



NON-PUBLIC / PRIVATE SCHOOLING IN OHIO

with regional emphasis on Appalachia

A Study about School Choice

- ✓ Maps / Infographics
- ✓ Schools Per County
- ✓ Counties with Zero, Limited, Average, and Adequate School Choice
- ✓ Populations Per School
- ✓ Public School District Results Overall Rating, County Averages



Introduction / Purpose

Ritton Family Foundation and Par Mar Stores have for many years awarded scholarships to college and trade school bound high-school graduates throughout Appalachia. We wish to appreciate and recognize students' time and commitment to learning. Academic scholarship awards, particularly those given to children who come from less than ideal circumstances, encourage them to desire and continue educational pursuit.

Because Par Mar Stores are located largely in rural and small-towns, we sought to identify rural and small-town primary and secondary (K-12) schools which might have students in need of tuition assistance.

The following infographics / maps were prepared to help us better understand the tuition-charging, K-12, private school landscape throughout the State of Ohio. While identifying these schools, we made some interesting observations. Unfortunately, as it turns out, there just are NOT that many such schools, particularly in Appalachia.



114-A Westview Avenue
Marietta, Ohio 45750



Methodology

There are nine maps in this group of color infographics. The maps are numbered I-IX in the top right corner. All info relates to the 2022-23 school year.

- ▶ The first three maps relate to what the State of Ohio terms “Chartered Non-Public Schools” per Ohio county. These are more familiarly known as “traditional private schools” (Catholic, Jewish, nonsectarian, Lutheran, etc.) and are referred to as such from here on.
- ▶ The next three maps relate to Non-chartered Non-tax supported schools, per Ohio county. Schools operating under this State of Ohio terminology are, functionally, educational co-ops created by families and groups opting out of the state-run education systems for various reasons. They are also known as “508” or “08” schools, referring to the section of state law under which they were created.
- ▶ Maps XII and XIII show the total number of all tuition-charging private schools combined (traditional private schools plus Non-chartered Non-tax supported) schools in Ohio, per county and by population.
- ▶ Map IX shows Ohio’s Public schools’ district Overall Rating county averages.

There are 88 counties in Ohio. 56 counties in the north and west, and 32 counties in the south and east which have been deemed Appalachian. The yellow line running from the SW to NE in many of these “508” maps illustrate, that divide.

The lists of traditional private schools and schools used to determine the #, per county can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website, as referenced at the bottom of the infographics.

Ohio’s Public schools Report Card data can be reviewed on the Ohio Department of Education website, as referenced.

Population per Ohio county data comes from the 2021 American Community Survey.



Map I

CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PER OHIO COUNTY

This map shows 11 out of 88 (12% of the) counties in Ohio have ZERO traditional private schools.

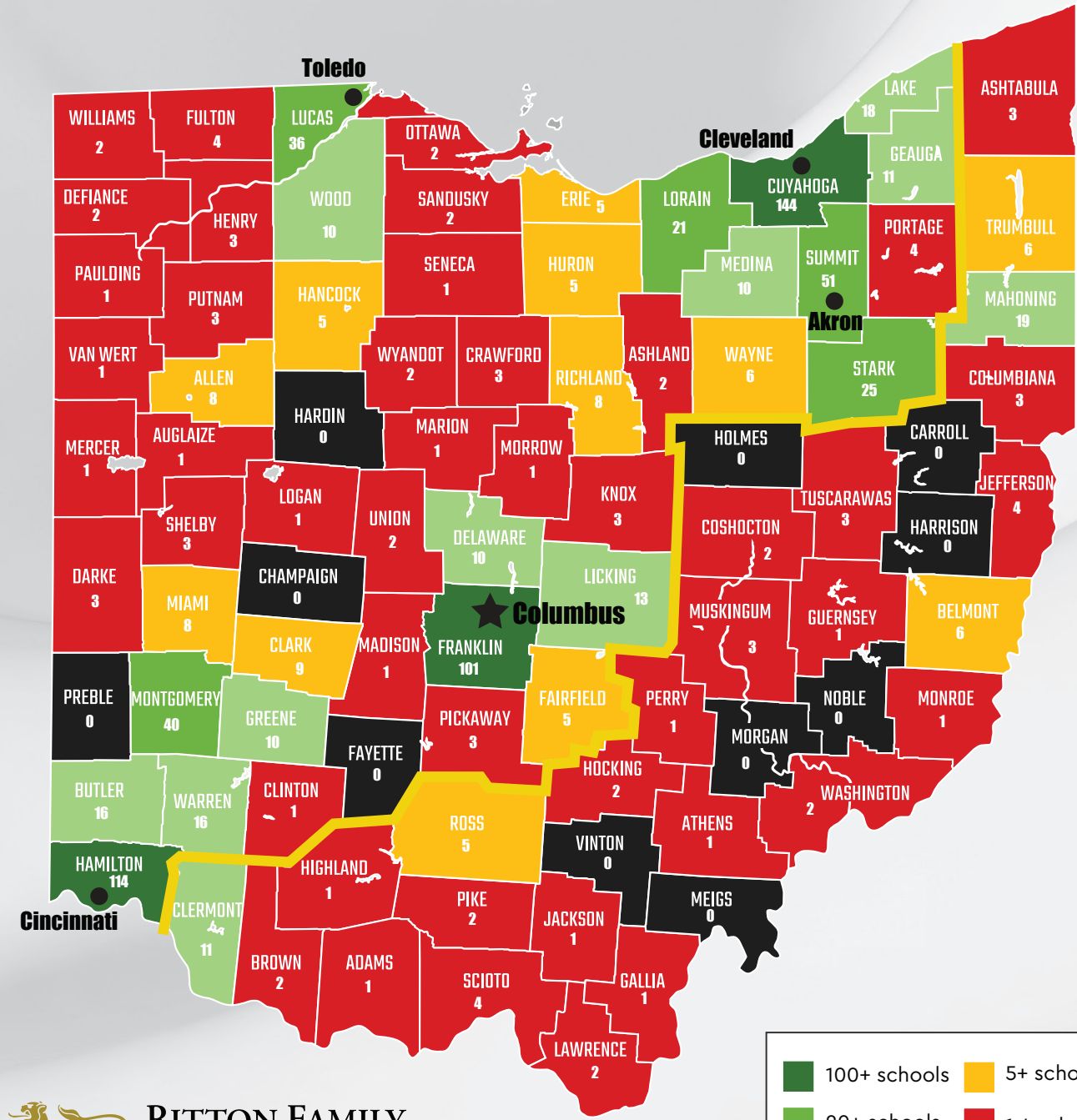
The counties with the highest number of traditional private schools are Cuyahoga (144), Hamilton (114), and Franklin (101) - as might be expected given they include the state's 2nd (Cleveland), 3rd (Cincinnati) and 1st (Columbus) largest cities.

Appalachia as whole contains far fewer traditional private schools compared with the rest of the state. Most of Appalachia Ohio contains fewer than 5 such schools per county, and only 2 out of 32 counties have more than six traditional private schools.

