

Mason City Schools ANNUAL REPORT 2013





following through

A Message from
Dr. Gail Kist-Kline
Superintendent

There are so many changes happening in Ohio schools: new learning standards, new assessments, new evaluation tools for teachers and principals, and a new report card. While all those new things require our attention, I don't want to lose sight of the big picture. **Even as we demand more from our students and staff, we must remain committed to exploring bold, big ideas.**

This fall, we partnered with other districts throughout southwest Ohio to release a **Quality Profile** - a complement to the state report card. Last spring, we held a Town Hall to define the district's vision and develop bold steps for the future. Here's what your teachers, administrators, parents and business leaders produced:

Vision: Empower students and foster personal excellence by creating a collaborative learning culture that inspires innovation, leadership and global connection.

Bold Steps: Global Learning, Student Leadership, Anytime, Anywhere Learning, and Individualized Learning

This really is "the work." We cannot be distracted by the latest trend. We must continue to deliver a rigorous and relevant education that ranks us in the top of our state and national peers in a fiscally responsible manner. We must continue to be innovative about the way we do business. 10,363 Mason students begin each day with the promise of a well-rounded, high-quality education. Please join us in fulfilling this promise!

Yours in Education,



A Message from
Kevin Wise
2013 Board President

There's a headline that you didn't see in 2013. Your administration and school board made the decision not to ask voters for an operating levy.

After the November 2010 levy failure; we listened. We heard residents tell us that they value our schools, but they wanted to see us become more efficient. As a result, the district began a series of important changes - including eliminating 160 employees. Mason Heights Elementary closed. The district consolidated bus stops. Next year, Mason will switch to semesters and eliminate teaming at Mason Middle School - a move that will save \$1.5 million a year. We will continue to work to make sure our cost structure is right, and that our decisions prioritize the classroom.

We are fortunate to live in Mason. Today, our financial condition is much more stable due to our efforts to become more efficient, and because we received more state funding in the biennium budget than we anticipated. **These factors allow Mason City Schools to remain off the ballot in 2014, and remain one of Ohio's best school districts.**

Sincerely,





\$12.8 million
college scholarship offers
for Wm. Mason High School
Class of 2013

key facts

BY THE NUMBERS

Student Enrollment: 10,363

Schools: 5

Average Class Size (K-12): 27

Racial Diversity: 26%

Students Identified as Gifted: 33%

Students with a Disability: 8.9%

Native Languages Spoken by Students: 44

Students in Poverty: 7%

Teachers with Advanced Degrees: 84%

Average Years of Teaching Experience: 12

Public & Private School Students Transported: 8,740

School Meals Served: 820,302

Athletics (7-12): 28 MHS sports and 67 athletic teams
18 MMS sports and 35 athletic teams

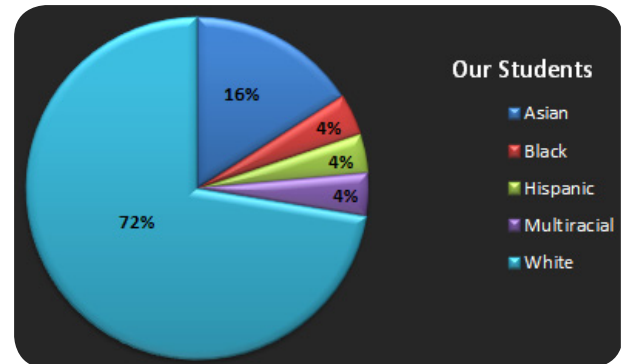
Extracurriculars: 80 MHS Clubs, 35 MMS Clubs,
100's of Elementary Enrichment Offerings

Band and Orchestra Students (6-12): 1,947

2013 National Merit Scholarship: 20 Semi Finalists
12 Commended
1 National Achievement Scholar
5 Outstanding Participants

2013 Advanced Placement: 20 AP courses offered
801 students took 1471 exams
90% scored a 3 or higher
(the score typically needed to earn college credit)

Community Service: Over 20,000 hours given by students and staff





New Report Card, Higher Learning Standards

This year, the Ohio Department of Education released its annual Local Report Cards in a new format, unveiling an A through F grading system for public school districts throughout the state. Mason City Schools received an A grade in overall achievement, with a performance index of 110.3 that ranked it in Ohio's Academic Top 10. The new report card rates local school districts in several key components, including achievement, progress, gap closing and graduation rate.

