

About the Quality Profile

DEAR UPPER ARLINGTON RESIDENTS,



We are proud to share our Quality Profile, an annual accountability report that gives our community a clear and transparent look at what's happening in the Upper Arlington Schools. As you'll see, this document is aligned to our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, which identifies a focused set of priorities that support our position as a national leader in education and continue our focus on challenging and supporting every student, every step of the way.

Whole learning is our core business — academics. We are building on the district's long-running philosophy of educating the whole child by providing rigorous academic content and real-world learning experiences that will give our students an even stronger foundation to serve, lead and succeed in life.

Student and staff well-being is critical to the success of our students. We are building on our strengths to foster a safe and inclusive environment by focusing on two fundamental aspects of well-being: belonging and balance.

Continuous improvement is the foundation of the strategic plan. This is the idea of getting better at getting better—and, as you'll see in this document, it is threaded through everything we do.

We believe it is critically important to continue to provide our community with the Quality Profile to measure our progress toward these strategic priorities.

Looking to the future, the Board of Education is excited to welcome our next superintendent, Dr. Robert Hunt, this summer. As we prepare for an exciting new chapter for our district, we will remain focused on our strategic priorities so that we continue to help our students learn and grow to their fullest potential.

If you have any suggestions for the Quality Profile, please complete the online form at **www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile.aspx**.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Jenney, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent, Upper Arlington Schools



Sign up for the UA Schools e-newsletter! Scan the QR code or visit **www.uaschools.org/EmailSignup.aspx**.

2023 Upper Arlington Board of Education



The Board of Education is proud to serve the students, staff, families and residents of Upper Arlington Schools. Our school district is a national leader in education due in large part to an unprecedented level of partnership with our community.

From left: Vice President Nancy Drees, President Lori Trent, Member Jenny McKenna, Member Lou Sauter and Member Nidhi Satiani

We invite all residents to stay connected with the schools and to reach out with questions.

Upper Arlington Board of Education boe@uaschools.org

Kathleen Jenney, Ed.D.,
Interim Superintendent
superintendent@uaschools.org

Andrew Geistfeld, Treasurer/CFO treasurer@uaschools.org

The Mincy Center— Upper Arlington Schools 1619 Zollinger Road Upper Arlington, OH 43221 (614) 487-5000



www.uaschools.org



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Upper Arlington City Schools app in the App Store and Google Play

Strategic Plan

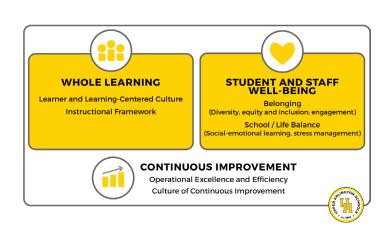


Building Our Future by Building on Our Strengths

The 2019-2024 Strategic Plan guides everything that happens in Upper Arlington Schools — including learning, instruction, resource allocation, physical environment and day-to-day operations. Approved by the Board of Education in August 2019, the strategic plan identifies a focused set of recommendations that support the district's mission, vision and values: whole learning; student and staff well-being; and continuous improvement, which is the foundation for the plan.

With these priorities, the strategic plan focuses even more intently on academics and the district's long-running philosophy of educating and supporting the whole child. It shares a clear vision of student success that reflects the aspirations of Upper Arlington's students, families, staff and community.

Upper Arlington Schools will remain focused on these priorities as it prepares for the transition to the next superintendent and the launch of the next strategic planning process during the 2023-2024 school year.



OUR MISSION

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

OUR VISION



OUR VALUES START WITH HEART STRENGTH IN TEAM CONTAGIOUS DRIVE

Whole Learning

At the core of the strategic plan is whole learning, which is rooted in our district's mission to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. This priority area focuses on academics — the center of the Upper Arlington Schools experience — and builds on the district's long-running philosophy of educating the whole child.

Profile of an Engaged Learner



As part of a commitment to continuous improvement, Upper Arlington Schools has unveiled its Profile of an Engaged Learner, an important focus of the whole learning priority in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. Developed with input from students and teachers across the district and solidified by a districtwide work group of educators, the Profile of an Engaged Learner articulates the skills and characteristics that will prepare students to serve, lead and succeed in Upper Arlington and beyond. It reflects the district's long-running whole child philosophy, as well as its commitments to well-being and diversity, equity and inclusion.

