



Financial Update

Serve • Lead • Succeed

MARCH 2025



We are pleased to provide you with the 2024-2025 Upper Arlington Schools Financial Update. This document is meant to provide our community with a clear and concise look at the state of the district's finances and the factors that will impact our financial situation in the coming years.

Everything we do throughout the Upper Arlington school district remains rooted in our strategic plan.

At the start of this year, the Board of Education approved a new strategic plan for our schools to guide our work for the next five years. With the new Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan, our district remains committed to prioritizing fiscal responsibility and continued educational excellence and innovation.

Financial information presented in this report was prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which differs from financial information prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States. The information presented is unaudited and prepared for informational purposes only. Annual audited financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP can be obtained at www.uaschools.org.

I hope you find this report both interesting and informative. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at treasurer@uaschools.org or (614) 487-5000.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Geistfeld
Treasurer/CFO, Upper Arlington Schools
treasurer@uaschools.org

Stay Informed About District Finances

Visit www.uaschools.org/treasurer, or scan the QR code, to access a variety of financial documents including monthly financial reports, state audits and the Five Year Forecast.



2025 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. We invite all residents to stay connected with the schools and reach out with questions.



From left: Liz George Stump, Lori Trent, Vice President Lou Sauter, President Jenny McKenna and Nidhi Satiani

Upper Arlington Board of Education
boe@uaschools.org

Robert Hunt, Ph.D., Superintendent
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**The Mincy Center —
Upper Arlington Schools**

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www.uaschools.org



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DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

FISCAL AND OPERATIONS



Custodial Services

46 staff members
3 shifts, **7** days a week
1,114,228 square feet
 to clean



Maintenance & Grounds

16 staff members, with
 multiple trades on staff
4,685 work orders
 completed (2024
 calendar year)



Nutritional Services

42 staff members
613,732 total meals
 served (2023-2024) —
 including **72,119** slices of
 pizza on average per year
 at the high school



Transportation

39 staff members
29 buses
 and **2** vans
233,124 total miles driven
 (2023-2024)



Treasurer's Office

8 staff members
1,467 W-2s issued
 (2024 calendar year)
5,082 payments issued
 (fiscal year 2024)

Districtwide Enrollment

Upper Arlington Schools continues to anticipate its needs for the future by monitoring continued enrollment growth. For the past several years, a third-party report has reliably forecast the district's K-12 enrollment growth. The most recent projection report, commissioned in January 2024, forecasts an enrollment of 6,725 in 2033-2034. This is an increase of nearly 1,000 K-12 students since 2014-2015. A new report has been commissioned for 2025 to offer an updated forecast to inform the facilities master planning process.

2024-2025 K-12 Enrollment (as of October 2024)

Barrington Elementary School	803
Greensview Elementary School	481
Tremont Elementary School	694
Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School	480
Windermere Elementary School	558
Hastings Middle School	751
Jones Middle School	729
Upper Arlington High School *	1,959

* Includes UA Online Academy students

Total K-12 Enrollment 6,455



Scan the QR code, or [click here](#), to view current and past enrollment projection reports.

Fiscal Year Highlights



Upper Arlington Schools continues to be one of the top districts in the state of Ohio (#2 in the 2023-2024 state report card, out of approximately 610 public school districts) for the **percentage of funding dedicated to classroom instruction.**



Upper Arlington Schools has received the **Auditor of State Award for 12 consecutive years** in recognition of our commitment to effective and accountable financial practices for our community.

S&P Global

Upper Arlington Schools is one of six Ohio school districts with the **highest bond rating — AAA — from S&P Global** in recognition of strong financial planning and community support.

General Fund Overview, FY24

Total revenues/resources increased approximately 8.4% in fiscal year 2024 (July 2023 to June 2024). In November 2022, the community passed a new 6.9 mil tax levy. This new levy generated approximately \$16.2 million annually. The first full year collection of this new levy occurred in fiscal year 2024, which was the major impact of the increase. State support increased as the district received more funding due to the legislature increasing the base cost inputs and phase-in percentage of the Fair School Funding Plan. Finally, investment income increased due to higher interest rates and cash balances, while advances from other funds decreased as there were no advances to other funds the previous year.

Total expenditures and services provided increased 4.3% in FY2024. The major driver of this increase was staffing and related benefits. Contracts with both employee unions included increases in base compensation from 2.25% to 2.5%. Additionally, the District began operating its own preschool special education program instead of contracting out the program.

