

Lakota Community Diversity Council

Purpose: The Community Diversity Council and Lakota LODI want to establish a supportive and welcoming school environment for our students and staff of all backgrounds. The goal is to ensure all our students have the same opportunities for success. As a council and department together, WE will work on breaking down barriers to student learning and improving outcomes for all students.

Key understandings and data of our diverse Lakota student population:

<p>WE are growing! Each year our student enrollment increases, and with that we welcome a more diverse community. Our enrollment figures show that our student population is now 58% white and 42% non-white students. The Lakota LODI Department began in 2014, as a response to a community conversation regarding our growing diversity and how to best connect with all families.</p>	Date	Student Enrollment
	August 2020	16,749
	August 2021	16,884
	August 2022	17,216
	August 2023	17,528

Economically disadvantaged

- Lakota Local schools is home to 17,533 students, of which 1 in every 5 students is economically disadvantaged
- Over 80 families or students were identified as homeless
- Lakota currently has 9 School Community Liaisons that work with families

English as a second language

- Lakota is home to 1,759 Lakota students who are English Language learners (10.1% in total)
- 60 different languages can be heard in our schools
- Our local community members and translators can translate 11 different languages
- Lakota has teachers that specialize in working with English learners to build academic success

Gifted

- Lakota is home to 4,972 gifted identified students (29% of the students)
- Students can be gifted identified in 7 areas, math giftedness is the highest area of identification
- Lakota has 5 Gifted Intervention Specialists supporting gifted learners across the district

Special Education

- Lakota is home to 1,742 special education students K-12 (9.9% of the students)
- Lakota is required to begin providing services for students with a qualifying need at age 3
- There are 14 different types of qualifying needs covered by the Special Education Department

Student Wellness

- Lakota provides yearly vision and hearing screenings (required by law) to preschool, kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th (vision only), 9th and 11th grades, which equates to 35,416 yearly well checks by the Lakota nurses
- During the 2022-23 school year, there were over 1,000 mental health referrals for our students
- All buildings have at least one school based therapist on site
- All 7-12 buildings have peer to peer prevention and strength based programs in place
- The Ohio Department of Education has identified objectives to be taught which help students feel safe, both emotionally and physically in school