This year, a working group of educators from across the district will be continuing their work on the profile and how teachers, administrators and other staff members can support these skills and characteristics. The district is also working with students from all levels to capture their ideas for how they can develop these skills and characteristics.

The Profile of an Engaged Learner defines a collective vision for the student experience in the Upper Arlington Schools at all grade levels. Moving forward, the district will be working to identify how that vision can become a reality for every student. An initial step will be harnessing the great things already happening in the district that reflect that vision — such as the student-centered LABS collaboration.



Interested in learning more about the Profile of an Engaged Learner? Scan the QR code or visit www.uaschools.org/ProfileofanEngagedLearner.aspx.



Student-Centered Learning

Continuing to seek out new academic opportunities based on student and teacher feedback, Upper Arlington High School has launched a first-of-its-kind transdisciplinary collaboration known as LABS. Students are enrolled in three International Baccalaureate courses — English Language & Literature HL, Cultural Anthropology HL and Theory of Knowledge — taught over two years. While the focus is on *literature* (and language) and *anthropology*, this collaboration also prioritizes *belonging* (and balance) and *service learning* (LABS). Course topics, teaching methods and assessment design are guided by student voice, and workload concerns are met by utilizing the same text to fulfill requirements in all three courses. A product of the Research & Design innovation process, LABS emerged as a response to student need and will continue to evolve as students and teachers work together to create a student-centered learning experience.

"LABS has brought me so many opportunities to share my thoughts and made me feel like my voice is heard."

MICHELLE F. | Upper Arlington High School student

Multi-Tiered System of Support

Driven by a mission to challenge and support every student, every step of the way, Upper Arlington Schools continues to move forward with the implementation of a personalized student support system known as the multi-tiered system of support, or MTSS. Put simply, MTSS is how educators meet students where they are so they can achieve at their highest possible levels in all facets of their school experience.

MTSS builds on and strengthens best practices in education for personalizing learning for every student — which have been in place here for some time. MTSS work started at the elementary level in the 2021-2022 school year and is in the process of being rolled out in grades 6-12.



"MTSS is for all students because all students have areas that we want to develop and grow. We want to know that all students feel supported and are having the support that they need in the classrooms."

KRIS PAVLASEK

MTSS lead teacher, Greensview Elementary School

Through the MTSS framework, teams of educators — including classroom teachers, intervention specialists and other specialized educators, and school counselors — come together to engage in collaborative conversations focused on targeting the needs of each individual student. At these meetings, educators evaluate students' strengths and areas of opportunity and develop plans of action to help each student reach their highest potential. Educators are constantly monitoring those plans and making adjustments to keep students moving forward.

Parents and guardians are important partners in their students' education and in the MTSS process. Teachers will work collaboratively with parents and guardians of students who may need additional support outside of the typical classroom experience.



Interested in learning more about MTSS in our schools? Scan the QR code or visit www. uaschools.org/Multi-TieredSystemofSupport.aspx.

Elementary Explorations

Now in its second year, Elementary Explorations is a groundbreaking district-wide program that extends the learning of 3,000 elementary students through hands-on, project-based opportunities involving STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics). Students anxiously await their Explorations hour every other week — which provides teachers with the collaborative time critical to the MTSS framework. Through Elementary Explorations, students are learning the basic fundamentals and skills that are the foundation for future STEAM opportunities here in Upper Arlington and in their futures.

"To see a kid be able to learn something they've never seen before and discover something that they didn't even know was there — it goes beyond what I can say in words."

JOHN KULINA | Elementary Explorations teacher



Interested in learning more about Elementary Explorations? Scan the QR code or visit www. **uaschools.org/ElementaryExplorations.aspx**.



