

# Policy Progress Report



OHIO  
CHILDREN'S  
BUDGET  
2024-2025

## Progress Made to Improve Child Well-Being in Ohio's State Budget

<b>Hunger-Free Schools</b>	Includes \$4.2 million each year to ensure students who qualify for <b>reduced-priced school meals</b> will now be able to access school breakfast and lunch at no cost
<b>K-12 School Funding</b>	Increases state funding to public schools by nearly \$1 billion and continues Ohio's progress toward a full phase in of the <b>Fair School Funding Plan</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	\$100 million for a <b>Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program</b> that will create an estimated 4,000 affordable rental units amid Ohio's affordable housing crisis
<b>Continuous Medicaid Coverage for Young Children</b>	Ensures coverage for Medicaid-enrolled children <b>from birth through age 3</b> regardless of household income fluctuations to support consistent access to health care
<b>Family Food Security</b>	<b>Increases funding for Ohio food banks</b> to support food insecure Ohio families, the foodbanks that serve them, and local farmers, growers, and producers
<b>School-Based Health Centers</b>	\$15 million to School-Based Health Centers supports <b>integrated, comprehensive health services in schools</b> to improve health and education outcomes for students
<b>Child Lead Exposure</b>	Preserves and builds on many needed investments in <b>lead abatement, lead screening and testing, early intervention and other supports</b> , including additional funds to the lead safe home fund line.
<b>Educator Shortage</b>	Increases <b>Ohio's state minimum teacher's salary</b> from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year
<b>Children Services</b>	\$20 million increase to the <b>State Child Protection Allocation</b> to help children remain safely in their homes or in the least restrictive settings with improved access to critical prevention services

## Child Policy Priorities Left Out or Worsened in Ohio's State Budget

<p><b>State Thriving Families Tax Credit</b></p>	<p>A state Thriving Families Tax Credit provides <b>direct payments to families to help with the cost of raising children</b> and boost economic stability and security - but this was not included.</p>
<p><b>Paid Family and Medical Leave</b></p>	<p>Paid family and medical leave <b>strengthens families, reduces racial health and economic disparities, improves health outcomes for children, and promotes a strong economy</b> - but this was not included.</p>
<p><b>School Voucher Program</b></p>	<p>Lawmakers included \$2 billion to create a <b>universal private school voucher program</b> that sends public dollars to private schools that do not accept all children.</p>
<p><b>Foster Care Scholarships</b></p>	<p><b>Full-ride scholarships for students with experience in foster care</b> increases the number who aspire to pursue and complete college and helps them achieve financial stability earlier - but this was not included.</p>
<p><b>Medicaid in Schools Program</b></p>	<p>Opening up the Medicaid in Schools program (MSP) to all Medicaid-enrolled students <b>improves school health care sustainability and eliminates barriers</b> children face in accessing needed services and supports - but this was not included.</p>
<p><b>Access to Quality Child Care</b></p>	<p>Lawmakers include prohibitions that <b>undermine quality in care and educational requirements for licensed child care professionals</b>, while only minimally expanding publicly funded child care eligibility from 142% of the federal poverty level to 145%.</p>