

***DeRolph* Ohio School Funding**

Historical Timeline

- December 19, 1991. A complaint is filed by Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding in Perry County on behalf of the Northern Local School District challenging constitutionality of Ohio's elementary and secondary public school funding system.
- June 1992. An April 19, 1993 trial date is set.
- October 25, 1993. The trial begins and lasts 30 days.
- December 8, 1993. The trial is adjourned.
- July 1, 1994. Judge rules Ohio's system of school funding is unconstitutional.
- August 12, 1994. Appeal is filed.
- August 30, 1995. Appeals Court overturns trial court's decision.
- October 10, 1995. Appeal filed by Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School funding asking Ohio Supreme Court to accept jurisdiction in this case.
- January 17, 1996. Ohio Supreme Court accepts jurisdiction.
- March 11, 1996. Plaintiffs file their brief.
- September 10, 1996. Oral arguments are held before Ohio Supreme Court.
- March 24, 1997. Ohio Supreme Court issues opinion holding current funding system is unconstitutional and orders a "complete, systematic overhaul" of the system with enactment required within 12 months by March 24, 1998.
- April 3, 1997. State defendants file motion for reconsideration.
- April 25, 1997. Ohio Supreme Court issues opinion.
- February 18, 1998. State files for an extension of March 24 deadline set by Supreme Court for compliance.
- March 4, 1998. Plaintiffs file a motion in opposition to state's motion for an extension.
- March 9, 1998. State files a reply in support of its motion.

- March 10, 1998. Judge rules county court “is without authority to extend the deadline” and denies State’s motion.
- March 11, 1998. State files a motion for extension of March 24 deadline to July 18 in Supreme Court of Ohio.
- March 20, 1998. Plaintiffs file motion in opposition of State’s request.
- March 24, 1998. Plaintiffs file a motion for order reinstating remand and allocating to the state the burdens of production and proof.
- August 24 – September 4, 1998. Hearing in Perry County Common Please Court to review the State’s response to *DeRolph*.
- September 1, 1998. Ohio Supreme Court issues an order holding that the State has the “burden of production and proof...”
- November 3, 1998. Both plaintiffs and defendants file Post-Hearing Briefs and Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law with Judge Lewis in Perry County.
- November 3, 1998. Senator Ben Espy along with other senators and representatives filed a Brief with Judge Lewis on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
- November 16, 1998. State Defendants file a Motion to strike portions of briefs submitted by senators.
- December 2, 1998. Judge Lewis denies State’s Motion.
- December 3, 1998. Both plaintiffs and defendants file Reply briefs and Objections to Findings with Judge Lewis.
- February 26, 1999. Judge Lewis issues opinion ruling State’s response to Supreme Court order in *DeRolph* is unconstitutional.
- March 26, 1999. State appeals judge’s decision to Ohio Supreme Court.
- June 23, 1999. Record from Perry County Common Please Court is filed with the Ohio Supreme Court.
- August 2, 1999. Defendants file brief with Ohio Supreme Court and Gov. Taft files second brief on behalf of Defendants.
- September 1, 1999. Plaintiffs file their brief with Ohio Supreme Court.
- September 1, 1999. Supreme Court sets oral arguments from both parties in the *DeRolph* case.
- May 11, 2000. Supreme Court issues opinion holding Ohio’s school funding system remains unconstitutional and gives the State until June 15, 2001 to bring the system into compliance.

- December 8, 2000. Plaintiffs file motion with Ohio Supreme Court for order requiring Defendants to pay the costs of unfunded mandates.
- January 25, 2001. Ohio Supreme Court issues order requiring plaintiffs and defendants to file any evidence no later than June 15, 2001. Also sets oral argument for June 20, 2001.
- June 15, 2001. Evidence filed with Ohio Supreme Court in preparation for oral argument.
- June 18, 2001. Plaintiffs and defendants file merit briefs.
- June 20, 2001. Oral argument before the Supreme Court.
- September 6, 2001. Ohio Supreme Court issues opinion which holds that Ohio's school funding system is unconstitutional but orders state defendants to alter methodology for determining per pupil base support.
- September 17, 2001. State defendants file motion for reconsideration with Ohio Supreme Court.
- November 2, 2001. Supreme Court grants Gov. Taft's motion for reconsideration but does not issue opinion to define parameters of reconsideration.
- November 16, 2001. Supreme Court issues written reconsideration order re settlement conference between the Defendants and Plaintiffs and orders master commissioner to preside over the conference.
- November 26, 2001. Defendants and Plaintiffs file memoranda commenting on nine potential candidates of master commissioner.
- December 13, 2001. Ohio Supreme Court issues order selecting Howard S. Bellman from Madison, WI as master commissioner.
- March 21, 2002. Master Howard Bellman issues report concluding parties were unable to come to a resolution of issues.
- March 21, 2002. Ohio Supreme Court issues an order restoring the case to the active docket for resolution.
- December 11, 2002. Ohio Supreme Court issues its reconsideration decision and finds the school funding system unconstitutional and vacates *DeRolph III* and declares *DeRolph I* and *II* as the law of the case. (*DeRolph IV*)
- March 4, 2003. Plaintiffs file motion for compliance conference with Perry County.
- March 7, 2003. State files complaint for Write of Prohibition in the Ohio Supreme Court asking the Court to bar the trial court from entertaining the plaintiffs' motion for a compliance conference.

- March 10, 2003. Plaintiffs file motion to intervene in Ohio Supreme Court Writ of Prohibition Proceedings.
- May 16, 2003. The Ohio Supreme Court issues an opinion granting the writ of prohibition and stating that “we now grant a preemptory writ and end any further *DeRolph* litigation in *DeRolph v. State*.” Thus Court prohibited the trial court from conducting the state conference sought by the *DeRolph* plaintiffs and foreclosed any further proceedings in the case.
- August 13, 2003. Plaintiffs file Petition for Writ of Certiorari to United States Supreme Court.
- September 15, 2003. The State files Brief of Respondent State of Ohio in Opposition to Petition for Certiorari.
- September 24, 2003. Plaintiffs file reply brief to state’s brief in opposition.
- October 20, 2003. Certiorari denied by U.S. Supreme Court. No opinion issued.