	# of traditional private schools (%)
56 Non-Appalachian Counties	759 (89.5%)
32 Appalachia Counties	89 (10.5%)
88 Counties	848 schools

CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PER OHIO COUNTY

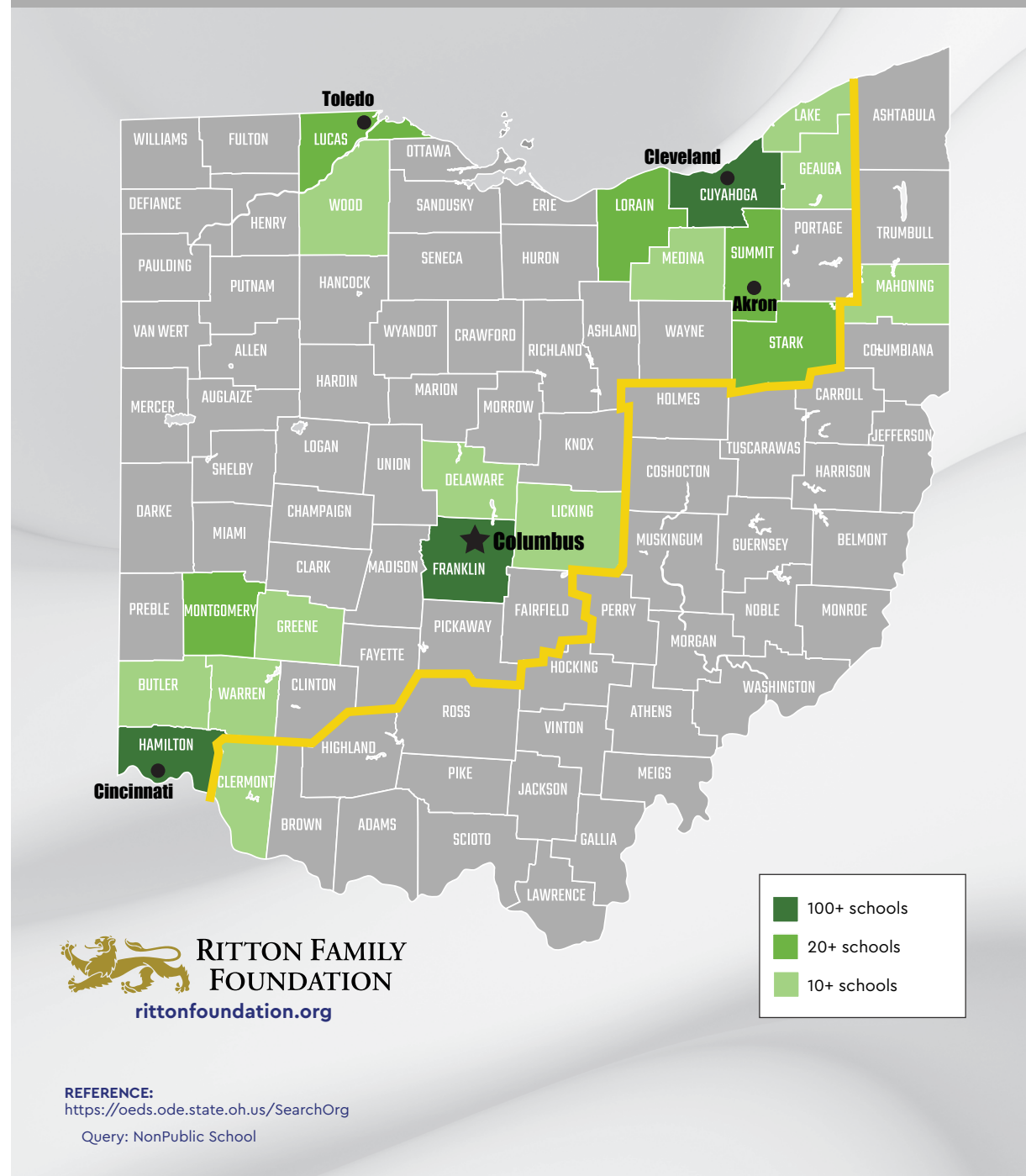
I



REFERENCE:
<https://oeds.ode.state.oh.us/SearchOrg>
 Query: NonPublic School

CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS, OHIO COUNTIES WITH ADEQUATE CHOICE

II



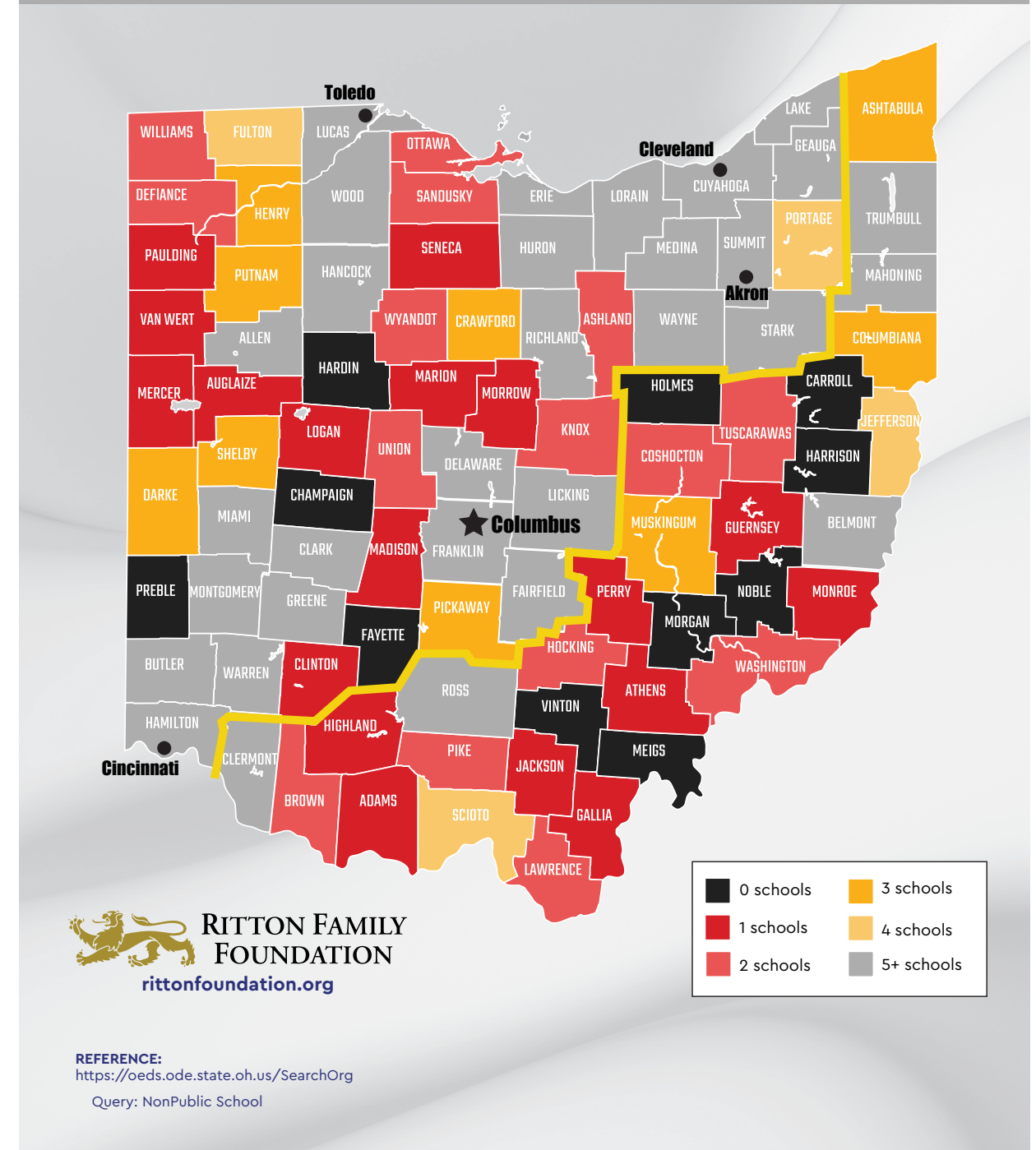
MAP II

Illustrating the same data in Map I differently, this map shows Ohio's counties with seemingly adequate traditional private school choice.

