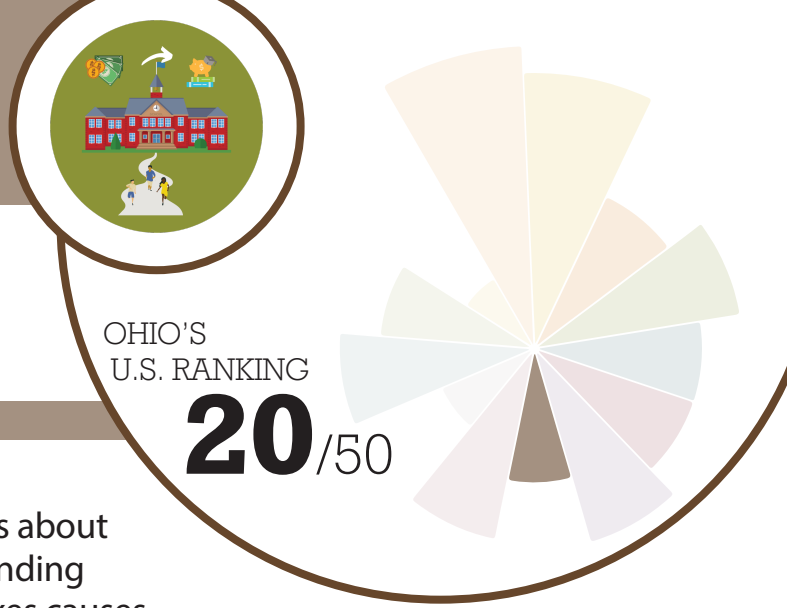


Funding for Public Education












The K–12 public education is supported by a mix of funding sources. The federal government contributes about 10%, while local taxes generate the bulk of school funding (40%–50%).¹ The heavy reliance on local property taxes causes significant funding differences and racial/ethnic/socioeconomic class disparities within and across Ohio’s 612 school districts. The state’s current school funding system has been ruled unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court four times in the last 24 years. Further compounding the economic impact of educational funding disparities, is the relationship between educational attainment and risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence. Individuals with low educational attainment are more likely to perpetrate violence, regardless of other factors.² Improving Ohio’s educational outcomes has the potential to prevent IPV in and of itself. Increasing educational access can also prevent IPV indirectly through improving individuals’ and families’ economic stability.³

School Districts Funding Factors⁴

Many differences exist among Ohio’s 612 school districts and each may impact the districts’ funding. These factors partially explain the differences in the districts’ costs and the complicated Ohio funding system. State laws require schools have a balanced budget AND meet particular mandates. The result is levies appear periodically on ballots so districts can maintain their curriculum and programs. While this funding mechanism has been declared unconstitutional, all districts must operate under it until the state legislature sees fit to create a more equitable funding formula to address disparities.^{5,6}

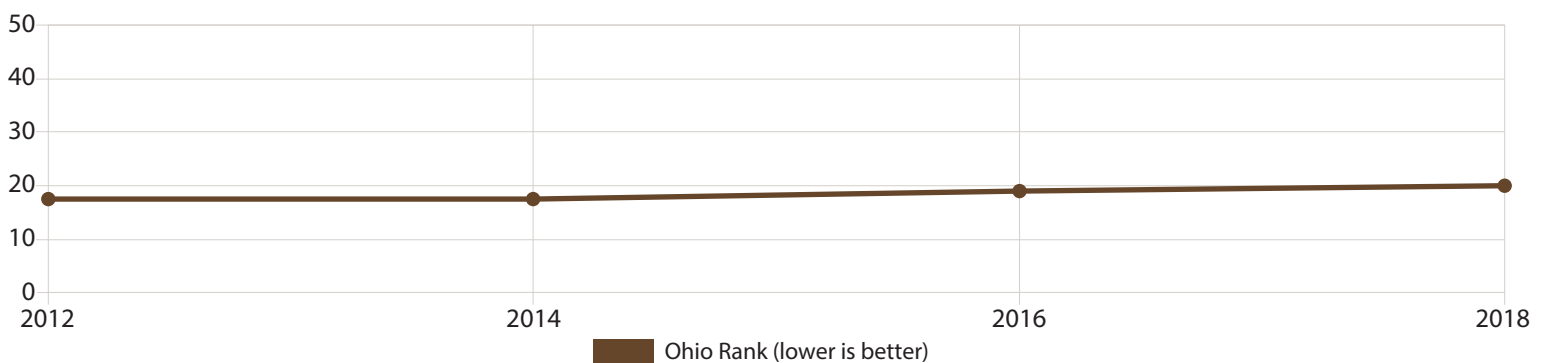
Factors that Impact District Funding

 <p>Abundance of commercial property and associated business taxes to aid in the costs of education</p>	 <p>State funds received for a school’s special needs/disadvantaged groups to cover additional costs of education</p>	 <p>The cost of doing business—competitive staffing salaries and benefits for qualified employees, and utilities, transportation, and other operational services</p>
 <p>Expenses associated with the state public school mandate to bus all students in their district living 1.5 miles from their schools, whether to their own schools or to other private schools located within the district</p>	 <p>High per pupil costs associated with educational choice within districts</p>	 <p>Greater community expectations in education that drive additional curriculum expenses</p>
 <p>Costs associated with the mobility/transiency of families in and out of a community</p>	 <p>Monies lost due to the number and length of tax abatements</p>	 <p>Ability to collect property taxes due to community economic trends and district resident finances</p>

Barriers

- Educational opportunity is not equitably distributed in Ohio because of the state's overreliance on property taxes to fund schools.^{7,8} Schools in wealthier areas, where students are disproportionately white, have more money to spend per student than in poorer areas where students are disproportionately Black and brown.⁹
- Schools serving low-income students receive fewer resources, face greater difficulties attracting qualified teachers, face many more challenges in addressing student's needs, and receive less support from parents.¹⁰
- Students of color have less access to high quality education (and the resources required to deliver it) at all levels, preschool to college.¹¹
- Education alone does not create economic stability and security, but it can be an important component. Inequities in education can create many of the risk factors for intimate partner violence.¹²

Ohio's Ranking of Funding for Public Education (K-12)



Remedies

- Ohio's current school funding formula has been ruled unconstitutional, meaning there is some political pressure to change it.
- Increase the state budget for K-12 education. Create an equitable funding formula that factors for distribution of funding to school districts so the poorest school districts benefit the most.
- Fund a universal Pre-K system of education to level the playing field for all public school students and to adequately prepare them for K-12.