



2017-18

Quality Profile



Inside

Academics	3-5
The Student Experience	6-11
Parent & Community Engagement	12-13
Safety & Security	14
Finances	15
Our Future	16

#WEareLak@ta

Kindergartners at Wyandot ECS meet with Superintendent Matthew Miller about their new bookstore.



Matthew J. Miller
Superintendent

WE are Looking Back

At Lakota Local Schools, we believe that a great education is student-centered, and that is what we strive to provide every day. I'm excited to share with you our second annual Quality Profile report, which highlights the achievements of our students and staff over the past school year, and also looks ahead to the future.

Through the Quality Profile, we are able to share with our community the extraordinary happenings in our schools that make Lakota a district of choice. The information is organized by areas of priority for the district: Academics, the Student Experience, Safety and Security, Parent and Community Engagement and Finances.

At Lakota, we offer a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities to our students, in a safe and secure learning environment. We strive to be innovative in our teaching; to think outside the box; to encourage collaboration; and to always remember that the education we provide must be student-centered.

I hope that you find our Quality Profile informative. We are grateful for your continued support of Lakota Local Schools.

Matthew J. Miller

Matthew J. Miller
Superintendent

This publication goes beyond the state-mandated testing results, because our students and our schools are more than just a number.

Lakota Local Schools Board of Education

Standing: Todd Parnell, President Julie Shaffer, Vice President Brad Lovell
Sitting: Kelley Casper, Lynda O'Connor



Cover photo: Students (left to right) Quinn Mullins, Armando Mondragon and Rishi Koul enjoy some time in Freedom Elementary's STEAM² lab.

WE are Achieving Excellence

National and State Honors



The Ohio Department of Education recognized Lakota for the second year in a row as a recipient of the Momentum Award.

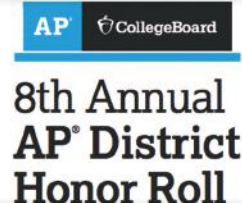


Lakota became one of just 93 districts to join the League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of forward-thinking school districts organized by Digital Promise. More recently, Digital Promise invited Lakota and just five others nationally to be a Core District in the Real World Learning Challenge Collaborative, an effort to bring authentic, life-relevant opportunities to secondary education.



Lakota's preschool program was 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.

With **34 Advanced Placement course options** and more than **250 AP Scholars**, Lakota was one of nearly 450 districts nationally selected by the College Board for the 8th annual AP Honor Roll.



Lakota East High School's news magazine, *Spark*, was named a 2017 Pacemaker Award winner from the National Scholastic Press Association for the 14th time.



Lakota West student Amitoj Kaur was elected the national vice president of membership for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.



Through the district's partnership with Butler Tech, Lakota West's Alandrea Harris and Lakota East's Trey Saunders and Beakal Amsalu were elected as state officers for Ohio Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).



Three students from Liberty Junior, Will Tenoever, Ilyas Malik, and Ryan Hartinger (pictured with Butler Tech teacher Brian Ruby), were named national champions in Systems Control Technology by the Technology Student Association. Hopewell Junior students Courtney Henson, Lucy Laude, Sarah Opoku and Wendi Reffner claimed the second place title for the "Off the Grid" competition.

District Fast Facts

23
schools,
grades pre-K-12

16,500
student enrollment
1,700
employees

98.5%
attendance rate
97.5%
graduation rate

608
college-level courses
taken for transcript credit

WE are Forward Thinking

Plains Junior students participate in Butler's Tech's Automation & Robotics class.

Innovative Learning



Project Based Learning encourages students to identify a real-world problem and solve it. From a bookstore launched by a kindergarten class at Wyandot to an engineering class at East High School assisting local toddlers facing mobility challenges (pictured above) – examples of this approach span all subject areas and grade levels throughout Lakota.



VanGorden Elementary

Innovative learning spaces and teaching practices encourage discovery and exploration. Last year, Lakota reached its goal to establish a **STEAM² lab** in every elementary school.



Wyandot ECS

Learning environments called **Makerspaces** - dedicated areas that promote learning through play and experimentation - are growing in popularity, too.

