



## School Choice Options

The Governor's budget includes \$20.3 billion over the biennium to support students, schools, and districts with increased funding in the K-12 school funding formula and school choice programs. This record investment continues the six-year phase-in of the school funding formula implemented in 2022, funding students where they are educated and increasing investment in economically disadvantaged students and student transportation programs.

Ohio has a strong tradition of supporting family choice about where their children are educated. Ohio has five scholarship programs: Traditional EdChoice, EdChoice Expansion, Cleveland Scholarship, Autism Scholarship, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship. Over 81,000 students are utilizing a scholarship in FY 2023 with Traditional EdChoice serving the largest number of students, over 38,000.

The budget builds on that commitment to school choice programs by expanding eligibility for the **EdChoice Expansion Scholarship to 400% of the federal poverty level** (\$120,000 per year for a family of four). The budget estimates an additional 5,625 (25%) students in FY 2024 and an additional 5,625 (20%) students in FY 2025 will utilize an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship. Across the five scholarship programs, the budget estimates over 90,600 students will participate in FY 2024 and over 100,500 will participate in FY 2025.

School choice also provides the option of attending one of the 334 community schools, which educate more than 116,000 Ohio students. This budget continues to support a strong community school sector in the state by doubling the per-pupil facilities funding in this budget — from \$500 to \$1,000, (\$87.1 million in FY 2024 and \$88.6 million in FY 2025) — for brick-and-mortar community schools through the **Community School Facilities Program**. In addition, this budget signals our commitment to **Quality Community School Support** with \$125 million per year for quality community schools. Each school qualifying for this funding will receive an additional \$3,000 for each economically disadvantaged student and \$2,250 each for all other students. These funds will help successful charter schools build the capacity to serve more Ohio students. In FY 2023, 117 schools are considered quality and serve over 39,000 students almost all of whom are economically disadvantaged.

**Workforce readiness for K-12 students** continues to be a priority in this budget with an investment of \$26 million per year in workforce readiness programs. Continued funding encourages over 70,000 students to earn industry-recognized credentials and supports the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program, which provides bonus payments to schools for up to 8,000 students earning in-demand credentials. The budget will provide new funding of \$1,000 per student, up to 10,000 students, involved in at least 250 hours of work-based learning.

**Access to College Credit Plus** is also supported in this budget with a \$15 million investment to support over 1,000 high school teachers to earn credentials to teach College Credit Plus courses in high schools. Since its inception, the College Credit Plus Program has saved students in grades 7-12 and their families more than \$1 billion on the cost of college tuition.



The budget includes **\$100 million in Career-Tech Equipment Grants** to support equipment purchases that establish and expand career-technical education and Innovative Workforce Incentive Programs (IWIP) in schools and districts throughout the state. Priority will be given to career-technical education programs that support careers on Ohio's Top Jobs List and that establish or expand IWIP programs.

**A \$200 million investment in Career-Tech Construction Grants** will address waiting lists for career-technical education programs and the need for education and training programs for occupations critical to Ohio's economy. This program will provide grants to city, local, and exempted village school districts designated as the lead of a career-technical planning district to help cover facilities and equipment costs for education and training programs that support Ohio's Top Jobs List or qualify for IWIP.

The executive budget continues the phase-in of the **school funding formula** with total funding of \$9.3 billion in FY 2024 and \$9.5 billion in FY 2025. Several factors will increase each fiscal year and are reflected in the chart below. Income and property values for calculating local capacity and state share percentages for traditional districts and joint vocational school districts will update annually, as in current law. Student enrollment for funding categories and base cost will also update annually.

Factor	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Phase-in Percentage	33.33%	50.00%	66.67%
Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid Phase-in	33.33%	50.00%	66.67%
Gifted Professional Development	\$14	\$21	\$28
Career Awareness and Exploration	\$5.00	\$7.50	\$10.00
Transportation Minimum State Share	33.33%	37.50%	41.67%