



Mason City Schools

# QUALITY PROFILE

Growing Greatness Together





## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Serving as the superintendent and CEO for Mason City Schools is humbling. The people of Mason are richly diverse, prize education, embody a spirit of innovation and have a deep sense of community pride, giving Mason a strong hometown feel. I am always aware that I get to work with the most complex, awe-inspiring, precious people on Earth -- our students. They are the leaders and voices of today and tomorrow, and it is my great privilege to join their teachers, bus drivers, principals and other staff in ensuring that our students are prepared to confidently achieve their dreams.

This year is filled with transitions. In addition to several new leaders in our schools, including a new middle school principal and new high school principal, we are also in the middle of our Master Facilities Plan. Mason Middle School is undergoing a total renovation, we added a new wing of classrooms to the Mason Early Childhood Center and additional classrooms have been added inside the Mason Intermediate building, utilizing existing space that was previously used for locker bays. This plan efficiently reduces our footprint by moving from five schools to four schools in 2019-2020 when we will close Western Row. The best part of this plan is that the Board of Education and school leaders before us applied for Mason City Schools to participate in a program through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission which positioned us to utilize a 'coupon' that pays for **80%** of this total project.

As exciting as the facilities projects are, the number one reason that I am most excited to serve as superintendent is to serve people. The opportunity to build strong, lasting relationships must be at the center of all that we do. To that end, this year our district is committing to three 'big rocks:' Culture, Inclusive Excellence and Personalized Experiences. We are being intentional as we take a close look at our culture so that we can design strategies that allow us to continue to celebrate each learner. Our leadership team shares a deep conviction to see Mason as a beacon of hope to other public schools around the globe, and as a community that truly embraces innovation, equity and justice.

My wife, Michelle, and our four children are thrilled to be a part of growing greatness together in the Mason City Schools community, and we look forward to sharing a #MasonMoment with all of you! If you have ideas or questions about our schools, or you would like to host a CommUNITY Conversation, please call 513-398-0474, ext. 24004.

**Jonathan Cooper**

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# ACADEMICS

Mason strives to develop the whole child by personalizing learning so that every student builds critical skills and mindsets. But, students don't learn these skills in a vacuum. As we teach essential core academic content (reading, writing, math, science

and social studies), we work to integrate the use of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and innovation. This creates opportunities to foster empathy, resilience, persistence, flexibility and optimism.

## 10%

of class of 2018 recognized by the College Board as National Merit finalists (39), commended scholars (43) and Hispanic scholars (6).

## 2,183

high school students engaged in courses that provide hands-on, experiential learning projects and activities.

## 81%

of students in grades 4-12, parents and school staff agree that "my [child's] school provides a well-rounded curriculum."

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey

## GOALS

Deepen the integration of critical skills and mindsets with rigorous academic content.





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# SAFETY

Safety is always top-of-mind in Mason. This year, we launched Hope Squad at Mason High School. Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer program that trains students to be active listeners so they can respond to peers who are struggling with depression or suicide. By investing in the City of Mason's Campus

Safety District, we now have 13 safety experts dedicated to school safety -- a **650%** increase from last year when we had two law enforcement officers. If you see something, say something by calling or texting our SafeSchools tipline at 513-972-4910.



50%

of resolved 2017-2018 SafeSchools tips prevented self-harm or suicide.

80%

of students, parents and school staff agree that they/their child feels safe at school.

85%

of students, parents and school staff agree that they/their child feels safe going to and from school.

80%

of students, parents and school staff agree that they/their child feels safe at school-sponsored events.

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey

## GOALS

Increase law enforcement presence and ensure that all schools have law enforcement coverage each day by partnering with the City of Mason's Campus Safety District.