Resources Taken In (in thousands of dollars)

	FY24	FY 23	FY22
Local Taxes*	103,527	96,875	84,753
State Support	15,965	13,470	12,721
Investment Income	2,636	953	423
Tuition and Fees	170	353	343
Other Revenue	568	531	342
Transfers/Advances from Other Funds	0	1,370	1,465
Total Revenues/ Resources	123,084	113,552	100,047

Services Provided (in thousands of dollars)

	FY24	FY23	FY22
Instruction	69,536	66,924	65,562
Pupil Support	9,185	8,557	8,204
Instructional Staff Support	5,218	5,063	4,844
Administration	7,269	6,814	6,885
Business Support/ Financial	3,385	3,286	3,071
Operation and Maintenance	8,387	8,219	7,885
Transportation	2,156	1,977	1,843
Central Support	1,731	1,823	1,920
Other	1,790	1,739	1,549
Transfers/Advances to Other Funds	2,136	1,845	2,059
Total Expenditures/ Services Provided	110,793	106,247	103,822

Resources Over (Under) Expenditures (in thousands of dollars)

	FY24	FY23	FY22
	12,291	7,305	(-3,775)

* Tax increment financing collections are included with local taxes.

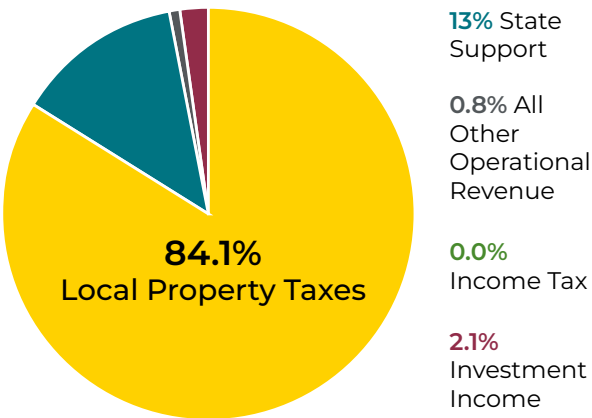
** Items reclassified to be consistent with FY22.

Where the Money Comes From

General Fund Revenue, FY24

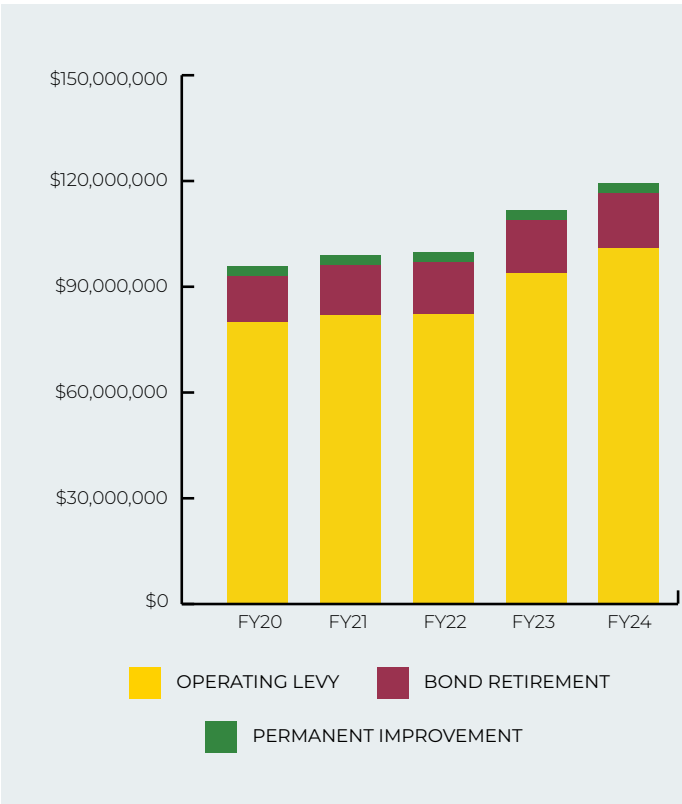
Local Property Taxes includes residential, commercial and public utility property taxes and tax increment financing proceeds. State Support includes aid based on a funding formula, the state’s share of local property taxes, and the district’s portion of casino revenue. All Other Operational Revenue includes tuition, student activity fees, rental charges, investment income and donations.

The district received the majority of its revenue — 84% — from local property taxes. The burden on local taxpayers is likely to grow. Approximately 90% of property taxes are generated from residential property as the district has relatively little commercial property. The district does not receive any local income tax as these taxes are strictly related to the city.



Local Property Taxes

This graph shows the amount of cash collections received by the district from real and personal property taxes. Property taxes provide a majority of the local revenue to operate and maintain our schools. The district accounts for these collections in three funds.



