



Lak@ta
Local Schools

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Quality Profile

for the 2022-23 School Year





Superintendent

A MESSAGE FROM THE

Lakota Local Schools has a rich history of academic excellence and achievement.

While we are focused on the present and future to ensure that our students are receiving the best education possible – and the one our parents and community expect and students deserve – it is also important to take a moment to look back at the prior year.

The Quality Profile is designed to be a companion piece to the State's annual report card, giving a more comprehensive look at a Lakota education. This year, the publication may look a little different to you. We have reorganized it to align more closely with the components of the report card.

From the classroom to extracurriculars, our students are achieving excellence. In addition to a look inside our classrooms, you'll quickly see that

Lakota students and staff have been recognized for their accomplishments at the state and national levels. For example, Lakota was honored to bring four student groups to the Ohio School Boards Association's Student Achievement Fair at the November 2022 Capital Conference. School leaders from across the state had the opportunity to speak to our students and staff about programs and learning opportunities in Lakota, including:

- Independence Elementary School students shared the importance of "pressing pause" before responding to a situation through E+R=O (an Event, plus your Response, impacts the Outcome);
- East and West high schools were represented when some of our students with disabilities shared how they are future ready because of the job skills they have learned through Lakota's Transition to Work program;
- Students from Union Elementary

and Hopewell Junior schools shared the positive impact therapy dogs have on students and staff by helping to ease anxiety and providing comfort and joy; and

- Students and teachers from East Freshman shared how the collaboration of English, social studies and art classes have created an innovative learning space called LINCC (Learning Ignited by Non-Traditional Course Collaboration) Lab.

I hope that you join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our students and district with this look back at the 2022-2023 school year. You'll also find a peek ahead to the current year and what we are doing to continue supporting all of our students and their academic achievement.

Elizabeth J. Lolli

Elizabeth J. Lolli, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent



Mission Statement:
Everything **WE** do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child.

meet THE BOARD



Lakota Board of Education

Pictured - Seated left to right: Vice President Isaac Adi and President Lynda O'Connor;

Standing left to right: Darbi Boddy, Julie Shaffer and Kelley Casper.



DISTRICT HONORS



Auditor of State Award

Fewer than four percent of all government entities that are audited annually earn the Auditor of State Award with Distinction – and Lakota has received the honor an impressive nine years in a row. The award recognizes the District’s commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency.



Step Up to Quality

As of its last review, Lakota’s preschool program continued to be awarded five stars by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education’s Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) rating program.



OHSPRA Achievement Awards

Lakota received three Mark of Distinction awards from the Ohio School Public Relations Association for exemplary work. The new website, the district’s “Back to the Future” video and Lakota’s story entitled “Ridge Coaches Model Strength in Differences” were all award winners.

STUDENT & STAFF HONORS



EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Heritage ECS second grade teacher Elizabeth Farris received the Outstanding **Elementary Educator of the Year** award from the Ohio Council of English Language Arts (pictured above).



ELEMENTARY:

Lakota had two superior and three excellent ratings on projects at the **State Science Day competition**. Woodland Elementary School’s Ava Kidd earned a superior rating and won the **Ohio Tuition Trust Authority Scholarship** and the **Dr. Lynn E. Elfner Young Scientist Award**.

Independence Elementary third-grader Charlotte Lee was a finalist representing Ohio in **Google’s national “Doodle Art” contest** (pictured above).



HIGH SCHOOL:

The Lakota East dance team was named **OASSA State Champion** in the Large Game Day and Small Hip Hop categories.

Two Lakota West artists were winners in the **Ohio Governor’s Youth Art Exhibition**; only 326 works of art were selected out of 8,300 entries.

A Lakota East team won first place in the Public Service Announcement category at the **HOSA Ohio statewide competition**.

Lakota East seniors in the Butler Tech engineering program were named state finalists (300 nationally) in the 13th annual **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition** (pictured above).

LAKOTA *snapshot*

Encompassing 63 square miles, Lakota is among the 10 largest public school districts in Ohio and serves West Chester and Liberty townships.



1,302 Graduates
97.5% Graduation Rate
- Class of 2023 -



17,455 Students



2,013 Employees



23 Schools
(preK-12)

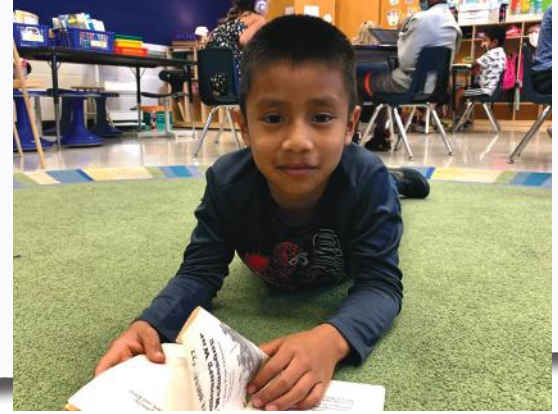
MAXIMIZING *potential*

Personalized Learning

Recognizing that every student learns differently and is at their own unique point in their educational journey.

