



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

Issue	Recommendations	Enacted in HB 110	Description
Multi-System Youth (MSY)	<b>Funding across state agencies that serve Multi-System Youth in the ODM, DODD, and JFS Budgets to Support recommendations of the Multi-System Youth Action Plan</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$16 million per year (\$4 million increase from 2020), for Multi-System Youth</b> to be used for custody relinquishment prevention, programs that serve youth involved in multiple government agencies, and in innovative programs promoting access to health care that help achieve long-term cost savings to the state.</li> <li><b>\$25 million per year earmark for Multi-System Youth in ODFJS line item 600523 maintained</b>, to be used for Multi-System Youth in custody of a PCSA or to prevent custody relinquishment, and to support the state level program, family, and children first councils, and the communities of support grants.</li> </ul>
	<b>Protect development and implementation of OhioRISE (Ohio Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence)</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last minute threats to Medicaid Procurement process would have derailed OhioRISE. Ultimately, <b>Medicaid procurement was protected in the budget and allows OhioRISE implementation to proceed</b>. OhioRISE will support the development of a single managed care plan that will assess the level of need, identify required services, and coordinate those services, across various community providers, agencies, and systems. OhioRISE aims to keep children and youth in their homes, communities, and schools by assessing and delivering the appropriate level of care.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

Youth Incarceration	<p>Ohio spends an average of \$185,303 per year to incarcerate one child—money that must be invested more effectively. Community-based approaches are more cost-effective and have better outcomes. Ohio must provide support to address the underlying causes of juvenile court involvement and to expand the community-based model.</p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding levels are maintained for most community-based programs, with <b>increased funding for RECLAIM Ohio by \$7 million</b> in fiscal year 2022 and <b>\$10 million</b> in fiscal year 2023 for a total of \$16 million over the biennium.</li> <li>• <b>Youth Services funding was maintained at \$16.7 million per year</b></li> <li>• The budget allows the Department of Youth Services to use up to \$1.375 million in each fiscal year <b>to expand Targeted RECLAIM</b>, the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative, and other evidence-based community programs.</li> <li>• Maintained funding for <b>vocational training</b> to utilize community partnerships to help support better reentry for justice system-involved youth.</li> </ul>
Paid Family Leave	<p>Ohio must put children first by establishing paid family leave.</p> <p>Providing paid family and medical leave in Ohio would take a pivotal step forward in fostering a state with healthy children and families, and it is an important tool to help Ohio's economy rebuild from the COVID-19 crisis.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 budget.</li> </ul>




## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

Child Mental and Behavioral Health Services	<p><b>Funding for Child Mental and Behavioral Health Services</b></p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately <b>\$1 billion per year to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)</b>, including earmarks of \$475,000 per year to be used for operation of a 24/7 statewide behavioral health support line; \$2.5 million in each fiscal year to develop, evaluate, and expand crisis services infrastructure to support adults, children, and families; and \$2.25 million to increase early identification of behavioral health disorders.</li> <li>• Funding of \$1.250 million per year for <b>Early Childhood Mental Health Counselors and Consultation</b> to be used to promote identification and intervention for early childhood mental health and to enhance healthy social emotional development to reduce preschool to third grade classroom expulsions. Requires funds to be used to support early childhood mental health credentialed counselors and consultation services, as well as administration and workforce development</li> <li>• Includes \$7 million for <b>COVID Response-Mental Health to OhioMHAS</b> for FY 2022 (\$5 million is earmarked for OhioMHAS-certified community behavioral health organizations to develop and sustain workforce recruitment and retention initiatives and to offer supervision support).</li> <li>• Maintained funding <b>for the ADAMHS Boards</b></li> <li>• Maintained funding for <b>the community mental health projects</b></li> <li>• Increased funding to \$72 million in FY 22 and \$38 million in FY 23 <b>for the Mental Health Block Grant which provides funding for treatment and recovery supports</b> of persons with serious mental illness and includes recovery supports such as housing, employment, and peer support services</li> <li>• <b>Student Wellness and Success Funds were increased from \$675 million in the last budget to \$1.1 billion over the coming biennium.</b> The enacted Budget folds the SWSF into the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid of the new school funding formula, changing the allowable uses of these funds and the mechanisms used to distribute them to Ohio's schools.</li> <li>• Workforce shortages are a major hurdle in child behavioral health care access. The budget invests <b>\$4.4 million in the FQHC Primary Care Workforce Initiative</b> to address the need for more qualified health professionals by providing medical, dental, behavioral health, advanced practice nursing, and physician assistant students with clinical rotations in Federally Qualified Health Centers.</li> </ul>
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## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new appropriation to the Appalachian Children Coalition invests \$2.5 million over biennium to funding the training, hiring, and retention of entry-level child mental and behavioral health workers in school settings.</li> <li>• Language included stating that districts are required to notify and seek permission from parents/guardians if students will receive instruction on the topics of venereal disease and sexual education beyond those specified under current law. Ohio currently does not have a statewide standard curriculum for sex education in the state's K-12 schools but Ohio law mandates abstinence be taught as the preferred education policy.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Ohio must address the digital divide through increased infrastructure and technology for providers and families and ensure increased access to telehealth services</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$250 million in broadband expansion</b>, including dedicated funding for telehealth services to address behavioral and mental health needs in schools.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Establish a one-time \$20 million dollar grant to spur innovation in community behavioral health. Competitive innovation funds would be used for software and hardware infrastructure, internet connectivity, technology resources for families, and training.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 Budget.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