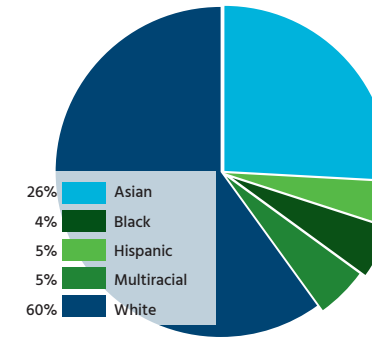


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# INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

We live in a multicultural community, and we have a responsibility to ensure our students are prepared to thrive in the global world. It is important that our schools are safe spaces where all learners are seen, valued, cared for and respected as their full selves. This

year, we are deepening our commitment to Inclusive Excellence by celebrating diversity, embracing equity and justice and living out authentic inclusion. We will support our entire staff in building the knowledge and skills necessary to make that vision a reality.



- 10% of students are at an economic disadvantage
- 9% of students have disabilities
- 36% of students are gifted
- 5% of students have limited English proficiency
- 75 languages spoken by students

## GOALS

100% of MCS staff receive 3 hours of equity and inclusion training from outside expert.





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# FACILITIES

Over the next two school years, the district will finish implementing the Master Facilities Plan that has been in the works since 2000. A substantial addition to the Mason Early Childhood Center, total renovation to Mason Middle School and updates to Mason Intermediate School are all being funded **without** new local taxes. During 2018-2019,

seventh graders, and a portion of eighth graders, are located at Mason Intermediate School, a portion of eighth graders are located at Mason High School, fourth graders are located at Western Row Elementary and Pre-K through second graders are now in their permanent home at the Mason Early Childhood Center.



1/3

of our entire staff moved as part of the Master Facilities Transition Plan.



80%

of the Master Facilities Plan was paid for by Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

## GOALS

Implement Master Facilities Plan on time and on budget.





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# FINANCES

Mason City Schools is committed to fiscal stewardship. We spend 71% of our budget on direct classroom instruction and are watchful of how much financial responsibility is borne by local taxpayers. This year, we are making strategic investments in mental wellness initiatives and staffing; security personnel

and infrastructure; and culture, equity and inclusion professional development for all our staff. It has been 13 years since Mason City Schools passed an operating levy and 10 years since the district received new local operating dollars.

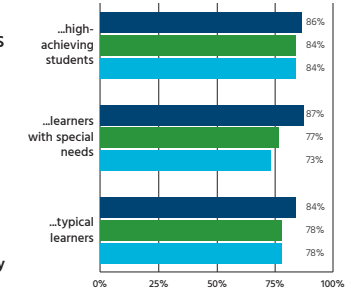
	District	State
Operating Spending per Pupil	\$9,305	\$9,149
Classroom Instruction	\$6,575	\$6,181
Non-Classroom Spending	\$2,730	\$2,968

My [child's] school provides enough resources and support for...

Only students grades 4-12, parents and staff answered this question.

- Students
- Parents
- Staff members

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey



## GOALS

Strategically invest in high-value initiatives based on student, staff, parent and community feedback.



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# INNOVATION

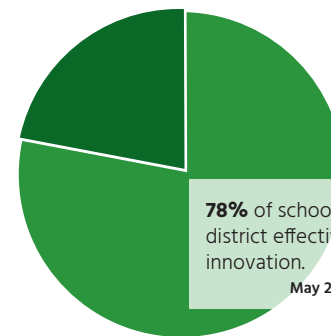
Embracing a mindset that imagines possibilities, instead of seeing problems, is a key component to Mason's culture journey. This year, the Mason Schools Foundation celebrates its 10th year of powering "above and beyond" opportunities for our students.

That partnership has given back over \$800,000 in innovative grants to our schools, but perhaps more importantly, has planted seeds that are now firmly taking root in creating a staff culture of joyful risk-takers who are pioneering next-generation learning.



## 2,113

students impacted by the Mason Schools Foundation Catalyst Grants.



**78%** of school staff agree the district effectively supports innovation.

May 2017 Stakeholder Survey

## GOALS

Leverage opportunities to add flexible, collaborative learning spaces and systems.



# Mason City Schools

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