

**The ESC BRIDGE**

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**Government and Education**

**For the Week of February 2, 2015**

**Featured News**

[**Ohio school districts facing cuts in Kasich plan**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/03/districts-funding-based-on-their-ability-to-pay.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

More than half of Ohio school districts would see their state funding reduced under Gov. John Kasich’s new two-year budget, which also seeks to increase oversight of charter schools. Kasich wants to pour another $700 million in state foundation funding into K-12 education over the next two years. But that funding is partially offset by a loss of $235 million in state reimbursements to schools for lost tangible personal-property taxes — a tax on business property and inventory that the state has eliminated.

[**Gov. Kasich announces $700 million increase in state aid to school, change in aid formula based on local tax "capacity"**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasich_announces_700_million_increase_in_state_aid_to_school_change_in_aid_formula_based_on_local_tax_capacity.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Gov. John Kasich released the basics of his [state budget proposal for the next two years](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/Education.pdf), raising the amount of state help for school districts and charter schools in Ohio by $700 million. But it will have some changes that can shift what each district receives. Kasich and staff announced his plan during a press conference Monday.

[**Kasich’s proposed budget increases school revenue**](http://www.toledoblade.com/Education/2015/02/03/Kasich-s-proposed-budget-increases-school-revenue.html)  **Toledo Blade**

Increased revenue would go to Ohio schools under Gov. John Kasich’s proposed budget, though many districts may actually see less state aid. Mr. Kasich’s proposed 2016-2017 budget includes more state money for school districts, with general fund revenue, the core of state education aid, projected to increase from about $7.25 billion this year to $7.7 billion in 2016, a 6.1 percent increase. That fund would increase an additional 4.5 percent in 2017 to about $8 billion under the governor’s proposal.

[**Overview of School Funding Proposal**](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Overview-of-School-Funding-Proposal) **Ohio Department of Education**

[**Executive Budget Recommendations**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/budget/State_of_Ohio_Budget_Recommendations_FY-16-17.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**EXECUTIVE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/budget/State_of_Ohio_Budget_Highlights_FY-16-17.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Executive Budget Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/GeneralBudgetOverview.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Early Childhood Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/EarlyChildhood.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**K-12 Education Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/Education.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Higher Education Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/HigherEdu.aspx) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Tax Reform Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/TaxReform.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Human Services Innovation Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/HumanServicesInnovation.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Health Transformation Fact Sheet**](http://www.blueprint.ohio.gov/doc/factsheets/HealthCare.pdf) **Ohio.Gov**

[**Primary and Secondary Education School Foundation Funding Formula Simulation Fact Sheet**](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/SchoolEstimates/FY2016-17_Ohio_School_Foundation_Funding_Formula_Simulation_FactSheet.pdf) **Ohio Office of Budget and Management**

[**FY16-17 School Estimates by County**](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/SchoolEstimates/School_Estimates_FY2016-17-by-County.pdf) **Ohio Office of Budget and Management**

[**FY16-17 School Estimates by Capacity**](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/SchoolEstimates/School_Estimates_FY2016-17-by-Capacity.pdf) **Ohio Office of Budget and Management**

[**FY16-17 School Estimates with TPP Dereg by County**](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/SchoolEstimates/School_Estimates_with_TPP_Dereg_FY2016-17-by-County.pdf%20FY16-17) **Ohio Office of Budget and Management**

[**FY16-17 School Estimates with TPP Dereg by Capacity**](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/doc/fy-16-17/SchoolEstimates/School_Estimates_with_TPP_Dereg_FY2016-17-by-Capacity.pdf) **Ohio Office of Budget and Management**

**Federal, National and U.S. Department of Education**

[**Title I Portability Would Hurt Poorest Districts, Says Obama-Aligned Think Tank**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/02/title_i_portability_proposal_w.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Letting Title I dollars for disadvantaged students follow them to the public school of their choice would end up diluting the program's focus on children in poverty, according to an analysis by the Center for American Progress, a think tank closely associated with the Obama administration.