In 2014-15, Ohio's school districts will be graded for the first time based on tests aligned with the Common Core. The new learning standards in English language arts and mathematics are significantly more rigorous than Ohio's current academic standards.

In anticipation of the new learning standards, Mason's instructional leaders and teachers have been re-writing curricula and creating new units and lesson plans that demand more of students. We're developing interim assessments to determine what students are and are not grasping. We examine individual student data daily, and teachers and administrators use that data to identify and eliminate achievement gaps.

Mason's Formula for Success

Mason has always used the state's standards merely as a foundation - we believe it is critical to hire and keep great teachers who teach a rich curriculum that is based on more than standardized testing. Mason parents support learning beyond the school walls, and our curriculum encourages students to ask questions, think critically, and get involved in and out of the classroom. We can't ever lose sight that children must follow their passion, and great teaching allows for students to delight in the "ah ha" moments that propel their learning.

academics

Ohio School Report Card

2012-2013 Report Card for Mason City School District

Achievement



A

Gap Closing



B

Progress



A

Graduation Rate



A

Ohio's Academic Top Ten

District Name	Enrollment	Performance Index Score 12-13	Letter grade of standards met	Letter grade of PI	Letter grade of Overall Value-Added	Letter grade of Gifted Value-Added	Letter grade of Disabled Value-Added	Letter grade of Lowest 20% Value-Added	Letter grade of AMO	Letter grade of 4-year graduate rate 2012	Letter grade of 5-year graduate rate 2011	FY 2012 Cost per Pupil
Madeira	1349	112.1	A	A	B	C	B	C	A	A	A	\$ 11,683
Wyoming	1863	111.7	A	A	A	C	C	NR	A	A	A	\$ 12,189
Rocky River	2460	111.5	A	A	A	A	C	B	A	A	A	\$ 12,754
Indian Hill	1876	111.5	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	\$ 15,740
Solon	4871	110.9	A	A	A	C	B	A	A	A	A	\$ 13,214
Oakwood	2069	110.7	A	A	A	A	C	C	A	A	A	\$ 11,589
Mason	10363	110.3	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	\$ 10,413
Ottawa Hills	935	110	A	A	A	B	A	NR	A	A	A	\$ 13,501
Minster	810	109.9	A	A	A	C	C	B	B	A	A	\$ 9,470
Marion	817	109.3	A	A	C	C	C	NR	A	A	A	\$ 9,495

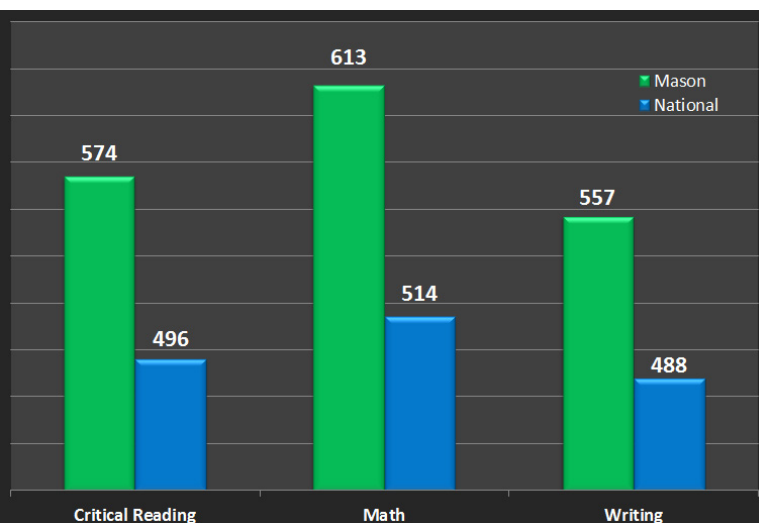
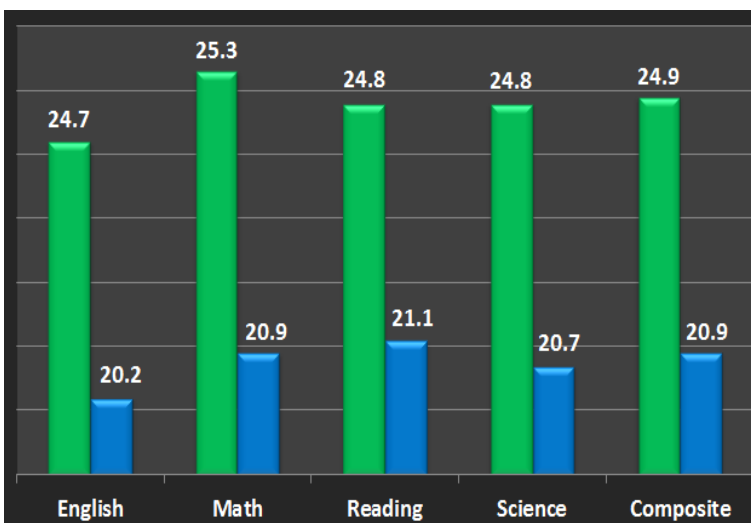
Ohio Department of Education LRC & ODE FY 12 CUPP Report