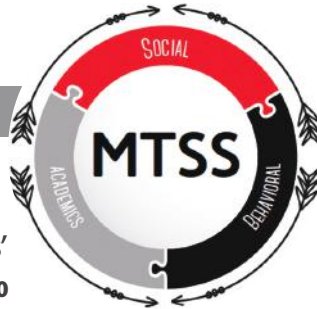
Synonyms: Differentiation, Student Choice, Student Ownership

WE work hard to meet students wherever they are in their learning. This means providing specialized support to help students chart their own path forward.



A FOCUS ON MTSS

MTSS, or Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, is Lakota's main driver behind personalized learning, tracking students' academic, social and behavioral trends to inform programming decisions.



Last year, Lakota took a big step forward in this work by adding Branching Minds. This tool helps track everything from attendance and discipline records to academic and mental health supports. Educators can more methodically make programming and resource decisions based on what the data says is and isn't working.

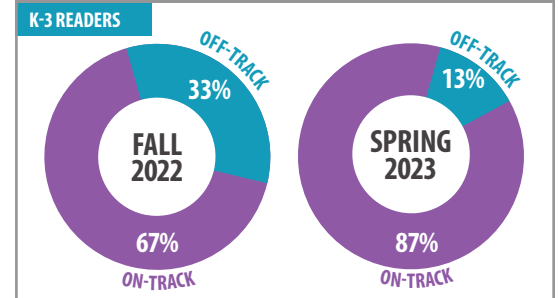
CASE IN POINT...

- Lakota East & Lakota West identified students requiring small group remediation in core subjects and created "NEXUS" bells, or academic support time, to match the need.
- Hopewell Junior designed flexible academic support bells that are easily adjusted to meet students' needs.
- Both freshman schools identified the need for a new study skills class.

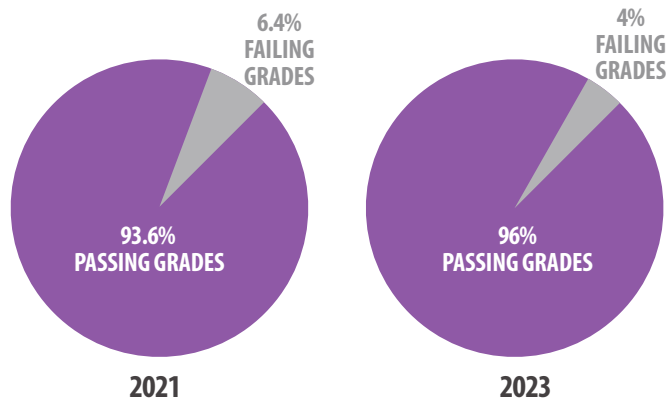
EARLY LITERACY

Through continuous data review, Lakota's approach to early literacy is truly personalized. All of Lakota's K-4 reading teachers began professional development last year to deepen their understanding of the Science of Reading, the evidence-based research the Ohio Department of Education requires schools to follow for literacy instruction. Phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency are delivered through a "Workshop Model," where students receive both whole group and personalized small group instruction from their teacher.

- 97% of Lakota students met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee requirements.
- 60% of K-3 readers deemed "off track" in fall 2022 progressed to "on track" by Spring 2023.



HIGH SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER PASSING VS. FAILING COURSE GRADES

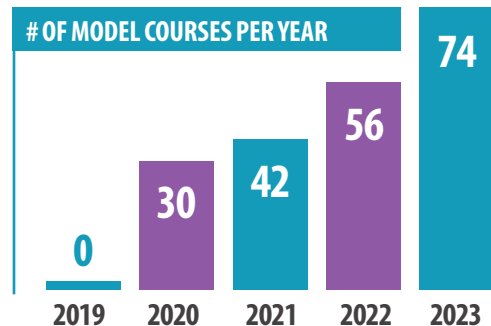


The total number of failing course grades has decreased by 36 percent over the last two years.

MODEL COURSES

Lakota is an industry leader in instructional design and resource development through the construction of model courses. Each model course is a guide designed by Lakota teachers to deliver instruction on the state learning standards for every core subject in grades K-12.

Since 2019, Lakota's library has grown to exceed 74 model courses that teachers use as resources to meet their students' needs.





LAKOTA *Central*

Lakota Central debuted last year as Lakota's newest high school. Officially recognized as a virtual school by the Ohio Department of Education, Central technically offers students a hybrid option for completing their high school degree.

The school's flexible, non-traditional format allows students to benefit from a smaller school environment. Students can build their own unique schedule - any combination of virtual and in-person courses - making it one of Lakota's most personalized options. They can also take fewer classes at once (in a more compressed time period), curtailing the executive functioning challenges that come with a traditional seven-bell day.

2022-2023 SIGNS OF SUCCESS

363 students served | 85 total graduates

21 electives offered (not including College Credit Plus or online

170 students (nearly half) showed improvement in at least one of the following areas: behavior, attendance, credit deficiency or social/emotional state.