Whole Learning

Early Literacy Instruction and Assessment

Literacy, or the ability to read and write, is the foundation for all learning. Since the 2019-2020 school year, Upper Arlington Schools has strengthened its commitment to provide students with a strong foundation in literacy by introducing all-day kindergarten for every student; by implementing the multi-tiered system of support; and by grounding instruction in the Science of Reading — more than four decades of science-based research on how a child's brain learns to read. With these changes, and by shifting the testing window for the CTOPP-2 diagnostic assessment to midyear, significantly fewer kindergarten students are now being identified as needing any additional literacy support and intervention based on their results. Unlike many other districts, Upper Arlington Schools administers the CTOPP-2 to all kindergarteners. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, all Ohio school districts will be required to administer a state-approved diagnostic like the CTOPP-2 for all K-3 students.

Percentage of students flagging on the CTOPP-2 for additional literacy support and intervention

2017-2018	28%
2018-2019	26%
2019-2020	15%
2021-2022	14%
2022-2023	6%

College Readiness

Upper Arlington students perform significantly above the state and national averages on college readiness and entrance examinations — showing that they are prepared for college and career well before they graduate from Upper Arlington High School.

and Career Readines PSAT/NMSQT Colleg 2021-2022 (Class of 2023)

Average ACT Score

Class of 2022

Class of 2022

score: **1600**

score: **36**

















Next Steps for the Class of 2022

Upper Arlington Schools is committed to ensuring that students are prepared to serve, lead and succeed in their next step in life — whether it is college, employment or another option. Of the 482 graduates of the Class of 2022, the majority have chosen to pursue their education at colleges and universities across the country — in all of the states marked in gold below and at three universities located in the United Kingdom.

Attending a four-year or two-year in-state or out-of-state college

colleges and universities across the country and in the United Kingdom

0.8% other education

0.6% military

3% employment

0.6% gap year 0.4%

other

total scholarships accepted

9 National Merit Semifinalists 16 National Merit Commended Scholars

22 International Baccalaureate Diploma recipients 212 Honors Diploma recipients

State Report Card and Rankings

The Ohio School Report Card, produced by the state Department of Education, is one of the data points that Upper Arlington Schools reviews to monitor the success of the school district and its students. Below is a snapshot of the 2021-2022 report card for Upper Arlington Schools, released in September of 2022, and rankings benchmarking the district against more than 600 other public school districts in the state.



1 of 3 districts
IN CENTRAL OHIO

1 of 12 districts
IN THE STATE

To receive 5 stars on all 5 categories on the state report card



Funding for classroom instruction

77% of the UA Schools budget is dedicated to the classroom

#1
IN CENTRAL OHIO
#1 (tie)
IN THE STATE

College level coursework

Percentage of students taking college-level courses while still in high school, giving them stronger transcripts and the ability to earn college credit while still in high school.

Advanced Placement participation 59.8%

#5

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#19
IN THE STATE

International Baccalaureate participation rate 40.6%

#1

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#1

IN THE STATE

AP and IB coursework combined 100.4%*

#1

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#1 IN THE STATE *Not representative of individual students

Four-year graduation rate

96.5%

CLASS OF 2021

#6

IN CENTRAL OHIO



#198

IN THE STATE (TIE)

Remediation Free on ACT

64.5% remediation-free rate

#2

IN CENTRAL OHIO

IN THE STATE

Performance Index

99.4 2021-2022 score

#6

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#55

IN THE STATE (TIE)

Value Added Growth Index

15.12 2021-2022 score

#4

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#7

IN THE STATE



College enrollment

87% of graduates enrolled in in-state public colleges / universities within 2 years of high school

#3

IN CENTRAL OHIO

#9 (tie)
IN THE STATE

www.uaschools.org/StateReportCard.aspx

Student and Staff Well-Being

Upper Arlington Schools is building on our strengths to foster a safe and inclusive environment for our students and our staff — which we believe is critical to their success. We are focusing on two fundamental aspects of well-being — belonging, a person's feeling of safety and connectedness, and balance, a person's feeling of harmony between school and personal time that allows for satisfaction in all areas of life.



Strategies for Success

In order to cultivate classroom environments that promote both well-being and academic success, Upper Arlington Schools is implementing consistent research-based classroom strategies for kindergarten through grade 8 that will help students develop skills such as responsibility, empathy and perseverance — which connect directly to the Profile of an Engaged Learner. These strategies help to create a positive classroom environment where every student belongs, supporting the district's diversity, equity and inclusion focus.