Only two out of thirty-two Appalachia counties – Mahoning and Clermont have 10+ traditional private schools.

CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS, OHIO COUNTIES WITH LIMITED CHOICE

III

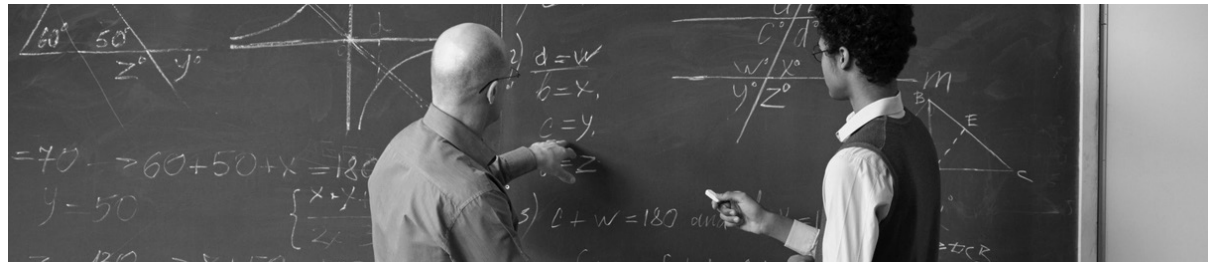


MAP III

Again, differently illustrating the same data, this map shows Ohio's counties with limited or ZERO traditional private school options. Fifty-seven of Ohio's counties (65%, basically 2/3rds) contain 4 or less traditional private schools. Eleven of Ohio's counties have ZERO traditional private schools.

12.5% of all Ohio counties, the majority in Appalachia, do not contain a single traditional private school. Seven of the eleven Zero-choice counties are in Appalachia (8% of all Ohio counties).

Also, 17 of Ohio's 88 counties (19%) contain just one traditional private school. In Appalachia, there are 8 counties with just one traditional private school.



Map IV

NON-CHARTERED NON-TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS PER OHIO COUNTY

The total number of Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools in Ohio (511) is smaller than the total number of traditional private schools (848). Traditional private school numbers range from 0 up to 144 (Cuyahoga) per county. Non-chartered, Non-tax supported school numbers range from 0 to just 45 (Franklin) per county.

Only a handful of counties contain more than 10 Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools. All of those counties are located outside of Appalachia Ohio.

There are 16 out of 88 Ohio counties (18%) that have ZERO Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools.

Appalachia as whole contains far fewer Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools compared with the rest of the state.

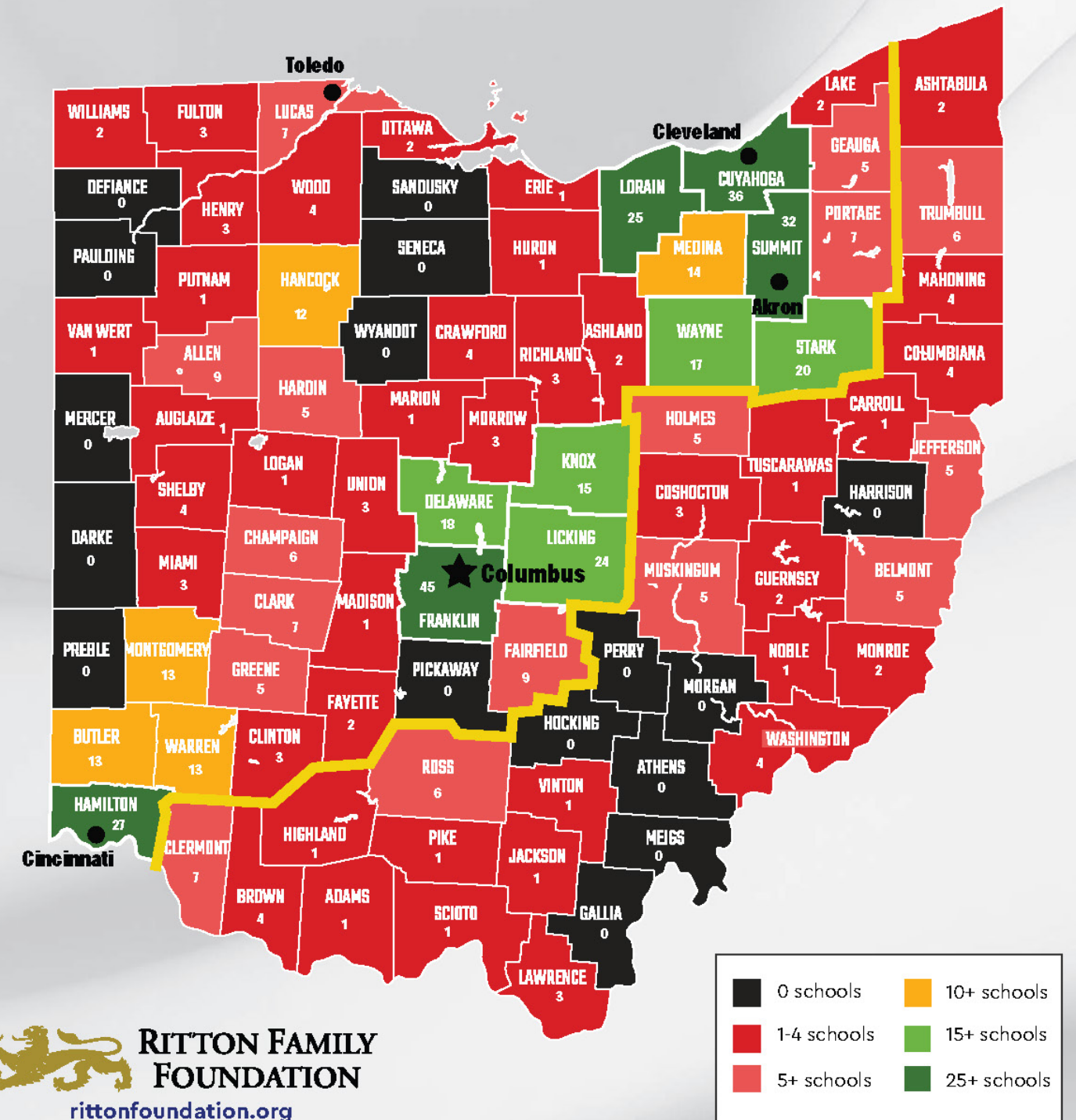
	# of Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools (%)
56 Non-Appalachian Counties	447 (87.5%)
32 Appalachia Counties	64 (12.5%)
88 Counties	511 schools

Mahoning, Columbiana, and Scioto counties, which are among the largest populations in Appalachia, have only 4, 4 and 1 Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools.

Also, 16 out of 32 Appalachia Ohio counties (50%) have either ZERO Non-chartered, Non-Tax supported school choice or just one such school choice.

