



## Information to Share with Legislators

### Your local funding situation.

- What is your breakdown of state and local revenue?
- What has been the impact of updated property tax valuations in your district and how has your state aid been affected?
- How will continued implementation of the Fair School Funding Formula with updated inputs increase student opportunities and outcomes?
- What is your district's [cash balance](#) policy, your cash balance this year, in three years, in five years, and how do you plan to use those dollars?

### Specific student needs.

Highlight the unique needs of your students, such as special education students, economically disadvantaged students, English learners, gifted students and transportation. Provide concrete examples of how current funding levels meet or fail to meet these needs. Remind policymakers that [cost studies](#) were conducted for each category of students and that the recommendations from the studies still need to be implemented in future budgets.

### District spending on salaries.

Concerns have been shared that increased district funding will lead to inflated salaries. Current statistics do not support these claims. In the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) [2023 Wage Settlement Report](#), school district salaries for the 2023-2025 school year rose at approximately 3% per year, a lower percentage than other public employees.

### Cost efficiencies.

Concerns have been shared that districts do nothing to contain costs and that they just spend and ask for more money. Please share how your district has taken steps to control costs and/or find cost efficiencies resulting in savings for the district. Highlight the savings realized through ESC and district partnerships and the importance of those relationships.

### Property taxes - local share of funding.

There are several misconceptions about property valuations. It is essential to clarify the following points to ensure legislators understand the landscape as it relates to local funding:

- Historic increases we are currently seeing in property valuations are an [anomaly](#).
- These increases are happening due to a unique set of factors, including Ohio's strong economy, the lack of housing and population growth in certain areas.
- Remind your legislator that increases in valuation do not lead directly to increases in property tax due to the [tax reduction factors](#).