Through the multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), a personalized student support system, teams of educators are also looking at the specific needs of each individual student not only through the lens of academics but also for any behavioral, social or emotional support they may need to thrive in the classroom. Parents and guardians are important partners and will be involved in any recommendations for personalized well-being support.

"We have been fortunate to participate in professional development surrounding research-based strategies that have helped foster a better sense of community and respect in our classrooms. When our classrooms are filled with students who respect and trust each other, we can spend more time focused on learning."

CAREN WILDMAN

Teacher, Barrington Elementary School

Upper Arlington Schools began this work at the elementary level in the 2021-2022 school year, offering professional learning for all K-5 educators, and is continuing at the middle school level during the 2022-2023 school year to ensure students continue to grow from these practices as they move on to middle school.

Student Voice in Well-Being

Helping to inform the well-being work in the Upper Arlington Schools is a voluntary student survey that is administered twice a year. Anonymous, aggregate level results are used by teaching and administrative staff to design specific supports for each school and grade level. This sampling of the data from the fall of 2022 administration offers a comparison to the spring of 2021 survey results.

Do you have a teacher or other adult from school who you can count on to help you no matter what?

ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5) SECONDARY (GRADES 6-12)



88% Favorable NO CHANGE



77% Favorable

Opportunities for Connection

Upper Arlington Schools is committed to providing students at all levels with access to classroom and co-curricular opportunities and resources that foster a sense of belonging and overall well-being.



Weekly advisories and periodic multi-grade level "family" or buddy groups are creating opportunities for every student, at every grade level, to build relationships outside of their classrooms and strengthen the connection they feel to their school. These programs also give students an additional trusted adult at school whom they can turn to for help.



Upper Arlington Schools offers a variety of athletic, extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities that help students find their niche and their community within the school. At Upper Arlington High School during the 2021-2022 school year, 1,016 students were involved in athletics and 1,338 participated in performing and visual arts.



When school is out for the summer, students can continue their learning through enrichment opportunities available through the district's Summer Academy. During the summer of 2022, nearly 750 students took part in Summer Academy. The programming will continue to be free of charge in 2023 thanks to federal COVID-19 relief funding.



Strength in Team

The network of support for students and families in the Upper Arlington Schools has been strengthened thanks to partnerships with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Behavioral Health Services and the Office of Student Life; Syntero Mental and Behavioral Health Prevention Services; Ohio State Sports Medicine; and Nationwide Children's Hospital Center for Suicide Prevention and Research. These partnerships are providing programming that promotes overall wellness and well-being, including fitness activities for staff and student-athlete summits focused on nutrition and health. Students and families also have access to school-based behavioral, mental health and athletic training services, as well as Signs of Suicide, a prevention program for grades 8 and 10.

Focus on Continuous Improvement

Over the past year, Upper Arlington Schools has brought together a district-level Well-Being Committee, representing the voices of students, staff, parents and guardians and local experts in the field. This committee is working to identify how the district can continue to improve in all areas of well-being, including diversity, equity and inclusion, and is specifically focusing on three areas: communication, student voice and the evaluation of programs.

Do you have a friend from school who you can count on to help you, no matter what?

ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5) SECONDARY (GRADES 6-12)



90% FavorableNO CHANGE



91% Favorable

1%

Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?

ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5)

SECONDARY (GRADES 6-12)



81% Favorable



68% Favorable

Continuous Improvement

Effective and efficient use of financial resources is crucial to ensuring that Upper Arlington Schools can provide the high quality educational experiences that our community expects. Through the lens of continuous improvement, we are seeking out efficiencies in order to ensure the majority of our budget continues to go to what matters most — the instruction and support of our students.

Financial Excellence



Upper Arlington Schools is #1 in the state (tie) for the percentage of funding dedicated to classroom instruction out of approximately 610 public school districts in the state of Ohio.



Upper Arlington Schools has received the **Auditor of State Award for 10 consecutive years** in recognition of a commitment to effective and accountable financial practices for our community.

S&P Global

Upper Arlington Schools continues to be one of a handful of Ohio school districts that has the **highest bond rating** — **AAA** — **from S&P Global** in recognition of strong financial planning and community support. The rating allows districts to obtain lower interest rates when issuing debt, decreasing the costs for their communities.



