



Fast Facts about Public Education in Senate District 26

Ohio lawmakers must prioritize public education. Rural Ohio depends on public schools, and small towns and communities thrive when their public schools are strong.

What is the role of public education in Senate District 26?

More than 47,000 children were enrolled in a public school in District 26 during the 2023-24 school year. They attended 115 different public schools operated by 37 public school districts located in 7 counties.

- Families in District 26 rely on public schools. Between 91% and 98% of students enrolled in public, private or charter schools in each county attend a public school. It is 95% or more in Morrow, Union and Crawford counties.
- Public school enrollment is small, less than 9,000 in every county, making schools vulnerable to reduced funding and programs, and even closing with any loss of population. If a school closes it is devastating to the local economy and community.

How would the Fair School Funding Plan impact opportunities in Senate District 26?

If adopted and fully funded, the Fair School Funding Plan will advance equal educational opportunities in Ohio. The House version and its requirement that districts return any reserves in excess of 30% would leave public schools in serious financial jeopardy.

Proposed Funding:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Funding: FSFP | \$ 143,381,966 |
| Funding: House | \$ <u>10,182,997</u> |
| Difference: | \$ 133,198,969 |

Funding to be returned/spent down by 31 districts: \$184,676,729

Source: Policy Matters Ohio

A strong public school system depends on adequate funding. Well-funded public schools can do so much more for children, communities, and the future of Ohio than schools without resources. Failure to fairly fund public education will continue to push the funding burden down to communities least able to fund rising costs.

We must fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan to strengthen the schools in District 26.

Where do the students in Senate District 26 attend school?

The K-12 education landscape in Ohio provides families many legal education options. Public schools, charter schools and private schools are all eligible for state funding. Access and use of these options varies depending on where you live. Families may homeschool their children or use a form of homeschooling called a nonchartered nonpublic school. Homeschooling is available everywhere.

The following chart shows enrollment data for each county in District 26 for the 2023-24 school year for the three publicly funded options, as well as the number of schools located in each county during the 2024-25 school year.

K-12 Education Options by Ohio County in Senate District 26: Enrollment and Number of Schools by School Type

| County | Public School Enrollment: 2023-24 | Private School Enrollment: 2023-24 | Charter School Enrollment: 2023-24 | Total Enrollment: All Schools | % Public | # Private Schools: 2024-25 | # Charter Schools | # Non-Chartered, Non-public: 2024-25 | Total Non-Public |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Crawford | 5,695 | 140 | 0 | 5,835 | 98% | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Marion | 8,706 | 129 | 691 | 9,526 | 91% | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Morrow | 4,648 | 172 | 92 | 4,912 | 95% | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Sandusky | 8,728 | 508 | 46 | 9,282 | 94% | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Seneca | 7,537 | 440 | 189 | 8,166 | 92% | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Union | 7,765 | 364 | 0 | 8,129 | 96% | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Wyandot | 3,130 | 290 | 0 | 3,420 | 92% | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Note: ODEW does not collect enrollment data for Nonchartered, Nonpublic Schools | | | | | | | | | |

Source: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Reports Portal

46,209 out of 49,270 students in Senate District 26, 94% of all students, attend public school. Not only is public education the primary education resource in every county, but it serves 95% or more of the students in every county. District 26 is noteworthy for the significance of its public schools as an education resource and one that is vulnerable to the loss of students and funds. The best way to improve education opportunities in Ohio is to invest in the public schools that are available in every community, welcome every student, and enrich the quality of life and workforce.

Support the Fair School Funding plan, a funding plan that promotes access to high quality education regardless of the local community's capacity to provide adequate funding.