Quality

ED sures

TO THE

2

3

4-7

8-9

10

11

Inside

WE are Looking Back WE are Achieving Excellence WE are Future Ready WE are Personalized WE are In This Together WE are Fiscally Responsible



JRE

টিটি

#WEAREBETTERTOGETHER

Eare





WE are Looking Back

The mission of Lakota Local Schools is simple: Everything WE do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child.

In this year's Quality Profile, we look back at the 2021-2022 school year. One where, despite the many obstacles that COVID-19 continued to present, WE were able to persevere. WE continued to meet the diverse needs of our students under extenuating circumstances, all while remaining personalized, future ready, fiscally responsible and in this together.

The theme of the 2021-2022 school year was "Back to the Future." Although COVID was still prevalent, we were able to bring

a bit of normalcy back to our school day and the way we educate our students. This Quality Profile is an opportunity for us to share with you the story of a Lakota education. Not only will you learn more about the opportunities offered and achievements earned, you'll also get a peek at what's on the horizon this year.

I hope that you find it informative and celebrate with us all of the achievements that our students, teachers and staff accomplished last year.

As always, WE are grateful for the support you give Lakota Local Schools and our kids.

Matthew J. Miller

Matthew J. Miller Superintendent/CEO

COMING UP...

Lakota Local Schools will evaluate and update its strategic plan and metrics during the 2022-2023 school year.





Purple Star Award

Cherokee Elementary was selected as an Ohio Department of Education 2022 Purple Star school. Cherokee joins Adena Elementary and Lakota East High School in receiving this honor for its outstanding commitment to serving military-connected students.



National Cybersecurity Award Lakota West Cyber Academy teacher Ben Dougherty was selected from educators across the country to receive one of CYBER.ORG's inaugural Educator Awards for his work launching the district's cutting-edge cybersecurity program.

-	HIO PUBL	IC
	U	SEE.
SER	S	STO
	Ā	/.
	SINCE 19	55

OSBA Capital Conference Four Lakota groups were selected for the Student Achievement Fair at the Ohio School Boards Association's Capital Conference. They represented Lakota Cyber Academy (East and West), INCubatoredu (East), Sources of Strength (Plains Junior) and Spill It Fill It (Independence Elementary).

Lakota Local Schools Board of Education Standing, L to R: Darbi Boddy, Julie Shaffer, Kelley Casper

Sitting, L to R: Vice President Isaac Adi President Lynda O'Connor

-2-







ISTE "20 to Watch" Award

Innovation Specialist Kim Carlson received a "20 To Watch" award from The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) for her innovative teaching style through projects that others in education can replicate in their classrooms.



OASBO Service Award

Chief Operations Officer Chris Passarge received the statewide 2022 Virginia Ramsey Service Award from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials' (OASBO) Foundation for School Business Management.



Step Up to Quality

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.

INVENT

1,875 Employees



Auditor of State Award

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





2022 Digital Superintendent of the Year

Superintendent Matt Miller was named the 2022 EmpowerED Digital Superintendent of the Year by CoSN (Consortium for School Network), a premier association of K-12 education technology leaders, and AASA (the School Superintendents

Association). Miller received this honor in recognition of his efforts to ensure all students are engaged and inspired learners with access to equitable and inclusive learning environments.



OHSPRA Achievement Awards

Lakota received three top awards from the Ohio School Public Relations Association for exemplary work. The 2020-21 Quality Profile Report earned a "Best of the Best" award. Lakota's story entitled "Choir Class Teaching a New Tune" won a "Best of the

Best" Award in the writing category. The district's "Back to the Future" video earned a "Mark of Distinction" award.

LAKOTA SNAPSHOT

Lakota is the largest suburban public school district in southwest Ohio and serves West Chester and Liberty townships.

23 schools, grades preK–12

63 square miles

OUR EMPLOYEES



8% Teachers with advanced degrees

13 Average years of teaching



1,335 Graduates - Class of 2022 -



98.5% Graduation Rate



38% of students non-Caucasian or of a different ethnic background



111

REAL WORLD LEARNING

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

EMPLOYMENT



2,800 Last year, more than 2,800

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

57 students with special

needs were placed at 31 local businesses for the district's Work Study program.

ENLISTMENT



18

Lakota East and Lakota West seniors committed to a branch of the military and were celebrated at the district's annual **Military Commitment** Ceremony.