Treasurer/CFO Andrew Geistfeld was named the **2022 Ohio Outstanding Treasurer of the Year** by the Ohio Association of School Business Officials — leading the way among more than 600 school districts across the state.

Commitment to Efficiency

Upper Arlington Schools is committed to being a good steward of the community's investment in public education. The district remains focused on the responsible use of taxpayer dollars by continually seeking out cost efficiencies through consortiums and other options. Over the years, Upper Arlington Schools has:

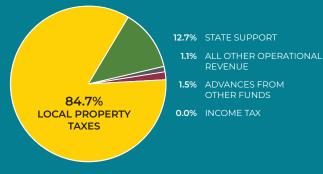
- Moved to a self-funded model to control workers' compensation and medical insurance costs.
- Partnered with other school districts and public entities to achieve better buying power through utility and trash consortiums.
- Purchased standardized furniture, mechanical, electrical and HVAC systems in all new buildings, contributing to cost savings upfront and in the future.



Interested in learning more about fiscal operations? Scan the QR code or visit www.uaschools.org/treasurer.aspx.

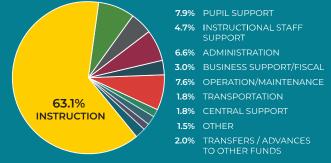
Where the Money Comes From

General Fund Revenue, FY 2022



Where the Money Goes

Expenditures and Services, FY 2022



2023 (TY 2022) School Property Taxes

Per \$100,000 in county-appraised home value

BEXLEY*					\$	2,2	01
WORTHINGTON				\$	2,08	89	
OLENTANGY			5	1,9	67		
UPPER ARLINGTON			\$1,8	58			
WESTERVILLE			\$1,79	9			
NEW ALBANY			\$1,731				
DUBLIN			\$1,727				
GAHANNA		\$1,	629				
HILLIARD		\$1,	622				
REYNOLDSBURG*		\$1,5	71				
PICKERINGTON*	\$1,4	55					
WHITEHALL	\$1,40	7					
COLUMBUS	\$1,312						
SOUTHWESTERN	\$1,251						
GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS	\$1,238						
GROVEPORT	\$1,181						

*The district's school income tax collection was converted into mills by dividing calendar year 2022 gross income tax distribution by tax year 2022 total property tax valuation and multiplying by 1,000. Information was obtained from the Ohio Department of Taxation website. School district income tax rates are the following: Bexley (.75%), Pickerington (1%) and Reynoldsburg (.5%).

Listen Learn Lead

For generations, the Upper Arlington community has played an integral role in supporting the success of Upper Arlington Schools and its students. As the district seeks to prepare the next generation for this rapidly changing world, it is critically important to adjust and adapt to meet the needs of students today and tomorrow.

That is why, in 2022, the Upper Arlington Board of Education charged the district leadership to initiate a system for ongoing stakeholder engagement, with the goal of bringing people together for the common purpose of helping Upper Arlington Schools be the best it can be in preparing students for their futures. The ongoing Listen Learn Lead process has provided multiple options and opportunities to *listen* to all voices, *learn* from what was heard and use the community's feedback to *lead* the school district into an even brighter future.

Since the launch of the Listen Learn Lead process, nearly 1,700 students, parents, staff members and community members have taken part by engaging in open and meaningful dialogue through in-person and virtual roundtable discussion opportunities and by taking online surveys based on the themes that arose from those discussions.

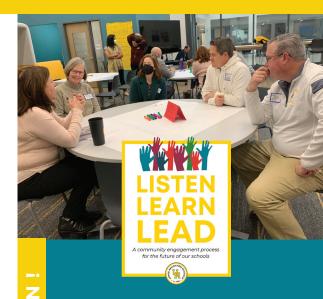
Based on this feedback, Upper Arlington Schools is now in the process of implementing several recommendations in three key areas, all tied to the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan: student engagement, financial accountability and communications.

The Listen Learn Lead process represents an ongoing commitment by the Board of Education and the Upper Arlington school district to engage our community. As the implementation of these recommendations continues, the district will provide quarterly updates to the community at regular meetings of the Board of Education.



Interested in learning more about the Listen Learn Lead process? Scan the QR code or visit www.uaschools.org/ListenLearnLead.aspx.





