

Walled Lake Schools
2023-24
Annual Report

Michael A. Lonze, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Walled Lake Schools' Annual Report is published by:
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Revenues
\$191,042,798

Foundation Grant
Per Pupil
\$9,754

School Millage Rates
Operating
0.0000 mills
Homestead/
Hold Harmless*

16.7461 mills
Non-Homestead

4.7461 mills
Commercial Personal

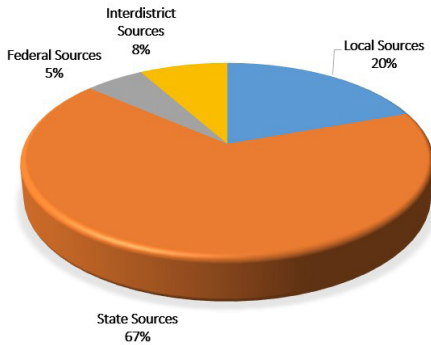
Sinking Fund
0.5000 mills
(All properties)

Debt
4.1300 mills

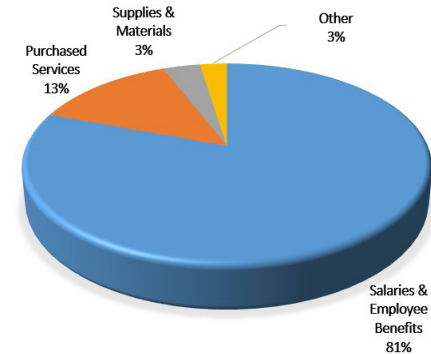
Expenditures
\$182,682,764

*Hold Harmless is the local tax that some districts are allowed to levy to be able to sustain the level of funding provided prior to Michigan's 1994 Proposal A.

2023-24 Revenues



2023-24 Expenses



2023-24
HIGHLIGHTS

Welcoming a new superintendent, **Dr. Michael Lonze**, who has served as the District's Deputy Superintendent.

Receiving the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials for the 20th consecutive year.

Initiating a districtwide strategic plan.

Approving a \$250 million bond to improve all schools.

Finishing phase IV bond work on four schools and building the academic wing of Walled Lake Western.

Continuing a tradition of generous giving at every school supporting many local, national and global organizations.

Congratulating four national merit semifinalists: **Ryann Hunt** (WLN), **Anna Loszewski** (WLN), **Alyssa Paolicchi** (WLW), and **Kyra Wong** (WLW).

Expanding the District's Unified Sports program to include soccer and basketball sponsored by Special Olympics of Michigan.

Mission Statement

The mission of Walled Lake Schools, in partnership with parents and community, is to become the best educational system in America so all students demonstrate they are caring, responsible

WLCSd Board of Education



WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS
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District marks 2023-24 with great progress

The 2023-24 school year was filled with bond construction progress; innovative learning; academic, performing arts and sports accomplishments; and celebrations of students, staff and retirees.

Phase IV bond work included the completion of three elementary schools and one middle school, and progress on the academic wing for Walled Lake Western. Phase V of the 2019 bond will include the completion of Walled Lake Western, as well as renovations to Walled Lake Central, the Outdoor Education Center and the Operations facility.

In 2023, the District engaged in a facility study with Plante Moran Realpoint to determine each building's usage and whether or not the District's facilities footprints aligned with current and future needs. A facility study committee reviewed the data and offered feedback, which resulted in the 2024 bond. The community approved the bond to improve all schools in May. The committee will meet again in the 2024-25 school year to determine the next steps, which will include repurposing a middle school and building a new elementary school.

Students, staff, parents and community members earned too many awards and accolades to mention them all in this Annual Report. Community members are encouraged to review all the information on the District website, www.wlcsd.org.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Lonze, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



2024 Board of Education

Mrs. Stephanie Kaplan.....President
Mrs. Peggy Casagrande.....Vice President
Mr. Marc Siegler.....Secretary
Mrs. Shayna Levin.....Treasurer
Mrs. Susie Crafton.....Trustee
Mr. Ron Lippitt.....Trustee
Mrs. Julie Fernandez.....Trustee



www.wlcsd.org



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Elementary Schools

Commerce Mary Helen Guest
Dublin Meadowbrook
Glengary Oakley Park
Hickory Woods Pleasant Lake
Keith Walled Lake
Loon Lake Wixom

Middle Schools

Clifford H. Smart
James R. Geisler
Sarah G. Banks
Walnut Creek

High Schools

Central
Northern
Western

Early Childhood

Early Childhood Center
Twin Sun

Department Contacts

Athletics 248-956-2073
Business Services248-956-2008
Community
Education248-956-5000
Community
Relations248-956-2018
Enrollment248-956-2086
Facility Rental248-956-3061
Foundation for
Excellence 248-956-2116
L.A.Y.A. 248-956-5070
Outdoor Education.....248-956-5121
Preschool 248-956-5080
Prime Time Care248-956-5110
Schools of Choice248-956-2085
Special Services248-956-2160
Transportation 248-956-3090
Transportation Late Bus
Hotline248-956-5199