Mason's students once again performed as some of the State's highest academic achievers - earning the 7th highest score in the state while spending \$1,592 less per pupil than the average top performing district. Of Ohio's top performers, Mason City Schools educate the most students.

Mason High School students consistently score above the national average on the ACT and SAT.

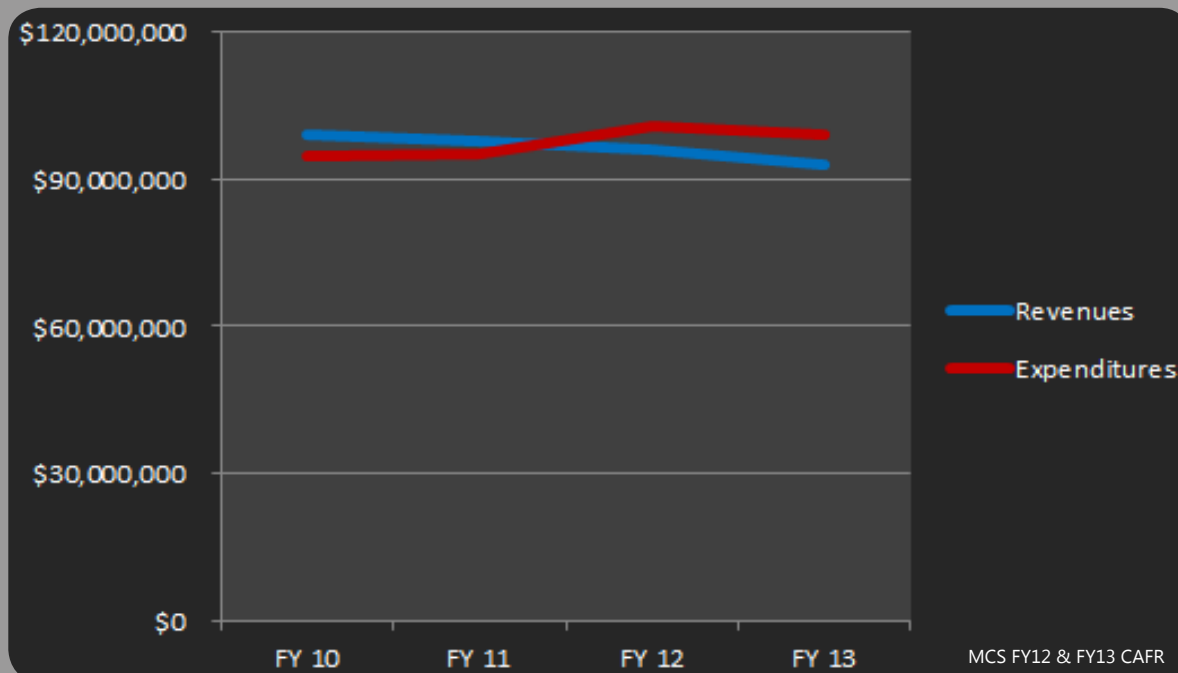
2013 ACT Scores

2013 SAT Scores



WHERE WE ARE

Revenues & Expenditures



Mason's general fund expenditures total \$98.9 million, while revenues are \$93.1 million.