General Fund (Operating Levy): Tax dollars are received by the district for day-to-day operations, which primarily entail employee salaries and benefits. The fluctuation between FY23 and FY24 was due to a full year of collection of a new 6.9 mil levy.

Bond Retirement: Tax dollars are received for the payment of principal and interest on voter-approved bond issues related to renovation/ construction of buildings. Bond millage rates are set by the county auditor to generate sufficient revenue to pay the principal and interest on outstanding bonds.

Permanent Improvement: Tax dollars are received by the district and can be used only for repairs, improvements to buildings and grounds, technology, vehicles, textbooks, and other capital assets with a useful life of five years or more. These funds cannot be used for employee salaries and benefits. See Page 11 for details.

Where the Money Comes From

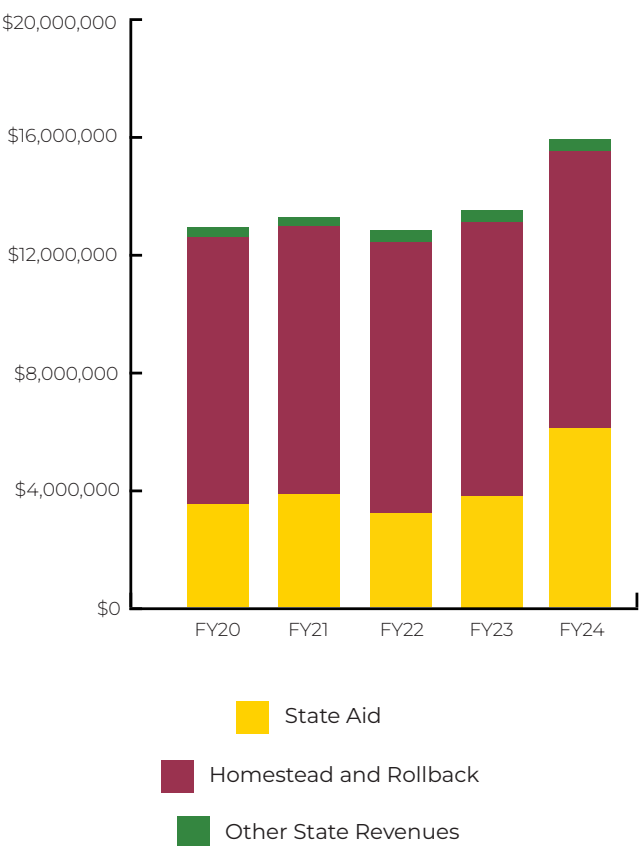
State Support (General Fund)

State sources of revenue generated \$16,000,000, or 13%, of all general fund revenues. Because of a relatively high property valuation and income per pupil, as well as other demographic figures, the district is considered wealthy and receives much less than the state average. In fact, private schools received more in state support per pupil compared with the district. District leaders continue to advocate for raising our state support to the same amount a private school receives.

A portion (\$6,101,000) of the district’s state support comes from State Aid, which in most years is a formula calculation based mostly on student enrollment. Before FY2022, the district was on a state guarantee where it received the same amount of state funding as the previous year. A new funding formula was implemented by the State of Ohio for FY2022, which is driven by a base cost methodology that incorporates components identified as necessary to the education process. This formula changed how funding is distributed so that it is based on where students are educated versus their district of residence. Starting in FY2024, the legislature made adjustments to the formula during its biennium budget process. The three most impactful adjustments for the district were:

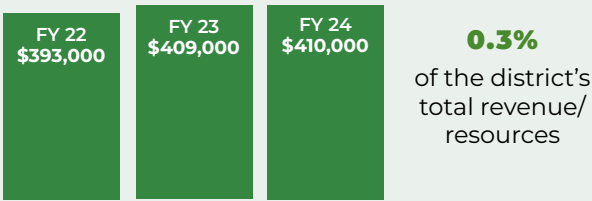
- The phase-in of the formula to 50% in FY24, compared with the 33.3% phase-in during FY23.
- An increase in the funding floor from 5% to 10% (Upper Arlington is on the funding floor).
- Updated base cost inputs in the Fair School Funding Plan from FY18 values to FY22 values.

The majority of state support (approximately \$9,441,000) derives from the state’s share of local property taxes, also referred to as Homestead and Rollback credits.



Casino Revenue

The state legislature designated 34% of tax receipts generated from casinos to school districts across the state starting in calendar year 2013. The district is appreciative of any additional funding; however, as illustrated in the chart below, the impact of this revenue source is minimal. Casino revenue is included in “Other State Revenues” in the graph above.