Digital Learning

Our teachers embrace technology as a valuable tool for facilitating digital learning, which takes many different forms, including:

- Increased collaboration with teachers and peers;
- Student-created projects using newer technology;
- Video conferencing to facilitate younger classes working with older classes; and
- Digital citizenship for safe and responsible use of technology.

Digital platforms like Microsoft and Google help facilitate critical skills like organization, collaboration and communication. Last year, Lakota expanded student and staff access to both these tools to help prepare students to adapt to a workforce that is using both.



In the spring, Lakota hosted a special visit from Thomas Murray, the digital learning and advocacy director for the Alliance for Excellent Education. Murray represents "Future Ready Schools," a national effort to maximize digital learning opportunities for a more personalized learning experience for all students. District administrators signed the national Future Ready pledge last fall.



Freedom students share a robotics and coding exercise with Business Expo attendees.



2018 Career Readiness Academy graduates.

Alternative Learning

Lakota's Career Readiness Academy is a unique alternative program, offering students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma in a smaller, more flexible environment that combines online learning and one-on-one instruction with skill-building and career exploration. The option proved so popular among students that it nearly doubled its enrollment last year.

"It's a great time to be in Lakota because it feels like there's this rebirth going on and we are all in for our kids."

- Jenny Haynes, teacher



Peer-to-Peer Collaboration

Lakota recognizes that some of the best educational practices are embedded in our staff's everyday teaching. That's why we've created opportunities throughout the year for staff to take the lead, share their work and collaborate with their peers district-wide. Lakota Learning Days are organized professional development days led by staff and for staff. In addition, every week a different staff member leads a topic-based #LakotaEdChat on Twitter.

38

staff-led ed chats on Twitter last year

81%

of Lakota teachers have earned advanced degrees

68%

of teachers have worked at Lakota at least 5 years

12

Average years of experience among Lakota teachers



Union Elementary

WE are Student Centered

Lakota Ed Chats

Our weekly staff ed chats on Twitter were led by students several times during the school year. What started as students participating occasionally while staff facilitated the events, became students regularly joining in and even asking to lead a chat for our staff.



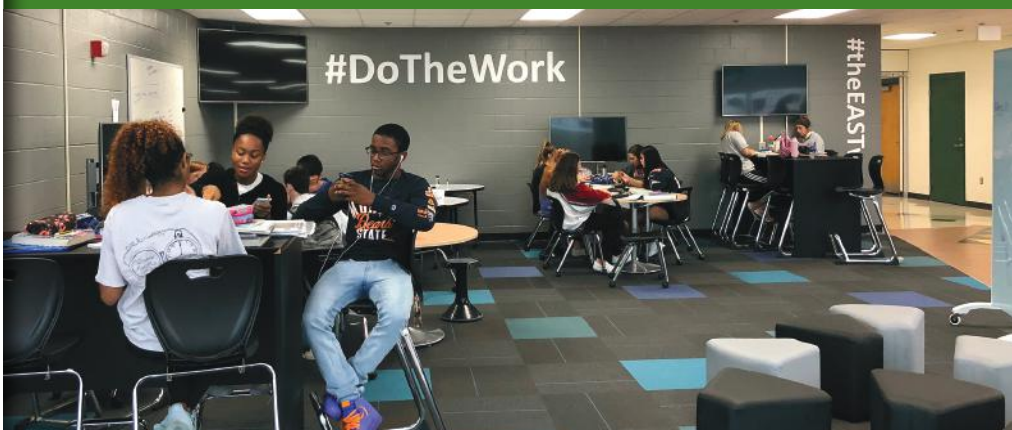
Students from Lakota East and Lakota West, along with Superintendent Matthew Miller, led a national Ed Chat about student voice for Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.

Student Inspired Learning Spaces

Improving the student experience at Lakota starts with tapping into student voice.

Administrators at Lakota East depend on the Student Advisory Council to share ideas, concerns and questions. Last school year, the group suggested that an unused locker bay be repurposed as a new learning space. The transformation took place over the summer (pictured below) and has been embraced by students.

