

# REPORT CARD

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter



FEB. 2026



## Treasurer transition begins

The Board of Education recently approved Meghan Rohde as the District's new treasurer/chief financial officer. Rohde, who came to Lakewood from Bay Village City Schools, assumed her new role Jan. 20, and is working alongside outgoing treasurer, Kent Zeman, who retires this spring.



Rohde brings a decade of financial leadership experience in public education. Prior to joining Bay Village Schools, Rohde served as treasurer for Clyde-Green Springs School District in Clyde, Ohio. She currently is the Northeast Region director for the Ohio Association of School Boards and has earned an Ohio Auditor State Award.

Prior to working in public education, Rohde served as an internal auditor for PNC Bank. She earned an MBA from Ohio University and her bachelor's degree from Wright State University.

## West Shore in the spotlight

Many in our community may be surprised to learn that tucked inside Lakewood High School is one of the region's most dynamic and innovative learning opportunities: the West Shore Career-Technical District. West Shore is a career-tech consortium consisting of four area school districts: Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake. Students in West Shore take all their career-tech classes at Lakewood High School, or some off-site work locations for specific programs. West Shore has been providing students comprehensive career and workforce readiness opportunities for over 50 years.

West Shore's 15 carefully designed programs are specifically tailored to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience required to thrive in today's competitive job market. West Shore goes beyond just imparting job skills, as students also have the

See W. SHORE Page 4

## Kindergarten Parent Night, registration date

Lakewood City Schools' Kindergarten Parent Information Night will be held Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 6:30-8 pm in the Grant Elementary School cafeteria. Due to a change in state law, a child must be 5 years old on or before the first day of school (Aug. 27, 2026), instead of the old Sept. 30 date, in order to be eligible to enter kindergarten in fall 2026. Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens on Feb 5. Preschool registration opens Jan. 28. Use the QR code to start the registration process or visit [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org).



# Finance Update from the Treasurer's Office

To the Citizens of the Lakewood City School District,

We are pleased to present the Lakewood City School District's Financial Update for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This report makes our District's finances easier to understand, and is intended to communicate our financial situation in an open and accountable manner.

The Financial Update summarizes the financial activities and operating results reported in the Lakewood City School District's audited Annual Financial Report. The Financial Update is unaudited and presented on a non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principle) basis, which primarily deals with full disclosure and segregated funds.

The statement and the pie charts presented on pages 2-3 consist of the General Fund of the District. The General Fund is the largest fund from which most day-to-day programs and services are provided. For more detailed financial information, including a discussion of key changes in financial data from last fiscal year, our economic condition and outlook, initiatives and accomplishments, please refer to a copy of the Annual Financial Report. The Annual Financial Report will be posted to the website ([www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org)) upon completion of the audit process (anticipated in January 2026).

The Lakewood City School District is proud of this report and the support offered by the Board of Education in its creation. Ultimately, we would like to thank our citizens for their encouragement in creating a report designed to more adequately address their needs as taxpayers, as well as for the opportunity to serve them. Questions, comments and feedback regarding this report are encouraged, so please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer's Office at (216)-529-4096 or [kent.zeman@lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:kent.zeman@lakewoodcityschools.org).

## RESOURCES TAKEN IN

		FY 2025
Local Taxes	61.06%	\$52,677,008
State Revenue	27.87%	\$24,047,678
Federal Revenue	0.54%	\$ 467,794
Investment Income	3.75%	\$ 3,232,774
Tuition & Fees	3.48%	\$ 2,999,181
Recreation Fees & Tuition	1.65%	\$ 1,423,577
Interfund Receipts	0.00%	\$ -
Miscellaneous	1.65%	\$ 1,424,956
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Resources</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$86,272,968</b>

## SERVICES PROVIDED

		FY 2025
Instruction	62.95%	\$55,553,121
Pupil Support	7.40%	\$ 6,533,868
Instructional Support	4.50%	\$ 3,969,674
Board & Administration	7.92%	\$ 6,991,826
Business Support	1.05%	\$ 929,640
Plant Operations	11.17%	\$ 9,854,901
Transportation	0.33%	\$ 291,611
Central Support	0.73%	\$ 646,119
Civic Auditorium	0.26%	\$ 227,662
Recreation	2.31%	\$ 2,036,974
Extracurricular	1.38%	\$ 1,215,566
Interfund Expenditures	0.00%	\$ 0
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Services</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$88,250,974</b>
<b>Revenue &amp; Resources Over Expenditures &amp; Services</b>		<b>\$-1,978,006</b>

## FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2013, the Board of Education created a Financial Advisory Committee to work with the District treasurer, superintendent, and the Board of Education members assigned to the Finance Committee. The purpose of the committee is advisory in nature and to work in a cooperative and collaborative manner in the following areas: review the annual state audit and address any concerns; conduct a pre-audit and post-audit meeting; share business and financial "Best Practices;" review the Five-Year Forecast; and make an annual report to the Board.

