



## School officials eye Medicaid money

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

There is a sizable amount of money up for grabs in Columbus that is being eyed by school officials, including a particularly vocal Sam Reynolds. Reynolds was part of a press conference this morning in the state capitol to rally for support of using the \$400 million to help fund schools. The "extra" money is based on projected savings from a Medicaid expansion that Governor Kasich took to the State Controlling Board, rather than the legislature. Reynolds says offering the money to schools would be nice, but he won't call it "extra."

"It should be used to cover the cost that they have put on local school systems," said Reynolds.

Reynolds says changes in special education requirements and testing all come at a cost and that cost is not provided by the state. Reynolds says that, for example, students are being required to take state assessments on a computer, but Manchester can't afford the computers it would need to administer the tests.

"I think you've got to talk to your legislators," Reynolds. "I think they need to know that public schools are important to communities, that public schools are extremely important."

[Innovation Ohio](#) released a report that shows the "what if's." Among them: Akron Public Schools would get about \$9.6 million if the Medicaid money was distributed among school districts. The report also suggests that \$400 million dollars could double funding for things like transportation, gifted programs, K-3 literacy programs, pay for all-day Kindergarten in most poor areas as well as raise funding levels for special needs children.

Innovation Ohio and Reynolds were partially reacting to a statement made by State Senator Chris Widener, suggesting the money be used to fund an income tax cut and mentioning that \$400 million would have a "minimal impact" on schools.

**Original article:** <http://www.akronnewsnow.com/news/local/item/138391-school-officials-eye-medicaid-money>