



*Throughout his career, Governor DeWine has been an unwavering advocate for children and families, believing that meaningful investments in parents and kids today will pay dividends for Ohio's future. Governor DeWine's 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal strongly supports this premise by continuing to invest in services for expectant moms, childcare for working parents, and quality education and workforce development for kids and young adults. This budget also focuses on literacy, vision care, and programs that support children's physical and mental health. Several investments build on programs established by Governor DeWine in previous budgets that have proven to support economic growth and are positioning Ohio for long-term success.*

## Parents

- Providing opportunities for parents to take part in Ohio's workforce benefits Ohio families and is critical to Ohio's prosperity. Governor DeWine's budget proposes to help Ohio families during the initial years of a child's development with a **refundable child tax credit**. Targeted at those who need it the most, the credit phases out at designated income levels. Working parents who hold a full-time minimum wage job will be eligible for a \$1,000 refundable credit per child through age six.
- Governor DeWine's budget proposal maintains **access to quality childcare** with assistance for families making up to 200% of the federal poverty level through Publicly Funded Childcare and the Childcare Choice program. This eases the financial burden on working parents and caregivers who struggle to find childcare or risk losing childcare assistance if they take a better-paying job.
- As part of his executive budget proposal, Governor DeWine reaffirms his **strong support for adoptive parents** by continuing grants that help defray the cost of adoption. The recommended budget makes grants of at least \$10,000 available to parents who adopt, with additional incentives for those who foster-to-adopt or adopt a child with special needs.
- **Community and faith-based organizations** are critical resources for vulnerable members of our communities. An increased investment in Governor DeWine's executive budget would continue to support pregnancy centers, social service organizations, and ministries that support moms-to-be and new families.
- Governor DeWine's proposed budget increases investment in **tobacco cessation programs** to help pregnant mothers stop smoking during pregnancy and improve birth outcomes. The Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program directly supports pregnant women with tobacco cessation services, and the Moms Quit for Two program provides grants to private, nonprofit, and government entities that deliver evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions to women who live in communities with the highest incidence of infant mortality.
- Governor DeWine's executive budget increases investment in **tobacco use prevention** to help reduce tobacco use in Ohio. Services include counseling services and cessation supplements, community grants to prevent and reduce tobacco use, surveillance and evaluation of statewide and community programs and smoking rates, and a toll-free, statewide Quit Line that gives advice and referrals about quitting tobacco use.

## Health

- To help new parents raise healthy babies, Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal extends support for programs such as Help Me Grow, Ohio's evidence-based home visiting program. Help Me Grow, which serves more than 10,000 families, encourages early prenatal and well-baby care and provides parenting education to promote the **comprehensive health and development of children**. The budget also expands the statewide Family Connects program, which provides a free, in-home nurse consultation for families with newborns.
- School-aged children in Ohio are required to be screened for vision problems, but not all students who fail vision screenings receive follow-up care. Governor DeWine's executive budget recommends an investment of \$50 million over the biennium to create a **new vision services program, OhioSEE**. The program would ensure that students who fail vision screenings in kindergarten through third grade receive comprehensive eye exams and if needed, glasses. This program is projected to serve 33,000 kids at a time in their lives when vision is critical to learning to read.
- **School-based health centers** significantly reduce barriers to accessing essential health services, leading to better health and academic outcomes for students. Building on Governor DeWine's historic investment in school-based health centers in Ohio's Appalachian region, his executive budget proposes to expand the number of school-based health centers in high-need counties and provide resources and technical support to these health centers across the state.
- Governor DeWine's executive budget increases Ohio's investment to expand **Youth Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)** to all 88 counties in Ohio. MRSS programs provide structured face-to-face behavioral health crisis intervention and support for those under the age of 21. These programs also provide in-home services for more than 40 days after an initial crisis.
- The budget fulfills Governor DeWine's commitment to ensuring students who ride school buses get to and from their destinations safely. His executive budget proposal creates a new **school bus safety grant program** that will enable schools to upgrade or add safety features to buses.

## Education

- One of the most impactful ways to put children on a trajectory to success is by introducing them to the wonders of reading. To get as many books into the hands of Ohio's children as possible, Governor and First Lady DeWine made it a priority to elevate and expand the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio**, which now provides more than 400,000 Ohio children from birth to age five with a free book each month. Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal increases support for this impactful literacy program to ensure more Ohio children receive free books delivered to their homes until their 5th birthdays.
- Governor DeWine's budget proposal includes \$23.4 billion over the biennium to support students through **school choice programs and continued implementation of the Cupp-Patterson school funding formula**. This budget phases in the final two years (years 5 and 6) of the school funding formula while phasing out the funding of empty desks in schools with decreasing enrollment by reducing funding guarantees to 95% in FY26 and 90% in FY27.
- Parents know the educational needs of their children better than anyone. Governor DeWine's budget continues to provide **resources for families to choose the best option for their children's education**, including continued investments in traditional public schools, community schools, STEM schools, career-technical education, and scholarships.

- Because school principals are key to a school's success, Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal establishes the new **Ohio Principal Apprenticeship Program** to prepare and train individuals interested in school leadership positions and who want to maximize learning and growth opportunities for Ohio students.
- As schools continue to implement the **Science of Reading** across Ohio, Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal continues to support literacy coaches in schools and requires schools with low rates of proficient readers to focus more funding on literacy support.
- To better support quality **career planning and workforce readiness** priorities, Governor DeWine continues to prioritize workforce readiness for K-12 students by reimagining Ohio's regionally based tech prep centers. His proposed budget invests \$7 million in each fiscal year to support this work through partnerships with local organizations to ensure students have access to career coaching, mentoring, and career pathways.