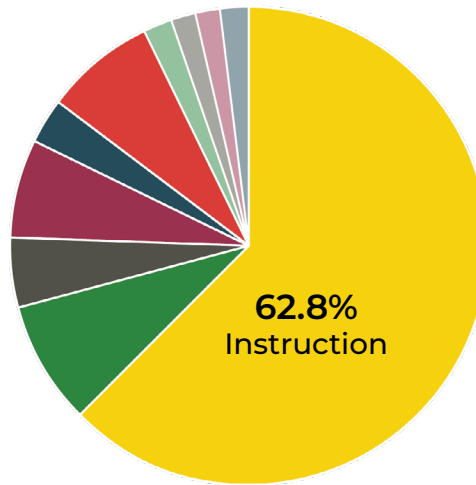


Where the Money Goes

General Fund Expenditures and Services, FY24

Instruction

This largest expenditure category relates to the direct instruction of our students. Students are directly impacted by expenditures from this category.



- 8.3% Pupil Support
- 4.7% Instructional Staff Support
- 6.6% Administration
- 3.0% Business Support/Financial
- 7.6% Operation and Maintenance
- 1.9% Transportation
- 1.6% Central Support
- 1.6% Other
- 1.9% Transfers/Advances to Other Funds

Pupil Support

This area comprises all guidance services, health/safety monitors, health aides, nurses, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychological services.

Instructional Staff Support

These expenditures include library services, curriculum development, staff training, technology integration support and teacher aides.

Administration

These expenditures represent those of the administration and Board of Education's operation of the district. This includes school building administration and secretarial support.



Business Support/Financial

These costs include business services such as risk management, construction management, courier services and tax collection fees. Also included are various financial functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, auditing, budgeting and reporting, and fringe benefit administration.



Operation and Maintenance

These costs relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school including building maintenance, grounds and custodial services.

Transportation

These costs relate to providing transportation to students who live in the Upper Arlington City School District, consistent with Board of Education policies and the laws of the State of Ohio.

Central Support

These central support expenditures include community relations, technology department, human resource management, and other service costs across the district.

Other

These costs account for salaries, benefits and supplies for club- and athletic-related activities.

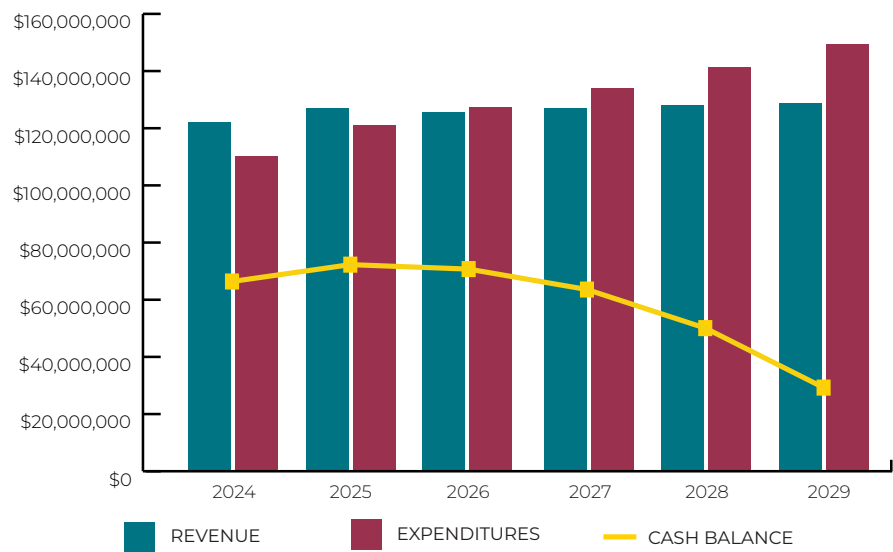
Transfers/Advances to Other Funds

Transfers/advances account for withdrawing money from one fund and placing it in another fund either temporarily (advances) or permanently (transfers).

Five-Year Forecast

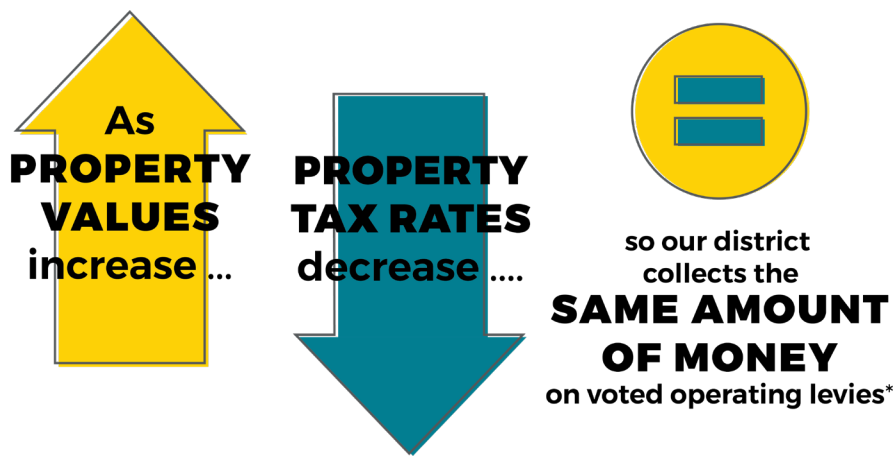
All Ohio school districts are required to file a five-year forecast with the Ohio Department of Education. The report reflects three years of historical revenues and expenditures as well as a forecast of the current fiscal year and four additional fiscal years. While the forecast is an important planning tool, it paints a picture of the future based upon a combination of current realities, certain assumptions and predictions. As such, it is a living document that is subject to frequent change and is officially updated in May and November of each year. The most recent five-year forecast is available at www.uaschools.org/treasurer.

Five Year Forecast Summary
Projected Revenue, Expenditures and Cash Balance



House Bill 920

In Upper Arlington, approximately 96 percent of district revenues are fixed, with little or no room for growth. A major factor in this is House Bill 920, a state law passed in the 1970s that ensures voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. In fact, as property values increase, tax rates actually decrease for homeowners, so the district gets about the same amount of money. Generally speaking, because of House Bill 920, the only way school districts see an increase in property tax revenue related to operating levies is when voters approve a new operating levy. That is why suburban school districts like Upper Arlington return to voters every three to five years in order to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of operations.



Learn More About House Bill 920

Scan the QR code, or [click here](#), to watch a video explanation of House Bill 920 and how it impacts suburban school districts like Upper Arlington.



Tax Rates and Valuation

All tax rates for the district, except inside millage and bond retirement, are reduced as property valuations increase. In accordance with House Bill 920, as property valuations increase during the triennial update and reappraisal periods, the voted millage is reduced to generate the same amount of tax revenue for the district as was received when each levy was initially approved by the voters. The chart below illustrates the difference between the district's gross (voted) tax rates and the effective rate (the tax rate that is being collected for residential properties). The rates below are for the 2024 tax year collected in calendar year 2025.

Unbundling the Tax Rate 2024 Collection Year				
	Gross Rate	Effective Rate	Year Approved	Length Approved
Inside Operating*	5.65 mills	5.65 mills	N/A	Permanent
Voted Operating	107.11 mills	31.53 mills	Various	Permanent
Permanent Improvement	2.0 mills	1.12 mills	2007	Permanent
Bond Retirement	5.7 mills	5.7 mills	Various	Various
Total Rate	120.46 mills	44.0 mills	—	—

* Inside operating millage is provided by the Constitution of the State of Ohio and is levied without a vote of the people. It is called inside millage because it is "inside" the law. This millage amount does not change.

Source: Franklin County Auditor

Assessed Valuation A Year-Over-Year Comparison				
Collection Year	Residential	Commercial	Public Utility	Total
2025	\$2,710,537,550	\$207,686,120	\$39,648,010	\$2,957,871,680
2024	\$2,704,208,530	\$191,441,570	\$36,631,720	\$2,932,281,820
2023	\$2,142,430,500	\$178,291,730	\$35,529,580	\$2,356,251,810
2022	\$2,129,321,590	\$183,166,090	\$33,759,250	\$2,346,246,930
2021	\$2,112,763,320	\$167,126,010	\$31,930,290	\$2,311,819,620
2020	\$1,780,400,940	\$138,290,130	\$29,552,740	\$1,948,243,810
2019	\$1,770,205,240	\$139,692,830	\$28,203,640	\$1,938,101,710
2018	\$1,770,534,840	\$146,465,390	\$26,122,100	\$1,943,122,330
2017	\$1,572,002,900	\$130,772,140	\$25,476,890	\$1,728,251,930
2016	\$1,563,721,350	\$130,320,970	\$25,127,720	\$1,719,170,040

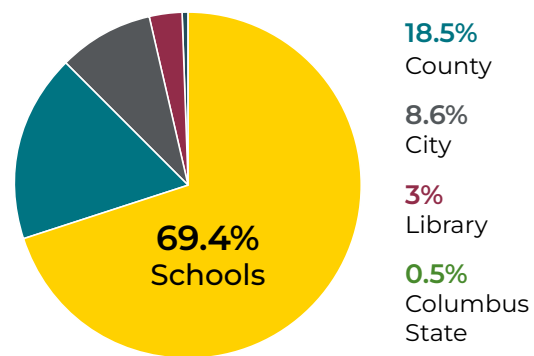
* During the past 10 collection years, residential assessed valuation averaged more than 90 percent of the district's total assessed valuation.