Read more about Lakota Central on Lakota's website.

Report Card Components

✓ ACHIEVEMENT

Measures overall student performance on state tests against established thresholds for core content areas. It is based on the district's Performance Index, which is calculated by categorizing students into one of seven weighted categories.

Note: Students who do not take state tests because they opt out or are absent automatically score a zero and impact the final score.

✓ PROGRESS

Measures overall student growth from one year to the next, compared to the state's expected growth. It is based on scores in English language arts, math and science for grades 4-8 and ELA II, algebra I, geometry, biology, American history and government for high-schoolers.

Note: This will eventually be calculated using three years of consecutive data (just two years for the 2022-23 report card.)



WE are Personalized

embracing

DIVERSITY

We strive to provide a welcoming learning experience for every single child. This means celebrating and accommodating the unique needs of different cultures and backgrounds, races and ethnicities, socioeconomic levels, cognitive abilities and more.



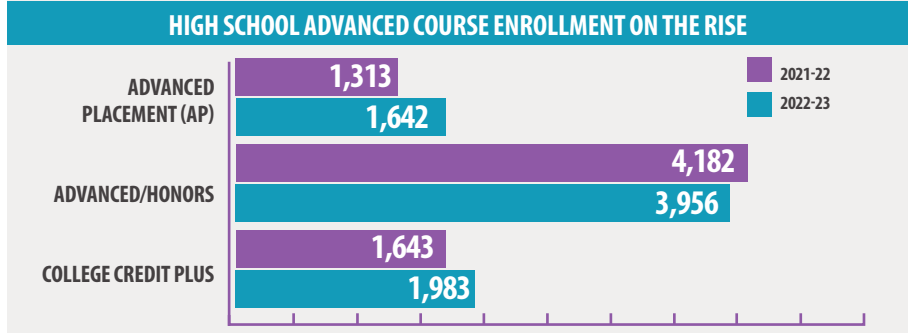
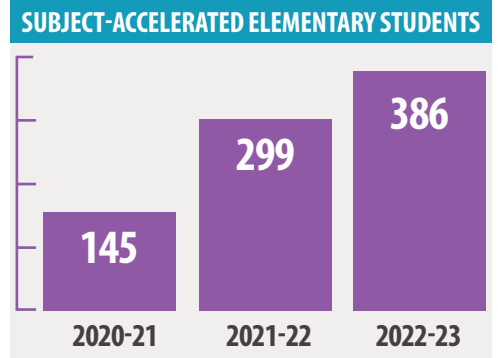
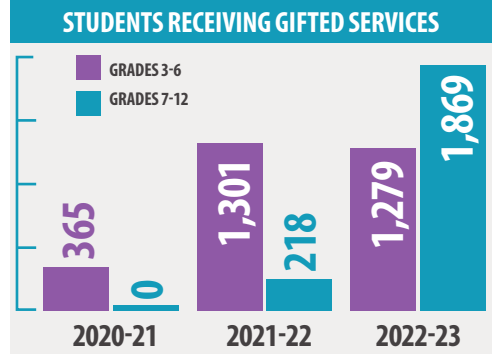
BIG GAINS FOR GIFTED SERVICES

Lakota's efforts to certify more teachers as gifted service providers continues to positively impact more students in grades 3-12.

At the secondary level, Lakota's advanced course educators participated in this gifted training for the first time last year. As a result, their advanced courses qualified as gifted services - a step that also served Lakota well on the state report card.

Plus, an emphasis on identifying elementary students who qualify for grade level acceleration in one or more subject areas is challenging more students than ever.

Lakota also works to diversify its advanced level course options in a way that covers a range of interests and future workforce skills. Plus, a new prediction tool is helping to proactively place more students on the advanced learning track in the subjects where they show higher aptitude.



MEETING STUDENTS' BASIC NEEDS

Eight community liaisons actively work in Lakota's schools daily to help fulfill basic needs for Lakota's economically disadvantaged students.

This work involves partnering with numerous local agencies and even big efforts like the daily summer lunch program hosted by Lakota's Child Nutrition department, which delivered nearly 5,800 meals to Lakota students during the summer of 2023.

ESL CONNECT EMPOWERS PARENTS

Over 20 "ESL Connect" sessions last year engaged 600-plus parents of English Learners (ELs).

The 2021 pilot of this program at select schools exploded into a year-long effort for all EL parents, helping families navigate technology, build new relationships and learn points of entry for partnering with their schools.



Report Card Components

- GAP CLOSING**
 Measures how well sub-groups of students are meeting performance expectations through their state tests, as compared to all students. Sub-groups include those detailed in the "Past to Present" chart on page 7.

