

## Legislative Liaison Blog

By Pamela Henney, Legislative Advocate

Ohio's property tax financing of schools, deemed unconstitutional in 1994 by the Ohio Supreme Court, is finally being addressed in the Statehouse for the first time with a plan to implement a new financing in FY2022. House Bill 305 is currently in Senate Finance committee, having passed the House on Dec. 3, 2020. Previously, according to the State School Board, only 18% of the state's school systems have been funded properly. HB 305, dubbed the Fair School Funding Plan, does have the support of the Ohio School Board, according to a Cincinnati WLWT report Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

With specific provisions made to collect specific reportable information (without use of SSI or personal identification information, the funding will be calculated per individual student and help create a district profile under the new plan. Each individual district's local share would be based 60% on property taxes and 40% on family income – with a total state cost estimated at \$2 billion. However, some political pundits foresee challenges in the Ohio Senate, with some senators putting the estimate at \$4 billion in an already faltering economy, with current and continued school funding cuts, and an international pandemic. Preschool expansion and funding, as well as funding for economically disadvantaged could add to the challenges in the Senate.

At the time of this blog writing, the Senate Finance committee was set to meet on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss primary and secondary education. Political watchers contend an Ohio Senate vote on the bill may be a challenge at the yearend. HB 305's progress can be found in the [Ohio Legislature status report](#)