Fifth-graders at Endeavor Elementary are benefiting first-hand this year from a project based learning exercise they participated in last school year. Working in small groups, students researched and planned all aspects of their school's new STEAM lab. The space came to life this summer as a mixture of the groups' best ideas.



Community Conversations

Community Conversations have been a long-standing tradition at Lakota. It is a way for our school board members and administrators to hear what parents, community members and staff think about the direction our district is taking. Student voice is also a key component to this program.

Conversations with students were held at both high schools and all four junior schools last year. Takeaways from these meetings, including the importance of building relationships with students, will play an integral role in the 2018-19 school year.



Students at Lakota West High School participate in a community conversation.



Plains Junior students attend the Discover STEM Conference hosted by the Butler County Educational Service Center.

WE are Creating Opportunities

At Lakota, we pride ourselves in providing every student with every opportunity to explore their passions and interests, with the goal of preparing them for one of the three Es after graduation.

Enrollment

Higher education is a popular choice for many of our students. It's why we value early and continuous exposure to different career paths as well as programs like College Credit Plus that give students a head start on college. Classroom and community visits with experts, widening course options, Junior Achievement's "Job Exploration Day" and a range of high school internship options are all valuable learning experiences for Lakota students.

Employment

Butler Tech continues to be a unique regional resource for our students who are interested in gaining valuable employment skills or directly entering the workforce after graduation.

Enlistment

Last year's inaugural Military Commitment Ceremony paid tribute to the seniors who had officially committed to entering either a military academy or branch of service after graduation. Long-standing traditions that celebrate national holidays like Veteran's Day, as well as newer ones like last year's Honor Flight Tri-State hosted by Lakota East High School, instill a strong sense of patriotism in our students.



1,100
students participated
in internships or job
shadowing experiences
hosted by **70**
businesses last year.



192
students graduated
with certification in a
concentrated trade.



4,000
students participated in
18
Butler Tech satellite
courses at Lakota.



81%
of graduates
pursue higher
education.



54
students committed
to the military.

WE are Building a Positive Culture

There is a district-wide focus on the E+R=O model (event + your response = outcome), which encourages students and staff to press pause and consider the consequences of their reactions.

E+R=O

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Character Education

Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) is a model for character education that all Lakota schools have adopted to help reinforce positive behavior among students. While it can take many different forms - like the "Fill the Bucket Challenge" at Creekside ECS or painting positive messages on rocks at VanGorden Elementary (pictured above) - it's all about celebrating students who demonstrate positive character traits.



Be the Difference

Experiential learning programs, like "Be the Difference" at the high school level, promote self-reflection, understanding and empathy. The day-long program involves small and large group activities and discussion, each designed to give students new perspectives about their peers and the oftentimes unseen challenges they may face. Called "ID Project" in Lakota's junior schools and "FUZE" in grades 4-6 (pictured above at Independence Elementary), each one builds on the level before it.

Embracing Diversity

33%

of students are non-caucasian or of a different ethnic background.

6%

of students identify English as a second language.

11%

of students speak a language different than English at home.

54

languages are spoken by Lakota families.

20%

of students are economically disadvantaged.



Liberty ECS Multicultural Night

Last year, Lakota announced the creation of the Lakota Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion (LODI) department. This office is charged with enhancing the district's ongoing efforts to consistently provide all students with a safe, secure and supportive learning environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation.

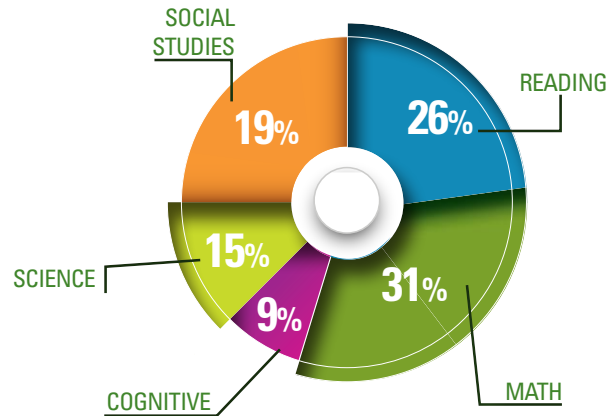
"Champions for Change," a subgroup of LODI, is a group of staff leaders dedicated to promoting a culture of empathy and understanding among students and staff across all Lakota schools.