<b>School Funding</b>	<p>It is essential that Ohio develop a school funding system that is based on student need and provides enough state resources to reduce the need for local property taxes. Districts that rely the most on state funding are ones that include a disproportionately high number of poor, Black, and brown students. Ohio must move the state towards an additional \$1.99 billion in state aid for public education over the next 6 years</p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio’s budget includes passage of the Fair School Funding Plan in which both local incomes and property values determine the financial burden a district should be able to cover on its own, with the remainder (state share) growing to meet the difference. The uniform per-pupil cost (currently, \$6,020) will now be replaced by a variable per-pupil base cost computed for each school district which is based on local costs instead of a single statewide average.</li> <li>The enacted budget specifies that these provisions that overhaul Ohio’s K-12 education funding system only apply for FY 2022 and FY 2023. This contrasts with the 6-year phase-in originally set forth in this plan.</li> <li>The funding mechanism also allocates \$50 million to the school bus purchase fund.</li> <li>Student Wellness and Success Funds were increased from \$675 million in the last budget to \$1.1 billion over the coming biennium. The enacted Budget folds the SWSF into the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid of the new school funding formula, changing the allowable uses for these funds and the mechanisms used to distribute them to Ohio’s schools.</li> <li>The enacted budget expands Ohio’s tax-funded scholarship programs, including EdChoice scholarships. Scholarship amounts will increase (see section on EdChoice School Vouchers).</li> </ul>
	<p>Fund privatization options with direct state funding rather than through deductions from school districts</p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privatization options will now be directly funded by the state, rather than through a deduction from a school district’s share of funding. The new budget establishes “funding units” for community and STEM school funding, the EdChoice Scholarship, the Pilot Project Scholarship, the Autism Scholarship and the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship, through which funding will now be distributed.</li> </ul>
	<p>Create a Permanent School Fund to ensure funding stability over time</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not included in Ohio’s 2022-2023 budget.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p><b>Invest in best remote learning practices to handle any immediate COVID-19 issues</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The enacted budget allows school districts, with permission of the State Superintendent, to operate a school using an online learning model. To do so, districts will be required to assign all students learning online to a single school. Additional requirements for online learning include: ensuring each student has a device and internet access; providing a comprehensive orientation for the student and the parent related to online learning policies; enlisting a time-tracking learning management system. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to revise operating standards for online learning, so additional requirements may follow.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Invest real authority in an independent school funding commission that will ensure necessary future changes are made to the school funding model base on the best evidence</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 budget.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Invest in studies to improve funding for students in poverty, special needs students, gifted students, students whose second language is English and other potential funding categories to ensure all students receive the world-class educations they deserve, regardless of background or address</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 budget. While originally part of the Fair School Funding Plan, all education cost studies mandates and funding were removed from the enacted budget.</li> </ul>
<p style="color: red;"><b>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</b></p>	<p><b>Ohio must strengthen the EITC to put more money in the pockets of Ohio's low-income families.</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 budget.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	An investment in a stronger EITC that removes the cap, adds a 10% refundable state EITC to the current policy, and allows refundability would help 756,800 working Ohio families and support thriving children.		
Reduce Food Insecurity for Children in Ohio	As the state continues to experience high levels of child hunger and food insecurity, Ohio must protect access to food through the SNAP program	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite an attempt at the last minute to include in the budget administrative and programmatic barriers from SB 17 (asset test, change reporting) to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Ohio, <b>the final budget does <u>not</u> include these provisions and protects access to the SNAP program for many Ohioans.</b></li> <li>The budget creates a task force of 15 members to review, among other things, fraud prevention efforts in SNAP, how overpayments in SNAP can be prevented, and the costs and benefits associated with implementing a requirement that each SNAP card include a color photograph of at least one member in a household.</li> </ul>
	Include funding to support afterschool sites to reach children.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Hunger Alliance received \$1.175 million in each fiscal year from the TANF Block Grant to <b>help day care providers, day care centers, local school districts and afterschool and summer programs provide meals to children.</b></li> </ul>
	Expand Food Bank capacity, expand summer meal program options throughout Ohio	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$24.5 million in each fiscal year</b> (\$22 million of which from TANF Block Grant) for the <b>Ohio Association of Food Banks</b> to be used to purchase and distribute food products, support Innovative Summer Meals programs for children, provide SNAP outreach and free tax filing services, and provide capacity building equipment for food pantries and soup kitchens.</li> <li>Ohio Association of Food Banks will be required to submit a quarterly and annual report to ODJFS that includes certain performance details</li> </ul>

## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

High Quality Early Care and Education	<p><b>Expand initial eligibility for publicly funded child care</b></p> <p><b>Protect current levels of state and federal investments in PFCC and increase state investment in the program to support the increased cost of operations during COVID-19, recover lost capacity as a result of COVID-19 and ensure that the system has sustainable funding mechanisms throughout the FY22-23 budget</b></p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility for publicly funded childcare was <b>increased from 130% to 142% of the federal poverty level (FPL)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NOTE: This increase is modest and still lags many other states. Many advocated for an increase in eligibility for publicly funded child care to %200, so there is more work to be done.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the case of special needs childcare, <b>eligibility was increased to 150% FPL for initial eligibility</b> or 300% FPL for continuous eligibility.</li> <li>• Earmark of \$50 million in 2022 for publicly funded child care, requiring these funds be used to <b>assist with stabilizing and sustaining the child care program, improve workforce recruitment and retention and increase access for families.</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Support providers serving children in publicly funded child care in achieving 3-stars by 2025 in Ohio's Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system to ensure kids receive the quality care they need to thrive.</b></p>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintains the GRF-funding for early childhood education programs</b> that meet at least the third highest tier of the "Step Up to Quality Program."</li> <li>• Maintains current law that <b>requires a licensed childcare program be rated through SUTQ Program to provide publicly funded childcare</b></li> <li>• <b>Eliminates current law that specifies the percent of licensed childcare programs required to be rated</b> in the third tier or higher of the SUTQ Program by a certain date and removes the requirement that all programs be rated in the third tier or higher by June 30, 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Allocates up to \$20 million in each fiscal year to achieve the goals of SUTQ</b> outlined in O.R.C. 5104.29 (C) (increasing the number of low-income children, special needs children, and children with limited English proficiency participating in quality early learning and development programs, providing families with an easy-to-use tool for evaluating the quality of early learning, supporting early learning and development programs that achieve higher levels of quality, provide incentives and supports to help early learning and development programs implement continuous quality improvement systems.)</li> </ul>





## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p>Evaluate programs from an equity lens and utilize data to make targeted investments that eliminate barriers to access and the impacts of COVID-19 based on race, rural geography, and age of the child.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 budget.</li> </ul>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Evidence-Based Home Visiting</p>	<p>Ohio must preserve and expand the annual state investment to support current operations and capacity serving children and families in evidence-based home visiting through the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow Program</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state increased its investment for a total of \$80 million in <b>Help Me Grow</b> over the next two years. This investment will increase home visiting services for at-risk, expectant mothers to reduce infant mortality.</li> <li>• The maximum age that a child's family is <b>eligible for home visiting services</b> through the Help Me Grow Program was increased from three years old to five years old, which will help our state meet the Governor's goal of tripling the number of families served by this program.</li> <li>• <b>Infant Mortality Health Grants</b> saw an increase in state dollars to \$7.3 million over the biennium.</li> <li>• A \$17.5 million investment in 2022 to <b>Infant Vitality</b> will be used to identify women early in their pregnancies to link them to services allowing for healthier deliveries.</li> <li>• Investments towards tobacco use prevention and cessation through <b>the Moms Quit for Two Grant Program</b> was included in the budget.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