Why is the district spending more than it takes in? School revenues don't automatically grow, and a normal levy cycle produces surpluses in the first half of the cycle and deficits in the second half. Mason is currently at the end of the levy cycle - expenditures exceed revenues and operating cash balances are shrinking. Mason voters last approved an operating levy in 2005.

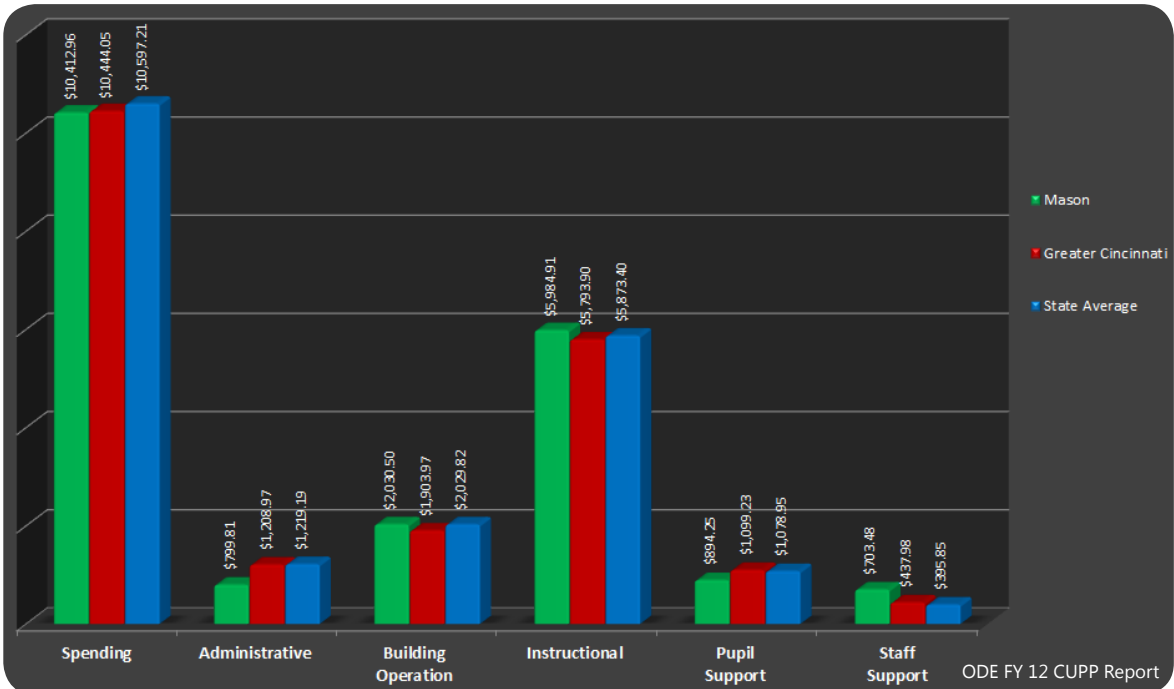
The district will not ask voters for a levy in 2014 because it made \$8 million in cost reductions since 2010, and saw a slight increase in state funding this biennium.

Moving forward, it is important that the school district retains highly talented staff while tackling the challenge of rising health care costs.

