

Study mandated by the 135th General Assembly indicates that the cost of educating economically disadvantaged students is 47% more than those who are not disadvantaged.

In recognition of the fact that educating economically disadvantaged students costs more to educate than regular students, Ohio has provided a supplement to the school funding formula for disadvantaged children for more than five decades. The amount of additional funding for economically disadvantaged students has been based not on student need, but on an arbitrary number totally unrelated to the actual cost.

The mandated [study](#) indicates that economically disadvantaged student funding in school year 2023-2024 is \$3,934 per economically disadvantaged student less than required. To correct this shortfall, a single funding weight of 0.4773 for each disadvantaged student is required, according to the study.

In 1980, as an Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, I was involved in a study which concluded that a weight of 0.50 was necessary at that time to adequately fund disadvantaged children. Of course, the legislature rejected the findings of that study. Hopefully, the members of the 136th General Assembly will implement the 0.4773 weight for disadvantaged students.