NON-CHARTERED, NON-TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS PER OHIO COUNTY

IV

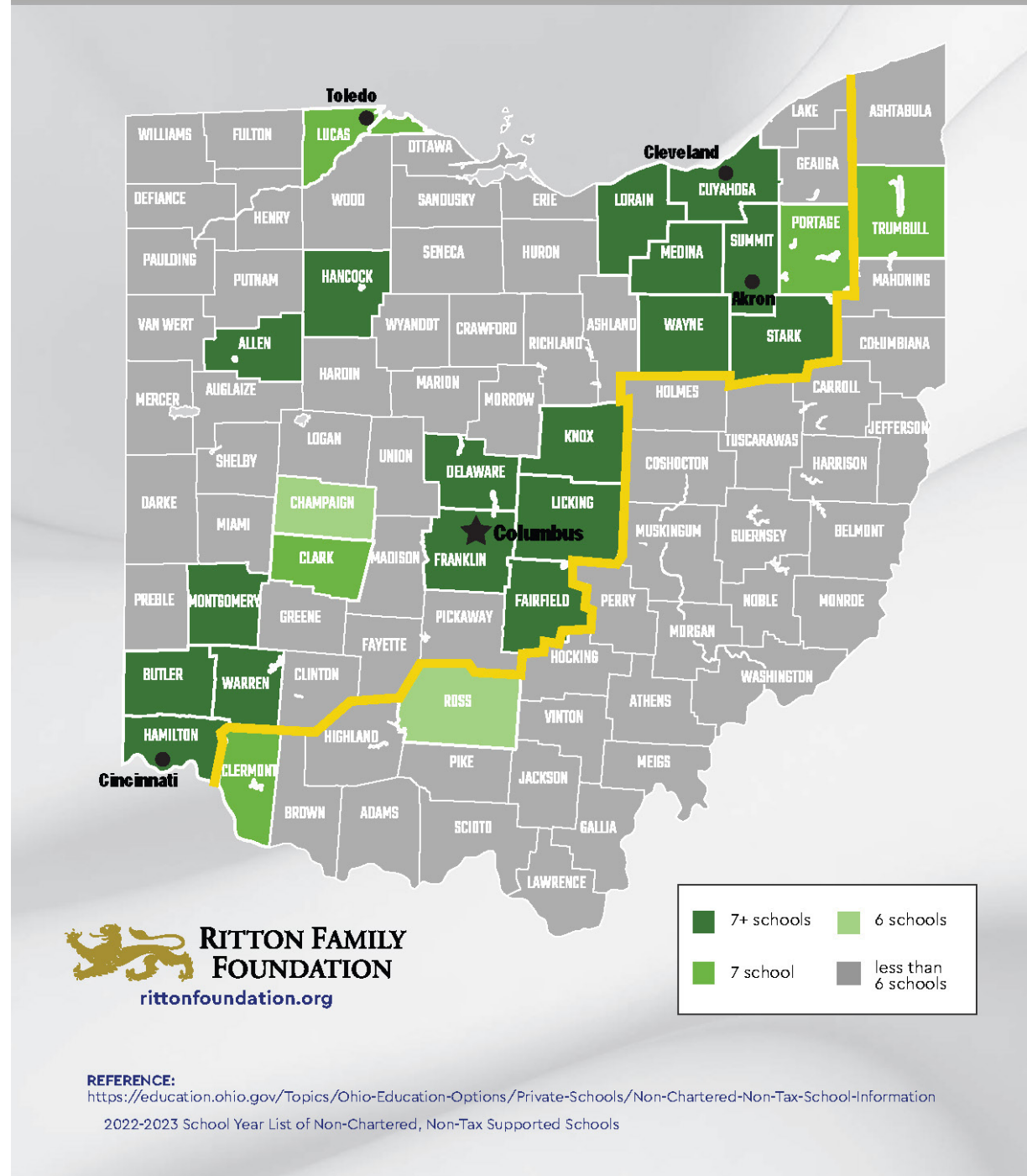


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REFERENCE:
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-Education-Options/Private-Schools/Non-Chartered-Non-Tax-School-Information>
 2022-2023 School Year List of Non-Chartered, Non-Tax Supported Schools

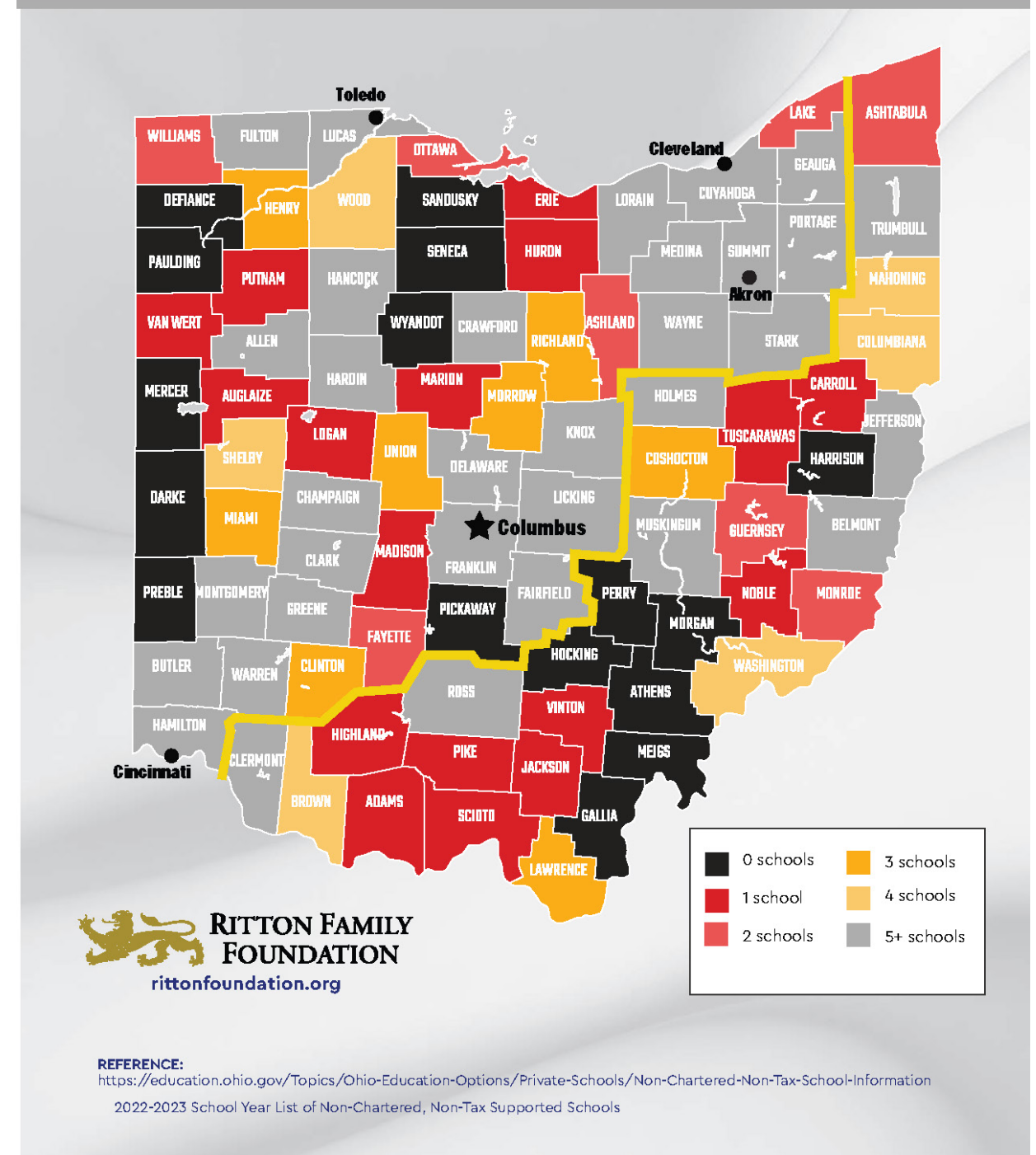
NON-CHARTERED, NON-TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS OHIO COUNTIES WITH ADEQUATE CHOICE

V



NON-CHARTERED, NON-TAX SUPPORTED SCHOOLS OHIO COUNTIES WITH LIMITED CHOICE

VI



MAP V

Out of the 88 counties in Ohio, 65 counties (basically ¾ of all counties) have five or fewer Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools.

The average # of all Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools in the 23 “adequate” choice counties is essentially fifteen schools per county (278 schools / 23 counties = 14.9).

