

Investing in Ohio's Schools, Colleges, and Universities

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine believes every Ohioan should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and live up to their potential. That path begins with educational excellence in every school, for every student. Quality early childhood development programs, superior schools, and a comprehensive workforce plan combine to create opportunities for every Ohioan to succeed.

Ohio's operating budget supports Ohio's schools, colleges, and universities by:

Providing new mental health and wraparound services to students by investing new, targeted funding of \$675 million over the biennium to support student wellness and success in schools. Schools will receive additional funding for mental health counseling, wraparound supports, mentoring, after-school programs, and more. Schools will partner with local organizations including Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Boards; Educational Service Centers; County Boards of Developmental Disabilities; community-based mental health treatment providers; local health departments; local departments of Job and Family Services; and non-profits with experience serving children. By addressing barriers to success, we can give all our students the opportunity for brighter futures.

Increasing overall state investment in public education to \$9.3 billion in fiscal year 2020 and \$9.4 billion in fiscal year 2021. The additional investments made in the budget will support student success and promote better educational outcomes, especially in the areas of the state that need it most. This record investment demonstrates the importance of supporting our schools.

Reducing barriers between families and state scholarship programs to provide more students access to the education of their choice. The Ohio operating budget adjusts eligibility for the EdChoice scholarship program to include all qualifying families earning less than 200% of federal poverty guidelines, instead of just families with students in kindergarten through fifth grade under current practice. Additional changes

will reduce the amount of paperwork required of qualifying families and allow families more time to apply for the scholarship program.

Supporting second-career education leaders through investments in programs that bring professionals from many fields into the classroom. Teach for America is a proven way to bring new educators into the classroom, and Ohio's operating budget invests \$2 million each year to ensure those educators are working in some of Ohio's neediest schools. An additional investment of \$1 million each year supports Bright New Leaders, a program that helps business professionals bring their expertise to schools as principals and district leaders. Changes in the budget will also allow more adults to enter education through already successful alternative licensure pathways.

Establishing Ohio as a leader in computer science and coding education by providing additional resources to train teachers to become certified computer science educators. This will help give more students the opportunity to have quality computer science education in their school. By investing \$1.5 million, Ohio will be able to train nearly 900 new computer science instructors. The budget also makes it easier for schools to find computer science educators by making it more efficient for teachers to receive a temporary license.

Preparing all students for success in college and careers by establishing clear, permanent graduation requirements. Ohio's graduation requirements for high school students has changed multiple times in the last five years. Ohio's operating budget contains a permanent path for students that will provide flexibility for local schools, reduce Ohio's reliance on standardized testing, and ensure that graduates have developed the skills they'll need to be successful after high school.

Preparing more students for 21st-century careers by investing \$50 million over the biennium in high school credentialing programs. Funds set aside in the budget will support schools in reducing barriers between students and credentials. Additional funding is designated for the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program and designed to help students secure credentials in growing career fields.

Increasing the opportunities for career centers to access state funds that can be used to improve facilities and ensure that Ohio's students have access to modern technology while they prepare for success in college and careers.

Focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine (STEMM) Opportunities for Ohio College Students by expanding funding for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship by \$12 million each year, which will help serve additional students and improve scholarship benefits for those seeking a degree in the STEMM disciplines. Choose Ohio First works to strengthen students' competitiveness in STEMM by awarding scholarship funding for those studying innovative fields such as aerospace, medicine, computer technology, and alternative energy. Choose Ohio First scholars complete their degree in four years at nearly twice the rate of other STEMM students, and the program has contributed to a 61 percent increase in the number of graduates with STEMM-related degrees.

Supporting Ohio's college students by increasing the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, which provides financial assistance to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need. Eligibility is determined using a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and funds are available to those enrolled in Ohio's public and private colleges and universities. The budget increases funding for this grant by \$47 million over the biennium.

Making higher education more accessible and affordable for all Ohio students is key to developing a competitive workforce. Ohio's operating budget will help college students by requiring public universities to offer guaranteed tuition so students will pay the same price for their sophomore, junior, and senior years as they did for their freshman year.

Building up Ohio's career-tech infrastructure by providing additional support to Ohio's Technical Centers (OTCs). Fifty-four OTCs around the state provide crucial post-secondary career and technical education to adults seeking training in the skill trades. With an additional investment of more than \$6 million over the biennium, more Ohioans will have access to certificates, industry-recognized certifications, and state licensures through their local OTC.