WE are Supporting our Students

Gifted Learners

One-third of all Lakota students have been identified as gifted learners and Lakota answers the call to challenge their learning through its robust gifted education program. Beginning in the elementary years, Lakota offers group clustering in language arts (grades K-5), an advanced math class (grades 3-5) and Tutoring and Enrichment (grade 6). Gifted support at the secondary level continues in the form of advanced coursework.

GIFTED IDENTIFICATION BY AREA



219

Accelerated Students

85

Whole Grade
Accelerations

134

Single Subject
Accelerations

Students with Disabilities

Instructional aides, intervention specialists, psychologists, a parent mentor and therapists all support the needs of Lakota's 1,925 students with disabilities. Specialized learning environments include:

- 10** social communication classrooms.
- 15** multiple disabilities classrooms providing instruction in academics, basic life skills and communication.
- 2** classrooms that focus on behavioral and emotional disabilities.



The district's "Transition to Work" program allows special needs students to learn employment basics while honing their interpersonal and social skills.

75 students were placed at 23 local employers, in addition to 14 Lakota schools and the Central Office.

English Language Learners

Lakota celebrates and embraces the opportunity to fold diversity into the overall student learning experience and provide special services to our English Language Learners (ELL). Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, ELL services are being expanded to every Lakota school.

"We strive to make the ELL program more than just an intervention, but also a safe place for learning, thinking, problem-solving and innovation."

— Adena Elementary ELL specialist Helen Vassiliou

25 students took a trip to the Freedom Center to cap off their year-long study about the leadership ideals of courage, perseverance, and the importance of helping others.



WE are **Dedicated to**

the Arts

Theater

Lakota's theater program offers opportunities in drama, music, design or technology beginning as early as seventh grade. Students can share their talents in top notch productions like last year's production of *Shrek the Musical* at Lakota West (pictured above).



Visual Arts

Last year, Lakota's student-artists continued the streak of regional and national level recognition for painting, drawing, photography, jewelry, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art talents.

Lakota West's Trey Small won the Grand Prize in the Congressional Art Competition. His drawing, "Skilled Hands at Work," (pictured left) hung at the U.S. Capitol Building for a year.

Lakota high school students won

53

regional Gold Key awards in the Scholastic Art Competition – plus 4 national Gold Medals and 2 Silver Medals.



Band

Lakota's band program provides many opportunities for students to test their interest and talent in musical performing arts. The program's long record of success, at local and national levels of competition, is a testament to the instructional foundation band students receive.

Both Lakota marching bands have

earned a superior rating for

21

consecutive years at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals

won more than

40

grand champion awards.

29

musicians from both Lakota East and West were named to OMEA All-State Ensembles.



Choir

Lakota's high school choir programs build upon the foundation set in junior school, exposing students to vocal pedagogy, music theory, ear training, sight reading and more. The district offers a wide range of performance groups and ensembles. Lakota choirs have consistently received superior ratings at district and state OMEA events since 1997.

More than

700

students participate in 10 different high school choirs.

WE are CHAMPIONS

More than **3,000** student-athletes participated in Lakota's **25** varsity school-sponsored sports.

