



EDUCATION REFORM

Education That Gets Results: Giving Taxpayers Their Money's Worth

AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY EVOLVES, OHIO IS BEING PASSED BY: While the international and national economy grows more competitive, Ohio has failed to make the educational progress necessary to improve its standing on the world stage. To provide a higher standard of knowledge workers, our state needs to recognize the status quo is unacceptable. After all, increased educational performance means opportunity for each and every Ohioan, and increased opportunity means jobs.

ONE-TIME FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY IS GONE. AND IT'S NOT COMING BACK: During the FY10-11 budget cycle, federal stimulus funds were used to help operate school districts and universities across Ohio. These dollars were one-time funds. They aren't coming back. Rather than using these funds to help prepare for the Ohio's fiscal crisis, the state kicked the can down the road and failed to make the reforms necessary to soften the blow.

OHIO MUST DO BETTER: Ohio Taxpayers aren't getting their money's worth. While costs have skyrocketed, student achievement has stagnated. In a recent report by the [Dayton Daily News](#)¹, Ohio is the 46th lowest state for percentage of directed to the classroom and 12th highest in dollars to bureaucracy and red tape. By refocusing dollars into the classroom and aligning training with the needs of job-creators, we can give students the skills they need to succeed and businesses the workers they require to be globally competitive.

MAINTAINING STATE BASIC AID: While the state cannot and should not replace federal stimulus funds, no school will experience any reduction in state basic K-12 education funding. In fact, school districts and community schools earning an "Excellent with Distinction" or "Excellent" rating will be rewarded with a \$17 per pupil subsidy. Funding reductions from Tangible Personal Property and Utility taxes are capped at 2% of total operating costs per fiscal year. Federal maintenance of effort provisions are met for special education and career-technical education, ensuring continued funding of specific federal programs.

REFORMS THAT PUT STUDENTS FIRST ARE NEEDED: The reforms we implement in this budget are aligned to what high performing and improving schools require. These reforms allow great teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards the tools to help students succeed. Our reform agenda will move Ohio from being a manager of the educational status quo to a model that other states will emulate.

- **Evaluating all educators:** Our children need to be educated by the best teachers, and the best educators must be rewarded for their hard work and dedication. Using student academic growth and other variables to be determined by the State Board of Education, districts will allow teacher quality to drive employment decisions instead of seniority.

¹ http://www.daytondailynews.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/dayton/education/entries/2011/05/16/ohio_46th_in_cl.html

- **New support for innovative, successful schools and consequences for failing schools:** Give parents the right to reconstitute their children’s school in a pilot program, create innovation schools, rank schools in the basis of student performance and cost effectiveness, create a student results driven recognition program, and revoke the charter of the poorest performing schools.
- **Expanding school choice:** When adults compete for the right to educate our children, the children win. We’re quadrupling the number of EdChoice scholarships that are available, removing the cap on community schools, and enhancing community school access to facilities.
- **New innovative tech-driven educational models:** The budget enhances access to affordable online courses, advances acceptance of virtual learning as a choice for course completion, and begins the work to streamline the state’s digital leadership structure.
- **New investments in students, not bureaucracies:** Encouraging shared services and repealing the Evidence-Based Model for funding.
- **Keeping Higher Education affordable:** A 3.5 percent tuition cap helps make higher education accessible. Additionally, the budget aims to keep students in Ohio by extending the in-state resident tuition break to 10 years if an Ohio high school graduate leaves the state and wants to return.

THE OUTCOME: Ohio’s future depends on our children being the best and brightest in the world. Our education system must deliver better results at a better value for the taxpayers. The reforms this budget provides will support and encourage such an educational system.

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