

Activity for Local Schools, from *Know Your Ohio Government*

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to....

- understand how school districts are governed
- explain how public education is funded
- identify their school/district leadership
- describe current issues surrounding their school/district
- conduct individual research
- address and write a letter to educational leadership

Read

Before beginning this activity, read chapter 10 of *Know Your Ohio Government: Local Schools* (p. 92-100)

Listen

After reading, listen to the [Understanding Ohio's School Funding Formula](#) episode of Education Matters, a Podcast by the Ohio Education Association.

Discuss

In a group of 3-4, spend 10-15 minutes discussing the following (one person in each group should take notes):

- Share what you learned about how schools are governed and funded
- Is there anything that was surprising to you?
- After the reading and listening activity, were you able to draw any connections between school funding
- As a group determine an issue in your school/district's governing or funding that you would like to see improved.

Homework

Based on the issue your group would like to see improved, find what entity could change or resolve this issue (Ohio's executive branch, the Ohio House Education Committee, Your school board, the State Board of Education, Your Superintendent, Your School Treasurer, etc.). Record why you believe this person is responsible for the issue and find out how you can contact them.

Group Activity

Reconvene in your groups and share your findings. After everyone has shared, determine who is responsible for the issue. If you are unsure, consult your teacher. As a group, draft a letter to that person/board/committee. Have one group member either mail or email the letter.