Team Honors



Lakota East Girls Track
1600m and 4x100 State Champions



Lakota West Girls Softball
State Runner-up

Lakota West Girls Basketball
Regional Runner-up

Lakota East Girls Cross Country
State Qualifier

Lakota East Boys & Girls Golf
State Qualifiers

Lakota East Girls Softball
Sectional Champions

Lakota East Boys Basketball
Sectional Champions

Individual Honors

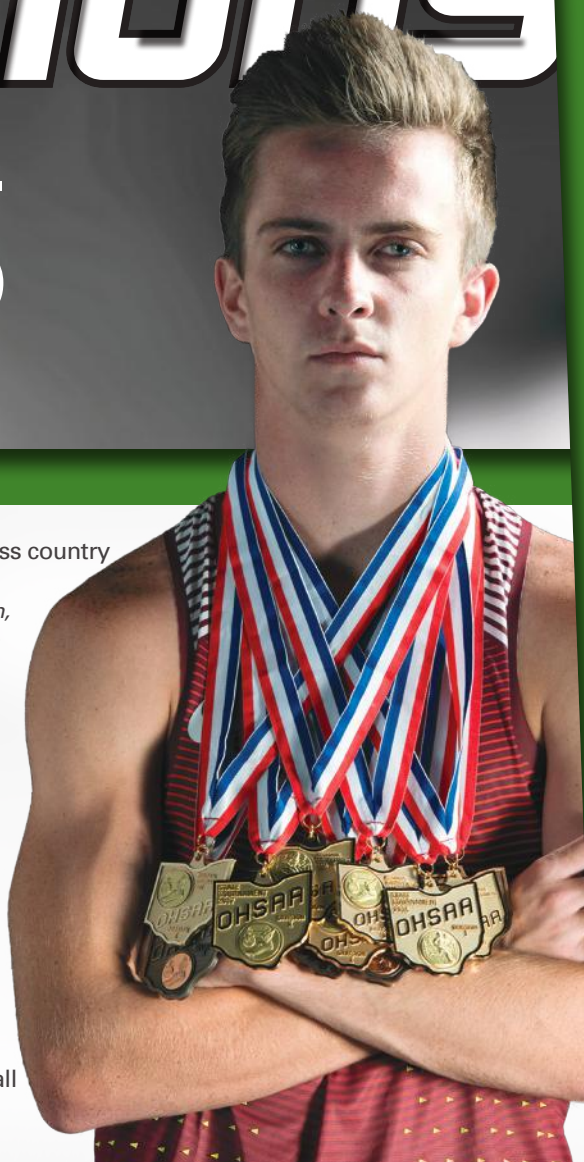
Dustin Horter | Lakota East track & cross country
(pictured right)
6X State Champion, 2X National Champion,
Team USA member and 3X Ohio Gatorade
Runner of the Year

Serena Clark | Lakota East track
100m State Runner-up and sophomore
member of the 4x100m State
Championship Relay

Allie Cummins | Lakota West softball
Three All-Ohio first teams
(first in Lakota history)

Linden Eberly | Lakota West soccer
Two All-American teams

Abby Prohaska | Lakota West basketball
USA Girls National team



“Every time I toe the line, I thank God for the environment I’ve been blessed with here at Lakota.”

–Dustin Horter, Lakota East student-athlete



66

Student-athletes
committed to playing their
sport at the college level.



WE are Making a Difference

Casual for a Cause!



Staff Giving

More than 700 Lakota employees modeled the way by contributing \$45K through "Casual for a Cause," a district-wide staff giving effort to support local causes that serve our families.



The 10th annual district-wide food drive had a new twist and record results. The "Stuff the Bus" drive yielded 50 percent more than the previous year – about 27,000 pounds of non-perishable items to stock Reach Out Lakota's shelves for months.

Philanthropy

Lakota schools partner with countless local and national causes all year long to share their talents and make a difference in the lives of others.

The Dragonfly Foundation, which helps young cancer and bone marrow transplant patients and their families, chose Lakota high schools to pilot their new Student Ambassador Program.



Lakota West's "Volley for the Cure" tradition and East's "Hawks for the Cure" events have raised \$175,000 in support of the Susan G. Komen Fund for breast cancer awareness and research.



Lakota high schools held their annual Relay for Life events, with nearly 700 students helping to raise over \$90,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Service Learning

Lakota East Freshman English students completed a service learning project that combined curriculum-based learning with community service. Students researched issues impacting the community, volunteered with a local organization, and reflected on their experiences.

As another example, more than 25 groups from all four of Lakota's junior schools honed their decision-making, teamwork and presentation skills while participating in a local competition to create a t-shirt design for a non-profit organization. A Hopewell Junior team had the winning design, with t-shirt sales benefiting the Animal Friends Humane Society.

"Service learning is learning that I can't offer in the classroom, but can only be experienced when students are totally engaged in serving others."

–Amy Mahaffey, Lakota East Honors English teacher

WE are Committed to our Community

Last year, the superintendent launched monthly community coffee chats, giving parents and residents an opportunity to learn more about what's happening in the schools, ask questions or share thoughts and ideas.