Only 3 of 32 counties in Appalachia Ohio have 6 or 7 such schools – Clermont, Ross and Trumbull, which are three of the largest county populations in Appalachia.

MAP VI

Out of the 88 counties in Ohio, 65 counties have five or fewer Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools. The average # of all Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools in these 65 limited choice counties is approximately four schools per county (233 schools / 65 counties = 3.6).

17 of the 88 counties in Ohio (19%, basically 1/5th of Ohio's counties) contain only one Non-chartered, Non-tax supported school. In Appalachia, there are 9 counties with just one such school choice.

16 of the 88 counties in Ohio (18%) have ZERO Non-chartered, Non-tax supported schools. In Appalachia there are 7 counties with ZERO such schools.



Map VII

TUITION-CHARGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS* PER OHIO COUNTY (WITH POPULATION)

This map introduces two new sets of data: (a) the population of each Ohio county, and (b) the total number of tuition-charging schools (traditional private schools plus Non-chartered Non-tax supported schools combined) in each county.

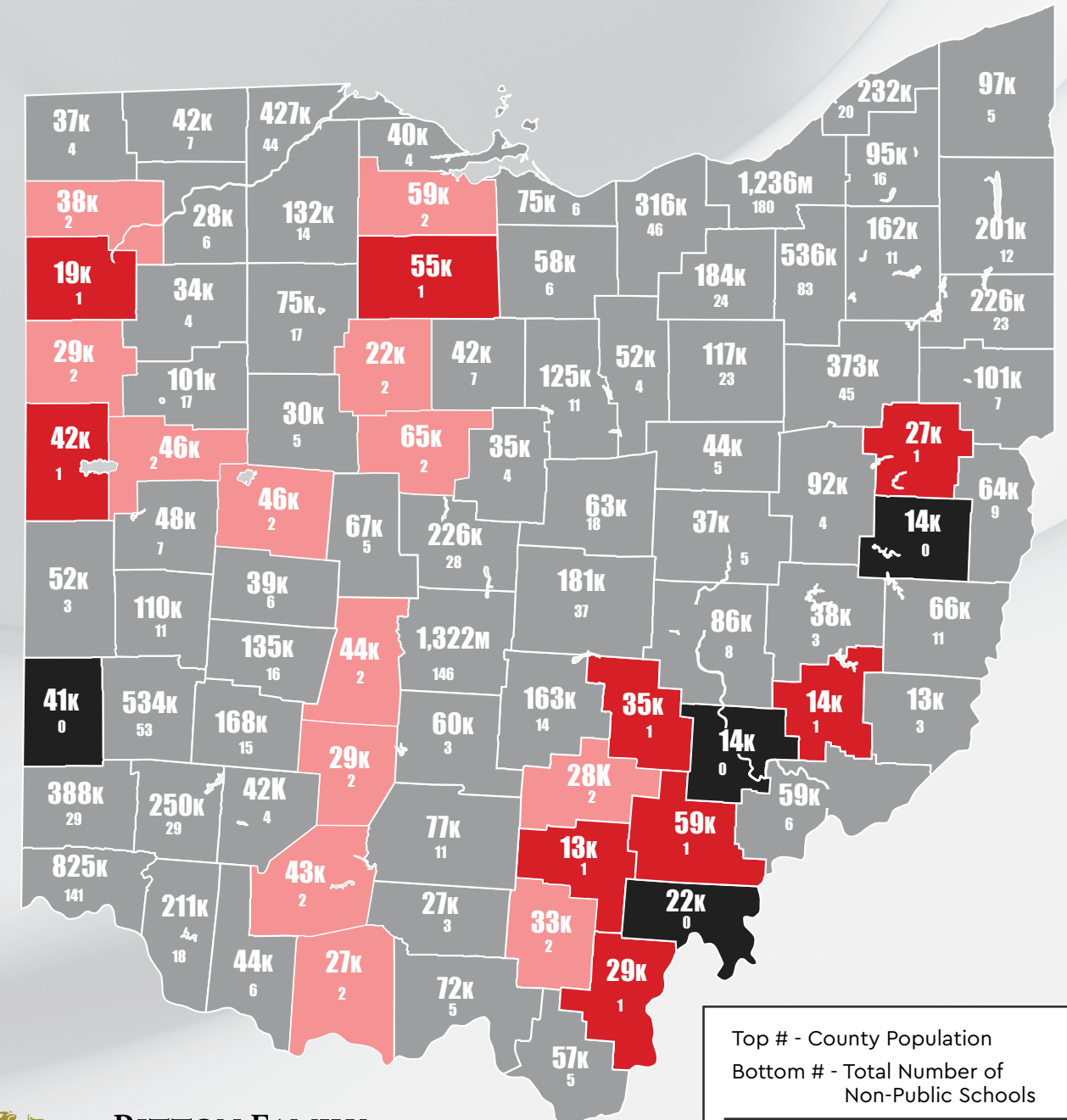
Obviously larger populations are centered around Ohio's larger cities, including Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, and Dayton. Outside of these areas, in rural and small-town Ohio, there are:

- ▶ 4 counties with ZERO tuition-charging schools,
- ▶ 9 counties with just one tuition-charging school, and
- ▶ 13 counties with only two tuition-charging schools.

So, twenty-six Ohio counties (30%) have ZERO or very limited non-public school choice, based merely on lack in number of tuition-charging schools.

TUITION-CHARGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS* PER OHIO COUNTY (WITH POPULATION)

VII



Top # - County Population
Bottom # - Total Number of Non-Public Schools

- No School Choice
- One School Choice
- Two School Choice

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rittonfoundation.org

REFERENCE:
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-Education-Options/Private-Schools/>
<https://oeds.ode.state.oh.us/SearchOrg>
https://www.ohio-demographics.com/counties_by_population

*Chartered Non-Tax Supported plus Non-Chartered Non-Tax Supported Schools

Map VIII

POPULATION (IN THOUSANDS) PER TUITION-CHARGING SCHOOL, EACH OHIO COUNTY

This map combines the data presented in Map VII. The population of each county was divided by the total number of tuition-charging schools in that county. These sums show the approximate number of persons (in thousands) per non-public school.

Without suggesting that it is an appropriate measure of the “right” population # per school, the average population per tuition-charging private school across the state is 16.76 (approximately 17,000 people per school). Note that four Ohio counties – Harrison, Meigs, Morgan and Preble (representing 91,000 people when added together) have ZERO tuition-charging school options. Therefore, the average population per tuition-charging private school was divided by only 84 (not 88 counties).

These population #s per tuition-charging school, per county, are color coded, based on a qualitative judgment around the average population per Non-public school, showing counties with more or less choice. Using Athens county as an example, there are 3½ times as many people in that county per tuition-charging private school then the state average # of persons per such school (59k people vs. 16.76k).

A few small-town and rural counties have a decent population/school ratio - Henry (4,700 people per tuition-charging private school), Hardin (6,000 people per), and Monroe (4,300 people per).

It appears there is an ILLUSION OF SCHOOL CHOICE IN RURAL & SMALL-TOWN OHIO

Using the data and color categorization (Zero choice to Adequate choice) revealed on Map VIII, the tables on the right show, both for Appalachian and other Ohio counties, the percentage each such category represents within their part of the state.

1.9 Million people live in Appalachia. Although these individuals represent 16% of the total population of the state, only 12% of the total tuition-charging private schools are located there. And, in Appalachia, 10 of 32 counties (almost 1/3rd) have ZERO or limited non-public school choice.

