

# **Mississinewa Community Schools Contingency Plan for Enrollment Reduction and Budget Cuts**

## **Introduction**

If the proposed capital referendum does not pass, Mississinewa Community Schools (MCSC) will face significant financial challenges, requiring a strategic plan to ensure fiscal responsibility while maintaining essential educational services. This plan outlines necessary reductions in student enrollment, staffing, programs, and facilities to align with a sustainable financial model.

## **Enrollment Reduction Strategy**

To stabilize long-term financial health, MCSC will reduce maximum student capacity per grade level to 150 students, resulting in a total district enrollment cap of 1,800 students with another 150 students enrolled in the PreSchool program.

- Current Enrollment: 2,314 students
- Proposed Enrollment Cap: 1,800 students
- Reduction in Out of District Enrollment: 514 students
- Estimated Loss in State Tuition Support:
  - $514 \text{ students} \times \$9,295 \text{ per student} = \$4,782,730$  reduction in state funding

This measure will prioritize in-district students and significantly reduce the number of out-of-district enrollments.

## **Building Reconfiguration and Consolidation**

To accommodate the reduced enrollment and align with financial constraints, school buildings will be restructured as follows:

- Westview Elementary → Pre-K – 2nd Grade (600 students capacity including 150 PK Students)
- Northview Elementary → 3rd – 6th Grade (600 students capacity)
- Mississinewa High School → Mississinewa Jr.-Sr. High School (7th – 12th Grade) (900 students capacity)
  - No additional instructional or office space will be added

- Middle school students (7th and 8th Grade) will be integrated into existing high school facilities

This restructuring will require significant staff and program reductions to align with the district's new financial limitations.

## Staff Reductions

Due to the decline in enrollment and funding, staffing reductions will be necessary:

- Certified Teaching Staff Reduction: 56 teachers
- Paraprofessionals Reduction: 14 staff members
- Classified Non-Academic Staff Reduction: Approximately 60 staff members
- Administrative Staff Reduction: Minimum of 4 positions (Building & District Administrators)

## Program Reductions and Eliminations

As a result of the funding shortfall, the district will eliminate or consolidate programs to align with state requirements and financial limitations.

### Elementary Program Eliminations

The following programs will be eliminated at the elementary level:

- ✗ Robotics
- ✗ Science Enrichment
- ✗ STEM
- ✗ LEGO Program
- ✗ Art
- ✗ Music

### Secondary Program Consolidations & Eliminations

Several secondary programs will need to be consolidated or eliminated to accommodate staffing reductions and budget constraints:

Consolidated Programs:

- Physical Education
- Weights Training (High School only, Middle School eliminated)
- Agriculture
- Business
- Math
- Science

- English
- Social Studies
- Arts
- Special Education Services
- Reduction in the amount of Dual Credit courses offered to students

#### **Eliminated Programs:**

- Middle School Weights Training
- Certain Business Education Courses
- Higher level math, science, english, and social studies course offerings

#### **Advanced & Specialized Program Cuts**

Higher-level programming that is not state-mandated will be eliminated due to financial limitations. This includes:

- ✗ Watch Us Academy
- ✗ Nursing Program Partnership with Leffler Academy
- ✗ Other career-based and college-prep initiatives

#### **Athletics, Arts, and Co-Curricular Reductions**

All extracurricular activities will undergo cost-saving evaluations to determine feasibility.

- Reduction in the number of paid coaches per sport
- Elimination of low-participation programs (will we have the student participation needed to keep certain programs alive...unlikely).
- Review of all Arts & Co-Curricular activities for financial viability

#### **Conclusion**

If the referendum does not pass, Mississinewa Community Schools will be forced to implement these significant reductions to maintain fiscal responsibility. This plan, while difficult, ensures that the district can operate within its means while continuing to provide a basic education aligned with state requirements.

MCSC remains committed to advocating for adequate funding and exploring all options to avoid these drastic cuts, but without voter support for the referendum, these reductions will be necessary.