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### **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

We believe it is very important to be transparent and proactive in our communication. Understanding school finances and our budget is imperative as we move forward. Below are the most frequently asked questions we are receiving along with answers. For a deeper dive into all things school finance related please listen to our podcast. **Episode 3 will be available using the link below on Sunday, March 6th at 6pm.**

All of the podcast episodes can be found at: <https://rossrams.buzzsprout.com>

One of the most common questions we are receiving is about where we stand in comparison with other districts in regards to revenue per pupil, expenditure per pupil, and how much we pay in taxes.

#### **1. How much money do we actually get per student?**

- Ross is second from the bottom in Butler County with regards to revenue per pupil.
- Ross is well below the state average for revenue per pupil.
- Ross receives significantly less funds than those districts that are comparable academically with Ross.

This data comes from the most up to date financial information regarding school district finances. It is called the District Profile Report (Cupp Report). It was published in December 2021 on the Ohio Department of Education page and can be found at the website indicated in the graph.

## Revenue Per Pupil

School	Total Revenue Per Pupil
Indian Hill	19,240.60
New Miami	17,389.44
Sycamore	17,296.51
State Average	16,154.80
Middletown	15,850.25
Wyoming	15,355.66
Madeira	15,095.84
Talawanda	14,263.31
Madison	13,193.12
Hamilton	12,645.73
Fairfield	12,292.73
Harrison	11,949.22
Monroe	11,861.17
Ross	11,798.02
Edgewood	11,623.01

Source: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports/FY-2021-District-Profile>

Note: Blue districts are those that Ross compares to academically.

### 2. Our cost to educate per pupil is one of the highest in Butler County. Is this correct?

- Ross is close to the middle of the pack in Butler County with regards to cost to educate per pupil. There are four districts who have a higher cost to educate and five districts who are lower than Ross.
- Ross is well below the state average for cost to educate per pupil.
- Ross has a significantly lower cost to educate than those districts that are comparable academically with Ross.

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## **EXPENSE PER PUPIL**

<b>School</b>	<b>Operating Expenditure Per Pupil*</b>
Indian Hill	17,199.59
New Miami	15,677.34
Sycamore	15,658.01
Wyoming	14,129.32
Talawanda	13,519.14
Madeira	13,405.46
<b>State Average</b>	<b>13,386.70</b>
Madison	12,259.74
Middletown	12,201.27
<b>Ross</b>	<b>11,472.14</b>
Edgewood	11,428.57
Fairfield	11,413.29
Harrison	10,558.80
Hamilton	10,158.25
Monroe	10,024.08

Source: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports/FY-2021-District-Profile>

Note: Blue districts are those that Ross compares to academically.

\* Operating expense per pupil does not include expenses for construction, equipment, principal and interest, and payments to other governments.

### **3. Ross is the highest taxed district in Butler County- including earned income and property. Is this correct?**

- No. We have one of the lowest tax rates in Butler County.
- Unlike other school districts Ross does not benefit from a large percentage of commercial property that would provide income tax and property tax revenues.
- Ross is significantly less than those districts with whom we compare academically.

The data below details tax rates for Butler County school districts as well as those who Ross compares to academically.

## **TAX BASE**

School	School Rate	Tax on \$100k to school	% of tax bill	Total Mills	Tax on \$100K Home	SDIT	Type
Madeira	60.5 \$	2,117.50	76%	79.42 \$	2,779.70	0%	
Wyoming*	55.33 \$	1,936.55	73%	75.99 \$	2,659.65	1.25%	All Income
Indian Hill	30.1 \$	1,053.50	41%	72.73 \$	2,545.55	0%	
Middletown	48.05 \$	1,681.75	76%	63.25 \$	2,213.75	0%	
Sycamore	40.45 \$	1,415.75	67%	60.19 \$	2,106.65	0%	
Lakota	34.96 \$	1,223.60	59%	58.98 \$	2,064.30	0%	
Harrison*	26.41 \$	924.35	45%	58.06 \$	2,032.10	0.75%	Earned Income
Monroe	41.44 \$	1,450.40	74%	55.9 \$	1,956.50	0%	
Edgewood	32.52 \$	1,138.20	63%	51.82 \$	1,813.70	0%	
Hamilton	32.95 \$	1,153.25	64%	51.25 \$	1,793.75	0%	
State Average*	34.29 \$	1,200.15	69%	50.03 \$	1,751.05	N/A	
Madison*	35.2 \$	1,232.00	74%	47.78 \$	1,672.30	0.50%	All Income
Fairfield	32.08 \$	1,122.80	68%	47.2 \$	1,652.00	0%	
Ross *	26.2 \$	917.00	58%	45.42 \$	1,589.70	1.25%	Earned Income
Talawanda*	26.5 \$	927.50	61%	43.52 \$	1,523.20	1.00%	All Income
New Miami*	23.48 \$	821.80	54%	43.25 \$	1,513.75	1.00%	All Income

\*Indicates a School District Income Tax

210 Districts have a School District Income Tax

**Source:** Tax Rate sheets from Butler & Hamilton County Auditors

**Note:** Blue districts are those that Ross compares to academically.