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UPDATE — Education Items in Ohio's 2025 Budget

Updated Wednesday 7/23/25 at 10:40 am

UPDATE: Ohio's budget bill has been signed into law. Governor DeWine vetoed (rejected) 67 items from the budget before signing it.

CLICK THROUGH THE LIST BELOW to see which items Governor DeWine vetoed, and which ones he allowed to become law.

NEXT STEP: Urge your state legislators NOT TO OVERRIDE ANY OF THE GOVERNOR'S VETOES!

- Find your state senator [by typing your address below this map](#).
- Find your state rep [by typing your address below this map](#).

DRAFT SCRIPT:

- Hello. My name is [NAME], and I am an Ohio voter. My zip code is [ZIP CODE].
- I believe that children should be our state's top priority.
- Governor DeWine's budget vetoes are controversial, but it's clear he supports Ohio kids and wants every child to receive a quality education.
- Please don't override any of the governor's vetoes. Let the budget go into law in its current form.
- Does [LEGISLATOR] promise not to override any of Governor DeWine's budget vetoes?
- I will be sharing your response with my networks & urging others to contact you as well. Thank you.

OUTCOMES — Items we asked Gov DeWine to VETO (remove) from Ohio's Budget Bill:

Massive tax cut for the rich that will harm public school funding — *Signed into law*

- Phases down state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75%. This ONLY benefits Ohioans making \$100k+ and will greatly harm local public schools

Restrictions that could close libraries — **VETOED**

- LIBCD5 in ["the budget comparison document"](#)
- Requires public libraries to place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity/expression in a portion of the public library that is not primarily open to the view of persons under the age of 18.
- **CONCERN:** Smaller library branches may not have the physical space to follow this requirement, and could be forced to close
- **CONCERN:** The language is written so broadly that ANY book could be included in its requirements...heterosexual/straight is a sexual orientation.

Gets rid of ALL elected State Board of Education members — *Signed into law*

- SBECD2 in [“the budget comparison document”](#)
- Reduces State Board of Education (SBE) membership from 11 elected members and eight Governor-appointed members to a total of five members all appointed by the Governor.

Creates Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs), AKA unregulated vouchers+ — **VETOED**

- EDUCD118 in [“the budget comparison document”](#)
- Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) are broader and even less regulated than universal vouchers
- ESAs are basically a flexible spending account. Can be spent on ANYTHING that’s vaguely education related. Not just tuition (which is what vouchers cover). An even less accountable use of our tax dollars

Makes all local school board elections partisan — **VETOED**

- SOSCD14 in [the budget comparison document](#)
- Requires all candidates for local school boards and ESC governing boards to appear on the general election ballot with a political party designation (D or R) next to their name
- **MESSAGE TO USE:**
 - The bills to make school board races partisan have only received ONE hearing in the Ohio House and ONE hearing in the Senate.
 - This is a major policy change. It should be debated in committee. Citizens should have a chance to weigh in.
 - DO NOT let this bill get snuck into state law without proper time to analyze and discuss it.

“Carryover” provision — **VETOED**

- TAXCD91 in [“the budget comparison document”](#)
- Would require that property tax refunds be issued to taxpayers if a school district carries **over 40% of their operating budget.**
- **MESSAGE TO USE:**
 - This provision is outrageous, because school districts carry money over SO THEY DON’T HAVE TO GO TO THE BALLOT.
 - School districts never know what funding will look like in the next state budget. They carry money over so they won’t need to put a levy on the ballot and ask voters for more money.
 - **So essentially the budget would punish schools for being fiscally responsible??**

LifeWise provision — *Signed into law*

- EDUCD102 in [“the budget comparison document”](#)
- Requires schools to let students miss two periods per week for religious “released time”
- **MESSAGE TO USE:**
 - These are policy changes. They should be introduced as bills and debated in committee. Citizens should have a chance to weigh in.
 - This is especially true because religious “released time” policies should be made by local governments and communities working together with parents. They should NOT be made by big government intervention.

“Success Sequence” Curriculum — *Signed into law*

- EDUCD100 in [the budget comparison document”](#)

- The “**Success Sequence**” teaches students that the way to achieve success in life is to graduate high school, get a job, get married, then have kids, in that order.
- The “Success Sequence”:
 - Is essentially the failed “abstinence-only” education by another name.
 - Ignores the many Americans who have built themselves a successful life without following this specific “sequence”
 - Ignores structural inequalities and systemic issues that impact students’ lives
 - Is culturally biased and stigmatizing
 - Imposes one specific religion’s values on all students, regardless of their own beliefs or backgrounds.

Bans replacement property tax levies — VETOED — HOUSE VOTED TO OVERRIDE — SENATE TBD

- TAXCD104 in [“the budget comparison document”](#)
- Replacement levies allow a local school district to replace an existing levy to adjust revenue for property value growth.
- They are an important tool used by local school districts to raise revenue when needed.

Levy / Tax changes that would hurt local schools — VETOED

- The governor vetoed several property tax changes that would devastate not only Ohio’s public schools, but also local governments and first responders.
 - Statehouse Republicans’ budget would ban key types of school renewal levies (emergency levies most notably).
 - Statehouse Republicans’ budget would also ban renewal levies with an increase — meaning you would have to do a vote on the renewal and a vote on new millage separately.
- As the governor’s veto message said, “these levies serve as important tools for school districts as they seek to maintain their long-term financial stability.”