

History of school funding in Ohio: Strickland Administration developed the Ohio version of the Evidence-Based Model.

Ted Strickland's campaign for Governor emphasized the need to develop a constitutional system of school funding. Candidate Strickland said that he would not consider a term of governor a success if he failed to develop a constitutional system of school funding. With the able assistance of then-Representative Steve Dyer, the Strickland Administration developed the Ohio version of the Evidence-Based school funding model.

Unfortunately, then-Governor Strickland served during the great recession period; hence tax revenue plummeted, which worked against a solution. The Evidence-Based Model, however, could have solved the constitutional issue if it had been maintained as the economy improved. However, the Kasich Administration eliminated the Strickland funding plan with no school funding formula to replace it.

Subsequently, legislators Robert Cupp and John Patterson, via collaboration with a committee of school superintendents and school treasurers, developed the Fair School Funding Plan which had the distinct potential to solve the constitutional issue. The legislature adopted the plan with intent to phase it in over six years.

The next post will review the current school funding situation.