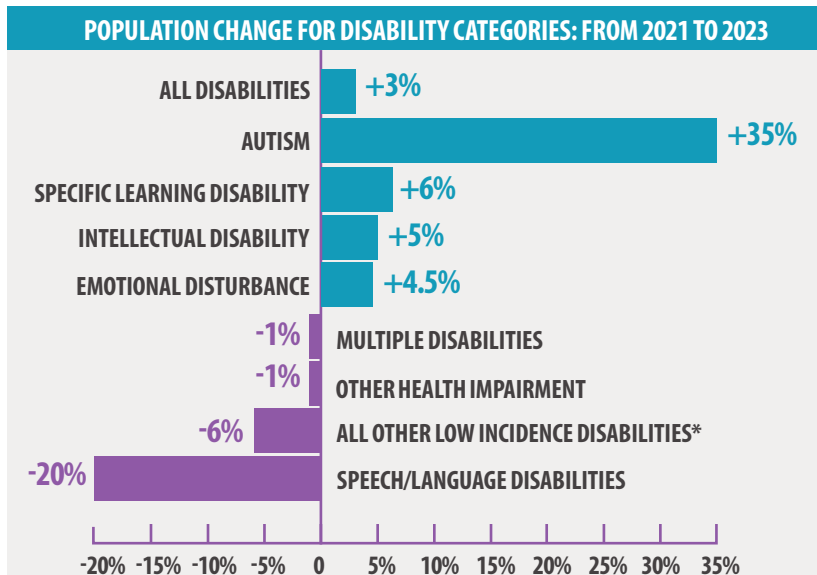


SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Lakota is committed to meeting the unique needs of students with disabilities.

Within each of the 13 disability categories, the continuum of services - or the different delivery models to provide specially designed instruction - is personalized to each student via an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

For example, in recent years, Lakota has responded to a significant increase in students identified on the autism spectrum. In fact, Lakota's current count for this category is four percent higher than the state average. With about 70 more students in just two years, the implications for additional teaching staff, related services, classroom space and specialized training is significant.



*Deafness, Deaf-Blindness, Hearing Impaired, Traumatic Brain Injury, Orthopedic Impairment, Visual Impairment (including blindness)

WE celebrate OUR DIFFERENCES

42% of students are non-Caucasian or of a multicultural background.

25% of students in grades 2-12 are identified as gifted.

22% of students are economically disadvantaged.

10% of students receive services for their disabilities.

8% of students identify English as a second language.

7% of families identify a language other than English as their home language.

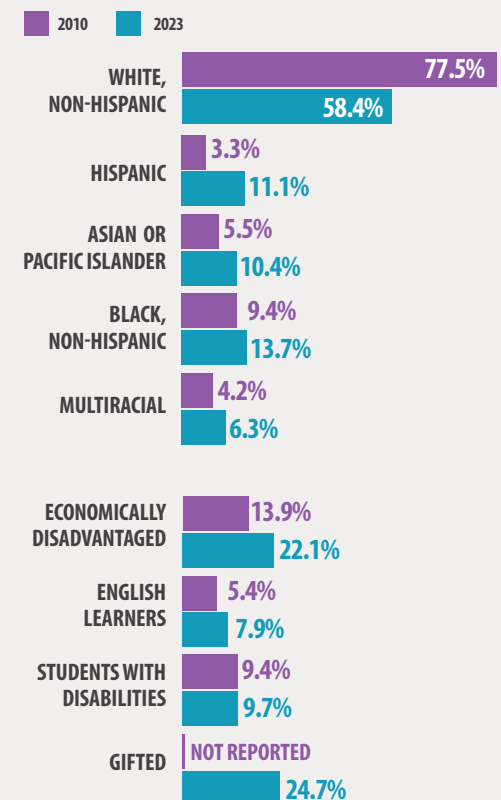
60+ home languages identified by Lakota families.

COMING UP...

A new Community Diversity Council, launched during the 2023-2024 school year, brings together a diverse group of community members.

The group will meet to problem-solve and help ensure all students have the same opportunities for success.

PAST TO PRESENT STUDENT SUB-GROUPS (2010 vs. 2023)



Data as of August 2023

WE are Personalized

supporting OUR STUDENTS

Being personalized goes beyond academics. It's also about keeping our buildings safe and secure and making each and every student's health and wellness a top priority.

SAFETY GRANTS

Lakota continued to take advantage of Ohio's K-12 School Safety Grant Program last year.

To date, Lakota has received \$2.1 million from the grant to support physical safety and security upgrades to school buildings.

As part of its regular safety and security assessment, Lakota worked in partnership with its school resource officers from the West Chester Police Department and Butler County Sheriff's Office to identify upgrades to security cameras and other facility areas.



SCHOOL NURSES & CLINICS

Lakota is fortunate to have each of our clinics managed by a full-time registered nurse. These medical professionals play an essential role in the daily health needs of our students.

In 2022-2023, school nurses managed:

- 87,558** clinic visits
- 27,608** treatments
- 58,672** medication administrations
- 20,939** health screenings

COMING UP...