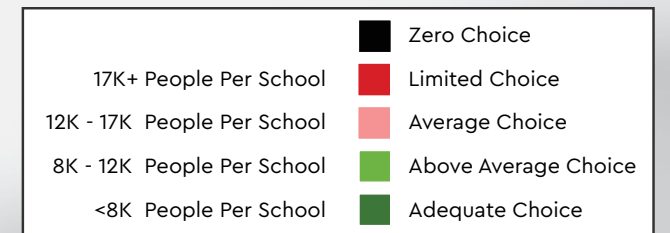
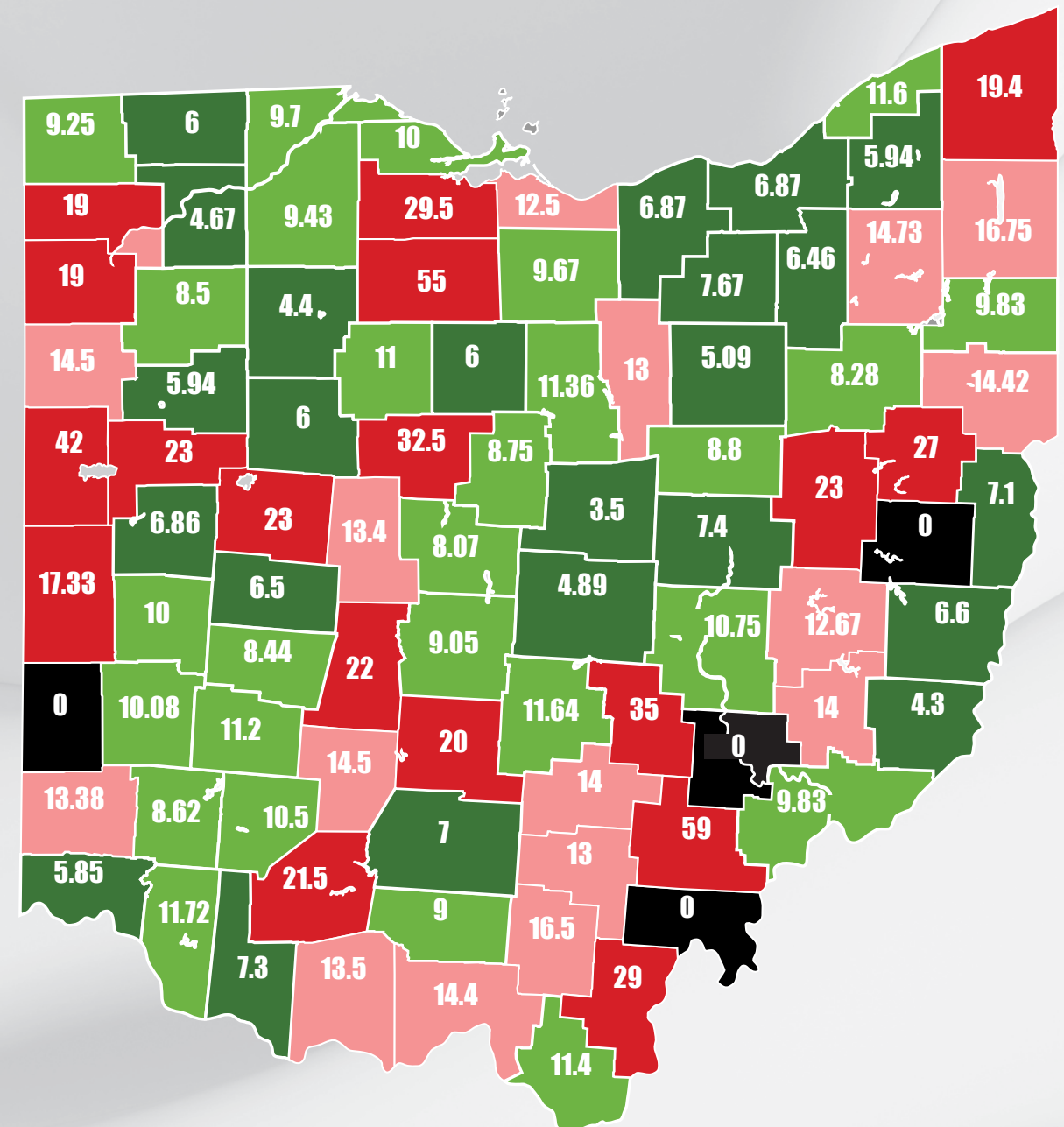
9.7 Million people live in other Ohio counties. These individuals represent 84% of the total population of the state and can attend 88% of the tuition-charging schools.

OTHER COUNTIES	
56 Counties	
Total Population – 9.7M (84% of Total Population)	
Total # of Non-Public Schools -1,195 (88% of Non-Public Schools)	
Counties with Zero school choice – 1 (2% of counties)	
Preble	
Counties with Limited school choice – 11 (20% of counties)	
Auglaize, Darke, Defiance, Logan, Madison, Marion, Mercer, Paulding, Pickaway, Sandusky, Seneca	
Counties with Average choice – 7 (12% of counties)	
Ashland, Butler, Erie, Fayette, Portage, Union, Van Wert	
Counties with Above Average choice – 20 (36% of counties)	
Clark, Clinton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Huron, Lake, Lucas, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Ottawa, Putnam, Richland, Stark, Williams, Warren, Wood, Wyandot	
Counties with Adequate choice – 17 (30% of counties)	
Allen, Champaign, Cuyahoga, Crawford, Fulton, Geauga, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Knox, Licking, Lorain, Medina, Shelby, Summit, Wayne	

APPALACHIA COUNTIES	
32 Counties	
Total Population – 1.89M (16% of Total Population)	
Total # of Non-Public Schools -163 (12% of Non-Public Schools)	
Counties with Zero school choice – 3 (9% of counties)	
Harrison, Meigs, Morgan	
Counties with Limited school choice – 7 (22% of counties)	
Ashtabula, Athens, Carroll, Gallia, Highland, Perry, Tuscarawas	
Counties with Average choice – 9 (28% of counties)	
Adams, Columbiana, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Noble, Scioto, Trumbull, Vinton	
Counties with Above Average choice – 7 (22% of counties)	
Clermont, Holmes, Lawrence, Mahoning, Muskingum, Pike, Washington	
Counties with Adequate choice – 6 (19% of counties)	
Belmont, Brown, Coshocton, Jefferson, Monroe, Ross	

POPULATION (IN THOUSANDS) PER TUITION-CHARGING PRIVATE SCHOOL, EACH OHIO COUNTY

VIII



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REFERENCE:
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-Education-Options/Private-Schools/>
<https://oeds.ode.state.oh.us/SearchOrg>
https://www.ohio-demographics.com/counties_by_population



OHIO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DISTRICT RESULTS OVERALL RATING, COUNTY AVERAGES

The State of Ohio annually grades all public schools and districts. This year the scoring changed to a Star Rating system (0-5 Stars). The Overall Rating assigned each school and district represents a weighted outcome of Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Early Literacy and Graduation Rate.

