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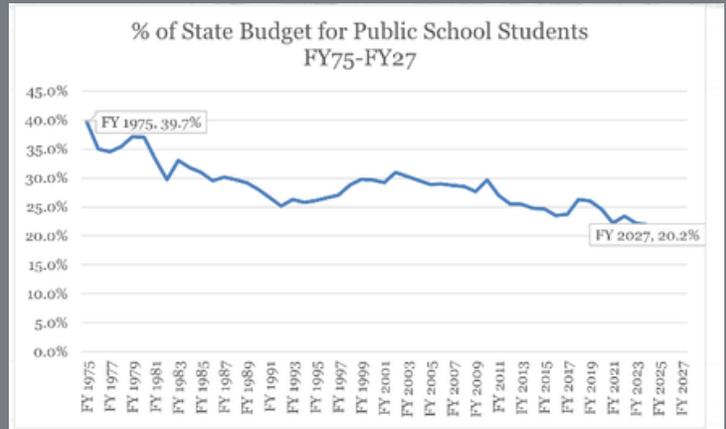
# UNDERSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES & SCHOOL FUNDING

## HENRY COUNTY COMMUNITY,

In our last message, we highlighted the strain on our community from a school funding system that relies too heavily on local property taxes. Today, we want to share additional data. This isn't about eliminating property taxes, which have long supported local schools and public services. This is about balance. Over the past few decades, a significant shift has occurred, moving the financial responsibility away from the state and onto our local communities.

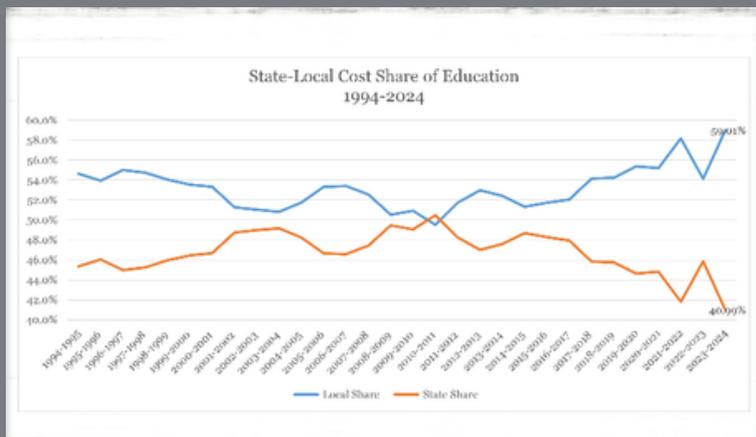
## THE STATE'S EVOLVING ROLE

A look at Ohio's state budget shows a clear trend. The state has steadily decreased the priority of K-12 public education in its budget, meaning a smaller piece of the pie is dedicated to students. In 1975, nearly 40% of the state's budget was dedicated to K-12 students. By 2027, that share is projected to be cut in half, dropping to just 20%. As the state's share shrinks, local communities are asked to fill a growing funding gap.



## WHAT THIS SHIFT MEANS FOR YOU

This trend isn't just a chart- it has a direct impact on our wallets here in Henry County and across Ohio. When the state's share decreases, local communities must make up the difference. Ohioans paid \$5.1 billion more in property taxes in 2024 than in 2010. That is an increase of 43% above the rate of inflation. This data clearly shows the financial burden is being shifted from the state to local property taxpayers.



## RESTORING A FAIR PARTNERSHIP

We are returning to a funding model that has already been proven to be unfair and unsustainable. We are now at approximately the same level of local property tax reliance that the Ohio Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional during the DeRolph v. State case. The court's order was clear: the state must reduce this very reliance on local property taxes. Just over a decade ago (in the 2010-11 school year), the state contributed more to education than local sources for the first time on record. We have, unfortunately, lost that balance.

## THE PATH AHEAD

The solution is not to eliminate a single source of funding. The solution is to restore a fair partnership where the state of Ohio fulfills its constitutional role as the primary funder of public education. We remain committed to working with our state leaders to find a balanced solution that provides stability for our students and meaningful relief for our local taxpayers. Thank you for being an informed and engaged part of this critical conversation.