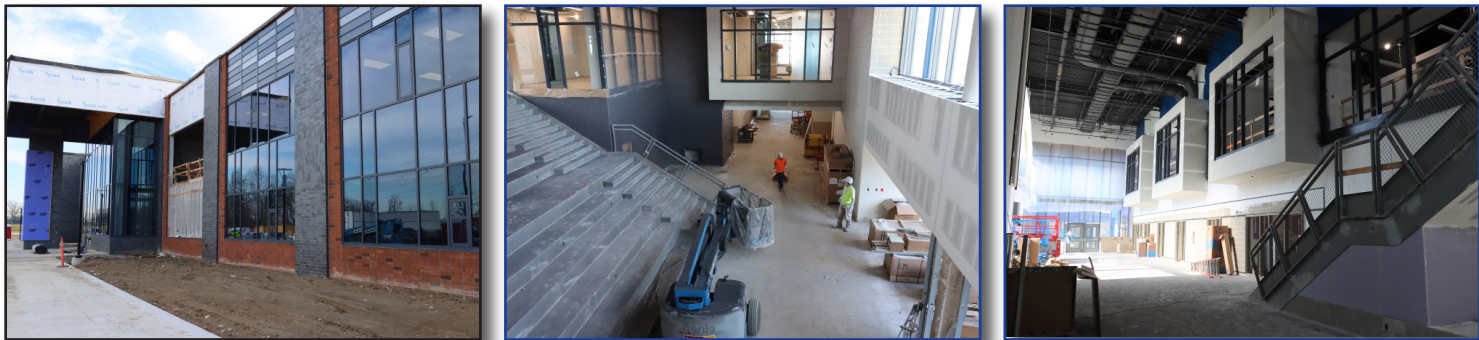
www.wlcsd.org

How students are assigned to the schools

Students are assigned to buildings by specific street address and geographical areas as predetermined by the administration and Board of Education.

Bond work continues at Walled Lake Western as it prepares for a fall 2024 opening

Bond work continues across the District with the most notable project being the upgraded academic wing at Walled Lake Western. The new addition is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024. 2019 bond progress information can be found at wlcsd.org/bond.



Graduation rate reported

Walled Lake Schools’ 2022-23 graduation rate, the most current available, is 93.71%. The 2021-22 graduation rate was 92.92%. The Michigan Department of Education has developed a new method for calculating the graduation rate using a four-year cohort formula. This system tracks students from the year they enter ninth grade until they graduate.

WL Central: 92.14 % WL Northern: 95 % WL Western: 91.80 %

Enrollment		
Level	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2023
Elementary	5,626	5,582
Middle	2,810	2,723
High	3,947	3,802

Walled Lake Schools’ residents approve 2024 bond to improve all schools

- Safety & Security
- Technology Upgrades
- Program Enhancements
- Infrastructure Improvements

Walled Lake Schools’ residents approved the Building Opportunity, Ensuring Tomorrow Bond designed to provide significant upgrades and renovations at every school, with no additional cost to taxpayers, on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Due to increasing property values, new housing starts, and refinancing of previous bonds, the community chose to invest \$250 million into our schools while still providing the taxpayers with a tax reduction.

The 2024 Bond is made up of projects focused on creating a modern learning environment for students along with updating our facilities related to health, safety, security, energy conservation, and more. The goal is to offer functional learning environments and to address a myriad of infrastructure needs ranging from security and fiber optic updates, as well as paving and roofing projects in every building.

New Wixom Elementary

The 2024 Bond includes a brand new Wixom Elementary. It will result in a state-of-the-art facility, as well as improved storm water management measures, right of way improvements and traffic safety devices.

Updated bond information can be found at wlcsd.org/bond



Walled Lake Central’s Mady Pavuk claims state equestrian championship



Mady Pavuk on her horse, Popcorn, with her dad holding the reins.

Mady Pavuk shined in her first season on the Walled Lake Central equestrian team and, on October 11, 2023, claimed the first ever EWD Division state crown.

EWD stands for Equines with Disabilities. The EWD Division was a pilot program in 2023, which allowed riders with disabilities to compete along with their peers on their school’s team against riders with similar abilities.

Pavuk has Mitochondrial Disease, which results in her small size, low muscle tone, and contributes to learning challenges. However, Pavuk showed that when you don’t allow your disability to define you, anything is possible.

“While Mady may not be cut out for soccer or basketball, through Equestrian she has learned how to work together with her horse, Popcorn, to do patterns as well as run speed events,” said **Greg Pavuk**, Mady’s father. “This really is the greatest thing she has ever done, and she has been so happy to be on the team.”

Pavuk first approached her dad about joining the equestrian team during her freshman year. He told her that he would look into it and, since then, they have learned so much about the sport from her first lesson all the way to this year’s state championship.

“We can’t describe the feeling when she is in the arena and you hear the cheering coming from everyone at the event,” said Greg, who assists Mady during competitions. “That makes her so happy, but I also think there is something that we are all getting out of those moments that make us feel good and reinforce why we do this sport.”



Pavuk competes in four events: Western Fitting and Show, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Equitation, and the speed event Clover.

“My favorite event is the speed event because I like going around the barrels,” said Mady. “At Regionals, that was as fast as Popcorn ever went.”

“To see her grow as a rider has been very rewarding,” said Walled Lake Central equestrian coach **Amy Willis**. “We hope next season we will see the EWD division grow so more kids like Mady can experience the joy of riding and competing.”

Dr. Lonze appointed next Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Michael Lonze was appointed to serve as the District’s next Superintendent of Schools in the spring of 2024.

Dr. Lonze has served Walled Lake Schools as Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources since joining the District in 2018. Dr. Lonze previously served in administrative and teaching positions with Fraser, Birmingham, and Oak Park schools.

“I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next Superintendent of Schools. I am eager to work with the Board of Education, staff members, and the community to

continue to foster a supportive environment for students and staff while maintaining focus on District goals,” said Lonze.

The previous Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. John Bernia**, was appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Warren Consolidated School District. Dr. Bernia’s last day in Walled Lake was June 30, 2024.

“As we look forward to the future of the District, there is no one better positioned than Dr. Lonze to lead the community forward.” Dr. Bernia celebrated Dr. Lonze’s new role within the District sharing, “He has significant institutional knowledge, as well as deep care for and commitment to students and their families.”