

**30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trial Court Decision in the DeRolph School Funding Case, July 1, 2024—  
Part 2**

The genesis of the DeRolph School Funding case can be traced back to 1986 during a meeting of the school superintendents in Perry County Ohio. A State Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction attending that meeting was invited to respond to a recurring, grumbling question stated in various ways but in essence: “How do public schools in the rural areas, especially those in Appalachia, get equitable and adequate treatment in school funding?” One of the duties of the State Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction was liaison with the legislature. Based on state-level education experience and local education experience as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in the Appalachia area, the response to the question was, “You need to get organized.”

Those local school district officials accepted that advice and eventually helped lead an effort to create the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS). CORAS was created pursuant to Chapter 167 ORC as a Council of Governments in July 1988. The first efforts of CORAS focused on a cooperative effort to improve educational opportunities for the students in rural Ohio. At the same time, members of CORAS developed some strategies to lobby the legislature for additional state funding. The lobbying efforts to secure greater state resources were disappointing to the group and thus CORAS determined to take another path to be described in a future post.