



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

STRENGTHENING K-12 EDUCATION

Helping Students Everywhere to Be Ready for College and Career Opportunities

Governor John R. Kasich made K-12 reform a priority throughout his eight years in office, enacting policies that empower parents, encourage higher student achievement and focus funds on students' needs in the classroom. Under the Kasich Administration, Ohio invested a record amount in K-12 education, while putting in place key reforms such as the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, an A-to-F School Report Card, new pathways to keep students interested in school and programs to encourage mentorship.

DRIVING FUNDING TO OHIO CLASSROOMS

Every child deserves a high-quality education regardless of where they live, their circumstances or their own unique learning traits. Gov. Kasich worked to help provide all schools, in every Ohio community, with the resources they need so their students can succeed.

- **Record Support for K-12 Education:** The Kasich Administration increased base support to Ohio schools year after year, spending \$1.5 billion more for K-12 education in 2018 than in 2011 – the strongest level ever at nearly \$10.6 billion.
- **Directing Dollars to the Classroom:** Funds are distributed to school districts based in part on the classroom needs of students. This classroom focus is critical to making sure that student achievement—not adults, buildings or equipment—remain Ohio's number one education priority.
- **Encouraging Innovation:** Gov. Kasich created the Straight A Fund to help improve student achievement, increase efficiency and tear down barriers to college and career training. The program sparked a wave of creativity in our schools through dozens of grants, reaching more than 200 school districts and 400,000 students.

EMPOWERING PARENTS

Gov. Kasich sought new reforms to give parents a choice – driving competition and allowing families to find the right, high quality school for their children

- **Expanding Special Needs Scholarships:** To meet the needs of students with special needs, the Kasich Administration worked to provide these families more opportunities. Today, parents of children with special needs who qualify for a scholarship have the choice to send their child to a special education program other than the one operated by their local school district and continue the education and services outlined in the child's individualized education plan.
- **Allowing Parents to Trigger School Restructuring:** When schools fail to meet expectations of Ohio students and their families, they deserve the right to call for change. Under the Columbus City Pilot, parents and guardians were given this power, with the opportunity to reopen the school as a community school, replace personnel who contribute to low performance levels, or coordinate with successful districts or non-profits on ways to maximize effectiveness.

- **Expanded Ed Choice Scholarships**: The Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides students from underperforming public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The program also provides low-income students who are entering kindergarten through 5th grade the same opportunity. The program provides up to 60,000 EdChoice scholarships annually to eligible students.

DELIVERING HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT

Gov. Kasich worked to give parents and taxpayers more robust information and more effective tools to hold their schools and teachers accountable for results and drive student achievement.

- **Third Grade Reading Guarantee**: Designed to identify students from kindergarten through grade three who are behind in reading, the Kasich Administration championed proposals to help schools provide help and support to make sure students are on track for reading success by the end of 3rd grade. As a result, 95 percent of 3rd graders were promoted into the 4th grade in the 2017/18 school year.
- **Increased Funding for High Quality Preschool Opportunities**: Since 2011, Ohio has invested millions of dollars in new resources to reward quality pre-school options for Ohio children. Gov. Kasich doubled the number of preschool opportunities in his first term for economically disadvantaged children by expanding the program from 5,700 to 11,090 children. Today, that number has grown to more than 18,000 children served.
- **Giving Parents a More Honest Assessment of Their Children's Schools**: Ohio developed a new system to measure school performance which assigns A-F grades to all public schools and school districts, providing parents a better understanding of how their child's school is performing and where it can improve.
- **Providing Better Support System for Struggling Schools**: Ohio's support system for academically struggling schools, the Academic Distress Commission system, was not serving our students well. Knowing that students in academically struggling schools couldn't wait, Gov. Kasich worked with the Ohio General Assembly to develop reforms that grant significant new powers and responsibilities to the state's academic distress commissions. Among key provisions is a call for an appointed chief executive officer who can lead each district's reform efforts. These reforms are providing new tools to help students succeed in the Youngstown City School District and Lorain City Schools.
- **Tackling Education Reform in Cleveland**: With more than 30,000 children in its failing schools, Gov. Kasich worked with the City of Cleveland to enable Cleveland's schools to improve standards, reward, retain and recruit high-quality educators, and increase school autonomy and accountability.
- **Strengthening Oversight and Accountability of Ohio's Charter Schools**: Gov. Kasich championed reforms to dramatically increase oversight and accountability for all charter schools and their sponsors. Ohio now holds charter sponsors to a strong set of standards based on quality practices to ensure the sponsored schools help students grow academically and comply with state law. Ohio's focus on quality choice options for students is strengthened by the state's ability to revoke the right of the poorest-rated sponsors to authorize and oversee schools, while clamping down on low-performing schools by making it harder for poor-performing charters to switch sponsors.
- **Encouraging Innovation through Waivers**: Ohio developed new guidelines to allow the state superintendent of public instruction to grant additional waivers from state testing and teacher evaluation requirements in order to implement new, innovative educational programs in schools.

