

Kasich's school-funding plan greeted with relief

Ohio school superintendents were relieved yesterday when Gov. John Kasich told them his two-year school-funding plan would not cut their current levels of state aid. In fact, the \$15.1 billion education plan would increase state funding to schools by 6 percent in the coming school year and 3.2 percent the next.

"This is not hard to figure out: If you are poor, you're going to get more. If you are rich, you're going to get less. If you have gifted students, you're going to get more. If you have disabled students, you're going to get more," Kasich said.

"What everybody has to like is he (Kasich) told us none of us are losing any money," said Brion Deitsch, superintendent of Fairview Park City Schools near Cleveland. "I guarantee you if you had taken a poll of the people before they walked through this door, everybody would have said, 'I wonder how bad we're going to get cut. I wonder how bad we're going to get hit.'"

Read more here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/02/01/kasichs-school-funding-plan-greeted-with-relief.html>

Dayton Daily News

Kasich's plan gives more money to schools

Gov. John Kasich's school funding plan tackles growing disparity between poor and wealthy school districts and allows Ohio students living in poverty to attend private schools with state dollars, while boosting overall state funding for public schools.

Kasich rolled out his school funding formula and other education policies Thursday to school superintendents attending a conference north of Columbus and statewide through a "virtual town hall meeting."

Kasich said school districts will receive at least as much money for the next two years as they did this year. Kasich's budget proposal boosts state aid by \$1.2 billion over two years including \$548 million more for base funding for school districts.

About 11 percent of the funding comes from state lottery profits and the rest from general revenue funds, which Kasich said is the product of an improved state economy.

"No one's going to lose in this proposal, and this has happened because we've been good stewards," Kasich said.

Read more here: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/kasichs-education-speech-under-way/nWCBT/>



Governor's school spending plan puts focus on students

By Lisa Reicosky

CANTON — Funding the student, not the district, is the theme of Governor John Kasich's education funding plan for the next two years.

Kasich presented his long-anticipated plan, "Achievement Everywhere," to superintendents and charter school leaders at a Buckeye Association of School Administrators meeting Thursday.

He said the plan is "not about operating schools, but about educating our boys and girls."

The \$15.1 billion, two-year education plan would increase state aid to schools by 6 percent over the next two years (July 1 to June 2015).

It includes an expansion of the state's voucher program, which provides public money for students to attend private schools.

Kasich stressed that his plan will level the playing field between the state's richest and poorest districts.

Kasich's Director for 21st Century Education, Richard Ross, said the plan is designed to drive dollars to the classroom and called it "an education improvement plan, not a funding plan."

Read more here: <http://www.cantonrep.com/ohio/x1959334867/Governors-school-spending-plan-puts-focus-on-students>

toledoBlade.com

Kasich school plan prompts optimism

Gov. John Kasich's school funding proposal rolled out today targets more aid for poorer school districts, expands funding for charter schools and access to vouchers to attend private schools, and dangles \$300 million in one-time carrots before schools to innovatively break the public education mold.

Basic aid to schools would increase 6 percent in the first year of the two-year budget and 3.2 percent in the second, but the Kasich administration warned that guaranteeing that none of Ohio's 613 school districts will get less money from one year to the next in the long term is unsustainable .

"We chose to keep the guarantee in, because we know we're really challenging districts for improvement..." said Barbara Matteri-Smith, assistant policy director for education. "To work with all the challenges we have, fiscal flexibility was also necessary."

But while the plan does not cut basic subsidies to schools, neither does it provide the restorative funding sought by Democrats to undo the severe cuts schools suffered in the current two-year budget. Mr. Kasich has technically boasted that his administration increased state basic aid in 2012 and 2013, but schools still suffered major pain from the simultaneous loss of one-time federal stimulus dollars during the recession and by the state's continued weaning of schools off revenue from a pair of now defunct taxes.

In his second budget proposal, Mr. Kasich offers additional funding for schools to help implement a new law prohibiting the promotion of a third-grader who still hasn't mastered reading and targets additional aid to districts with large numbers of special needs and disabled students and those learning English as a second language.

Read more here: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Politics/2013/01/31/Kasich-reveal-school-funding-plan-which-expanding-charter-school-funding.html>



Gov. Kasich says his school plan boosts performance and poor districts

Gov. John Kasich is proposing a school-funding overhaul he says will help poor districts compete more evenly while introducing changes to promote innovation and performance. His plan was unveiled to school superintendents and administrators at a meeting in Columbus this afternoon.

Kasich says his plan would boost funding for poor districts that are lagging in property values and household incomes, but also offers more school choice and help for the costs of special-needs students.

Kasich on the school funding plan:

“We have stripped politics out of the decision making. In the past, people had political considerations. That is not the way that I approach this job nor the way I would approach the distribution of resources for our boys and girls. The minute you play politics is the minute you get lost.”

Kasich education advisers say no schools will see reduced funding next year under the current formula, and overall funding will rise. But the governor and his team hinted it won't stay that way beyond this budget.

Here's an extended version of what Gov. Kasich unveiled:

Gov. Kasich says schools need to become more efficient. He says government needs to become better at funding schools in a way that encourages efficiency. And he says the plan he unveiled Thursday afternoon takes politics out of the process.

Read more here: <http://www.wksu.org/news/story/34564>



Kasich plan to fund education released

While waiting for further financial detail, Marion-area school superintendents gave favorable reviews of the school-funding overhaul announced Thursday by Gov. John Kasich.

Kasich unveiled a plan he said is aimed at helping students in poor districts compete while introducing changes meant to reward and highlight innovation.

Marion City Schools Superintendent James Barney welcomed the governor's general approach to funding issues for Ohio's public schools, saying, "There's a number of specifics that aren't there, but the initial broad brush appears to be positive. It looks like he's trying to get dollars to where the needs are."

The Republican governor's long-awaited plan would boost districts that are lagging behind in property values and household incomes. Kasich education advisers said no schools would see reduced funding next year under the current formula, to allow them time to adjust. A special fund with \$300 million in additional money would be created to reward districts with grants for innovation and efficiency.

Ridgedale Local Schools Superintendent Bob Britton said, he's "pretty optimistic" about the proposed overhaul.

Read more here: <http://www.marionstar.com/article/20130131/NEWS01/301310025/Kasich-plan-fund-education-released>

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