



West Branch Local Schools Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid and Student Wellness and Success Funds Plan

2025-2026 School Year

Mission: The mission of the West Branch Local School District is to prepare all students for their tomorrow, today.

Purpose: Ohio Law requires school districts to develop a plan for using the SWSF/DPIA funds. In collaboration with both community and school personnel who address the physical and mental health needs of our students. 50% or more of the SWSF are dedicated to services that address these needs. This plan will be shared with the state and posted to the school's website within 30 days after development and whenever the plan is amended. The district will report annually on how the funds were spent.

West Branch Local Schools provides a focus on wellness and creates a supportive environment that nurtures physical health, mental well-being, social skills and safety needs, enabling students to thrive both academically and personally. Promoting wellness through programs, counseling, and healthy practices helps students manage stress, build positive relationships, and develop lifelong habits. Ultimately, prioritizing student wellness lays the foundation for a healthier, more productive future generation.

In order to maximize the funds from Student Wellness and Success as well as Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, our plan focuses on ensuring that students are prepared for the academic environment by having their physical and mental health,

social emotional and safety needs addressed. West Branch Local Schools supports flexible service options to meet the specific needs of individual students and families by providing multi-disciplinary teams that create a comprehensive support system for students before, during and after the academic settings.

In addition to the school administration, the multidisciplinary may team include:

- School Counselors
 - Provide counseling services as a bridge between therapeutic services and classroom based interventions as well as family engagement and parent support
- Mental Health Specialists
 - collaborate with families, community agencies, and regular and special education teams in districts to identify and serve students with behavioral and emotional needs.
- School Psychologists
 - Providing behavioral and academic support services to assist students and classroom personnel in their implementation of strategies
- School Resource officers:
 - Support safety and security issues within the district, are present during the day and school events to assist with unruly situations, safety concerns and planning for safety issues such as an active shooter or campus emergency. They serve and protect.
- School Nurses
 - Support the needs of staff and students for physical health issues such as but not limited to minor accidents, medicinal schedules, student health plans, and any needs related to physical health. They also assist in the planning for wellness activities and practices across the district. Additionally, the school nurses coordinate resources to provide nutritional weekend meals to students and families.
- Reading Interventions
 - Support the needs of students who are experiencing delays in reading abilities by providing strong targeted interventions.

These highly qualified and licensed/certified professionals conduct student groups in identified areas such as anxiety, grief, divorced parents, and peer relationships.

Additionally, they may provide wrap around services by connecting them with additional

outside resources to ensure their needs are met to the fullest extent. They are available to participate in assessments and serve on intervention assistance teams as requested by the district or school administration.

These highly trained professionals are also key members of the district threat assessment team. A Threat Assessment aims to identify students of concern, assess their risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and identify intervention strategies to manage that risk.

Additional services focus on physical health needs by Expanding Physical Health Opportunities. The District is committed to providing students and the community with opportunities and resources with a location for expanded physical activities both during the school day and after the school.

A Superintendent Student Advisory Council will be put in place beginning with the 2025 -2026 school year. This panel will serve as a bridge between students and administration, providing a platform for students to share their perspectives and contribute to shaping the future of West Branch Local Schools. This advisory board empowers students to be active participants in district-wide conversations, improving the overall school experience.

Community Partners: Pathway Caring for Children, Mahoning County Health Department, Columbiana County Health Department, HWS Best Health, Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio, Goshen Township Police Department, and Aultman Hospital