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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 43**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 43's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Reported by House Education

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Fowler Arthur

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Patrick Campbell, Budget Analyst

### **Highlights**

- The bill allows Ashtabula Area City School District to continue to receive state foundation aid payments in FY 2026 without meeting up to 24 of the required minimum hours of instruction for Ashtabula Lakeside High School for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill waives up to 24 of the required minimum hours of course instruction for Ashtabula Lakeside High School for the 2024-2025 school year, as a result of the building being unusable due to winter weather damage and the declaration of a state of emergency. While the building is undergoing repairs, the Ashtabula Area City School District has temporarily relocated students attending the school to other buildings. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to grant Ashtabula City School District with flexibility to grant high school diplomas to twelfth grade students based on each student's level of competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction.

Under continuing law, school districts can only receive state funding via foundation aid payments if all their buildings meet the requirement for minimum hours of instruction in the preceding fiscal year. Without the waiver provided by the bill, Ashtabula Area City School District may not receive foundation aid payments in FY 2026. Additionally, the waiver effectively means the district does not need to add additional days to the school year, and incur the costs of doing so, to meet the instructional time requirements for foundation aid and graduating seniors.