

Senate Education Committee Chairman recently told Hannah News that he might be introducing his own school funding proposal. Wow!

The development of a public school funding system that will guarantee a funding level to adequately fund all school districts is a tedious, complex task. Those that develop a workable system must be competent in a variety of skillsets. Novices in school funding plans are certain to fail. Each district has a unique set of circumstances which must be considered, such as:

- Square miles of territory
- Density of pupil population
- Income level of residents
- Property valuation per pupil
- Percentage of students with disabilities
- Percentage of disadvantaged students
- Average education level of residents
- Availability of governmental and private services available in the district

The list goes on and on.

Since statehood, Ohio government has made several attempts to adequately fund school districts, and the students they serve.

Some of the more notable attempts to perfect an adequate and equitable system are:

- The common school law of 1825
- The Akron Law of 1847
- The Constitutional Convention of 1850/1851
- Legislation that followed the 1850/1851 Convention
- The Constitutional Convention of 1912
- Legislation that followed the Convention
- The Miller v Kornes school funding Ohio Supreme Court decision in 1923
- The development of the first School Foundation Program in the 1930's
- The development of the Equal Yield School Funding Plan in 1976
- The Cincinnati v Walter Ohio Supreme Court decision in 1979
- The DeRolph School Funding decisions in 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002
- The school rebuilding program during the Taft administration
- The development of the Evidence Based School Funding Model during the Strickland administration
- The development of the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan in the current era

The 136th General Assembly has the notable, historic opportunity to perfect a school funding system that will meet the constitutional standard of thorough and efficient. To accomplish this feat, rank and file members of the 136th General Assembly will have to overcome the naysayers in the leadership ranks of the 136th General Assembly.

The House Speaker has stated that the Cupp/Patterson plan is not sustainable. The influential Senate Education Committee Chair told Hannah News that he might introduce his own plan. Wow! That would be like replacing a winner of the Kentucky Derby with a mule.