Children Exposed to Lead	Ohio must build on existing efforts to prevent and address child lead poisoning, including dedicated GRF funding for ODH's Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio sees continued investment in <b>lead abatement strategies</b> in this biennium over the next two years to: make Ohio homes lead-safe, offer a lead abatement tax credit, demolish lead-blighted homes, and increase the number of lead hazard control workers.</li> <li>The budget invests <b>\$13 million over the biennium to the Department of Health for Lead Abatement</b> (representing a significant increase from \$150,000 in the last biennium).</li> <li><b>Part C Early Intervention</b> saw continued investment of nearly \$25 million to support automatic eligibility for children who have tested positive for lead and babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome.</li> </ul>
	Broaden the reach and impact of the SCHIP HIS Lead Hazard Control Program by doubling the investment from \$10 million to \$20 million over the biennium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increased funding for SCHIP to 20 million over the biennium was not included in this budget.</b></li> <li><b>However, continued funding for the SCHIP Lead Program at \$10 million</b> over the biennium so that ODH and ODM can partner to help eligible residents of Ohio address lead hazards in the home environment, a program that is available in every county.</li> </ul>
	Maintain Innovation and public-private partnership through local lead prevention efforts, including Cleveland's Lead Safe Home Fund and Toledo's Fund	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained funding for the <b>Lead Safe Home Fund Pilot</b> which will receive \$1 million per fiscal year of TANF-funding to support lead abatement efforts and prevent lead poisoning</li> <li><b>\$500,000 in each fiscal year to be used by ODH to distribute funds to the city of Toledo</b> for lead-based paint abatement, containment, and housing rehabilitation project in the historic south neighborhoods of Toledo. The budget specifies that ODH must require local match funding of up to one half of annual grant funds distributed.</li> </ul>





## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p><b>Include language and funding to protect children from lead poisoning due to unsafe work practices during renovation of homes built prior to 1978 (Renovation, Repair &amp; Repaint Rule (RRP))</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not included in Ohio’s 2022-2023 Budget.</li> <li>• While the Executive and House versions of the budget included language and up to \$650,000 in funding each fiscal year for the RRP rule, <b>the final budget does not include this language.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Children Services Stabilization and Transformation</b></p>	<p><b>Ohio must maintain the commitments made in the last budget; continue efforts to stabilize the children services workforce; strengthen and expand support for kinship caregivers; and lay the groundwork for transformation by supporting the successful implementation of Family First</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased investments in Family and Children Services totaling nearly \$220 million per year</li> <li>• \$10 million per year additional funds to <b>support county public children services agencies (PCSAs).</b></li> <li>• \$25 million per year maintained to provide services to <b>youth requiring support from multiple systems.</b></li> <li>• Maintained investment of \$8.5 million per year to support the <b>Kinship Care Navigator Program</b> in Ohio.</li> <li>• The <b>Kinship Caregiver Program</b> is earmarked \$10 million in each fiscal year from TANF Block Grant to support PCSAs in providing reasonable and necessary relief of child caring functions so kinship caregivers can provide and maintain a home for a child (reduced from \$15M/year earmark).</li> <li>• New and/or additional funding for state-level initiatives and programs including: the Kinship Support program; establishing a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program in SFY2023; expanding the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids program statewide; Family First Act implementation; and implementing a number of recommendations from Gov. DeWine’s Ohio Children Services Transformation report (released November 2020).</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p><b>Establish a separate appropriation line item to fund the Youth Ombudsman Office. Funding would enable youth in foster, adoptive, and other placements to self-report abuse and rights violations and have an independent investigation, as well as an advocate, to resolve substantiated reports</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding was not included as a separate appropriation line item in the budget, but <b>the administration acknowledged that funding will be made available within the current ODJFS operating budget</b> to establish a children services ombudsman office.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Create an independent commission comprised of current and former foster youth with authority to appoint a youth ombudsman</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding was not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 Budget. A separate bill was introduced, HB4, with details that a Children Services Ombudsman will be appointed by the Governor</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Establish a Foster Youth Bill of Rights</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires ODJFS to adopt rules to establish a <b>Foster Youth Bill of Rights and a Resource Family Bill of Rights</b></li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