Community Conversations

This multi-year listening program has amounted to over 180 community meetings, giving the Lakota school board and district leaders a venue for building relationships and gauging the community's values around public education. Feedback during these sessions directly contributed to the building realignment announced last year to offer all-day kindergarten without a lottery, as well as the decision to offer daily specials in grades K-6 and begin piloting a 1:1 technology initiative.



In 2017-2018

42

community listening sessions

175

district-level parent & community engagement events

192

articles posted to the district website

1.7 Million

email messages delivered

13,700

social media followers

8,000

downloads of Lakota's new mobile app



State of the Schools

As part of its commitment to be transparent with the community and provide an update on district accomplishments and future plans, Lakota hosted its first State of the Schools address last March. Superintendent Matthew Miller was joined by several student and staff presenters, including a student band from Freedom Elementary that debuted an original song they called "Oh Lakota."

Parent & Community Engagement

An expanding parent engagement program is built on Lakota's belief that when parents are engaged in their child's education and school community, academic performance improves. Lakota works hard to offer non-traditional parent engagement programs like community fanfares, learning series and family multicultural, literacy and technology nights - just to name a few.



WE are Serious about Safety



Safety and security is Lakota's number one priority.

Safety drills, drug searches, safe and secure entrances, and strict protocols for visitors only scratch the surface of Lakota's continuously evolving safety plans. The District Safety Committee of administrators, school resource officers and first responders continues to bring best practices to Lakota.

High School Hope Squads

Lakota partnered with Greater Cincinnati's Grant Us Hope to establish a Hope Squad at both high schools last year. Following the model of the national school-based peer-to-peer suicide prevention program, Hope Squad members are students nominated by their peers and trained to identify at-risk students, provide friendship and seek help from an adult. Lakota's junior schools will spend the 2018-19 school year establishing their own Hope Squads.



24-Hour Safety Tip Line

Last year, the district partnered with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Public Safety to bring the SaferOH tip line to the Lakota community. The 24-hour anonymous tip line (available at 844-SAFEROH) builds upon the district's "Text-a-Tip" program, providing another way for concerned students, parents and residents to alert school officials and authorities to potential threats.



MindPeace

A new partnership between Lakota and MindPeace will increase student access to high quality and affordable mental healthcare. The partnership helps place a licensed therapist in our schools without any financial investment by the district. A pilot at Lakota West High School last year set the district up for a gradual district-wide rollout, beginning with Lakota East and the junior schools in the fall of 2018.

WE are Fiscal Stewards

As we continue to enhance our academic offerings so that our students are prepared to successfully meet the demands of life after graduation, we also understand how to live within our means and have changed the way we do business.

“Our financial outlook is strong and we intend to keep our promise to residents of maintaining an efficient and effective budget.”