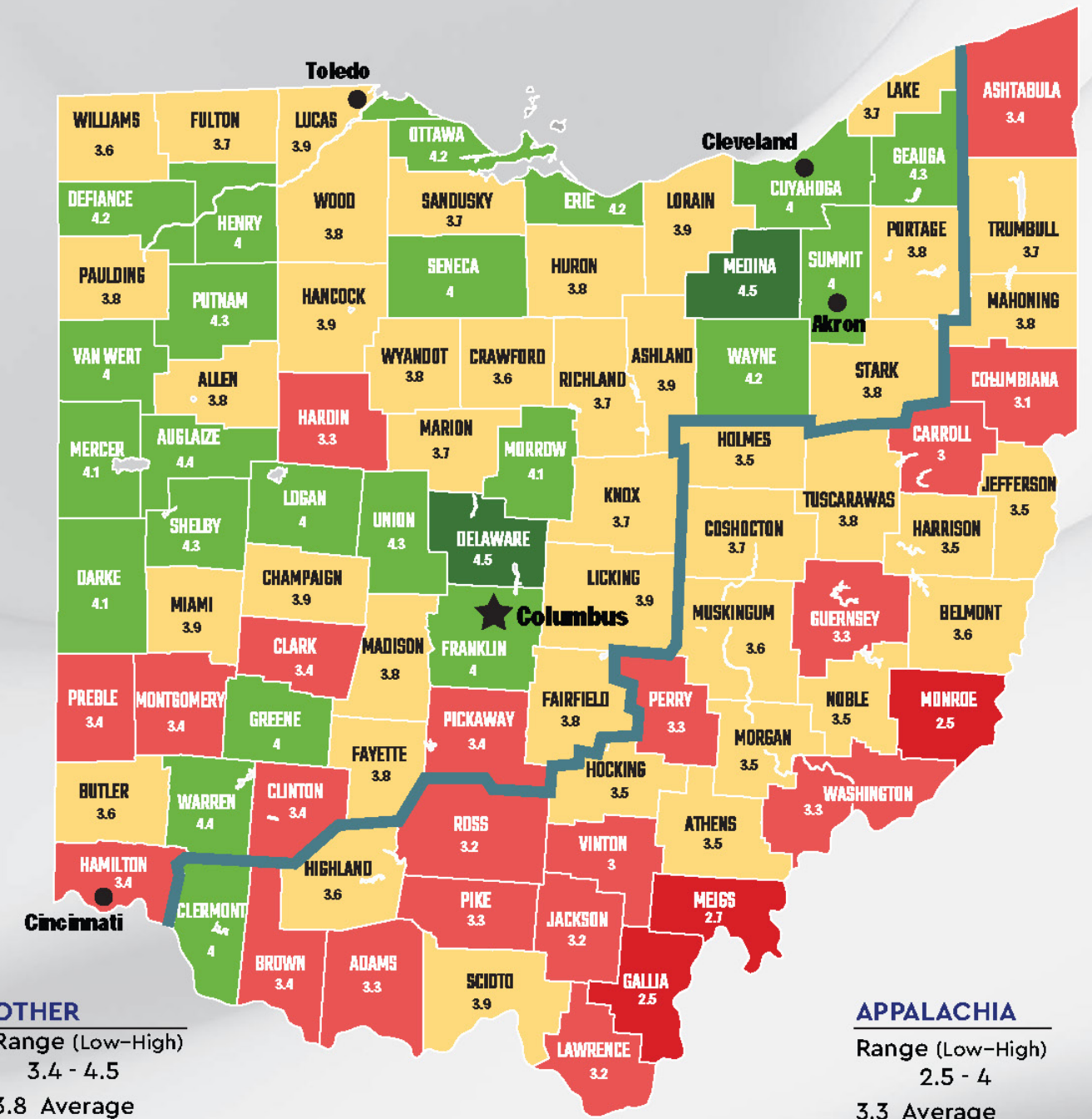
While the Ohio Department of Education considers Overall Rating Stars of 3+ as “Meets state standards”, it is worth noting that Points Earned to determine the rating are significantly rounded-up.

This map shows the average, for each county, of the Overall Rating of all public-school districts located in that county combined. In the non-Appalachian part of Ohio, the lowest county Overall Rating average is 3.4. In Appalachian counties the lowest county Overall Rating is 2.5. Comparing an average of the averages, public schools in Appalachian counties performed .5 (10%) below counties in the rest of Ohio.

It is also worth noting, and this map demonstrates, that ALL public-school district overall rating county averages which would be considered as “Needs support to meet state standards” are located in Appalachia, specifically Gallia, Meigs and Monroe. Also, only one county in all of Appalachia (1/32) – Clermont – “Exceeds state standards”.

Ohio Public Schools – District Results Overall Rating, County Averages

IX



REFERENCE:
<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download/2022-2023, District Data, District Overview>

STAR RATING	
■ Average 2.5 - 2.9	■ Average 4 - 4.4
■ Average 3 - 3.4	■ Average 4.5
■ Average 3.5 - 3.9	

FURTHER RESEARCH

It would be interesting to know the number of public schools which offer open enrollment in Appalachia and other Ohio counties. In areas with ZERO or very limited non-public school options, open-enrollment is the extent of “school choice”.

It would also be interesting to know if data per county and/or population, contemporaneous for the time period and relating to health, welfare, crime, poverty and infrastructure corresponds in any way to availability / lack of non-public schooling. Based upon the below maps (pulled from different, referenced studies), it certainly looks like the same small-town and rural areas of Ohio which have limited or no school choice also suffer from chronic absenteeism and poverty.

Conclusions

It doesn't matter how much tuition money you place in each child's backpack (so to speak) if there are no tuition-charging schools nearby for them to consider attending.

Regardless why anybody might consider this data (for example a parent interested in sending their child to private school, or a policy-maker evaluating the sufficiency of educational opportunity) it is obvious that there are many rural and small-town portions of the State of Ohio which have very limited non-public school choice, and even a few areas with ZERO tuition charging schools.

Appalachia Ohio, in particular, appears to have a disproportionately small number of tuition-charging schools and a disproportionately large number of counties with ZERO or limited school choice.

To further complicate matters, in the small-town and rural community areas of Ohio which have the fewest non-public schools, public schools under-perform. That's a double whammy. Stated differently, in the same Ohio counties where the LEAST school choice is available, public school district overall ratings also average LOW.



Ritton Family Foundation hopes that someday every child in Ohio, particularly those in rural areas and small-towns, who might not have sufficient financial resource or support, have an opportunity to choose the schooling they like and which they feel will best enable them to create a happy, prosperous future.

Ritton Family Foundation is not an SGO. Currently, Ohio's laws require that such nonprofit entities be single-purpose and award scholarships to only K-12 primary and secondary school students, for current tuition, not for future college or trade school learning. However, we encourage every Ohio taxpayer reader to consider the following:

The State of Ohio recently (2021) changed its laws to allow Ohio income taxpayers to claim up to a \$750 / \$1,500 (married filing jointly) income tax CREDIT for donations to K-12 education through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). SGOs must be non-profit, IRS tax-exempt, primarily award scholarships to K-12 students, and prioritize those who are low income (see ORC §5747.73). Learn more - <https://rittonfoundation.org/faq/>

It is our hope that by increasing awareness among taxpayers and tax preparers about the SGO tax CREDIT we can help create a broad base of: (a) taxpayers who annually choose to take advantage of this no-cost opportunity to increase support for the education of low income children, and (b) tax preparers that will advise their clients about SGO tax credit opportunity.