[**House Democrats Push Back on NCLB Rewrite Timeline**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2015/02/house_democrats_push_back_on_n.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=campaignk-12) **Education Week**

Democrats used Wednesday's hearing of the House education committee to rail against the chairman's decision to forgo hearings on how to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the widely maligned current iteration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. "I am disappointed the majority has chosen to move forward with their Elementary and Secondary Act reauthorization without holding a single hearing," said Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., the top Democrat on the committee. "Hearings provide the public with the opportunity to explore the research and evidence that is critical to the making of evidence-based policy decisions.

[**Teacher-Evaluation Mandate Unlikely in ESEA Rewrite**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/02/04/teacher-evaluation-mandate-unlikely-in-esea-rewrite.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS2) **Education Week**

Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill agree that teacher evaluations are necessary to identify and reward good teachers, target those in need of more professional support, phase out others who are underperforming, and help ensure a thriving public education system. But the pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known in its latest iteration as the No Child Left Behind Act, isn't likely to require states to use them.

**Ohio Legislation Update (recent bill action in red)**

**131st General Assembly**

***House***

[**HB1**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-1)WORKFORCE GRANT PROGRAM (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Nathan Manning) To establish the Workforce Grant Program, to authorize an income tax credit equal to 25% of the student loan payments a grant recipient makes per year, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Economic & Workforce Development Committee**

[**HB2**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-2)CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP (Rep. Mike Dovilla, Rep. Kristina Roegner) With regard to sponsorship and management of community schools

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Education Committee**

[**HB5**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-5)PUBLIC OFFICE-STATE AGENCY EFFICIENCY STUDIES (Rep. Stephanie Kunze, Rep. Kyle Koehler) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct business case studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House Local Government Committee**

[**HB7**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-7)ASSESSMENT SCORE DETERMINATIONS (Rep. Jim Buchy) To prohibit individual student scores from certain elementary and secondary achievement assessments administered for the 2014-2015 school year from being used to determine promotion or retention or to grant course credit

**STATUS: House Education Committee; Bill amended**

[**HB12**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-12)TIF-INCENTIVE DISTRICTS (Rep. James Butler, Jr., Rep. Tony Burkley) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before creating the district

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB15**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-15)STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP (Rep. Ron Gerberry) To change the voting membership of the State Board of Education to consist of a member from each of several electoral districts with boundaries coinciding with the state's Congressional districts and a president to be appointed by the Governor if there is an even number of such electoral districts

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB20**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-20)CONCEALED CARRY-SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE (Rep. Anne Gonzales, Rep. Kyle Koehler) To expand and clarify the authority of a concealed handgun licensee to possess a handgun in a school safety zone

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to House State Government Committee**

[**HB25**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-25)FOOD-DRINK SCHOOL SALES (Rep. Stephanie Kunze) To require the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the sale of beverages and food during the regular school day in connection with a school-sponsored fundraiser

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB27**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-27)FINANCIAL AID-FINISH FUND (Rep. Dan Ramos) To create the Finish Fund and the Finish Reserve Fund to provide grants to students who are nearing completion of their associate or bachelor's degrees and display financial need or hardship

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB28**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-28)SUICIDE PREVENTION-HIGHER EDUCATION (Rep. Marlene Anielski) With regard to suicide prevention programs at state institutions of higher education

**STATUS: Introduced**

[**HB39**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-39)SCHOOL-CAMP INHALER PERMIT (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Anthony DeVitis) To permit schools and camps to procure and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powdered inhaler used to alleviate asthmatic symptoms in accordance with prescribed policies and to exempt them from licensing requirements related to the possession of these inhalers

**STATUS: Introduced**

***Senate***

[**SB3**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-3)HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICT EXEMPTION (Sen. Cliff Hite, Sen. Keith Faber) To exempt high-performing school districts from certain laws

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB4**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-4)IN-STATE TUITION REDUCTION (Sen. Keith Faber) To require each state institution of higher education to develop a plan to reduce in-state student cost of attendance by five per cent for the 2016-2017 academic year

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB6**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-6)JOINT COMMITTEE ON OHIO COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY (Sen. Shannon Jones, Sen. John Eklund) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for college savings contributions to $10,000 annually for each beneficiary

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB12**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-12)INCOME TAX CREDIT-SCIENCE RELATED DEGREE (Sen. Jay Hottinger) To grant an income tax credit to individuals who earn degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math-based fields of study

