

# THIS IS OUR

*FROM THE ONTARIO BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
LISA CARMICHAEL, Superintendent, and RANDY HARVEY, Treasurer*



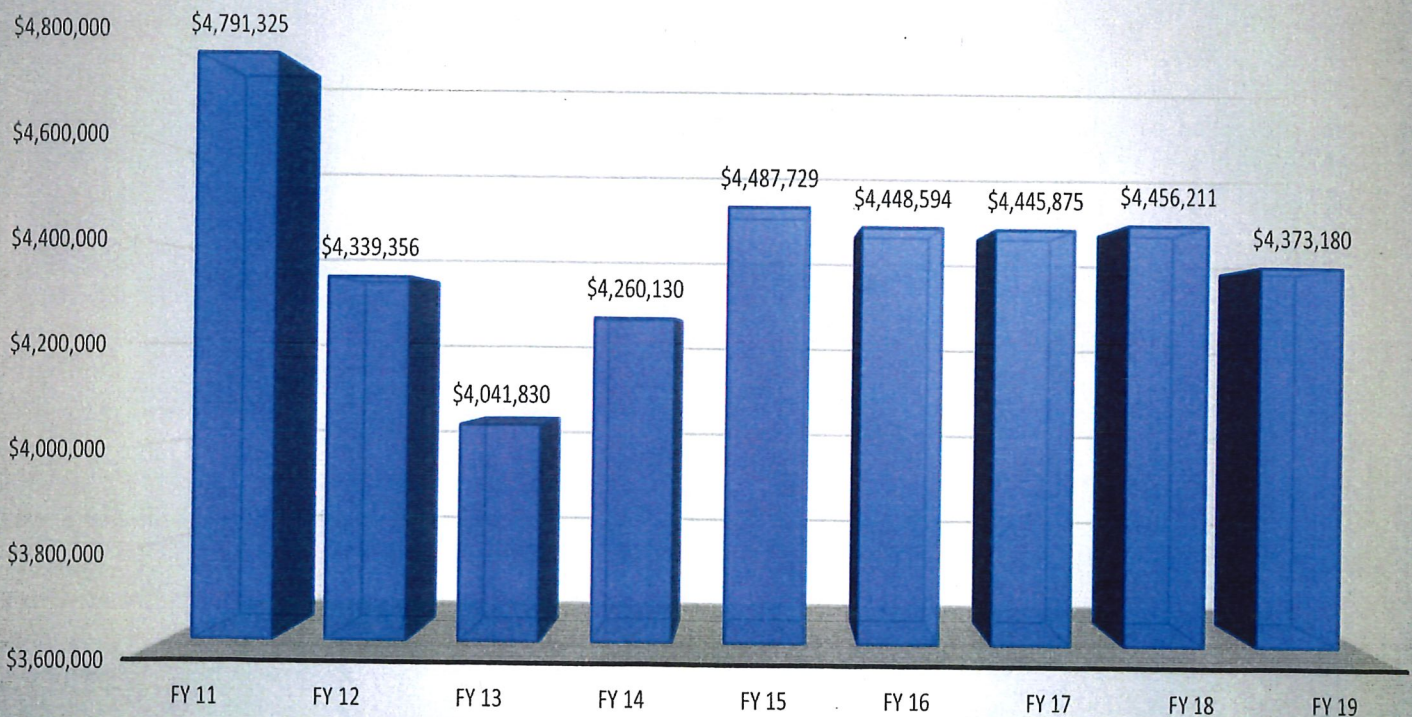
**F**OR ALL OF US, NOVEMBER 6 MARKED THE END OF A LONG CAMPAIGN SEASON. AS YOU know, on November 7, 2018, Mike DeWine was elected as Ohio's new Governor. Now facing DeWine is the inequitable and confusing school funding policy. Two-thirds of all Ohio school districts are not funded based on what the State's funding formula says they should receive. We are one of the fifty (50) schools in Ohio who are not receiving what the formula calculates that we should, which equates to \$2.6 million annually. Other schools are receiving more than they should under the current formula.

Serious efforts to fix this formula have been underway for more than a year. Representatives Robert R. Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson) have overseen a workgroup of superintendents and treasurers seeking to devise a new funding formula.