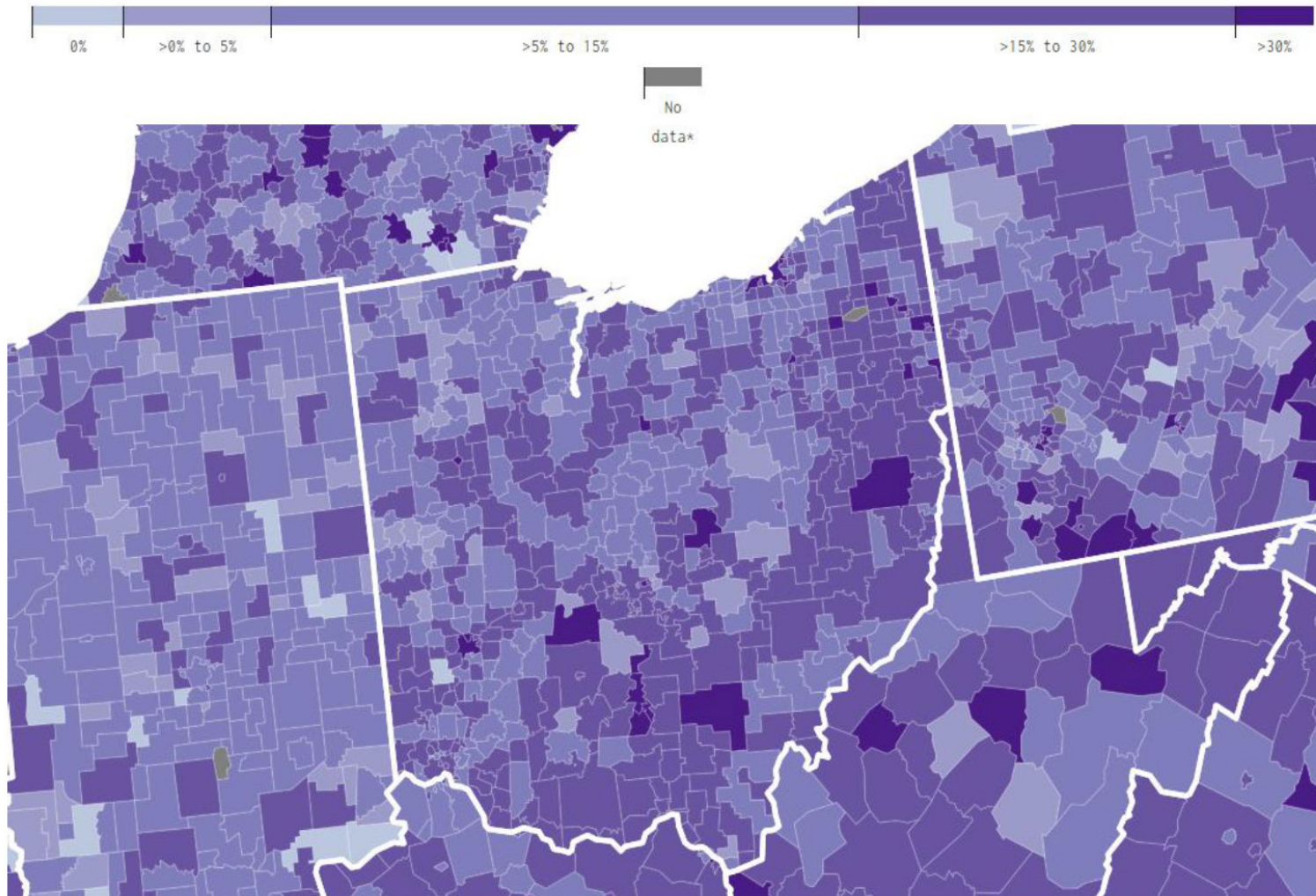
CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

<https://www2.ed.gov/datastory/chronicabsenteeism.html>

U.S. Department of Education, Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools

Chronic Absenteeism means the student misses at least 15 days of school in a year.

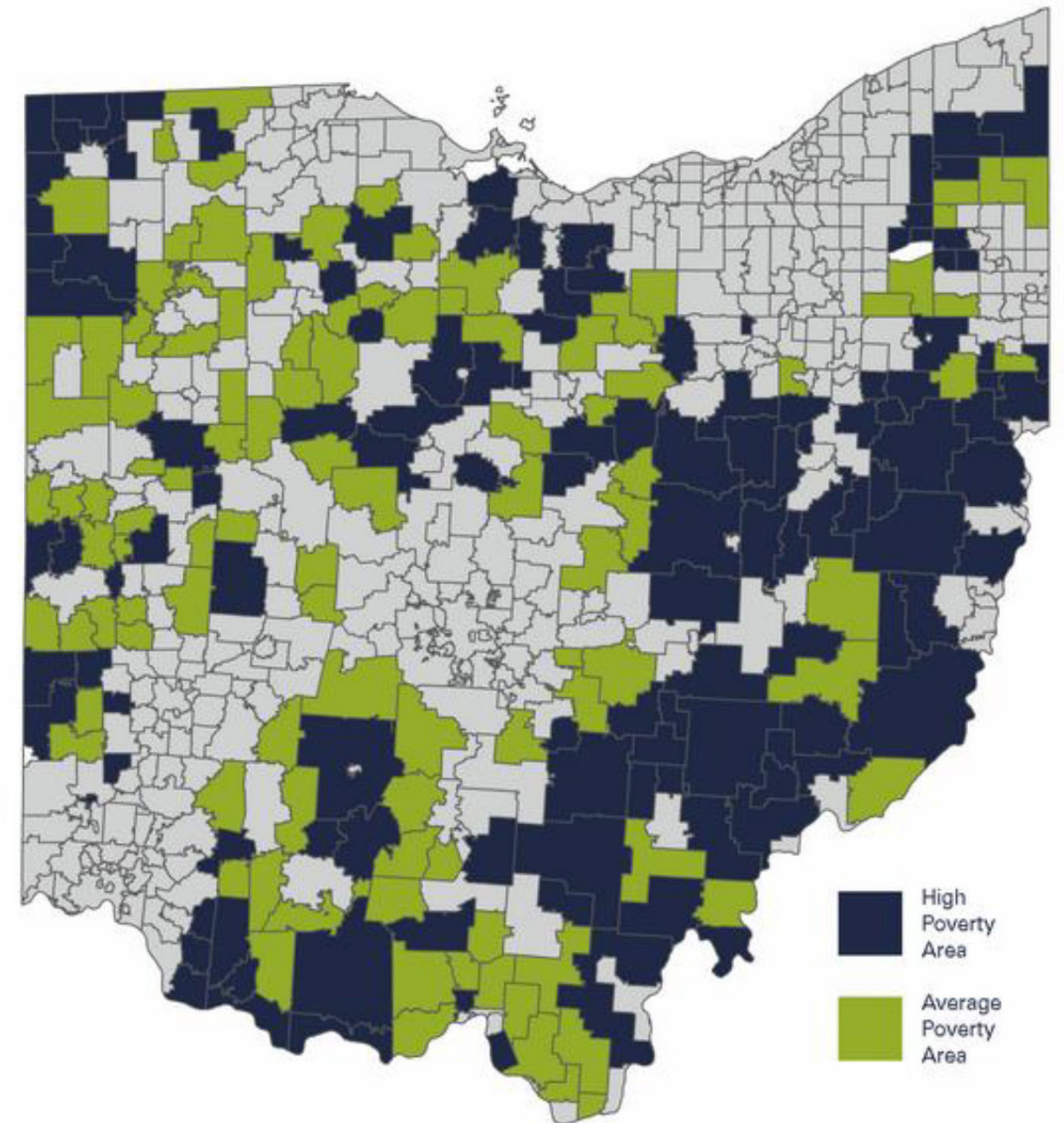
% of students who were chronically absent in (2015-16)



RURAL-EDUCATION & POVERTY

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-and-District-Improvement/Rural-Education>

Map of Ohio's Rural Districts





Contributions reduce tuition and expense barriers for under-resourced youth.

Help us give children a chance to blossom, flourish and thrive.

BENEFITS OF GIVING TO EDUCATION



Students

Social science and economic data show that education can break poverty cycles, improve health, increase career entry, advancement and lifetime earnings.



Community

Higher rates of education correlate with more civic involvement, lower unemployment, reduced dependence on public assistance and less crime and violence.



Health

Medical and psychology research have proven that charity boosts feelings of connectedness, increases perception of well-being, and lowers health risks.



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