

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2025 • Volume 17 // Issue 1

A Message from the Superintendent



In 2023, Wooster City School District launched a new strategic plan, a dynamic tool designed to provide direction, alignment, and purpose as we continue building a district where students thrive.

Thanks to the hard work of our teachers, staff, and administrators, as well as the ongoing support of our students, families, and community, we have made significant progress in each of the goal areas outlined in the plan. Together, we've strengthened instruction, expanded professional learning opportunities, and deepened our commitment to student well-being and positive school culture. We have prioritized strong partnerships with our families and community and created efficient, sustainable business practices.

As we move into the final months of this plan, we're proud of how far we've come and excited for what's ahead. Beginning in the spring of 2026, we'll start developing our next Strategic Plan, which will set the course for continued growth.

In this newsletter, you'll see examples of how our plan is being put into action across the district.

Our success is built on collaboration, commitment, and a strong sense of community. I am so proud of the progress we've made together, and I am enthusiastic about the work that lies ahead.

Gabe Tudor
Superintendent

Generals Leading the Charge

WOOSTER'S STRATEGIC PLAN: 2023-2025

GOAL 1	Academic Advancement and Professional Learning
GOAL 2	Climate, Culture, and Mental Wellness
GOAL 3	Positive Behavior Management and Prevention
GOAL 4	Communication, Community Engagement, and School Pride
GOAL 5	Business Operations and Human Resources



Putting the Plan in Action

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2023-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2023, Wooster City Schools launched a Strategic Plan to guide district priorities through 2025. The plan focuses on five key goal areas designed to strengthen academics, support students and staff, reinforce effective communication, and foster pride throughout our schools and community.

Since its launch, every goal area has seen meaningful improvement, driven by new technology, targeted staff training, expanded opportunities for students, and stronger community partnerships. Using data to guide our decisions, we've identified areas for growth and taken action to create a richer, more engaging experience for every student. As we near the conclusion of this plan, the following highlights provide a snapshot of the initiatives that have contributed to our ongoing success.



Academic Advancement and Professional Learning

Preparing students for a rapidly changing world requires modern, interdisciplinary approaches that connect learning to real-world skills. Across K–12, educators continually review curricula, adding new programs in reading, math, electives, and advanced courses. High school students now have expanded options for electives and college credit opportunities, while middle school students benefit from strengthened teaming structures and wraparound support.

Technology is an integral part of learning, and our 1:1 program ensures every student has access to a digital learning device. Staff training and our Chromebook Technology Handbook support safe, responsible use that truly teaches students to utilize these tools to enhance their education.

Additionally, data-driven practices have helped us better understand learning gaps and evaluate our responses to them. As a result, Wooster earned a 5-star Gap Closing rating on the Ohio School Report Card.

Climate, Culture, and Mental Wellness

Academic success depends on a safe, welcoming environment. Our Wellness Task Force and Mental Health Summit help identify and address the needs of students and staff. New roles, including counselors, BCBA practitioners, and a service coordinator, ensure students can access support when needed. We are consistently working to improve the continuity of care through projects such as the Comprehensive Counseling Plan. Furthermore, strengthened communication and tools like the Family and Community Resources page on our website help families know what resources are available.

Beyond school walls, we support families through community programs, including vaccine clinics, clothing drives, and Neighborhood Bridges, which anonymously connects donors with families in need. The district-wide One Million Acts of Kindness campaign celebrates everyday generosity and strengthens the culture of caring across Wooster City Schools.

Positive Behavior Management and Prevention

Our approach to student behavior and discipline is grounded in support, positive reinforcement, and prevention. We utilize a data-driven approach to uncovering patterns of problematic behavior, which allows us to better utilize resources to provide the most effective support. Staff members are trained in de-escalation and trauma-informed care and work to identify students who may need additional support without compromising privacy during challenging times.

A district-wide committee works to explore how challenging behaviors affect learning and to identify best practices for building a safer, more productive environment. Meanwhile, positive reinforcement programs, such as summer reading challenges and student recognition events, encourage good choices and celebrate growth.

We've also examined our anti-bullying policies closely to ensure our schools are safe and inclusive. Programs like the "See Something, Say Something" initiative provide students with avenues to advocate for themselves and their peers. Increased communication with parents fosters better support systems, helping to establish clear expectations and encourage positive behavior both at school and at home.





Communication, Community Engagement, and School Pride

Strong communication and community connections are the bedrock of a great school district. We've worked hard to make communication more consistent and accessible for all families, especially those with multiple children in different school buildings. With ParentSquare, the BusRight app, building-level newsletters, monthly and quarterly district updates, families can stay up to date with school events, announcements, and celebrations.

It's important to unite our district, beyond the walls of individual buildings, and strengthen our pride and sense of community. Celebrations like Boo at Woo, Spirit Week, and Clap Outs unite us all as Generals. Through leadership programs like the General's Leadership Council, clubs, and volunteer opportunities, we are making sure there is truly a place for everyone.

Our district's impact goes beyond the school day; partnerships with local businesses and organizations provide work release credit, volunteer options, and community engagement, reinforcing the link between our schools and the broader Wooster community.

Business Operations and Human Resources

Through our facility master planning process, we've taken a close look at our long-term infrastructure needs and financial realities. Renovations to the natatorium, athletic fields, roofing, paving, and HVAC systems have already been addressed as we continue to identify the areas in most need of repairs and improvement. We remain deeply committed to sharing these needs with community members through transparent, consistent communication.

Student and staff safety remains a top priority. We've launched a Safety Advisory Committee and invested in new tools such as the Centegix Alert System, Verkada cameras, upgraded radios, and START emergency preparedness training for bus drivers.

The demand for exceptional educators has never been greater in Ohio, and Wooster City School District is committed to recruiting and retaining the best professionals. We continue to attract the best through job fairs, ongoing training, a standardized interview process, and a continued focus on hiring professionals who reflect the strength and diversity of our community.



Scan to view the full Strategic Plan and the September board meeting update.



Board of Education

Rik Goodright, *President*

Jody Starcher, *Vice President*

MEMBERS

Cody Austin, Ryan Kuzma, and Joy Kleinhenz

Administration

Gabe Tudor, *Superintendent*

Amy Welty, *Treasurer*



Be in the know and stay connected!

Scan the QR code to access our communications page and stay up-to-date with the latest news and updates from Wooster City Schools.

Wooster City Schools

2025 State Report Card Rating

OVERALL DISTRICT RATING:



Wooster High School	★★★★☆
Edgewood Middle School	★★★★★
Kean Elementary School	★★★★☆
Melrose Elementary School	★★★★☆
Parkview Elementary School	★★★★☆
Cornerstone Elementary School	★★★☆☆

District Earns Four-Star Rating on Ohio School Report Card

Wooster City School District has received a four-star overall rating on the Ohio School Report Card, indicating that the district exceeds state standards. This achievement reflects performance across six key components: Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, Early Literacy, and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness.

The district earned five stars in the Gap Closing category, which measures the reduction of educational disparities among student groups and indicates performance that significantly exceeds state standards. Additional five-star ratings were achieved by Kean Elementary and Melrose Elementary in Gap Closing, and by Edgewood Middle School in Progress.

Full district and school building report cards are available on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce website at reportcard.education.ohio.gov.

Important Dates

Nov. 20

Board of Education Meeting

Nov. 26-28

No School – Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 16

Board of Education Meeting

Dec. 19

End of Second Quarter (Grades 5-12) (41 Days)

Dec. 22-31

No School – Winter Break

Jan. 1-2

No School – Winter Break

Jan. 5

School resumes

