The meaning of Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution: "The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State; but, no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this State." Part 4

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1850/1851, being very displeased with the legislature's education policies and priorities (lack of priority) for an appropriate system of education, set out to craft language that would force the legislative bodies in the future to perfect a high-quality system of public education. Article VI, section 2 begins with "The General Assembly". This article directs not the Governor nor future local districts to act, but the General Assembly. What must the General Assembly do? Make provision by taxation or otherwise, as with income arising from the school trust fund. (The "school trust fund" was discontinued due to no funds in it.) Hence state revenue, which includes various tax sources, including lottery funds and other miscellaneous pools of revenue, can be used for funding public schools. It should be understood that whether "local" taxes are involved or not, the state is directed to fund public schools.

We talk about local and state share in the school funding equation—the school funding formula. The state presumably can require a specified level of local funding, but which entity has the responsibility by constitutional mandate? The General Assembly.

The constitutional standard for education to be provided is the subject of part 5.