



Week of May 29, 2023

Budget update

The Senate Finance Committee held two hearings this week on the biennial budget bill, [House Bill 33](#), focusing on education and general government issues. Tony submitted written testimony to the committee, [accessible here](#).

The committee is on schedule to make its first round of changes on Tuesday, June 6. Budget amendments for the second and final round of changes are due Friday, June 9. A full Senate vote on the bill will take place on Thursday, June 15.

Members will receive an update on the Senate's budget changes next week.

Huffman comments on Fair School Funding Plan

Calling the Fair School Funding Plan "even more unsustainable than two years ago," Senate President **Matt Huffman** is laying the groundwork for an alternative Senate school-funding formula in his chamber's budget proposal to be released next week.

"We are drafting a school funding plan that I believe will be sustainable and predictable and fully fund the operations for all the K-12 education in the state of Ohio, which again will be record funding for all this, especially given the growth of spending that we've had," Huffman told the Hannah News Service.

"This formula isn't any more predictable than it was before. Because in four years, the formula will require that a large number of school districts go off the guarantee. It's even more unsustainable than I thought it was two years ago," Huffman said.

Huffman also hinted at eliminating the supplemental targeted assistance element of the current formula, which provides roughly \$50 million in funding for mostly urban school districts. That component mitigates funding reductions resulting from the shift in how the new formula calculates a district's total enrollment.

"Those are the kinds of guarantees and supplements and sort of side deals and things like that that get into these plans that really don't have anything to do with the costs of the school," Huffman told reporters.

Senate committee reviews CCP bill

The Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee held sponsor testimony on [Senate Bill 104](#), sponsored by Sens. **Jerry Cirino** and **Andrew Brenner**. The bill contains recommendations from [a performance audit conducted](#) by Auditor of State **Keith Faber** on increasing student participation in College Credit Plus, as well as reducing textbook costs paid by districts for participating students.

Heard around the Statehouse

"There is no six-year Cupp-Patterson plan, it doesn't say that anywhere in the Ohio Revised Code, and

we actually said when we passed the budget last time: this is only for two years." - Senate President **Matt Huffman**, referring to phased-in implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan.