

Bowling Green City Schools

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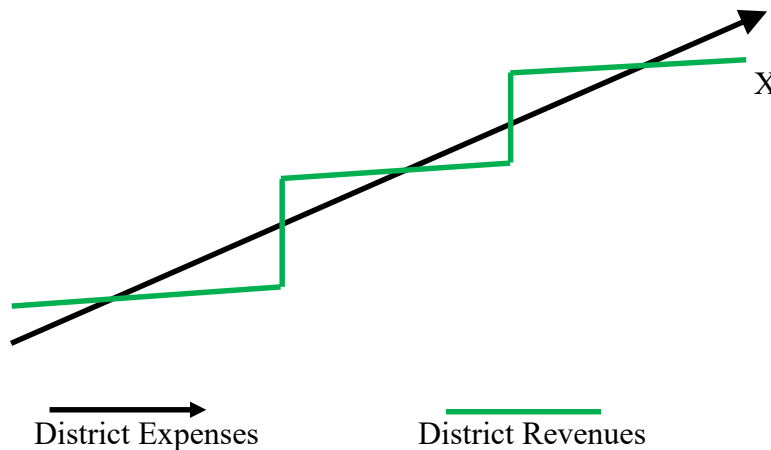
Mrs. Alexandra Willibey
Executive Director of Pupil Services

Dear Members of the Bowling Green City Schools Community,

How Do You Want Your School District to Look?

On May 6, 2025, you will have an opportunity to decide how you would like our school district to look. You will have the chance to decide if our students have opportunities and experiences or not. On May 6, you will have the opportunity to vote on a 0.75% five-year school district traditional income tax levy for Bowling Green City Schools (BGCS). This levy is estimated to generate approximately \$6,684,000 per year for the five years. These dollars will be used for the District's general operating expenses such as bus fuel, classroom supplies, facilities maintenance, personnel costs, textbooks, technology, transportation, and utilities. A 0.75% school district traditional income tax levy for a continuing period of time failed in November of 2024 (by 108 votes).

The Life Cycle of School Funding



The above graph is a simplistic way of looking at the life cycle of school funding. The black line represents a district's expenses. Like all organizations, a school district's expenses continue to rise every year. Increases in expenditure are a result of unfunded mandates and increases in overall operational costs and needs. BGCS carefully examines expenditures regularly. In fact, for the 2024-2025 school year, BGCS reduced district expenditures over \$420,000 through the reduction of two teaching positions, a treasurer's office staff position, and seven paraprofessional positions. Unfortunately, increases in expenditures remain inevitable. The green line in the graph represents a district's revenues. Most school district's revenues, BGCS included, remain fairly flat requiring districts to ask for new and additional funding. It has been almost 15 years since the Bowling Green community has approved new operating funds for BGCS (November 2010). When the green line is to the left of the expenditure line, the district is bringing in slightly more revenue than its expenditures. When the green line and black line intersect, the district's revenue is equal to its expenditures. When the green line is to the right of the black line, the district's revenue is less

than its expenditures and is deficit spending, requiring the use of district reserves. A district can be to the right of the black line for only so long before one of two things must happen: the district must increase revenues or drastically decrease expenses. This is the exact situation Bowling Green City Schools currently faces. We are currently at the point on the graph marked with an “X”. The District must either generate additional funds (a vertical green line) or reduce expenditures (a sharp downward curve to the black line).

The BGCS Board of Education has already decided upon and approved options for both an increase in revenue and a drastic decrease in expenditures. In December, the board voted to place the abovementioned levy on the May ballot (increase revenue) and in February they approved a plan to make drastic eliminations to staffing, drastic eliminations of student programs, and a drastic reduction to student transportation (decrease expenditures) should the passage of the May levy be unsuccessful. This isn’t an ultimatum this is simply our reality. One or the other must take place to balance the district’s budget.

I bring your attention back to my original question: How do you want your school district to look? Based on the community’s vote, the options are set. Below is what your vote will mean to Bowling Green City Schools and our students.

A “No” vote will result in drastic changes to BGCS and include:

The reductions below have already been approved by the Board of Education and will take place for the 2025-2026 school year due to financial reasons if the Bowling Green City Schools 0.75% five-year income tax levy on the May 6, 2025 ballot is voted down by district voters.

Staffing Reductions

A “No” vote will result in a major reduction in staffing to include 29 positions. These reductions include seven (7) teachers, three (3) administrators, seven (7) bus drivers, one (1) assistant mechanic, three (3) nurses, two (2) crossing guards, two (2) custodians, one (1) secretary, and three (3) support staff personnel.

The teaching positions include four (4) elementary teaching positions, a district wide music teacher, a middle school business education teacher, and a high school English teacher.

The administrative and central office personnel include the district’s Student Wellness Coordinator, Director of Communication, and Athletic Director.

Currently there are five district nurses—one nurse in each building. With this reduction of three nurses the remaining two nurses would be assigned as a secondary nurse and an elementary nurse splitting time in multiple buildings around the district.

Program Reductions

A “No” vote will result in the elimination of the programs listed below for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Extra-curricular activities (Athletics, the arts—music & drama, clubs, yearbook, National Honor Society, etc.)
 - All athletic and non-athletic supplemental contracts eliminated
- District Gifted program
- District elementary orchestra program and reduced secondary music course options
- Contracted district mental health therapists & case managers
- No field trips or alternative educational opportunities district wide including fifth grade camp
- All buildings will be shut down at the end of the school day to outside entities to save on utilities and personnel costs (Girl/Boy Scouts, rec athletics, etc.)

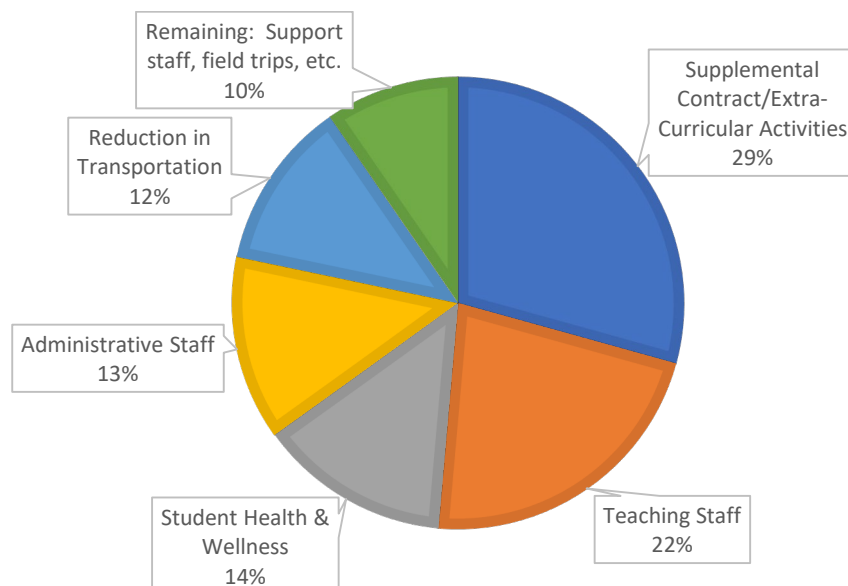
Transportation Reductions

A “No” vote will result in a reduction to student transportation to state minimums for the 2025-2026 school year. District transportation will be limited to the following:

- Only transport students in grades PK-8 who reside more than 2.0 miles from school (no transportation within a 2.0 mile radius of schools, both public and private/parochial).
- No high school student transportation provided except as required by law (Penta Career Center students: school-to-school only. i.e.: no home pickup or drop off)
- With the reduced number of bus drivers, the size of each route will be significantly larger resulting in a substantial increase to student travel time on the bus to and from school (up to 1.5 hours)
- Due to middle school students being transported with elementary students, the middle school day start and end time will move to 8:20am—3:02pm

The above listed eliminations and changes will save approximately \$2,600,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.

REDUCTION PERCENTAGES BY CATEGORY



A “Yes” vote will result in maintaining Bowling Green City Schools as we have come to know and includes:

The district’s Board of Education and administrative team will continue to regularly monitor our expenditures to be fiscally responsible and continue “living within our means” (the district’s reduction of over \$420,000 this school year as previously noted, for example), the district will continue to take advantage of any grant opportunities to offset district expenses (the district has applied for and received almost \$2,000,000 last fiscal year), all current student programs will remain in place, and current student transportation will remain in place. BGCS students will continue to receive a quality education and have the opportunities and experiences they deserve.

Bowling Green City Schools provides an excellent education to our students and an excellent service to our community. Academically, based on the most recent Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) State Report Card, we rank above most other school districts, both locally and across the state, with an overall 4.5 out of 5 stars. The District recently was honored by the DEW with the *Momentum Award*. BGCS was one of only seven districts in the state awarded this prestigious distinction! The great experiences and opportunities available to our students are abundant and I wholeheartedly believe BGCS is as high quality of a school district as any district around.

The passage of this levy is vital to the financial stability of the district and is needed to continue the great opportunities afforded to our students. No one wants to pay more taxes; however, no one wants their home values to plummet due to a subpar school system either. [Please review the “Frequently Asked Questions” about this levy.](#) Additionally, I ask you to please exercise your right to vote on May 6. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the district treasurer, Mr. Matt Feasel, at 419-354-0800 or you can review the district’s financials online at <https://www.bgcs.k12.oh.us/district/treasurer>.

I am honored to serve the students, families, community, and staff of Bowling Green City Schools. I promise that our District will work hard to improve each day to provide a high-quality education for our students, a financially sound organization for our stakeholders, and be a point of pride for the entire community.

Go Bobcats,



*Dr. Ted Haselman
Superintendent*