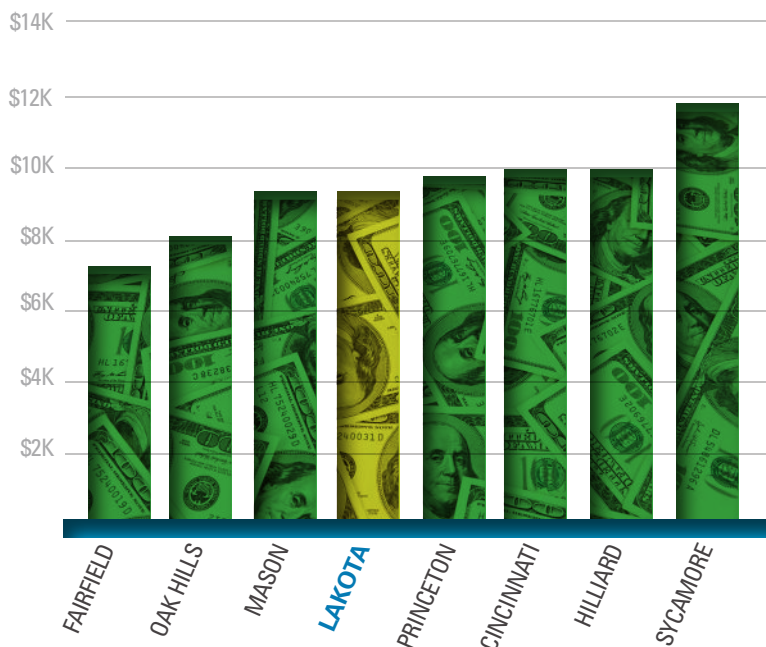
–Jenni L. Logan, Treasurer/CFO



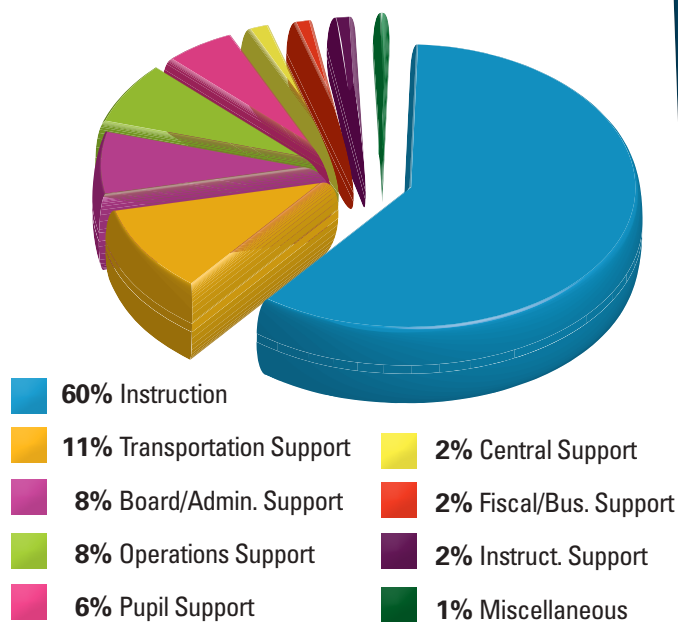
Lakota’s per pupil spending is comparable to similar districts - further evidence of our responsible spending.

We spend 68% of our general fund on the areas of instruction, pupil support and instructional support.

SPENDING PER PUPIL



GENERAL FUND EXPENSES BY AREA



Highly Rated.

Lakota has maintained one of the highest possible bond ratings of Aa1 by Moody’s Investors Service.

Honored.

For the fourth consecutive year, Lakota has earned the Auditor of State Award with Distinction, one of the highest financial honors public entities are able to receive.

Balanced.

Lakota has maintained a balanced budget since 2012 and projects that it will continue until at least 2022.



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Lakota Schools



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Lakota Local Schools



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*****ECRWSS*****

Local

Postal Customer

WE are Moving Forward

Inside we focus on Lakota's progress in 2017-2018. Check out some of the exciting initiatives already underway this school year in our priority areas.

Academics

All-Day Kindergarten

Updated attendance boundaries and a building realignment paved the way for all-day kindergarten without the lottery system. Lakota experienced record enrollment numbers for incoming kindergartners this year.



1:1 Technology Pilot

A new digital learning pilot called "WE are Empowered" is pairing each of our seventh and eighth grade students with a district-owned Chromebook to support high quality teacher-led instruction. The media centers in all four junior schools have been transformed into Innovation Hubs, which support application-based digital learning across subject areas.

The Student Experience

Daily Specials

Students in all-day kindergarten through sixth grade are enjoying six year-round daily specials that include art, music, gym, technology, STEAM² and health & wellness.



The High School Experience

Through listening sessions with students, parents, staff and community members, Lakota is using this year to reimagine the high school experience. The work focuses on community partnerships to support real world learning and anticipates the upcoming 1:1 technology rollout for grades 9-12.

Parent & Community Engagement

CommUnity University

Lakota is launching its first-ever Family & Parent CommUnity University, a monthly learning series led by expert Lakota staff and community partners about important topics in education.

Safety & Security



Keeping Students Safe

As programs like MindPeace and Hope Squad continue to expand in support of students' mental health, Lakota is also introducing a new visitor management system called Raptor and adding eight school resource officers to reach full-time coverage on each of its 18 campuses.