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee**

[**SB19**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-19)OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT (Sen. Tom Sawyer) To make changes to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, to limit state university over load fees, and to make an appropriation

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB20**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-20)CHARTER SCHOOLS-RECORD KEEPING (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding audit and record-keeping requirements for community school sponsors and operators

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

[**SB22**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-22)LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND-ALLOCATION INCREASE (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the GRF each month

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

[**SB24**](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-24)OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT QUALIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams) To qualify students in noncredit community college programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges’ career certification programs

**STATUS: Introduced; Referred to Senate Finance Committee**

**Ohio Budget/Politics**

[**Gov. John Kasich wants to add teeth to charter school oversight rules and let charters seek local tax levies**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasich_wants_to_add_more_teeth_to_charter_school_oversight_rules_and_let_charters_seek_local_tax_levies.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Gov. John Kasich's budget proposal Monday would offer charter schools in Ohio two new potential funding sources -- a $25 million facilities fund and the ability to seek local tax levies from voters -- while putting a greater focus on charter school sponsors, or authorizers, as a way to improve school quality.

[**Budget plan to signal Gov. John Kasich's policy initiatives for next two years**](http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/02/budget_plan_to_signal_gov_john.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Gov. John Kasich will unveil a spending plan Monday that will signal key policies he wants to pursue over the next two years. Some of what the governor has planned has been made public already, but much of the proposal remains a secret. What is certain is that it will immediately be taken up by the General Assembly, which must approve a budget by June 30.

[**College credits, higher education reform part of state budget proposal**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/30/higher-eduaction-proposals.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Gov. John Kasich hopes to make higher education more affordable and more accessible to more students — from high school to adult learners — through the two-year state budget he will roll out on Monday. Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor went to Sinclair Community College on Friday to announce that lawmakers will be asked to permit two-year community colleges to award bachelor’s degrees in certain disciplines.

[**Kaisch Rolls Out FY16-17 Budget with $500 Million in Tax Cuts**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198716) **Hannah**

Gov. John Kasich launched the third state budget of his career by proposing another $500 million in tax cuts, including eliminating income tax on small businesses with annual gross receipts under $2 million and a 23 percent income tax cut for personal income tax rates over the biennium. Titled "Blueprint for a New Ohio," Kasich called the proposal a "360 proposition," saying it would benefit all and require responsibility by all. Overall, Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Tim Keen said the proposed budget is $68.5 million for All Funds in FY16, and $70.2 million in FY17. For just state and federal General Revenue Fund dollars, it is $35.3 billion in FY16 and $36.9 billion in FY17. The state General Revenue Fund (GRF) sees an increase of about 4.2 percent in FY16 and 4 percent in FY17, with Keen explaining some of that is due to incorporating the Medicaid expansion into the GRF.

[**Changes to Formula Guarantees, Charter Crackdown among Education Proposals**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198713) **Hannah**

Gov. John Kasich says his new budget proposal would increase general school funding about $700 million over the biennium while changing the foundation formula to curtail guarantees and account for a district's property-tax and income levels. The executive budget also lets charter schools seek levy funding while subjecting their sponsoring organizations to stricter oversight, and reauthorizes the Straight A Fund innovation grant program at $100 million per year. Per-pupil funding would grow from FY15's $5,800 to $5,900 in FY16 and $6,000 in FY17, according to briefing materials on the administration's proposals. Administration officials had strong words about funding guarantees in K-12 education, saying that they distort the formula. The budget would limit the maximum guarantee by 1 percent of total available state and local funding. In line with Senate plans for "deregulation" in education, Kasich's budget promises to cut red tape for local schools by raising competitive bidding thresholds, eliminating overlap between teacher evaluations and the four-year resident educator licensing program, and lifting mandates for licensure coursework, evaluations, credentials and class sizes for top-scoring teachers and schools.

[**Kasich Proposes Wide Range of Medicaid, Human Service Changes in FY16-17 Budget**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198715) **Hannah**

Gov. John Kasich, when asked at Monday's news conference about the premiums being proposed under his budget for childless, non-pregnant individuals with incomes between 100 and 138 percent of poverty receiving health through the Medicaid program, explained that, in part, that proposal and others in his budget are intended "to restore legitimacy and strengthen the social service network." Adding that the "welfare system is under attack" here and elsewhere in the country, Kasich said he believes such recommendations "allow us to be more successful in the General Assembly."