10

ENROLLMENT

1,800 Last vear, Lakota

students enrolled in ore than 1,800 College Credit Plus courses, earning a collective 5,600 college credits.

78% of Lakota graduates pursued higher education.



business partners mentored high school students exploring the possibility of a future in entrepreneurism through the INCubatoredu@Lakota option.

NEW & NOTABLE



Junior Entrepreneurs

"Junior Entrepreneurs" - the stepping stone for the year-long INCubatoredu@Lakota high school elective - was offered for the first time to students at all four junior schools last year. Designed for budding entrepreneurs, the multiweek program helps students gain entrepreneurial and workforce readiness skills like problem solving and critical thinking. The experience culminates in a public sales pitch of their solution to a problem they face in their lives.



INCubatoredu National Pitch

In year two of Lakota offering the INCubatoredu@Lakota course, the Lakota West team "Matched Up" was one of just five groups selected to participate in a national pitch competition hosted by Uncharted Learning in Chicago. The group, selected from a pool of about 60 groups worldwide, spent the year developing their business idea for an app that matches students up with businesses for job opportunities and work experience based on their career interests. The group placed first at Lakota's local pitch night, earning \$2,500 in seed money to kick start their business.



Cyber Academy

The largest cybersecurity program in the Midwest, Lakota's Cyber Academy produced 98 national cyber scholarship winners and 16 students placing in the top 15 percent in the National Cyber League college competition last year. Designed to develop a local pool of talent in the lucrative field of cybersecurity, the course links every student up with an industry mentor, a paid internship and the opportunity to earn industry certifications.



Business Partnerships

Following a year of limited options for folding business partners into the Lakota learning experience, the district went to work last year leveraging its 250-plus partners to create authentic learning experiences for students. Internships returned in full force and visitors were welcomed back into our classrooms and for larger programs like "Real World Learning 101" at Lakota West Freshman (pictured above).



ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION

The Lakota education goes well beyond the classroom, as students are encouraged to take advantage of Lakota's continuously growing list of after-school programs and activities.



Lakota East's Engineering Design and Animatronics teams were named National Champions in the Technology Student Association competition, the first time an Ohio team has ever won this national title. Five East teams won the state competition.

STATE & NATIONAL HONORS

A Destination Imagination team of Lakota elementary students won at the state level of competition and qualified for **Global Finals**.

A Woodland sixth grade team placed in the Top 10 in the National NPR Podcast Challenge.

A Liberty Junior eighth-grader won first place in the **Ohio Pitch Challenge** for budding entrepreneurs.

Two West Freshman teams took first place in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America state competition. An East senior was a national finalist in the American Rocketry Challenge.

Two fourth-graders from Cherokee and Union elementary schools earned perfect scores in the **Wordmasters Challenge** national vocabulary competition.

Lakota East's Spark Magazine won its 17th **National Pacemaker Award** for journalism excellence, and its editor penned a **National Story of the Year**.

At the Health Occupations Students of America state competition, Lakota East and West high school students collectively won five state titles and qualified for the international competition. Seven Lakota artists won national awards in the **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition**, representing the top one percent of 260,000 entries.

A Lakota West artist's photo was the top entry in Congressman Warren Davidson's annual **Congressional Art Competition**, and a West senior claimed first place in the fine arts category.

The West band won the **Bands of America Central Ohio Regional Championship** – the first time in school history and only the sixth time for any Ohio school.



VISUAL ARTS

The Lakota Visual Arts experience, made available through specials at the younger grade levels and electives in the upper grades, provides students the opportunity to explore creating art in a variety of mediums and compete for scholarships and awards regionally and nationally.



MUSIC

With over 450 students participating in Lakota's high school band programs and 550 in high school choir programs, Lakota offers ample opportunities for students to explore their interests in music. Both programs consistently earn superior ratings at the state level of competition, with East's and West's marching bands collectively winning 80 national grand champion awards.



THEATER

Junior high and high school theater programs offer creative opportunities for students to explore drama, music, design and technology. The community was treated to top notch productions like Chicago at Lakota West (pictured above) and Once Upon a Mattress at Lakota East.



72 scholar-athletes committed to play their sport at the collegiate level.

Lakota West won the Girls State Softball Championship (pictured above). A West softball player was named the 2022 Gatorade Ohio Athlete of the Year and Ohio Softball Player of the Year. The Lakota East Dance team earned a state title at the **OASAA** Cheer and Dance competition.

