



Week of June 26, 2023

Conference Committee passes budget, House and Senate action to follow tonight

As of this writing, state lawmakers are set to pass the biennial budget bill, [House Bill \(HB\) 33](#). Earlier today, the Conference Committee on HB 33 accepted more than 200 amendments to the bill and passed the bill out of committee. Below are highlights of the changes, with a comprehensive analysis forthcoming. The comparison document is [accessible here](#). Once the legislature passes the bill, Gov. **Mike DeWine** will review the legislation and consider line-item vetoes.

Key highlights of the final version will:

- increase the minimum state share percentage from 5% to 10%;
- use the House's school-funding formula, which updates the base cost inputs to fiscal year 2022;
- use the Senate's universal voucher expansion;
- create the Department of Education and Workforce ([Senate Bill 1](#));
- maintain the retention of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, but create an exemption from retention for students whose parent, in consultation with the reading teacher and principal, requests the student be promoted and the student must receive intervention services until they read at grade level;
- establish transportation noncompliance penalties at five consecutive days or 10 cumulative days;
- increase the minimum salary to \$35,000 and increase the salary schedule steps by 16.7%;
- establish a Grow Your Own Teacher Program to award scholarships to individuals who commit to teaching in a qualifying schools;
- require schools to accept cash payment for tickets to school athletic events and other school activities;
- remove FAFSA completion as a high school graduation requirement.

A three-day budget extension was also included in [HB 31](#), the budget for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The bill is expected to clear the legislature today and will provide Gov. DeWine with additional time to review the bill.

Funding simulations available

Projected simulations of school district funding for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 are available at the end of this newsletter. The total biennial increase for K-12 school districts is \$1.54 billion, a 12% increase from FY2023. Meanwhile, the total biennial increase on private school vouchers is \$825.5 million, a 77% increase from FY 2023. Private school vouchers spending represents nearly one-third (29.4%) of the total biennial increase on K-12 education spending.

Heard around the Statehouse

"The fact that we were able to claw back the \$550 million that the Senate took out of our public schools is, I think, a big win, - House Finance Committee Chairman **Jay Edwards**, referring to the budget fight between the House and Senate.