For emergency preparedness, all Lakota staff will be professionally trained by Lakota nurses on both CPR and "Stop the Bleed" procedures. The district's health services team is also introducing a new health portal for parent-to-nurse communication.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Strong mental health plays a vital role in a student's growth and success. Programs supporting this mission include:

- A partnership with MindPeace to place a licensed therapist in every school (27 total), providing students with on-site access to high quality and affordable mental health services at no cost to Lakota.
- Ten therapy dogs that provide cognitive, social, emotional and physical support to both students and staff.
- Peer-to-peer programs like Sources of Strength (junior schools) and Hope Squad (high schools) led by 175 students who promote positive school culture and healthy decision making.

2022-2023 Impact

- 161** suicide ideations reported and addressed.
- 1,135** students (or 6.5%) referred for mental health treatment.
- 616** students received individual or group prevention.
- 1,009** students received 14,991 hours of school-based therapy.

WE are Personalized

ENCOURAGING *exploration*

The Lakota education extends beyond the classroom through participation in an ever-growing list of extracurricular activities. These opportunities encourage students to ignite new passions, while developing important soft skills like teamwork, communication and creativity.



ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Nearly 80 after-school clubs and activities are offered between Lakota's three high schools and there are over 30 among Lakota's four junior schools.



ATHLETICS

Students have the opportunity to participate in over 50 athletic teams at Lakota's high schools and more than 40 at the district's junior schools. Last year, 52 scholar-athletes committed to play their sport at the collegiate level.



VISUAL ARTS

Through Lakota's visual arts program, students are able to explore the creation of art across a variety of mediums. This is made possible through specials at the younger grades and elective courses in junior and high school. High school students are also able to compete for scholarships and awards at the regional and national level.



CHORAL MUSIC

Over 450 students participate in the choral programs at Lakota's high schools. In addition to sharing their gifts of music during school concerts and community events, both East's (pictured above) and West's choirs consistently earn superior ratings at the Ohio Music Educator Association's (OMEA) state competitions.



THEATER PROGRAMS

Lakota's junior and high school theater programs offer creative opportunities for students to explore acting, music, design and technology. Nearly 300 students participated in Lakota's high school programs last year. The community was treated to first-rate productions like "The Little Mermaid" (pictured above) at Lakota West and "Grease" at Lakota East.



BAND

With nearly 500 students involved in high school band, Lakota offers many opportunities for students to explore their interests in music, beginning in seventh grade. At the high school level, both East's and West's (pictured above) marching bands have collectively won more than 80 Grand Champion titles and consistently earn superior ratings at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals.

real world LEARNING

The Portrait of a Lakota Graduate defines the skills, characteristics and attributes that every Lakota graduate should possess. Real world learning is the foundation of the Lakota student experience, preparing our graduates to pursue one of the 4Es.

EMPLOYMENT



4,200+

Lakota students attended a Butler Tech campus or participated in a satellite course offered at a Lakota school.

240+

students were enrolled in the Lakota Cyber Academy, the most in the program's four-year history. This number also reflects a 54% increase in the number of female student participants.

65

students with disabilities received on-the-job training thanks to 17 local business partners and 11 Lakota schools through the District's Work Study program.

ENROLLMENT



1,980+

College Credit Plus courses were taken by Lakota students, earning a collective 6,778 college credits and saving over \$300,000 in tuition.

78%

of Lakota's 2023 graduates are pursuing higher education and were offered more than \$17.2 million in scholarships.

ENLISTMENT



16

Lakota seniors were celebrated in the annual Military Commitment Ceremony for committing to serve our country after graduation by joining a branch of the military or attending a military academy.

COMING UP...

Military Commitment 2024
April 23, 7 p.m., East Freshman

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



16

business partners provided

150+

hours of mentorship for Lakota high school students enrolled in the district's INCubatoredu@Lakota entrepreneurship class. The students have the opportunity to create and fully develop their own product or service, participating in "Pitch Week" to present their idea and possibly win funding to turn their concept into reality.

RISE UP

New for the Class of 2023 and beyond, the Ohio Department of Education requires students to meet new graduation requirements. This includes earning two diploma seals to demonstrate their preparedness.

Lakota has partnered with the National Retail Federation's RISE Up program to offer an alternative graduation pathway for seniors.

A collaboration between Lakota and Butler Tech teachers, students learn customer service, math and interviewing skills, as well as retail industry fundamentals.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Lakota students enrolled in the program had a 100% success rate, earning this valuable 12-point industry credential.

LAKOTA CYBER ACADEMY

The 2022-2023 school year saw the second cohort of students complete all three levels of cyber coursework offered at both Lakota East and West high schools. Achievements included:

- Lakota East High School was ranked the top high school cyber program nationally by the National Cyber League (NCL).
- Lakota East's Cyber 3 team placed fourth in the NCL high school field of 482 total teams (61st among the total 3,900-plus teams that included collegiate and professional sectors.)
- Six students finished in the top 100 high schoolers in the NCL competitions.
- The most students in program history earned their Ethical Hacker Pro certificate, plus three other students who earned their Security+ credentials.

Report Card Components

✓ **COLLEGE, CAREER, WORKFORCE AND MILITARY READINESS**
This future component will measure the percentage of students who meet at least one of the State's preparedness criteria. To prepare, Lakota increased College Credit Plus offerings to maximize student credits.

✓ **GRADUATION**
The state report card measures both the four- and five-year graduation rates, which are calculated by the number of students who graduate within four or five years of starting ninth grade.

REAL WORLD LEARNING *in action*

Real world learning doesn't just start in high school. Even our youngest learners have opportunities to apply future-ready experiences to their learning. Last year, more than 350 business partners supported Lakota students through mentoring, classroom speaking engagements, advisory roles and more.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOLS (ECS)



Career Exploration Accelerates Reading, Writing Skills

Visitors to Molly Zaenkert's classroom at Heritage Early Childhood School not only taught her kindergartners about 20 different occupations, but also accelerated their reading, writing and social studies skills. While the class welcomed more recognizable figures like a K9 police officer, retired fire chief, nurse and pharmacist, the list of less familiar careers included a tractor puller, flower farmer, payroll manager and bike safety advocate.

"A huge part of becoming a good reader involves building vocabulary and listening comprehension," Zaenkert said. She reinforced this skill with a routine activity following each visit, asking her students to reflect on what they learned. Early in the year, this took the shape of drawings, but evolved into labels, then full sentences.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



"Talk and Try": Real World Learning in the Classroom

Through "Talk and Try," volunteers from six different careers not only spoke to Cherokee Elementary School students about their jobs, but also gave them hands-on activities to demonstrate what the job might be like. "The students were so engaged and excited that they were talking about it (the experience) when they got home," said Principal Valerie Montgomery.

"Careers are... about having a passion," explained sixth grade teacher Monica Lidman. "It seemed like a natural fit for our kids as we start having conversations about growing older and discovering things you enjoy. We want the kids to know as much as possible about the world of work and the opportunities they *all* have."

JUNIOR SCHOOLS



Social Media's Next Big Thing

Students in the Media Design and Communication class at Hopewell Junior School used their creativity to design their own app. The students reflected on apps familiar to them through social media platforms or games they might play.

"We have talked about social media inventories and how they spend a lot of time on their devices," explained teacher Joseph Bobinger. His goal was for the students to realize the similarities.

Beyond a concept, the students had to determine a name and logo. In addition to emphasizing positivity, students were challenged to build a bridge between what a teenager would want in an app and what safety measures a parent might require.

HIGH SCHOOLS



Industry Insights: Helping Students Choose a Career Path

What does life look like after high school? Last year's new Industry Insights program was designed to help Lakota high school students answer that question. During each session, a panel of industry experts shared their experiences, answered questions and then spoke one-on-one with students. During the inaugural year, sessions included hospitality and tourism, business and consumer products, healthcare and skilled trades.

"Our students don't know what they don't know, and there are so many valuable jobs and companies in our area where they can seek gainful employment now and after their educational journey," said Katie Bauer, Lakota's strategic partnerships coordinator.

Visit lakotaonline.com/realworldlearning for student & business partner opportunities.



master FACILITIES PLAN

Creating a new Master Facilities Plan is part of Lakota's strategic plan and serves as a guide for assessing the long-term need for facility improvements and the capital investments required to implement them. As enrollment continues to climb, even outpacing the 2019 enrollment study, the district has been forced to utilize modular, or portable, classrooms to accommodate the growth.

SELECTING A PLAN

Through community presentations during the summer and fall of 2022, the Lakota School Board's Master Facilities Committee engaged parents, students, staff and community members to gather feedback on four plan options. In December, the Board voted to approve the following grade-band configuration and buildings:

- A standalone preschool building;
- Grades K-5, grades 6-8, grades 9-12;
- Decommissioning (closing) 10 schools;
- Building five new schools, including two new high schools and three K-5 schools; and
- Using the current high schools as middle schools.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PLAN

After reviewing topographic surveys of the proposed sites for the new high schools with the Board, Chief Operations Officer Chris Passarge suggested that the committee consider additions to the existing high school buildings instead of building two new schools. This would eliminate the challenge of finding land that would not only accommodate the new high schools, but also the required athletic facilities. Additionally, this option could, potentially, be more cost effective than building new high schools.

The Board agreed to continue exploring these adjustments because it would keep the approved grade bands, maintain athletic fields on the same campus as the high schools and have a lower cost than the originally approved plan.

The last comprehensive plan was completed in the 2000s, with a modified plan done in 2008.

Building additions to the high schools would also require changes to the junior school and elementary school components of the approved plan. Passarge suggested:

- Additions to Lakota East and West high schools to accommodate grades 9-12;
- Plains Junior and East Freshman change to middle schools (grades 6-8); and
- One more K-5 school, increasing the total new K-5 schools to four.