Source: Franklin County Auditor

Property Tax

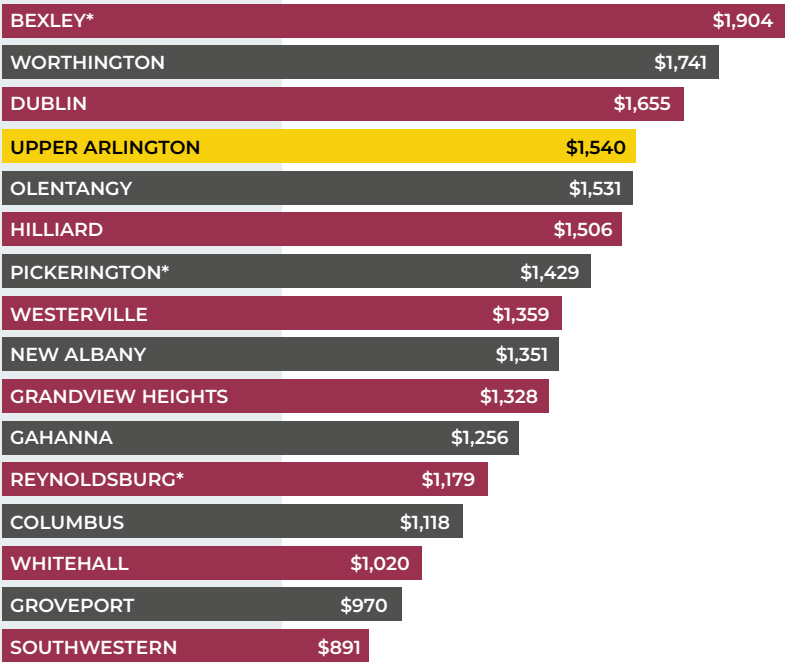
Shown below are the 2025 collection year amounts generated from an Upper Arlington home that the county auditor appraised at \$100,000. The pie chart represents the percentage of each dollar going to each taxing entity. The approximate total of \$2,221 is the annual amount a \$100,000 home would generate in taxes. These amounts, which are rounded to the nearest dollar, include the portion the state pays directly for state credits such as Homestead (owner-occupied) and Rollback for levies passed before November 2013.

2025 Approximate Annual Cost Per \$100,000 in Home Value	
Schools	\$1,540
County	\$411
City	\$192
Library	\$67
Columbus State	\$11
Total \$2,221	



2025 School Property Tax Rates

This chart illustrates the residential property tax collected in 2025 on a county-appraised \$100,000 home for various school districts in Franklin County. These amounts, which are rounded to the nearest dollar, include the portion the state pays directly for state credits such as Homestead (owner-occupied) and Rollback for levies passed before November 2013.



** The district's school income tax collection was converted into mills by dividing calendar year 2024 gross income tax distribution by tax year 2024 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%).*

Permanent Improvement Fund

In November of 2007, Upper Arlington voters approved a 6.2-mill combined operating levy and permanent improvement levy, with 2.0 mills (currently collected at 1.12 mills), or approximately \$3,000,000 per year, in permanent improvement revenue. The permanent improvement levy has allowed the district to dedicate funds specifically to repair, maintain and upgrade its buildings; purchase educational resources and textbooks; and purchase vehicles and technology equipment — all vital in meeting the needs of our students. These funds cannot be used for employee salaries, day-to-day operations or consumables.

Accumulated Expenditures, FY 2009-2024



Buildings and Grounds **\$36,256,000**

These funds have addressed immediate space needs of the district at all levels and immediate concerns related to keeping the district's school facilities safe, dry and secure (renovation of entrances, patching of roofs, HVAC improvements, ADA enhancements, parking lot updates, renovation of athletic venues, maintenance / custodial equipment, additions to educational buildings, and other projects).

Technology and Resources **\$13,233,000**

Traditionally, these funds were used for printed textbooks. Starting in FY 2016, a majority of these funds were used for student and staff devices relating to the one-to-one technology initiative. These funds have also been used for technology upgrades, implementation of wireless networks, creation of a computer replacement cycle and phone system replacement.