<b>Infant/Maternal Health</b>	<b>Expand Medicaid Coverage of pregnant women to 12 months postpartum</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget requires Medicaid to <b>expand coverage for postpartum coverage for women from 60 days to 12 months</b> (the maximum postpartum period permitted under federal law)</li> </ul>
	<b>Increase eligibility for the Help Me Grow Program</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The state increased its investment for a <b>total of \$80 million in Help Me Grow</b> over the next two years. This investment will increase home visiting services for at-risk, expectant mothers to reduce infant mortality.</li> <li>The maximum age that a child's family is <b>eligible for home visiting services</b> through the Help Me Grow Program was increased from three years old to five years old</li> </ul>
	<b>Extend Medicaid coverage to cover Doula Services</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not included in the 2022-2023 Budget. However, HB 142, a bill that would establish Medicaid coverage for Doula services is moving in the Ohio legislature.</li> </ul>
	<b>Maintain support for Ohio's Infant Mortality Collaboratives throughout the state</b>	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Infant Mortality Health Grants</b> saw an increase in state dollars to \$7.3 million over the biennium.</li> <li>A \$17.5 million investment in 2022 to <b>Infant Vitality</b> will be used to identify women early in their pregnancies to link them to services allowing for healthier deliveries.</li> <li>A <b>\$3.4 million investment per year to address youth homelessness</b> by providing assertive outreach to provide stable housing, including recovery housing</li> <li>The budget provides \$2.25 million per year to support <b>stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers to improve maternal and infant health outcomes through the Healthy Beginnings at Home Program</b> and also dedicates \$900,000 to community services for youth experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul>






## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

<b>Connectivity</b>	<b>Support a comprehensive and regional approach to creating a statewide Broadband infrastructure</b>	<span style="color: red; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$ 250 million to the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fund to expand Ohio's broadband infrastructure.</b> The funding will allow companies or political subdivisions to apply for grants to prioritize projects to bring high-speed internet to households that currently lack access.</li> </ul>
	<b>Create internet utility programs to address affordability issues</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While we hope to see some of the \$250 million dollar investment address affordability, the budget did not create an internet utility program.</li> </ul>
<b>Ending Homelessness for Children and Families</b>	<b>Support and expand the ODH program for homeless youth and pregnant women</b>	<span style="color: red; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget provides \$5 million over the biennium to the Ohio Department of Health's Youth Homelessness grant program to address homelessness in youth and pregnant women by providing assertive outreach to provide stable housing, including recovery.</li> <li>• There is also an earmark of \$900,000 to be distributed to Star House for community services for youth experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul>
	<b>\$25 million annual TANF allocation to Housing Now for Homeless Families</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not included in Ohio's 2022-2023 Budget. However, the budget did carryover unexpended dollars from the last budget to support this program.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p><b>Invest to extend and expand Healthy Beginnings at Home Pilot by adding communities with high rates of infant mortality</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2.25 million is invested into expanding the Health Beginnings at Home Program, a successful Columbus rental assistance pilot program that serves mothers at risk of homelessness and improves infant and maternal health outcomes.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Protect Ohio's existing affordable housing and the development of new affordable housing</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An amendment, which first appeared two years ago as SB 36, would have jeopardized the continued viability of 1/3 of Ohio's affordable housing properties by significantly increasing the costs of operating many tax credit and subsidized housing properties. Luckily, this budget proposal was not included in the enrolled budget.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EdChoice School Vouchers</b></p>	<p><b>End deductions for all voucher programs by creating a separate line-item for vouchers</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the Fair School Funding Plan incorporated into the budget, <b>private school vouchers under the EdChoice scholarship program will now be directly funded by the state, rather than through a deduction from a school district's share of funding.</b> The new budget establishes "funding units" for community and STEM school funding, the EdChoice Scholarship, the Pilot Project Scholarship, the Autism Scholarship and the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship, through which funding will now be distributed.</li> </ul>



## 2022-2023 Ohio Biennial Budget Policy Progress Report

	<p><b>Focus on making public schools that educate 9 of 10 Ohio children, the first schools of choice</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overall, this budget includes many changes that greatly expand our state’s EdChoice school voucher programs.</b> It is possible these increased investments in school vouchers and their expanded eligibility may compete with funds for traditional public school districts, which ultimately educate 90% of Ohio’s children, in the next biennium since the new school funding formula will be reconsidered then by the legislature.</li> <li>• First, the budget <b>eliminates of the cap (currently 60,000) on the number of EdChoice scholarships</b> that the Ohio Dept. Of Education can distribute each year.</li> <li>• The budget <b>increases the value of state-paid school vouchers to private schools</b> from the current \$4,650 to \$5,500 for kindergarten through eighth grade (an 18% increase), and from \$6,000 to \$7,500 for high schools (a 25% increase).</li> <li>• The budget also <b>allows charter schools to open anywhere in the state</b> (whereas previously this was determined only by poor state report card scores). Further, while school districts are currently required to offer unused school buildings for sale to charter schools, new language in the budget says any school where “less than 60% of the building was used for direct academic instruction” now qualifies.</li> </ul>
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