- **Implementing New Quality Ratings for Early Childhood Programs:** Ohio created the Step Up To Quality system, a five-star quality rating and improvement system to recognize and promote learning and develop programs which meet quality program standards exceeding licensing health and safety regulations. These steps have resulted in improved outcomes for early childhood programs and increased clarity for parents in school selection.

IMPROVING SCHOOL SAFETY

Under Gov. Kasich's leadership, Ohio took important steps to further enhance the safety of our students – and provide greater peace of mind to their parents.

- **Investing \$18 Million to Improve Safety and Security in Ohio's Schools:** Gov. Kasich worked with the Ohio General Assembly to invest \$18 million to help improve security in Ohio schools. This investment includes \$15.7 million to fund school-building security upgrades through the Ohio School Facilities Construction Commission, helping nearly 3,400 public schools improve building security and/or purchase emergency radio equipment. Private schools received additional funds to help enhance their security.
- **Ensuring Stronger School Safety Plans:** Gov. Kasich worked to require all Ohio schools to submit comprehensive emergency management plans. These plans are reviewed by security experts who provide guidance and assistance to schools to implement best practices and improve the safety of their schools. Additionally, schools are required to review their plans each year and conduct emergency training drills so students and teachers can practice what to do in the case of a real emergency.
- **Keeping Ohio's Schools Safe:** To ensure that a single organization was charged with overseeing student safety from preschool to college, the state created the Center for P-20 Safety and Security to review the school safety plans and keep track of the anonymous tips.

INCREASING FLEXIBILITY

Gov. Kasich worked to increase flexibility to allow school leaders to innovate and succeed.

- **Expanding Teach for America's Impact:** Through revised licensure, Teach for America teachers are now able to achieve certification for classrooms across the state.
- **Creating New Standards for Blended and Online Learning:** New standards for Blended and Online Learning were created for students to demonstrate proficiency of knowledge or skills through competency-based learning models rather than a minimum number of days or hours in a classroom or on a digital learning device.
- **Offering Flexibility for School Hours:** Traditional school districts, joint vocational school districts and chartered nonpublic schools are now accountable for a minimum number of hours of instruction instead of a minimum number of school days each year.

ENSURING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Knowing that creating these pathways is an essential part of any education is a vision for the future, the Kasich Administration has consistently designed and fostered reforms to keep students engaged in school and ensure they are ready for college and careers. .

- **A Continued Commitment to Mentoring:** Gov. Kasich created Community Connectors to bring together parents, schools, communities, faith and value-based groups, and businesses to encourage more mentorship. As a result, Ohio now has programs in 69 counties involving more 100,000 students.
- **Getting More High School Students Access to College-Level Credit (College Credit Plus):** Gov. Kasich championed reforms to help more high schools offer college-level credit – and get more teachers qualified to teach these courses – in order to help students get a jump start on college at no cost. As a result, more than 71,000 high school students have taken Ohio college classes over the 2017-2018 academic year, earning college credit while meeting their high school graduation requirements and collectively saving nearly \$139 million on the cost of higher education. Since its launch in 2015, College Credit Plus has saved Ohio students and their families more than \$407 million in higher education costs.
- **Proactive Guidance for Students at Risk:** Through early identification, schools can encourage and advise students at-risk of not completing high school identify goals and opportunities after completion, including career programs and other resources to ensure they have an opportunity for a successful life after graduation.
- **Fostering Career Visions and Frameworks:** Through Career Connections, schools now offer practical ways for teachers, school counselors, families and community members to show students, as early as in kindergarten, the types of jobs possible for them. Connecting what the students are learning and where it can lead them has led to schools developing programs that will help Ohio build a pipeline of workers who are qualified to meet our state’s greatest workforce needs.
- **Expanding Access to Vocational and Technical Education:** Gov. Kasich made Ohio’s high-quality network of technical and vocational education available to students beginning in the 7th grade, giving more Ohio students a jumpstart on career education.
- **Helping Ohio Adults without Diplomas Get Back on Track:** Under Gov. Kasich, Ohio created opportunities for adults who want to receive a high school diploma, rather than an equivalent such as the GED. The Adult Diploma program allows adults to earn a high school diploma coupled with an industry-recognized credential aligned with an in-demand job. As a result, more than 1,300 adult Ohioans have completed this program. An additional 1,300 graduates have earned diplomas through the similar Adult 22+ program.
- **Adding Fast-Track Adult Technical Programs:** With one-year programs, graduates of Ohio Technical Centers who complete a 900-hour program of study can obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor to receive 30 college technical credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in an institution of higher education.
- **Preparing Students for Today’s Workplace and for Jobs of the Future:** At Gov. Kasich’s request, the Executive Workforce Board recommended 58 strategies for preparing and continuously retraining Ohioans of all ages for the jobs of today and the future. These recommendations constitute three main themes: 1) connecting business and education; 2) creating a culture of continuous learning; and 3) building alternative career pathways for students and job seekers.