BOARD APPROVED PLAN



Preschool: 1 school
Liberty ECS

K-5: 12 schools
Cherokee, Endeavor, Independence, Union, VanGorden, Wyandot, Plains Junior, Ridge Junior, East Freshman, 3 NEW K-5 buildings

6-8: 2 schools
Lakota East and West

9-12: 2 schools
2 NEW high schools



\$562 million
(EXCLUDES ATHLETIC FACILITIES)

SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENTS



Preschool: 1 school
Liberty ECS

K-5: 11 schools
Cherokee, Endeavor, Independence, Union, VanGorden, Wyandot, Ridge Junior, 4 NEW K-5 buildings

6-8: 2 schools
East Freshman and Plains Junior

9-12: 2 schools
Additions on Lakota East & West



\$515 million
(USE EXISTING ATHLETIC FACILITIES)

WE are Future Ready

SCAN
TO VISIT
THE MFP
WEBSITE



COMING UP...

The Board must determine a timeline for executing the plan. This will include funding options, new construction locations and proposed dates for implementing the Master Facilities Plan.

A MESSAGE FROM THE *Treasurer*

Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) ended strong because of Lakota's commitment to fiscal responsibility. It is engrained in everything we do. We know that our taxpayers are responsible for 57% of our operating revenue through the millage that is calculated on the assessed value of their property. This is why WE are committed to making educational decisions that not only support academic achievement and provide more opportunities for our students, but are financially sound and respectful of our taxpayers' dollars.

Our May 2023 five-year forecast does not include an operating levy. In fact, this November will mark 10 years since we asked for an operating tax levy. That is a testament to the dedication of this district to our taxpayers.

We are proud to have been honored with our ninth consecutive Auditor of State Award with Distinction last year. This accomplishment is achieved by less than 4% of government entities across Ohio. Additionally, the end of FY23 marked our tenth consecutive year with a balanced budget.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As a result of our commitment to fiscal responsibility with our spending, we continue to add to our strong cash reserves. Lakota's budget stabilization policy sets a minimum 90-day cash balance; Lakota's current amount exceeds six months, double the minimum set in policy. Additionally, the balance in the district's "rainy day" fund is just under \$8 million.

I invite you to visit our website to learn more about Lakota's finances, as WE are committed to transparency with our community.



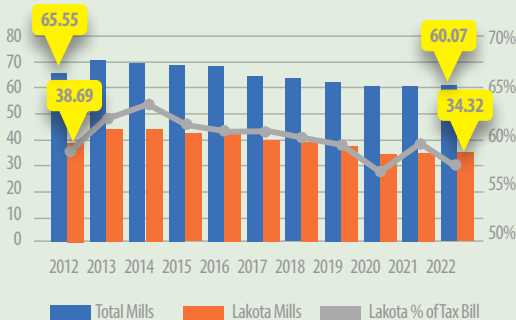
Adam Zink
Adam Zink
Treasurer/CFO

DID YOU KNOW...

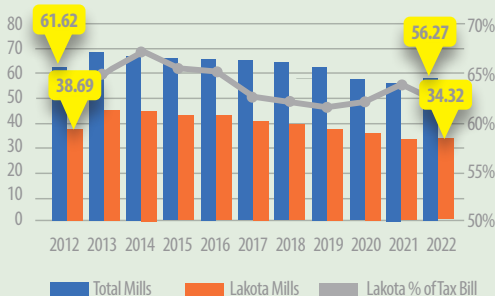
Lakota Local Schools is funded today on **LESS** effective millage than it was in 2012 before the passage of the last operating levy?

EFFECTIVE TAX RATES

WEST CHESTER TWP – 2012-2022

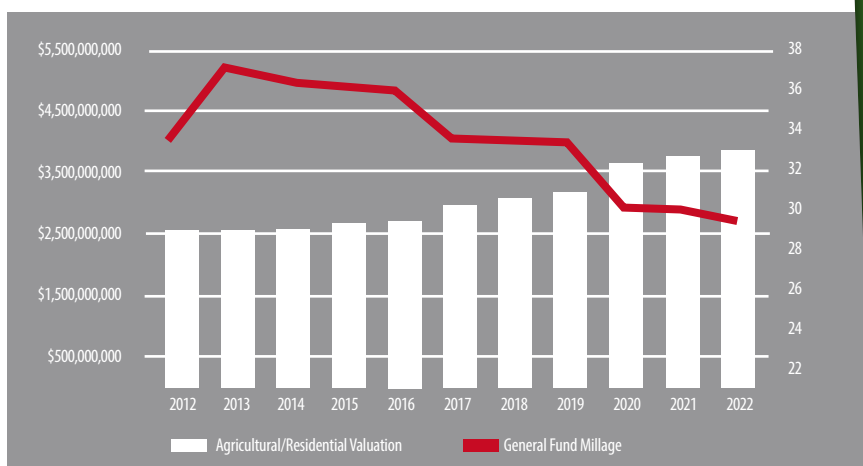


LIBERTY TWP – 2012-2022



EFFECT OF HOUSE BILL 920

HB 920 ensures that school districts collect the same amount in local tax revenue as the year prior by increasing or decreasing effective millage (down to a state minimum of 20 mills operating).



What is a Mill?

A Mill is the annual tax rate applied to an assessed value of property.

