

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019**

## **Householder: School Funding Plan Needs Work, Might Not Make It Into Budget**

An ambitious House proposal to overhaul Ohio's school funding system likely will have to be developed outside of the budget process, **Speaker Larry Householder** said Tuesday.

If the plan is kept out of the budget (**HB 166**), the House could instead make some tweaks to **Gov. Mike DeWine**'s school funding proposal, according to the Glenford Republican.

The new funding plan developed by **Rep. Robert Cupp** (R-Lima) and **Rep. John Patterson** (D-Jefferson) drew concerns from officials at impoverished urban and rural districts as it was vetted in a subcommittee chaired by the two lawmakers over the past few weeks. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2019**)

Speaker Householder said in an interview Tuesday he believes the proposal "needs a lot of work" and might not be ready for inclusion in the budget.

"I'm starting to really have concerns about whether or not we can get there," he said. "I've got some very big concerns about the impact it has on urban poor and rural poor schools. I don't see enough of a difference on the equity side, trying to make the funding levels equitable. I think there are things we can do to make it better, but I'm not sure that we can do them within the time constraints that we have with this budget."

The House could make other changes to the current system rather than undertake a complete overhaul in this budget, the speaker said.

"We're continuing to work on it, but I think we have other options out there as far as trying to move forward with the governor's plan or something that the House would like in terms of funding, and then continuing to work on the Cupp-Patterson plan going forward," he said.

Speaker Householder also said he isn't worried about restraining General Revenue Fund spending increases under the 3.5% annual growth rate as mandated by a 2006 "tax expenditure limitation" law. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, June 5, 2006**)

"You have to adjust as you're going through the process, and we'll adjust for those things that we have to stay within guidelines," he said.

The speaker said House members submitted nearly 2,000 proposed amendments to the budget bill last week that leaders are working through.

One area in which he expects changes in the House version is oversight for Medicaid managed care plans and their pharmacy benefit managers. The House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services discussed those issues with plans last week. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2019**)

"We're looking for greater transparency as far as the MCOs and the PBMs are concerned," he said. "We're going to take a really good, strong look at them. I think the subcommittee did some excellent work and I think you're going to see us make an effort to try to bring about some oversight as far as that's concerned."

In general, he praised the governor's budget proposal.

"Overall, I think Gov. DeWine has a pretty positive budget moving forward for the state of Ohio, and I think there need to be a few changes, but I think he's introduced a pretty good plan," he said. "We just need to put the House stamp on it with some changes we want to see made."

# Speaker Has Concerns About New School Funding Formula

By [KAREN KASLER](#) • APR 4, 2019

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*Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) talks to reporters after the transportation budget deal was reached.*

DANIEL KONIK

A new school funding formula from two state representatives is getting a lot of attention. But while the House Speaker calls the existing formula a “disaster”, he says the new one isn’t a done deal.



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0:59

If fully funded over two years, [the new formula](#) would cost just over \$1 billion more than the current K-12 budget.

But Speaker Larry Householder said he’s concerned about flat funding for 71 districts, where two thirds of the students are economically disadvantaged.

"I'm always going to have a lot of concerns for poor school districts, whether they're urban or rural. And I think there's been a plight for a lot of years over trying to educate poor students," Householder said.

The three districts with [the worst student performance index scores](#) – Dayton, East Cleveland and Youngstown – got no increase in funding.

The formula also awards triple digit percentage increases in funding for five districts, including the wealthy Olentangy Local Schools in Delaware, which had a student performance index that was twice as high as Dayton's.

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By [KAREN KASLER](#) • APR 5, 2019

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OHIO HOUSE

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Householder has previously expressed reservations of direct state funding of charter schools, which the new funding formula calls for.

# Ohio House speaker says school funding overhaul plan probably won't be part of budget

Posted Apr 18, 10:26 AM



Ohio House  
Speaker  
Larry  
Householder  
says a  
school  
funding  
overhaul  
plan  
probably will  
be dealt with  
separately  
from the  
operating  
budget that  
lawmakers

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must  
approve by

the end of  
June.

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**By [The Associated Press](#)**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The leader of the Ohio House says a proposed overhaul of the state's school funding system probably will have to be handled separately from the state budget due by the end of June.

Lawmakers are considering two proposals for school funding increases. Reps. Bob Cupp and John Patterson proposed the big overhaul. Republican Gov. Mike DeWine proposed \$550 million in new funding targeted toward higher-poverty areas.



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GOP Speaker Larry Householder tells Gongwer news service he's concerned about how equitable the Cupp-Patterson plan would be and how it would affect poor urban and rural schools. Householder says it needs work but he's not sure that can be done by the budget deadline.

He says lawmakers can keep working on that while considering DeWine's proposal or lesser funding changes in the meantime.