\$3.0	\$2.4	(19.3%)	\$2.5	3.1%
Lottery	\$1.6	\$1.7	6.5%	\$1.6	(1.8%)
Revenue Dist.	\$1.2	\$1.3	4.4%	\$1.3	1.6%
Other	\$1.0	\$0.8	(18.2%)	\$0.8	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16.6</b>	<b>\$16.2</b>	<b>(2.6%)</b>	<b>\$16.4</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

\*Dollars (in billions)

# BUDGET PROVISIONS - LITERACY

- Requires public schools to administer a reading and math diagnostic assessment adopted by DEW in grades K-3.
- Requires completion of a competency-based refresher course in the Science of Reading every 5 years.
- Requires all public schools to spend at least 25% of DPIA on reading initiatives.
- Schools on reading achievement plans must spend at least 50%.
- Continued funding for literacy coaches (\$12 million/year)



# BUDGET PROVISIONS – COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- Limits dropout prevention and recovery schools to students ages 14 - 21.  
Requires existing dropout prevention schools to divest themselves of younger students by creating new schools for those students by July 1, 2027.
- Codifies the Quality Community and Independent STEM School Support Program, facilities funding for community and STEM schools, and the equity supplement, which have all been funded in temporary law.
- Strengthens the community school right-of-first-refusal to unused district buildings
- Community School/STEM School Facility funding increase (\$1,000 to \$1,500 per pupil)

# BUDGET PROVISIONS - WORKFORCE

- Adds career planning to graduation plans for public and chartered nonpublic high school students.
- Expands CTE access to middle school students.
- In the graduation requirements, makes completing 250 hours of a work-based learning experience with positive evaluations a foundational option for demonstration of competency
- Updates the industry-recognized credential list to focus on credentials of value.

# BUDGET PROVISIONS - WORKFORCE

- Provides that CTE associated services funds may be used for career-focused activities for all students and collaboration with education and workforce stakeholders.
- Allows career awareness and exploration funds to be used for mentoring opportunities to teach students about careers and workforce skills.
- Replaces the existing Adult Diploma Program and 22+ Program with a new program

# BUDGET PROVISIONS – HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Revises law on prevention education to include universal prevention programs that promote improved health and wellness .
- Requires plans for Student Wellness and Success Funds to include goals and performance metrics.
- Allows auxiliary services funding provided for chartered nonpublic schools to be used for mental health services for students.
- Requires districts and schools that have an identified student percentage of at least 25% under the Community Eligibility Provision to provide free breakfasts and lunches to all students, unless it creates a financial hardship.

# BUDGET PROVISIONS

- Prohibits students' use of cell phones during the instructional day, except for student learning or to monitor a health concern.
- Requires automatic advanced placement of students who score at the highest level on a state math test.
- Incorporates recommendations from the Ohio Attendance Taskforce to focus on absence prevention strategies instead of restrictive timelines of HB 410.

# BUDGET PROVISIONS

- Directs DEW to develop a model policy on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in schools.
- Requires public schools to adopt their own artificial intelligence policies or the model policy by July 1, 2026.

# RESOLUTION DISCUSSION

# ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

- DOPR age range from 14-24
- Additional pathways (revise OAC)
- Funding for students ages 22-24
- Fully fund online DOPR supplement
- Revise online funding formula to include DPIA
- Eliminate disproportionate payment of Catastrophic Aid
- Supplemental funding for DOPR transportation



# OTHER ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

## Governor's Merit Scholarship

- DOPR students and home educated students will need to complete a college admissions test (ACT or SAT) and submit an application to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) via the secure online application portal ([meritscholarship.ohio.gov](https://meritscholarship.ohio.gov)). The portal will open for applications at the beginning of the student's senior year and will close by October 1 each year.
- Students attending a dropout recovery school must have their attendance verified and be on track for graduation after the spring term.
- Both homeschooled and students attending a dropout recovery school must upload a copy of their ACT or SAT test score(s) to the application portal.

# DEW UPDATES

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- [Request to change sponsors document](#) has been posted. Schools must submit their request to change sponsors and all supporting documentation to the Department no later than **5pm on February 15**. Application and materials should be sent by email to [Community.Schools@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Community.Schools@education.ohio.gov)
- The spring DOPR extended window for high school end-of-course assessments begins Jan. 20 and runs through March 28.

# STATE LITERACY GRANT

- Ohio was awarded a \$60 million federal literacy grant
  - Support teaching and learning to improve literacy skills
  - Grant is focused on traditionally underserved students
  - Application deadline extended to April 8, 2025
  - List of priority districts and community schools are available [here](#)

# NEW BUSINESS

# QUESTIONS?

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# THANK YOU

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