general fund

EXPENDITURES

Spending Per Pupil

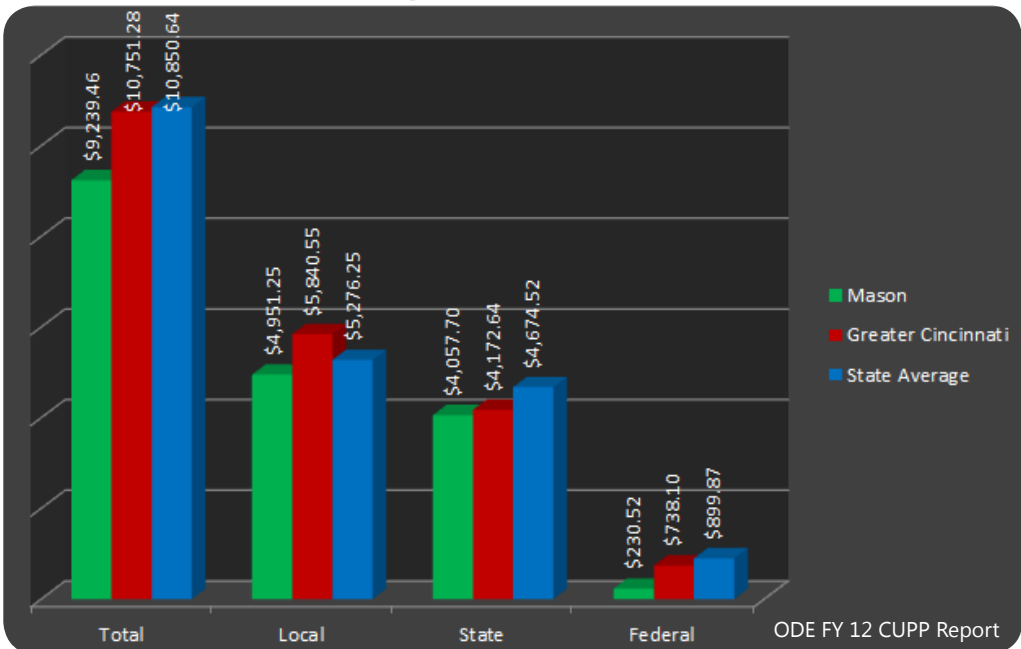


Mason spends \$184 less per student than the state average, and \$31 less per student than the average district in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren Counties.

Of the 40 Greater Cincinnati school districts, 12 districts spend more on instruction than Mason and 36 districts spend more on administration than Mason.

REVENUES

Revenue Per Pupil



Mason receives \$1,611 less per student than the state average, and \$1,512 less per student than the average school district in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren Counties.

160

fewer staff members

Schools are a people business. Like most service industries, the largest portion (88%) of our operating funds is allocated to salaries and benefits. The remaining balance goes toward all other expenditures such as utilities, software, and supplies.

Consequently, most cost reductions end up impacting people. Our goal has been to try to keep staff reductions as far away from the classroom as possible, though class sizes have increased since 2010.

Mason's cost reductions include a wage freeze for all administrators, certificated staff, and classified staff in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

Moving forward, it is important that the school district continues to share services and build partnerships with businesses and organizations in order to enhance students educational experiences while containing costs.

cost reductions

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Staffing Reductions

Full Time Employees	2010-2011	Positions Eliminated	2011-2012	Positions Eliminated	2012-2013	Positions Eliminated	2013-2014	Total Positions Eliminated
Administrators	51.0	-5.0	46.0	-3.1	42.9	-2.0	40.9	10.1 20% reduction
Bus Drivers	80.3	-11.5	68.8	1.0	69.8	0.0	69.8	10.5 13% reduction
Clerical	66.9	-5.4	61.5	-5.0	56.5	0.0	56.5	10.4 16% reduction
Custodial Maintenance	71.3	-13.0	58.3	-3.0	55.3	0.0	55.3	16.0 23% reduction
Food Service	51.5	-3.1	48.4	-1.6	46.8	0.0	46.8	4.7 9% reduction
Aides	220.7	-9.4	211.3	-29.9	181.4	-10.0	171.4	49.3 22% reduction
Technology	14.0	-1.0	13.0	0.0	13.0	-2.0	11.0	3.0 21% reduction
Teachers & Professional Educators	701.1	-20.3	680.8	-22.5	658.3	-13.5	644.8	56.3 8% reduction
Total	1256.8	-68.7	1188.1	-64.1	1124.0	-27.5	1096.5	160.3

There are 160 fewer Mason City Schools employees than three years ago.

- **Administrator reductions** since 2010-11 include an Assistant Superintendent, the Chief Information Officer, an Elementary Principal, 3 Assistant Principals, the Assistant Transportation Supervisor, the Technical Coordinator of Safe & Inviting Schools, an Auditorium Manager, and an Assistant Athletic Director.
- **Clerical reductions** since 2010-11 include 3.5 Central Office support staff and 5.6 school support staff.
- **Aide reductions** since 2010-11 include 1.4 health service coordinators, 3 media aides, a study hall monitor, 3 campus supervisors and 40.9 support aides.
- **Teachers & Professional Educator reductions** since 2010-11 include 3 curriculum leaders, a guidance counselor, and 52.3 teachers.
- **Technology reductions** since 2010-11 include a LAN administrator, a telecom administrator and a database administrator.