[**Oversight System Aims for 'Quality' Sponsors for Charter Schools**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198704) **Hannah**

While Gov. John Kasich proposes in his latest budget to lean more heavily on sponsoring organizations to address problem charter schools, the state was already on track to impose new oversight on sponsors under a system that went live at the beginning of this year. The Sponsor Performance Review (SPR) system, piloted already for some charter sponsors and launched statewide Jan. 1, builds on previous ratings of academic performance and legal compliance with a best-practices review. Under the SPR as it exists now, sponsors can be rated "exemplary," "effective" or "ineffective" in each of three equally weighted areas: academic performance index; compliance with state laws and rules; and adherence to quality sponsoring practices. Those roll into a composite rating, and any sponsor labeled ineffective overall will be barred from sponsoring new schools.

[**Kasich proposes income tax cut, college debt relief**](http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20150202/NEWS/150209911/10971/NEWS) **Canton Repository**

Larger businesses would see tax hikes and wealthier school districts would see less state aid under a proposed state budget that Gov. John Kasich described on Monday as his most ambitious yet. Kasich’s $72.3 billion, two-year spending blueprint takes on the tobacco and oil-and-gas lobbies with proposed tax increases on cigarettes and drilling, respectively, while directing record spending toward K-12 and higher education, development disabilities and mental health.

[**Gov. John Kasich's budget gives colleges more money, allows tuition increase of 2 percent for one of two years**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/colleges_will_receive_more_sta.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

State funding for two- and four-year colleges would increase 2 percent each year under Gov. John Kasich's proposed budget. Kasich is also proposing that tuition increases be capped at two percent for the first fiscal year and frozen for the second year.

[**Extensive Hearing Plumbs FY16-17 Budget Provisions**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198729) **Hannah**

While Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Tim Keen predicted the state will end FY15 with a $970.4 million surplus, "based on current information" in testimony Tuesday before the House Finance Committee, Legislative Service Commission (LSC) Executive Director Mark Flanders testified later in the day that that number is $29 million higher according to the estimates of his economists. That would put the estimated surplus at just shy of $1 billion.

[**More money to low-income schools? That's how Gov. Kasich is selling his new budget**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/more_money_to_low-income_schoo.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Gov. John Kasich's budget will send more money to districts with low incomes, he and aides promoting his plan are saying. "If you are a poor school district, you are more likely to see an increase in your state aid,"  Aaron Rausch, the school funding director of the [**Ohio Department of Education**](http://education.ohio.gov/), said this morning.

[**Ohio Board of Regents likely to be renamed the Department of Higher Education**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/ohio_board_of_regents_likely_t.html#incart_river)  **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

The [Ohio Board of Regents,](https://www.ohiohighered.org/) which oversees higher education, will likely be renamed the Department of Higher Education. Gov. John Kasich, who introduced the change this week in his proposed two-year budget, has long wished to use department rather than board, and director rather than chancellor, to bring uniformity to the nomenclature of state government,  said regents spokesman Jeff Robinson.

[**Gov. Kasich says his school funding plan is conservative, not redistribution**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasich_says_his_school_fun.html#incart_river)  **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Gov. John Kasich said he doesn't consider his new school funding plan to be a redistribution of income, even as it [sends more money to poor districts and less to richer ones.](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/more_money_to_low-income_schoo.html) "It is a conservative point of view in that every kid should be in a position to thrive," Kasich said. "I don't see it as redistribution," he added. "I see it as a formula for driving resources to kids."