Vehicles **\$2,564,000**

These funds have reduced the average life of district vehicles (buses and maintenance), allowing for increased student and staff safety.

Capital Project Reserve Fund

Responsible planning for future financial needs is a crucial part of the district's commitment to being a good steward of the community's investment in its schools. With that commitment in mind, the Board of Education in January 2023 approved moving forward with a capital project reserve fund to proactively plan for eventual replacement needs for district facilities such as new HVAC systems, roofs, or a turf field once it has reached its expected lifespan. This had been discussed during the first phase of the facilities master planning process, and it will not impact the district's general fund. Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the district set aside at least \$750,000 annually in permanent improvement funding for the capital project reserve fund. The current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2024, was \$2,585,000.



Debt

Bond Ratings

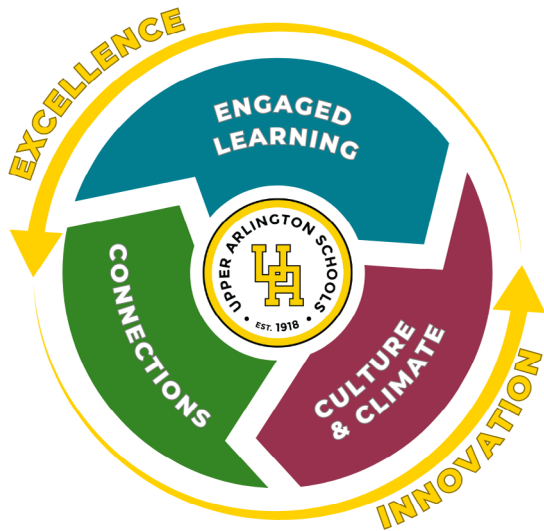
For many years, Upper Arlington Schools has been one of six Ohio school districts able to maintain high bond ratings from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's. In January of 2024, both bond agencies upheld the district's high ratings.

Outstanding Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of debt principal and interest. Revenues from this fund are generated from local sources in the form of property taxes. Approximately \$190,235,600 in bonds was outstanding as of December 31, 2024. The outstanding bonds relate to the bond levy approved by voters in November 2017 and with the original issue of \$230,000,000. In 2022, \$73,500,000 of these bonds were refinanced for a \$24,200,000 gross savings (interest and principal) over the life of these bonds.

Leases

The district entered into a lease agreements in 2022 and 2024 for the purchase of technology devices related to its one-to-one technology initiative. As of December 31, 2024, the total outstanding lease amount is approximately \$3,457,300 in principal.



EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION 2030

Upper Arlington Schools Strategic Plan

The Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan is a forward-thinking roadmap for our district that is designed to further our commitment to challenge and support every student, every step of the way. Reflecting more than 9,000 touchpoints with stakeholders, the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan was developed through extensive collaboration with staff, students and community members. Approved by the Board of Education in January 2025, this strategic plan centers on three key priorities: Engaged Learning, Culture & Climate, and Connections, surrounded by an unwavering focus on Excellence and Innovation. While all areas of the strategic plan have an impact on district finances, the strategic goals implicitly tied to finances are concentrated in the Connections priority area — with focuses on facilities improvement and resource allocation.



Scan the QR code to hear from strategic planning volunteers and learn more about the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3

CONNECTIONS

To engage the community and strategically leverage our resources to accomplish our collective vision of Uniquely Accomplished students prepared to serve, lead and succeed, we will enact these strategies.

3a

Community Engagement

» Enhance and streamline communication systems and expand opportunities for two-way community engagement with district staff and Board of Education members.

3b

Partnerships » Strategically cultivate partnerships to support engaged learning, well-being, family school connections, and the enhancement of resources.

3c

Facilities Improvement » Establish a process for reviewing and updating the facility master plan options, cost estimates, community desires and funding strategies.

3d

Resource Allocation » Formalize and prioritize resource allocation that supports our strategic plan.

Future Financial Focuses

Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan: Facilities Improvement

Ten years ago, Upper Arlington Schools embarked on an unprecedented community-driven process to develop a long-term facilities master plan for the district’s aging schools. This effort ultimately resulted in a new Upper Arlington High School and five new or renovated elementary schools. At the time, the decision was made to delay needed work on Hastings and Jones middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School until a second phase of the process — in approximately 10 years, which brings us to today.

Facilities Master Planning: Phase Two



In the fall of 2024, Upper Arlington Schools launched phase two of facilities master planning, focused on developing a fiscally responsible, long-term plan for the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. This is an important focus of the district’s new Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan.