A Lakota East student took first place in the 100m and 200m dash at the **OHSAA State Track Championships**. An East senior won the **Boys Golf State Championship**.

A Lakota West student was the top freshman finisher in the OHSAA State Cross Country Championship. WE are **Future Ready**

#WEareBuildingOurFuture **MASTER FACILITIES PLAN**

After pressing pause twice on master facilities work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district committee began moving full steam ahead to choose a final building plan that will meet the educational needs of our students far into the future.

A master facilities plan (MFP) 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. The last comprehensive plan was completed in the early 2000s with a modified one in 2008. The committee's end goal is to build a plan that protects the district's most important assets -Lakota's 25 buildings valued at more than \$632 million - and supports the type of learning that will carry our schools into the future.

As enrollment continues to climb, it is even more important that an MFP be developed and approved. With current enrollment over 17,000, the district has been forced to make use of modular, or portable, classrooms to accommodate the growth.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the committee, which includes all five school board members, reviewed eleven different plan options as well as community feedback gathered through focus groups, meetings and ThoughtExchange surveys. At its April meeting, the Board narrowed the plans to three new configurations plus a baseline plan that keeps all current buildings and grade bands.

34 classroom additions to six buildings

schools

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As they work toward narrowing the options in the fall of 2022, receiving community feedback on the four plans is a priority for the Board and MFP committee. For those who are unable to attend one of the in-person meetings, a recording is available at www.lakotaonline.com/MFP.



(now West Freshman)

ECS)

Liberty Junior

Shawnee w ECS) & now ECS) or Woodland

elementaries



HOW WILL LAKOTA FUND THE PLAN?

Knowing a master facilities plan (MFP) would be adopted by the Board in the near future, Lakota's finance leadership has been laying the groundwork to help ease the burden on our taxpayers as much as possible.

STATE ASSISTANCE

The Board of Education may choose to enroll in Ohio's Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP). Once accepted, the district would be eligible to begin receiving partial funding from the State for all Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) approved projects that are completed in the final Master Facilities Plan from this point forward. Right now, it is estimated that this could amount to 29%, or up to \$147 million of financial assistance, for the district so long as the MFP meets state requirements.

DISTRICT PLANNING

By taking advantage of lower interest rates and restructuring its debt, Lakota's finance team has saved taxpayers several million dollars. The district has restructured its debt with the goal to pay it off sooner versus decreasing the millage rate. Lakota has shifted its strategy from lowering millage rates over time to maintaining a consistent millage for a shorter period of time.

IMPACT TO TAXPAYERS

Until a final plan is approved by the Board, and details are finalized, the district can only share a range of possible mills with the community. When estimating for an ELPPsupported project in which we partner with the State (options two through four maximize these savings), the treasurer estimates a net increase in current millage between 1.5 and 3 mills. Not partnering with the State, we would need to collect approximately 3.75-5.25 additional mills.

CALCULATING A MILL

A mill is the annual tax rate applied to an assessed value of property. One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value. Assessed value is the taxable value calculated at 35% of the total property value. This is the figure that is on file at the Butler County Auditor's office and differs from an appraised value. For example, if a home is valued at \$100,000, the taxable value is 35% or \$35,000. To determine the tax per mill, divide \$35,000 by 1,000, which equals \$35 tax per mill.

The district purposefully restructured its debt to minimize the impact of a new bond issue, which would be required to finance the master facilities plan. The last time Lakota was on the ballot was in 2013.

COMING UP....

The Board will narrow the four MFP options and provide more details on the selected plan(s) before finalizing a funding plan.



Plains Junior, VanGorden Elementary & Central Office Lakota East Freshman & remodeling of Liberty ECS, with additional four classrooms

2007: Endeavor Elementary, Wyandot ECS & additions to high schools 2009: Union Elementary

2022: The Academy becomes Lakota Central and expands to include classrooms at West Freshman.

2017: Career Readiness

Academy relocates to old Board of Education building

Fast Facts



Lakota's 25 buildings are valued at more than \$632 million.

The average age of Lakota's facilities is 34 years old.



By 2038, eight (or one-third of) Lakota schools will be over 50 years old.



Lakota's two high schools are the oldest in Butler County.

Enrollment is over 17,000 and continues to grow, outpacing long-term predictions from 2019.



The last time Lakota was on the ballot was in 2013.

