



Ohio's greatest asset is its people, and Governor DeWine's 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal focuses on priorities that give all Ohioans the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential. Since taking office in 2019, Governor DeWine has helped today's workforce adapt to Ohio's evolving technology-driven economy and has focused on ensuring that Ohio's future workforce is set up for success. This budget builds on those priorities by encouraging talented Ohioans to keep their talents in Ohio, connecting employers with skilled workers, and helping young families build a strong foundation for the future.

- Governor DeWine's executive budget continues the **Governor's Merit Scholarship**, which encourages Ohio's best and brightest to stay in the state by providing the top 5% of each high school graduating class with a \$5,000 scholarship to attend an Ohio college or university. Ohio's graduating high school class of 2024 included 6,250 eligible students with roughly 76% accepting the scholarship.
- Governor DeWine's executive budget also offers other scholarships that support students who attend Ohio colleges and universities, including the **Ohio College Opportunity Grant**, which provides need-based financial aid, the **Choose Ohio First** program, which supports students pursuing STEM degrees, and the **Work Ready Grant** program to support students attending community colleges.
- As Ohio's economy continues to evolve, Ohio's workforce must adapt. Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal provides continued support for the successful **TechCred** program, which defrays costs incurred by employers for upskilling their workforce to meet the demands of today's technology-driven economy.
- To continue the state's work to fill the most in-demand jobs in Ohio, Governor DeWine's budget proposes to continue the **Industry Sector Partnership Grant Program**, which supports collaborations between businesses, educational institutions, and training providers that work to grow the workforce in sectors such as healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, construction, and transportation.
- Ohio is already a leader in funding state institutions of **higher education** based on the number of students completing courses, certificates, and degrees. Through Governor DeWine's proposed budget, Ohio will become the first state to tie a significant portion of funding for colleges and universities to whether their graduates are getting jobs.
- To further connect higher education institutions with Ohio's businesses and students, Governor DeWine's executive budget proposes to partner JobsOhio with Ohio's state colleges and universities to develop and implement co-op, internship, and other work-based learning initiatives that bring **more opportunities for students to connect with Ohio employers**.
- Ohio's growing economy needs a specialized workforce, skilled in protecting the data systems of public and private employers. Governor DeWine's executive budget proposes a continued investment in the **Ohio Digital Academy** to train the high-tech workforce to meet Ohio's advanced technology and cybersecurity needs.
- Protecting Ohio's workforce is essential to maintaining a strong economy and job market. Governor DeWine's proposed budget makes **investments to keep Ohioans safe on the job** by supporting the development of new protective equipment and providing grants for employers to purchase safety equipment.
- Each year, 18,000 men and women are released from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

(ODRC). Governor DeWine's budget further expands **vocational training and education for in-demand jobs** to help prepare those leaving ODRC to reintegrate into society and join Ohio's workforce.