[**Ohio school district winners, losers in John Kasich's new budget plan (database)**](http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2015/02/ohio_school_district_winners_l.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Details of [Kasich's two-year budget proposal](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_kasich_says_his_school_fun.html#incart_river) show that about half of the state's 610 school districts would receive more money from the state than they currently are receiving. In Cuyahoga County, 14 districts would receive more money in 2016-2017, and 17 would receive less, according calculations from data released Wednesday by the [Ohio Office of Budget and Management](http://obm.ohio.gov/Budget/operating/fy16-17.aspx)

[**Kasich touts big picture on school funding**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/04/kasich-touts-big-picture-on-education.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich understands the “squawking,” the hard-to-dismiss fact that some state legislators and school superintendents are unhappy with him today after reviewing their state-aid numbers. “I’m hopeful they’re going to understand that the current way in which we do this, with caps and guarantees, simply is not sustainable,” Kasich said yesterday of his bid to revise the state school-funding formula.

[**Kasich’s school-funding plan leaves many puzzled**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/06/gov--kasichs-school-funding-plan-complex-raises-concerns.html)  **Columbus Dispatch**

As a group, rural districts would see little increase under Gov. John Kasich’s school-funding plan, while midsized cities and major urban districts would get 74 percent of new money. Wealthy suburban districts as a whole get cut, although a few in central Ohio buck that. Explaining why a particular school district would get more or less money under the proposed funding formula is no simple task. All new school-funding plans are weighed against current funding totals. So, as happened to past governors, the specifics of how Kasich’s plan affects districts have raised alarms.

[**Lower state funding has many school districts upset with Gov. Kasich's plan**](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/lower_state_funding_has_many_school_districts_upset_with_gov_kasichs_plan.html#incart_river) **The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

School districts in Northeast Ohio are still trying to make sense today of Gov. John Kasich's new school funding plan, but the bottom line has many of them upset. As we reported yesterday, [about half of the state's 610 school districts would receive more money from the state](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/02/richer_school_districts_can_af.html) under Kasich's plan than they are currently receiving. But that also means that half will receive less.

**Ohio Department of Education/State Board of Education**

[**Ross, ODE Discuss Budget's Formula Changes**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198719) **Hannah**

State education officials spelled out details Tuesday of Gov. John Kasich's budget policies for Ohio schools, breaking down the implications of a revised formula that aims to better gauge local funding capacity by measuring median income. The formula, which the administration casts as a modification to the current funding, also aims to move away from the system of caps and guarantees that dampen positive or negative effects of straightforward application of the formula. State Superintendent Richard Ross and other Ohio Department of Education (ODE) officials discussed the formula and other budget policies in a conference call Tuesday.

[**Local Superintendents Respond to Ross' Report, Bring Testing Recommendations**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198728) **Hannah**

A host of school administrators brought their complaints and suggestions on assessments and critiques of State Superintendent Richard Ross' report on testing reductions to the Senate Education Committee's hearing Tuesday. Committee Chairwoman Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) invited the school leaders to testify as panels in reaction to Ross' report, which he presented to the committee last week. Tom Ash, government relations director for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, led off with a survey of discussions in Congress, whose reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act -- or failure to do so -- could determine how much flexibility states have on assessments.

[**Private School Representatives Sketch Framework for Graduation Requirements**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198759) **Hannah**

Representatives of independent and religious private schools hammered out recommendations for graduation requirements Friday that would leave them free to set their own standards but require them public disclosure criteria for earning a diploma. Lawmakers created the Chartered Nonpublic Graduation Requirements Committee last year to make recommendations on how private schools should award diplomas, in the effort to solve conflicts between allowing the schools instructional freedom and giving the state some measure of individual students' achievement.  
  
[**School Board to Discuss Graduation Requirements, NCLB Waiver**](http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=198760) **Hannah**

The State Board of Education will continue work on implementing new graduation requirements and discuss the process of renewing its flexibility waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind Act at its meeting next week. The board's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee on Monday will take up two elements of graduation requirements: substitute science assessments and "in-demand" workforce credentials.

**Early Learning**

[**Pre-K Pays Off By Lowering Special Ed Placements**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2015/02/04/383571989/pre-k-pays-off-by-lowering-special-ed-placements?utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=education) **NPR**

Attending state-funded prekindergarten substantially reduces the likelihood that students will end up in special education programs later on, according to a new study by researchers at Duke University. The study examined 13 years' worth of data from students enrolled in More at Four, a state-funded program for 4-year-olds in North Carolina. By the third grade, the researchers found, children in the program were 32 percent less likely to end up in a special education program. Children who were part of Smart Start, a health services program, saw a 10 percent drop. Combined, the two programs accounted for a 39 percent reduction.

