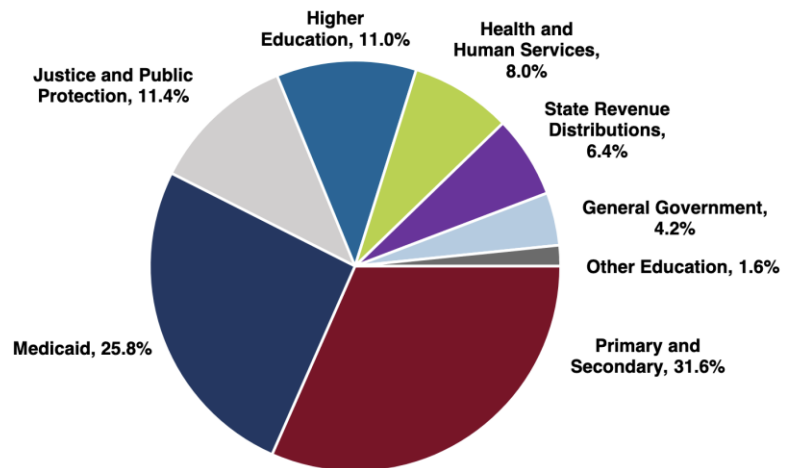




Week of Jan. 30, 2023

Executive budget proposal unveiled, hearings to begin next week

Gov. **Mike DeWine** and Lt. Gov. **Jon Husted** on Tuesday unveiled their executive budget proposal for fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025. The proposal, [accessible here](#), will be accompanied by legislative bill language and additional details late next week. K-12 education continues to be the largest investment of Ohio tax dollars in the proposed budget, with state-source General Revenue Fund expenditures totaling \$28.1 billion in FY 2024, 3.3% over FY 2023, and \$29.4 billion in FY 2025, 4.8% over FY 2024.



Key highlights to the two-year spending plan include:

- a continuation of the Fair School Funding Plan;
- an increase in the income eligibility threshold to 400% of the federal poverty level (from 250%) to qualify students for the income-based version of the EdChoice program. This equates to an annual income of \$111,000 for a family of four, and represents roughly 80% of Ohio’s families with children. The legislature’s state budget office estimates this cost will be \$178 million immediately and each year thereafter.
- \$174.1 million to improve literacy proficiency through professional development, updated curriculum, and increased literacy coaches, all of which will be aligned to the Science of Reading;
- \$388 million to assist public and private schools with hiring school resource officers;
- \$300 million to fund capital improvements and equipment upgrades for career centers;
- \$100 million to launch new in-demand career-tech programs and industry-recognized credential programs;
- an implementation the “most critical recommendations” of [the report by the State Committee on Computer Science](#) to provide access to quality computer science education for Ohio’s students, including \$36 million to support the implementation.

Various state agencies including the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), Legislative Service Commission (LSC), and Department of Education will provide testimony before the House Finance Committee next week. OBM will discuss the details of the proposal with the committee, and both OBM and LSC will provide an update on the state of Ohio’s economy and how much revenue lawmakers can

expect to rely on for the upcoming budget cycle. Once agencies conclude their testimony after one or two weeks, the subcommittees will begin holding hearings, at which point Tony and members will testify. A preliminary analysis of the governor's proposal based on this week's information is available at the end of this newsletter and was distributed via email to Alliance members on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Fourth round of School Safety Grants announced

Gov. **Mike DeWine** yesterday announced the fourth round of funding for the K-12 School Safety Grant Program. \$68 million was allocated to more than 900 public and private schools to support physical safety and security upgrades. The funding comes from last session's House Bill 45, which contained a total of \$112 million in funds for the program. The remaining \$44 million will be distributed in the coming weeks as the fifth round of funds. [Click here to access the recently awarded schools.](#)

Senate committee resumes hearings on Senate Bill 1

The Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee will meet Tuesday to hear proponent testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 1, among other bills. Tony and Will are attending a meeting the day prior to the hearing with Sen. **Andrew Brenner** and Sen. **Bill Reineke** to discuss modifications to the bill. Other bills on the agenda include SB 11, which establishes a universal voucher program; SB 14, which allows veterans to be employed as teachers; and SB 17, which incorporates free market capitalism into the high school financial literacy standards and model curriculum.

Republican committee assignments announced

House Speaker **Jason Stephens** this week announced committee assignments for his caucus, which can be [accessed here](#). Key committee rosters include:

- Finance Committee: Rep. **Jay Edwards**, chair, Rep. **Jeff LaRe**, vice chair, Reps. **Cindy Abrams, Jamie Callender, Sara Carruthers, Jon Cross, Al Cutrona, Haraz Ghanbari, Jim Hoops, Don Jones, Mike Loychik, Gayle Manning, Kevin Miller, Tom Patton, Gail Pavliga, Bob Peterson, Tracy Richardson, Monica Robb Blasdel, Jean Schmidt, DJ Swearingen, and Bob Young.**
- Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Rep. **Adam Bird**, chair, Rep. **Sarah Fowler Arthur**, vice chair, Reps. **Gary Click, Don Jones, Beth Lear, Scott Lipps, Gayle Manning, Derek Merrin, Andrea White, and Josh Williams.**
- Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education: Rep. **Tracy Richardson**, chair, Rep. **Dave Dobos**, and Rep. **Andrea White.**
- Ways and Means Committee: Rep. **Bill Roemer**, chair, Rep. **Derek Merrin**, vice chair, Reps. **Steve Demetriou, Thomas Hall, Kris Jordan, Angie King, Beth Lear, Riordan McClain, Reggie Stoltzfus, Scott Wiggam, and Tom Young.**

Heard around the Statehouse

"Although it's not a universal voucher, it practically speaking is in many regards." - Senate President [Matt Huffman](#), referring to the increase in voucher eligibility proposed by Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted.

"Good fiscal stewardship requires that we must look beyond a two-year budget cycle to ensure sustainability and solvency for the State of Ohio." - House Speaker [Jason Stephens](#), referring to the executive budget proposal.

"One word, I'm delighted with what the governor talked about today." - Sen. [Matt Huffman](#), referring to Gov. DeWine's State of the State address in which he outlined his administration's budget proposal.