Upper Arlington Schools will begin the next series of Listen Learn Lead discussions in May. Please join us for one or more sessions!

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 10:00 a.m.

Mountview Church, 2140 Fishinger Road

3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road

THURSDAY, MAY 4 10:00 a.m.

Mountview Church, 2140 Fishinger Road

5:00 p.m.

Upper Arlington High School, 1625 Zollinger Road

The Longest Table

In the same spirit of encouraging community conversation as the Listen Learn Lead process, Upper Arlington Schools, the Upper Arlington Education Foundation (UA+Ed) and the City of Upper Arlington partnered to host the Longest Table. Funded through grants from the UA+Ed and the city's Community Relations Committee, this event in November 2022 brought together approximately 200 students, parents/ guardians, staff and community members of diverse backgrounds and points of view for a shared meal to celebrate their unique stories. The conversation left guests feeling hopeful, grateful, connected, inspired and heard.





UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

1619 Zollinger Road Upper Arlington, OH 43221



Introducing Dr. Robert Hunt, the next superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools

Following an extensive and thorough search process driven by community feedback, the Upper Arlington Board of Education has named Ohio native Robert Hunt, Ph.D., as the next superintendent of the Upper Arlington Schools. Dr. Hunt, who is the current superintendent of the Barrington 220 Community Unit School District in the Chicago area, has nearly 12 years of experience as a superintendent, including nine years as the superintendent in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and has served nearly 27 years in public education. Over the next several months, Dr. Hunt will be working with Interim Superintendent Kathy Jenney, Ed.D., and the rest of the Upper Arlington Schools staff as he prepares to transition to the role of superintendent in Upper Arlington beginning on July 1.

"Successful schools are a partnership between school and community, and that exists here today. My focus will be to build upon that moving forward."

DR. ROBERT HUNT

Incoming Superintendent of Upper Arlington Schools

Please join us to meet Dr. Hunt at one of these upcoming community events!

Listen Learn Lead Community Roundtables

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

10:00 a.m. — Mountview Church 3:30 & 5:30 p.m. — Upper Arlington High School

THURSDAY, MAY 4

10:00 a.m. — Mountview Church **5:00 p.m.** — Upper Arlington High School

Upper Arlington High School Open House, sponsored by the Alumni Association

SUNDAY, JULY 2

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. — Upper Arlington High School

Enrollment Facts and Figures

K-12 enrollment in the Upper Arlington Schools has grown more than 8% over the past 10 years to more than 6,200 as of the 2022-2023 school year. Enrollment growth is one of the most exciting challenges for the district and community. New projections, issued in January 2023, indicate that enrollment will continue to grow through the 2029-2030 school year.



83.6% White/non-Hispanic

1.6%

Black/non-Hispanic

Hispanic **Multiracial 5.5**%

3.5%

Asian/Pacific Islander

5.7%

17.9% Students with disabilities

4.1% **Economically** disadvantaged

English language learners

Source: 2021-2022 Ohio State Report Card

Academic Achievement

Upper Arlington Schools is leading the way in academic excellence here in Ohio and across the country. The district is committed to providing students with a strong foundation in academics and encouraging their success throughout their time here so that they are uniquely accomplished and prepared to serve, lead and succeed, in whatever path they choose in life.











IN CENTRAL OHIO IN THE STATE

1 of 3 districts 1 of 12 districts

To receive 5 stars on all 5 categories on the state report card

ACHIEVEMENT • PROGRESS • GAP CLOSING GRADUATION • EARLY LITERACY

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSEWORK

#1 in the state

In the percentage of students taking college-level courses, giving them stronger transcripts and the ability to earn college credit while still in high school

REMEDIATION FREE ON ACT #2 in central Ohio

And #8 in the state in the percentage of students receiving a remediation-free score on the ACT, which indicates a student is well-prepared for college-level coursework while still in high school

PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

#2 (tie) in central Ohio

And **#34 in the state** (tie) in the percentage of graduates in the Class of 2021 who completed a pathway for college, military or career, and are prepared for success

FUNDING FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION #1 (tie) in the state

In the percentage of funding dedicated to classroom instruction out of approximately 610 school districts in Ohio