**"We want all Ontario taxpayers to know that right now is a critical time for the future of our district, our children, and our community,"** says Superintendent Lisa Carmichael. The cuts in state funding began when Ohio started a gradual phase-out of tangible personal property (TPP) tax reimbursements to local school districts. Those allocations will be entirely phased out by 2022, an action that our Board of Education and Administration continue to lobby against.

We want our community to know that right now reflects a critical funding need for Ontario Local Schools! If the State does not fix the way it currently funds our school district, it will dramatically impact our school environment. The State lawmakers have increased school funding; however, Ontario Schools has **NOT** benefitted. In short, we are not receiving the money that is due to us from the State, while other schools are receiving more than they should. As you can see from the graph below, we're receiving **\$418,000 LESS** in total State revenue than we were in FY 2011! This is **NOT** acceptable!

## Total State Revenue





# TIME!

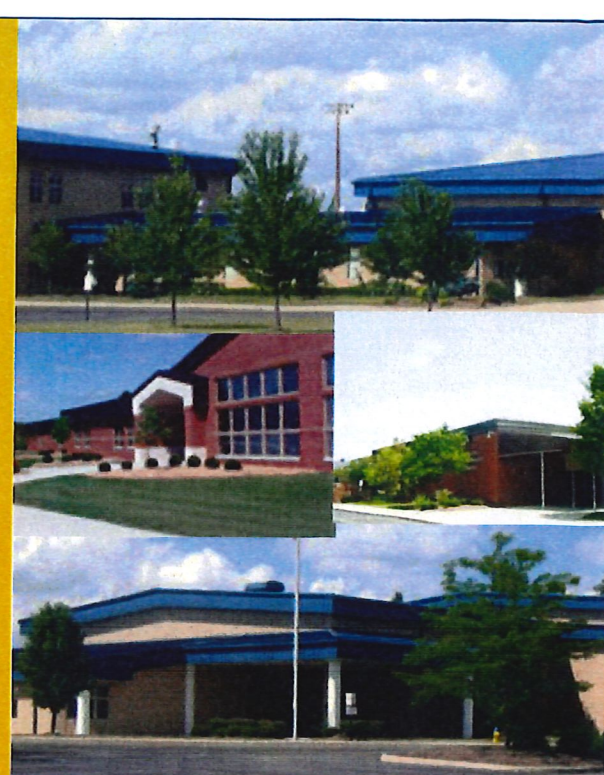
This is a critical time for us right now! The State is currently working to establish their biennium budget (2-year budget) by June 30, 2019. There is more money in the overall budget this time around. It's time for the State to honor their obligation and give Ontario Schools the funds that are due to us.

Know that School Board Member Attorney Jerod Them has taken a very active role as our legislative liaison. He has visited the State House several times in the last year and a half to lobby on our behalf. Jerod is meaningfully engaging in the Ohio legislature's biennium budgeting process.

Additionally, our district recently joined a coalition led by Paul Craft, Superintendent of Delaware City Schools. Our coalition has secured legal representation with Attorney Steve Cuckler who will lead the charge for the combined efforts of the fifty (50) school districts who are negatively impacted by the current State funding formula. Our coalition's main focus will be to support meaningful change and rapid progress in the elimination of the use of gain caps (another name for failing to fund the formula) as a component of Ohio's school funding process. We remain hopeful that the solid work being done by the Cupp/Patterson workgroup will either fix the current funding formula or create a new funding plan that will ultimately benefit us. Our coalition will be working hard over the next several months to communicate with elected officials about issues related to the impacts of, and solutions to, the continuation of gain caps in Ohio's school funding system.

We must engage our elected officials during this phase so that our district's needs remain at the forefront of our legislators' minds as they do their work. This will require thousands of community contacts via e-mails and/or letters to our elected representatives.

In summary, we will be asking our resident voters to support a new levy in 2021 or sooner **UNLESS** the State **FULLY FUNDS THEIR SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA** and gives us the money that is owed to us! You're encouraged to contact the legislators and tell them to **FULLY FUND THEIR FORMULA** in their 2019 biennium budget.



*Continue the  
Tradition of  
Pride &  
Excellence*

## HERE IS THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR STATE LEGISLATORS:

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