

Modernizing Ohio's Schools



Improving Education and Increasing Community Access

The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that all Ohio school children must have access to schools that are structurally safe, have sufficient space, and have capacity for technology, regardless of where they live.

State facility funds present an opportunity for local communities to create cost-effective schools that serve as centers of community. This is an opportunity for communities and schools to share resources like libraries, parks, and gymnasiums. Newer schools also have increased neighborhood property values and promote economic growth.

Research in Milwaukee indicates that students achieve at higher rates in facilities that have adequate lighting, heating, ventilation systems, and air conditioning and that are clean and well-maintained.

Newer schools have flexible multi-use space, electrical capacity for computers and other types of technology, and space for hands-on science, art, and music classes. Newer schools are also wheelchair accessible and have the space needed for children and adults with various types of disabilities.

Examples of Ohio Schools as Community Centers

School—Public Library Partnerships

- Central Crossing High School—Southwest Public Library System, Franklin County
- New Albany High School—Columbus Metropolitan Library System, Franklin County
- Eastern Elementary School—Meigs County Public Library System, Meigs County

School—Health Clinic Partnerships

- Portsmouth West Elementary—Scioto County
- Dawson-Bryant High School—Lawrence County

School—City Recreation Center Partnership

- Twinsburg High School—City of Twinsburg, Summit County
- Medina High School—City of Medina, Medina County

Key Facts: Ohio's Schools

- School buildings begin deteriorating after 40 years, and without regular maintenance, the rate of deterioration is rapid.
- 90% of Ohio's school buildings are over 40 years old.
- 83% of Ohio schools have problems with a roof, plumbing, HVAC, acoustics, or lighting.
- Local districts opened 20 new schools in 2000 with state help.
- Most schools in Ohio are not air conditioned for year-round learning. For example, only 29 of Columbus Public Schools' 143 schools are fully air conditioned.
- Since 1997, Ohio has committed over \$2.6 billion for school construction; \$3.2 billion when combined with local funds.

Innovative Schools in Other States

- Zoo High School, Minnesota
- Mall of America High School, Minnesota
- Art Museum & Leadership Academy, Arizona
- High Schools at Hospitals, California
- Henry Ford Museum School, Michigan

The Ohio School Facilities Commission

The Ohio School Facilities Commission, created in 1997, provides funding, oversight, and technical assistance to Ohio school districts for construction and renovation of schools. Ohio will spend over \$23 billion in state and local funds to improve schools over the next twelve years. The state will provide \$10.2 billion, with the remaining \$12.8 billion being raised locally.

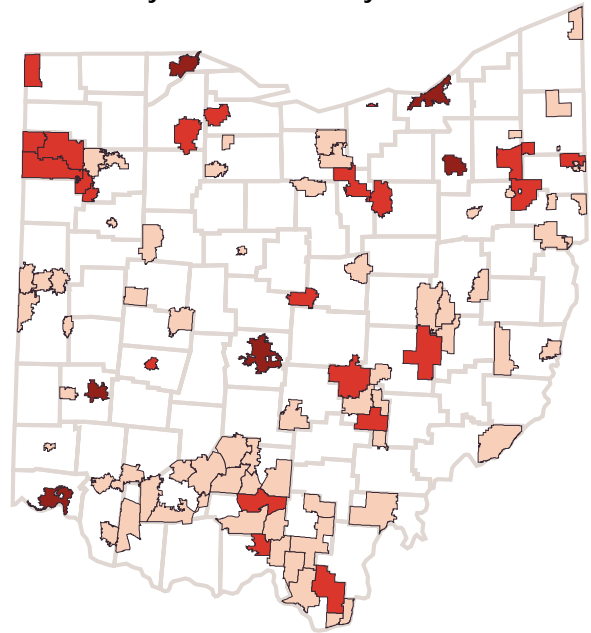
Districts match state funds with local monies to renovate and replace buildings.

- Since 1998, 69 school districts in 42 counties have received funding to replace and renovate buildings district-wide. State funds averaged 81% of total cost.
- In 2001, 24 more school districts in 20 counties will receive funding, and the state match will average 81% of total cost.

Rebuilding Ohio's Urban Schools

A new state law accelerates school building assistance to Ohio's six largest urban school districts: Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, and Akron. These school districts will complete their school building assessments by 2002 and seek voter approval for funding of new and renovated schools. Districts may fund local portions of project costs from a variety of sources, such as city or county funds and private donations, in addition to bond issues.

School Districts Receiving Systemwide Facility Funds



- 1998 to 2000: 69 Districts
- 2001: 24 Districts
- 2002: 6 Urban districts become eligible; more to be added

CDF-Ohio graphic produced with ArcView GIS software.

For sources and more information, visit the CDF-Ohio web site (<http://www.cdfohio.org>).



Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
 52 East Lynn Street, Suite 400
 Columbus, Ohio 43215-3551
 (614) 221-2244
 (614) 221-2247 (Fax)
 E-mail: CDFOhio@cdfohio.org
 Web site: <http://www.cdfohio.org>

- Briefing Guides are available on the following topics:
- Child Care Assistance
 - Child Care Quality
 - Child Poverty
 - Child Support
 - Children's Health Insurance
 - Fourth Grade Reading
 - Head Start Basics
 - Head Start Quality
 - Immunizations
 - Ohio Works First
 - School Facilities