WE are **Future Ready**

\$147 MILLION If enrolled in ELPP, Lakota could qualify for partial state funding of its MFP amounting to 29% or up to \$147 million.





SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

WE recognize that every Lakota student is unique. That's why we work hard to celebrate our differences, meet students where they are in their academic, social and emotional learning, and provide personalized support.

MTSS

Read more about

Lakota's MTSS efforts

Watch a short video

outlining the changes.



PERSONALIZED LEARNING

INCREASED FOCUS ON MTSS

MTSS, or Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, is the driver behind personalized learning and represents all the data-driven academic, social and behavioral programs that address students' needs. Last year, Lakota took a big step forward to intensify its MTSS work. Dedicating a supervisor to each grade band, the new MTSS team helped coordinate data-driven systems and decision making across schools.

NEW GIFTED SUPPORT MODEL

A professional development plan at the elementary level that shifted gifted math education to the traditional classroom - and added an English Language Arts option (ELA Plus) - yielded a 327% increase in the number of students receiving gifted support last year. For the first time, 100% of

identified students received gifted support and more than 1,300 students took advantage of ELA Plus. Additionally, all Lakota teachers began a four-year program to become gifted service providers.

The redesign led to Lakota meeting the Gifted Performance Index on the state report card for the first time.

NEW SECONDARY BELL SCHEDULE

A daily seven-bell schedule for secondary students last year introduced the option to take an additional course or take advantage of an advisory period during which teachers from core subjects rotated through to provide specialized academic support.

COMING UP...

In the 2022-2023 school year, the district introduced Lakota Central, offering flexible learning options to meet the individual needs of high school students.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY



Lakota's Outreach Diversity & Inclusion (LODI) department promotes a welcoming and equitable

learning experience for every student. LODI facilitates such programs as student diversity groups; "Champions for Change" supporting staff professional development; and various parent engagement and community outreach initiatives.

NEIGHBORHOOD BRIDGES

Lakota's partnership with neighborhood bridges calls on the community to help meet the essential needs of at-risk students. Last year, 473 students and families were supported with donations exceeding \$30,000.



The retrofitted van donated to a local family in need.

ESL CONNECT

LODI piloted "ESL Connect" at Cherokee Elementary to help families navigate technology and build new relationships. The event removed barriers so parents and guardians could more easily partner with their school to support their child's education.



COMING UP...

The Latino Literacy Parent Program for building literacy strategies among Lakota's Spanish-speaking parent population will expand to all six early childhood schools.



WE CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

38% of students are non-Caucasian or of a different ethnic background.





12% of students speak a language different than English at home.

languages are spoken by Lakota families. 60

17% of students are economically disadvantaged.*



*During the 2021-2022 school year, the USDA provided free breakfast and lunch meals for all students, resulting in fewer free and reduced meal applications.



2,100 students receive services for their disabilities.

2% of students in grades 2-12 identify as gifted.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS 2021-2022 IMPACT

10% of all students referred for mental health treatment.

554 students received **2,154** hours of individual or group prevention.

2,697 education hours provided to staff, students or teachers.

959 students received 12,117 hours of school-based therapy.





Therapy Dogs: Our Pack is Growing

Lakota's partnership with non-profit Circle Tail helped grow Lakota's pack of therapy dogs from seven to nine last year (up to 10 for the 2022-2023 school year). Part of the district's crisis team, the four-legged staff members provide cognitive, social, emotional and physical support for both students and staff.



Expanding Sources of Strength

Designed to be a companion program to the high schools' Hope Squads, Sources of Strength expanded to all four junior schools last year following its pilot at Plains the year prior. The program empowered about 100 student leaders to run a total of 16 campaigns that promoted a positive school culture and healthy decision making.



Social Emotional Learning Special

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) was added to the early childhood and elementary specials rotation last year. Through Ohio's required SEL standards, Lakota students learn how to manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals. They also learn to feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.



MindPeace Therapists

Lakota partners with MindPeace to place a licensed therapist in our schools as a way of providing students access to high quality and affordable mental health services at no cost to the district.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NEW WEBSITE & MOBILE APP

In the summer of 2022, Lakota's district and school websites in addition to the downloadable mobile app - took on a dramatic new look and feel. A host of new features included customizable calendars, searchable news feeds, improved search functionality and translation, as well as a better overall navigation.









Download the Android version of Lakota's app.