So far in phase two, the district has:

- Formed building teams of 100 community and staff volunteers, tasked with exploring in depth the physical and educational challenges of each building and looking at possible solutions.
- Commissioned a new round of professional facility assessments, updating the work done in 2015, in order to inform cost estimates for maintaining / repairing these buildings as well as the development of additional options that would tackle both the physical and educational needs.
- Invited the community to share their thoughts through three rounds of engagement sessions and an online survey.



Throughout the 16-month master planning process, Upper Arlington Schools will continue to engage stakeholders — through the volunteer building teams, community engagement sessions, online surveys and more — to work together to develop a fiscally responsible, long-term plan for these schools. No decisions have been made, and it is crucial for our community to get involved so that the final plans are a reflection of the community’s collective vision for the future of our schools.



Key Takeaways in Phase Two of Facilities Master Planning

Based on professional facility assessments, the estimated cost to maintain and repair the middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School is **\$103.7 million (in 2025 dollars)**. High demand in the central Ohio market has led to an escalation in construction costs since phase one. Several large-scale projects such as Intel, Google and Honda are contributing to shortages for labor and supplies.

Phase two of master planning has resulted in approximately 1,450 touchpoints with stakeholders so far — by attending a community engagement session, a building team meeting or a Coffee & Conversation event focused on facilities master planning; participating in a student focus group; or completing an online survey.

Of that, more than 1,000 stakeholders have shared their thoughts on the 13 initial draft options for these buildings — ranging from repair to renovate or rebuild. The feedback is being used to refine and revise the options before coming back to the community again in May 2025 for another round of feedback.

Learn More and Get Involved!

The district is committed to a clear and transparent facilities master planning process. To learn more about every step of the process, scan the QR code or visit www.uaschools.org/facilities.



Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan: Additional Areas of Focus

Resource Allocation » Over the next five years, the district is committed to implementing a strategic, data-driven approach to resource allocation that aligns with the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan, enrollment growth projections and the Five Year Forecast. This approach will prioritize fiscal responsibility and continued educational excellence.

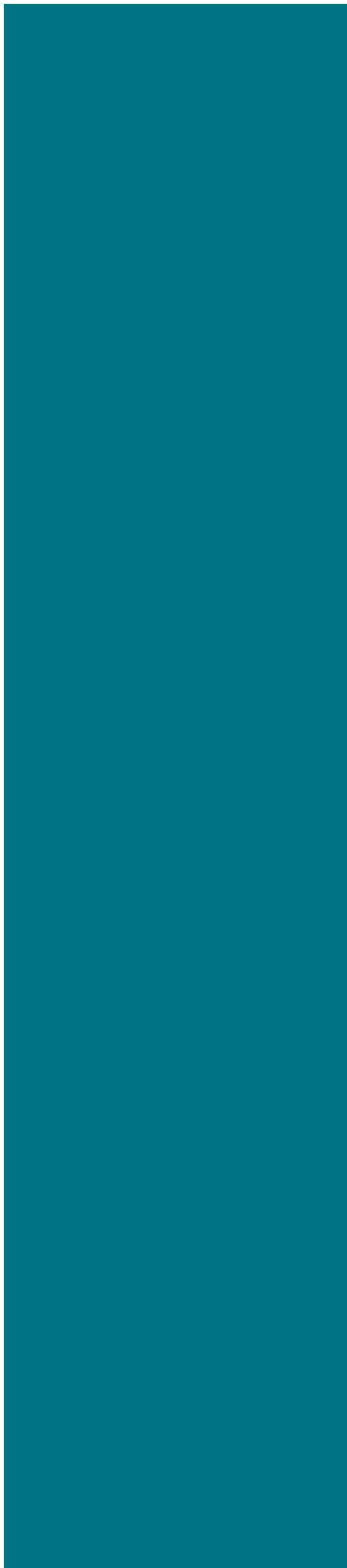
Authentic Academic Experiences » In the fall of 2024, Upper Arlington Schools celebrated the grand opening of the UA Hub, home to new and innovative programs designed to enhance student learning. Located in the old district office at 1950 North Mallway Drive, the Hub was converted into a collaborative learning space with the help of a \$500,000 state grant, which funded physical updates to the building as well as equipment purchases and teacher professional development for the programs. The UA Hub is home to three new or expanded programs — College Jumpstart, UA Online Academy and UA Bridge. Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, a number of new state-approved academic pathways at Upper Arlington High School will further expand the ways students can tailor their educational experiences to their individual aspirations.



Hear more on the Hub

Scan the QR code, or [click here](#), to listen to students and educators discuss their experiences at the UA Hub.





CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT
EVERY STUDENT,
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.