1 Mill = \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value*

\$100,000 | ASSESSED VALUE OF HOME

TAKE 35% OF PROPERTY VALUE

\$35,000 | TAXABLE VALUE

DIVIDE BY 1000 FOR TAX PER MILL

\$35 | TAX PER MILL

*Taxable value calculated at 35% of total property value. This is the figure on file at the Butler County Auditor's Office (different from appraised value).

COMING UP...

Lakota will utilize the Ohio Checkbook as a resource for our community to review expenditures. This is another example of our commitment to fiscal transparency.

WE are **Fiscally Responsible**

COMMUNITY *connections*

LIGHT UP LAKOTA

Lakota debuted its "Light Up Lakota" event in the spring to allow parents, students, staff and the community to share in the great things happening around Lakota. All 23 Lakota schools participated in the school showcase, spotlighting a special program at their building.

The event let the community see firsthand what it looks like and feels like to learn at Lakota.



COMING UP...

Light Up Lakota 2024: March 13, 6-8 p.m., Lakota East



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

For the eleventh consecutive year, Community Conversations gave the Lakota school board and district leaders an opportunity to get feedback and lead discussions about important topics like district finances, wellness and prevention, and the strategic plan.

THOUGHTEXCHANGE

ThoughtExchange continued to be a valuable online platform for regularly gathering input on different topics and helping inform district decisions. The unique tool, used 21 times last year, encourages participants to respond to a single question and then rate others' thoughts according to how strongly they agree.

ENGAGEMENT IN 2022-2023



PHILANTHROPY

Lakota schools partner with countless local and national causes all year long.

Last fall's district-wide food drive brought in more than 27,500 items for our partners at Reach Out Lakota – a 45% increase over the previous year!

Several Lakota schools also participated in Reach Out Lakota's Can Creations competition, building creative sculptures out of 2,300 items they collected. Lakota's annual staff giving campaign, "Casual for a Cause," amounted to more than \$16,000 in donations.



WE are In This Together

encouraging PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Lakota's teacher professional development (PD) focused on skills, strategies and resources needed to not only build strong connections in the classroom and school community, but also to increase student ownership through learning to meet individual needs, skills and interests.

PD is aligned with needs identified through the analysis of district, building and student data. PD topics included instructional strategies, flexible content and tools, data-driven decisions, classroom culture, targeted instruction and student ownership and reflection.

Building leaders and their leadership teams also designed opportunities for teachers to not only learn new strategies and resources based on their building's specific needs, but also more time to collaborate with one another.

SUMMER LEARNING

For nine years, Lakota has offered weekly summer support to teachers.

During these sessions, teachers can come to work with their innovation specialist and other teachers to plan, design, learn and collaborate for the upcoming year.

Lakota also provided support for building administrators with regular summer sessions as well as a week-long summer bootcamp.



WHEN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS:

- District PD Days
- Building staff meetings
- Building level optional PD sessions
- Innovation specialists who provide job-embedded, 1:1 coaching, modeling and co-teaching opportunities
- Lakota Passport protocol (authentic teacher learning through visits to other classrooms)



ABOUT OUR STAFF

2,013
total
employees

63%
of staff have worked at
Lakota at least 5 years

74%
of teachers have earned
advanced degrees

LAKOTA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Lakota-hosted leadership program that got its start 10 years ago and gave rise to many of the individuals leading the Lakota district and schools today, made its return. The Lakota Leadership Academy is designed to identify and grow up-and-coming Lakota teachers who aspire to hold a leadership position.

The cohort of 25 teachers met monthly to help pursue their interests, explore their options and make an informed decision about their future career pathway.




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NATIONAL AND GLOBAL HONORS



Lakota/Butler Tech teams from Ridge Junior School (systems controls), Lakota East High School (technical problem solving) and Lakota West High School (systems controls) took home first place at the National Technology Student Association competition.



Ridge Junior's Destination Imagination team, "The Original Knock-Offs," placed first in the Global Finals and earned the DaVinci Award for outstanding creativity!

Endeavor Elementary School's "Elemental Dragons!" qualified for the **DI Global Finals**.

Lakota Cyber Academy teacher Ben Dougherty was one of just two recipients of the **2022 Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award by the U.S. Department of Education**.

Lakota Cyber Academy teacher Moriah Walker received the **CYBER.ORG's Educator Award**.

Lakota East High School was ranked the top high school cyber program in the **National Cyber League Fall 2022 Power Rankings**.

Lakota West High School's Hayeon "Lucy" Jeong received two National Silver Medals from the **Scholastic Art & Writing Award Competition**.

In the **WordMasters Challenge™** vocabulary meet, Union Elementary School's third grade team earned a national second place finish. Third-graders Benjamin Feighery and Georgia Grissom, along with sixth-grader Fiona Barrett, achieved a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. Woodland fourth-grader Audrey Harville also earned a perfect score.

Seventeen HOSA (Future Health Professionals) teams from Lakota East and Lakota West qualified for the **International Leadership Conference**.



Ornaments showcasing the photography of Lakota Central High School artists represented Ohio at the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.