IN THE LOOP WITH THE SUPE

The superintendent continued hosting monthly community chats, giving parents and residents a direct link to leadership and the opportunity to ask questions or share feedback. To increase access and in response to the higher participation rates throughout the pandemic, the sessions alternated between an in-person and virtual format.

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 22 times last year, encourages participants to respond to a single question and then rate others' thoughts according to how strongly they agree.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

For the tenth 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, the 4Es, post-pandemic learning, and respect and civility.





ENGAGEMENT IN 2021-22		
	16	community listening sessions
	146	articles posted to the district website
$\mathbf{\times}$	6.9 million	email messages delivered
e	29,155	social media followers
	36	videos published
	369	unique Peachjar e-flyers delivered
	3,300	participants in 22 ThoughtExchanges or surveys

PHILANTHROPY

Lakota schools partner with countless local and national causes all year long. The fall's district-wide food drive brought in about 19,500 items for our partners at Reach Out Lakota. Lakota's annual staff giving campaign, "Casual for a Cause," amounted to nearly \$19,000 in donations. Lakota also teamed up with Cincinnati Children's Liberty Community Advisory Committee to host a "Stuff the Bus" community drive that equipped hundreds of students with a backpack and supplies for the new school year.



GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS

Being fiscally responsible with our taxpayers' dollars isn't just something we say...it's something we do. As we continue to expand learning opportunities for our students, we do so in a way that will be fiscally sustainable.



HONORED

For the eighth consecutive year, Lakota earned the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. This recognition came after the Fiscal Year 2021 financial audit and is a testament to the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency.



HIGHLY RATED

Lakota's strong financial decisions during the last several years have earned the district one of the highest possible bond ratings of Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service and AA+ by Standard & Poor's (S&P).



BALANCED BUDGET

Lakota Locals Schools has achieved 10 consecutive years of having a balanced budget, a feat that is not very common for school districts in Ohio.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As a result of making fiscal responsibility a priority for the district, the long run of balanced budgets has enabled Lakota to build up very strong cash reserves. While Lakota's budget stabilization policy sets a minimum 90day cash balance, at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 the amount exceeded seven months, more than double the minimum set in policy.

Although the May forecast reflected a deficit in FY24, the cash balance remains healthy at the end of the forecasted period, with nearly six months' cash balance available. Additionally, the balance in the district's "rainy day" fund is predicted to exceed \$8 million.

Lakota Local Schools has not been on the ballot since 2013.

COMING UP...

Meet Lakota's New Treasurer/CFO Adam Zink has been with Lakota since 2016, serving as assistant treasurer to Jenni Logan, who retired in July.

REMAINING ESSER III ALLOCATIONS



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, coupled with the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and BroadbandOhio, provides Lakota with approximately \$19.6 million in federal funds to be spent by September 2024.

This short-term assistance of federal funds has helped the district offset additional expenses incurred due to the pandemic. During the 2021-2022 school year, these funds were used to continue the Lakota-created Virtual Learning Option (VLO); expand Lakota's "WE are Empowered" one-to-one device program to third-through-fifth graders; build out the district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to help implement the district's recovery plan for learning loss and personalized learning for all students; provide additional nursing support; and purchase supply kits for students in grades K-8.

Grades 3-6 1:1 (FY22-24)	\$5,400,000.00
MTSS Supervisors (FY23-24)	\$1,366,147.57
VLO Admin	\$156,814.00
Summer School (FY22-23)	\$200,000.00
Offset Cost of 4 Custodians (FY22-23)	\$376,445.08
MTSS Software (FY22-23)	\$200,000.00
Apex Credit Recovery Software	\$183,089.50
Secondary Tutors & Building Subs (FY22-23)	\$1,000,000.00
Student Classroom Supply Kits	\$865,697.53
Extended School Year Stipends	\$105,306.67
Nursing Staff (FY22-23)	\$2,113,744.87
Total	\$11,967,245.22



Lakota School District 5572 Princeton Road Liberty Twp., OH 45011-9726

Website: lakotaonline.com Email: lakota@lakotaonline.com Phone: 513-874-5505 (Central Office)



- 🕥 @LakotaDistrict
- O Lakota_District

🕒 Lakota Local Schools

Download our NEW app! Search "Lakota Schools" in your app store. ********ECRWSS******** Local Postal Customer



branch of service.

Non-Profit Org. US Postage **PAID** Cincinnati OH Permit #215