

History of school funding in Ohio: A series

The history of attempts at adequate, equitable school funding in Ohio is marked by a cycle of valiant attempts to establish a fair and adequate system, followed by a downturn in effort.

The Northwest Ordinances of 1785 and 1787 and the Ohio Constitution have provided the guidance and mandate necessary for state officials in Ohio to perfect a fair and adequate system. Periodically throughout history, there have been those who have led an effort to follow the mandates of the governing documents and establish new mandates as necessary to guarantee a fair and adequate school funding framework for Ohio's youth.

Three Ohio court decisions on school funding have helped to shape the school funding landscape in Ohio as well.

The Northwest Ordinances written by Congress were the governing documents for the residents in the Ohio territory prior to statehood.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1785 mandated that the territory be surveyed into townships of 36 square miles and that such townships shall be marked by subdivisions into lots of one mile square; numbered from 1 to 36. This ordinance required lot 16 (center of the township) in each township to be set aside for the maintenance of public schools.

The next post will start with the education provision of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787.