469

Mason's OSFC number



on the horizon

FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Mason Schools to revise Facility Master Plan in order to reduce operating costs while recouping state partnership funding.

Mason City School District voters have made significant investments in the schools where our community's children learn. In December 2013, district officials learned that a long-awaited moment had arrived – Mason's "number had come up" and the district is eligible to receive approximately \$25 million from the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission to use for future projects.

The Ohio Legislature established the Ohio School Facilities Commission in 1997 using state tobacco settlement money to help fund new and renovated school buildings. The Mason City Schools Board of Education joined the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission's Expedited Local Partnership Program in 2001. Since that time, most district construction and renovation projects qualified for about \$25 million of the monies that the district has already spent to build and renovate Mason High School, the Mason Early Childhood Center and Mason Intermediate - which can be used to off-set the costs for our district's long-term facility needs.

Our Priorities

- ***Examine enrollment projections and determine facility needs.***

Today, Mason City Schools enrollment has stabilized. We project future class sizes of 700 versus the Class of 2018's 970 (our largest class.) In 2012, we closed one of our aging buildings, Mason Heights, based on enrollment. That saved \$700,000 in operating costs and eliminated additional costs that would be needed to maintain an aging building.

We are not planning new school buildings. Instead, we must decide where we need to invest and renovate (and determine if we should close an additional school) so that all of our children benefit from safe, technology-ready, high-quality schools.

- ***Facility Master Plan should aim to reduce district's operating costs.***

State law makes a distinction between operating funds and capital improvement funds. Proceeds from an operating levy are used as operating funds which run the district – such as salaries and benefits for personnel, classroom supplies, and utilities and repairs. Capital funds are used for more permanent investments – such as buses, technology and facility improvements.

The OSFC partnership money will be capital funds, and those funds are required to be spent on facility needs. However, the Mason City School District priority is to ensure that those funds also help us reduce our energy, utility and personnel costs.

- ***Involve the Mason City School District community in the plan.***

As is the district's tradition, Mason City Schools community members' ideas and input will be solicited. The district will hold community meetings in spring 2014, launch an online survey, and take general comments from the public to gather input. All citizens are encouraged to respond to questions about what they want to see in their Mason City Schools.

3,644

MCS social media
followers



engagement

SCHOOL SAFETY

The Mason City School District is committed to providing a safe and inviting environment for students, staff and visitors. We work proactively with safety officials - police, fire emergency medical services, and public health - in order to ensure our schools are well prepared.

New Visitor Check-in Requirements

This summer, the district installed a new buzz-in system at each school. The improved security measures are in line with local law enforcement recommendations and parent feedback.

The system has two-way audio/video communication from the main door to the office with an electric door release. Now, all school visitors have to be identified and request entrance during school hours.



Once buzzed in, visitors must present a valid driver's license or other approved identification card at the school's office. Once cleared, the individual will be issued a visitor badge, which must be visibly worn while in school and returned to the school office upon leaving. The buzz-in system cost \$35,400 and was paid for from the district's capital improvement fund - a fund that is used to pay for buses, textbooks, technology, and facility maintenance and repairs.

MARCS Radios at Each School

This year, Mason received an Ohio School Facilities Commission grant for up to \$10,000 to install a MARCS emergency communication system in each school. The MARCS radios provide easy and immediate access to the appropriate local law enforcement first responder. The state-of-the-art radio was designed through a collaboration among school officials and law enforcement first responders.

CONNECTION

Mason City Schools belong to you. It is important that your schools maintain meaningful, direct, two-way communication with families and the community.

In 2013, Mason City Schools launched several communication improvements as a result of family and community member feedback. The district combined its website and Edline - making www.MasonOhioschools.com the one-stop shop for district and school information. In addition, the district launched a Facebook page (facebook.com/masonohschools), twitter feed (@MasonSchools) and a YouTube channel to better reach the community through the use of social media. These social media channels allow Mason City Schools community members to connect with their district in real-time and in new ways.