**College and Career Readiness**

[**Counting Students Equally?**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/01/30/ed-dept-ratings-framework-ignites-new-questions-over-adjusting-student-outcomes) **Inside Higher Ed**

A core premise of the Obama administration’s college ratings plan -- and one that makes it controversial -- is that colleges and universities need to be held more accountable for student outcomes. College presidents have repeatedly argued that those outcomes, like completion rates and graduates’ earnings, are largely a reflection of the student population they serve, and therefore not necessarily a good benchmark of their institution’s success. A ratings system, they warn, could discourage colleges from recruiting students they're not confident will graduate.

[**Cuyahoga Community College to offer Tuition Rewards program**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150203/cuyahoga-community-college-to-offer-tuition-rewards-program) **Willoughby News-Herald**

Cuyahoga Community College will roll out a new rewards program for students who take a larger workload. The Tuition Rewards program proposed by the college will give qualifying students some of their tuition back based on the number of credit hours they take in a semester.  Craig Foltin, an executive vice president and interim provost at Tri-C, said the program is a way to increase retention and help students achieve their goals of completing a degree or transferring to a four-year institution.

[**Half of High-risk Students Coming Up Empty**](http://diverseeducation.com/article/69205/) **Diverse Issues in Education**

Roughly half of high-risk students are starting college but have nothing to show for it in terms of earnings because they leave without a credential that could command a higher salary. Such is one of the key findings of “The New Forgotten Half and Research Directions to Support Them,” a new report by James Rosenbaum, education professor and chair of the program on poverty, race, and inequality at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University.

[**Ohio Program Aims to Expand Equal Access to Dual Enrollment**](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2015/02/access_to_college-level_courses_in_high_school_expands_in_ohio.html) **Education Week**

This fall, Ohio will roll out a new program aimed at increasing college completion by encouraging more students to get a jump start on their degree while still in high school. The state's College Credit Plus program will require every school district to offer and actively encourage students in grades 7-12 to take a dual-enrollment course. Students can either enroll in a nearby college, take courses taught by a qualified teacher at their high school, or sign up online to earn credit at no cost to them.

**Northeast Ohio Schools**

***Cuyahoga County***

**[Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools looks to move trade workers to old Millikin School; playground could be coming](http://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/index.ssf/2015/02/cleveland_heights-university_h_67.html) Sun News**

[**Fairview Park schools approve 3-year contract with Superintendent William Wagner**](http://www.cleveland.com/fairview-park/index.ssf/2015/02/fairview_park_schools_agree_to.html#incart_river) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**North Olmsted Middle School students may relocate temporarily to St. Richard starting this fall**](http://www.cleveland.com/north-olmsted/index.ssf/2015/02/north_olmsted_middle_school_st.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

[**Strongsville schools will present update on middle school construction and report on food services: live coverage**](http://www.cleveland.com/strongsville/index.ssf/2015/02/strongsville_schools_will_pres.html) **Northeast Ohio Media Group**

***Geauga County***

[**New iSTEM school accepting applications**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150207/new-istem-school-accepting-applications) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lake County***

[**Closing of Rice Elementary in Mentor discussed**](http://www.news-herald.com/general-news/20150205/closing-of-rice-elementary-in-mentor-discussed) **Willoughby News-Herald**

***Lorain County***

[**Amherst Junior High nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150202/amherst-junior-high-nominated-as-a-national-blue-ribbon-school) **The Morning Journal**

[**Behind-the-scenes look at the new Lorain High School**](http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/20150204/behind-the-scenes-look-at-the-new-lorain-high-school) **The Morning Journal**

***Medina County***

[**In Gov. Kasich’s proposed 2-year-budget, Brunswick schools would benefit; Medina would lose**](http://medinagazette.northcoastnow.com/2015/02/06/gov-kasichs-proposed-2-year-budget-brunswick-schools-benefit-medina-lose/) **Medina Gazette**

***Summit County***

[**Revere board approves agreement with Wellness Center**](http://www.akron.com/akron-ohio-education-news.asp?aID=25573) **Akron.com**

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