The committee is comprised of three citizens who are Lakewood residents appointed by the Board. The Board

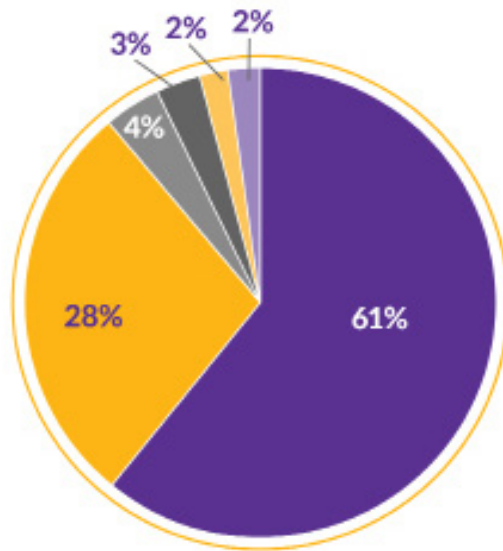
seeks citizens with financial and/or audit experience, such as CPAs, CFOs, CEOs, or bankers. In order to establish a rotation of filling one position each year, the first set of appointments include one member serving three years in length with the other two appointments being one- and two-year terms each.

The committee meets four to five times a year. Meetings dates are posted on the District calendar at [www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org). Meetings are open to the public.

The committee consists of community members Ken Foley, Timothy Homan, and Kathleen Neal; Board members Michael J. Callahan and Nora Katzenberger; and Treasurer Kent Zeman and Superintendent Maggie Niedzwicki.

## Our Revenues and Resources Fiscal Year 2025

Where the General Money Fund Comes From

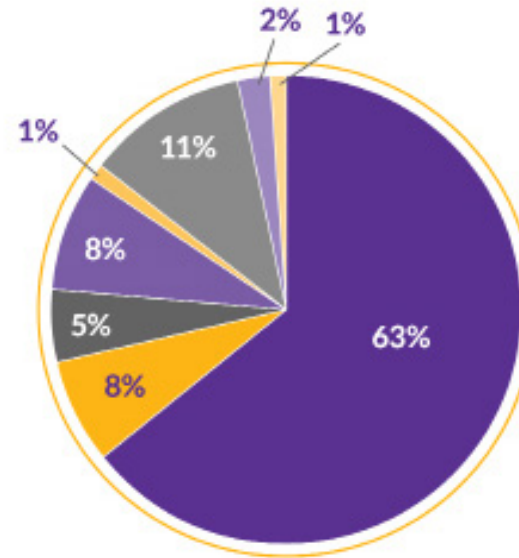


Federal revenue is less than 1%

**Total Revenue & Resources: \$86,272,968**

## Our Expenditures and Services Fiscal Year 2025

Where the Money Goes



Civic, Central and Transportation support are less than 1%

**Total Expenditures & Services: \$88,250,974**

Revenue & Resources Over Expenditures & Services: **-\$1,978,006**

## Definitions:

### Revenues & Resources

**Local Taxes** is the largest revenue source for the District and is comprised of residential, commercial (retail), industrial (manufacturing), and public utilities taxes paid by the property owners.

**State Revenue** is comprised of state per pupil aid (approximately \$4,265 per pupil) and property tax relief reimbursement (better known as State Share of Local Property Taxes). The rollback reimbursement was eliminated for any issues approved after September 2013.

**Federal Revenue** is comprised of funds received relating to technology reimbursements (E-Rate) and Medicaid reimbursements relating to federal programs.

**Investment Income** funds are derived from the investment of available funds in excess of the monthly cash flow requirements.

**Tuition & Fees** relates to receipts generated by tuition received from other districts the District is required to educate (for example, West Shore Career-Technical District), student school fees and pay to participate fees.

**Recreation Fees & Tuition** relates to receipts generated by Lakewood Community Recreation

and Education for the activities and programs offered throughout the year.

**Interfund Receipts** are comprised of internal transactions within the District that are directly offset by interfund expenditures.

**Miscellaneous** funds are made up of service agreements, building rentals, lease agreements, etc. (e.g. naming rights for First Federal Lakewood Stadium and First Federal Community Fitness Center and Track).

### Expenditures & Services:

**Instruction** is the largest expenditure category and relates to the direct instruction of our students. Students are directly impacted by the expenditures in this category.

**Pupil Support** areas comprise all counseling services, health/safety monitors, health aides, nurses, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services and pupil accounting services.

**Instructional Support** costs include library services, curriculum development, staff training, and licensed professional development committee.

**Board & Administration** costs represent those of the administration and Board of Education's

operation of the District. Also included in this category is school building secretarial support and financial services, such as payroll, accounts payable and receivable, auditing, budgeting and reporting, and data processing.

**Business Support** costs include business services such as copier expenditures.

**Plant Operation** expenditures relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school including building maintenance, grounds, and custodial services and utilities.

**Transportation** expenditures relate to providing transportation for students with disabilities who live in the Lakewood City School District.

**Central Support** expenditures include administrative technology services.

**Civic** expenditures are operation costs associated with the Lakewood Civic Auditorium.

**Recreation** expenditures account for the operations of the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department for the adult and youth programs provided to the residents of the City of Lakewood.

**Extracurricular** expenditures account for the salaries, benefits, and supplies for club and athletic-related activities.

## The Lakewood Board of Education

Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, President  
Lisa Dopman, Vice President  
Michael J. Callahan, Member  
Colleen Clark-Sutton Member  
Nora Katzenberger, Member

### Administration

Maggie Niedzwiecki, Superintendent  
Meghan Rohde, Treasurer  
Kent Zeman, Deputy Treasurer

*All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career-Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Stephanie Morgan as 504 Officer.*

Board of Education  
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Lakewood, OH 44107

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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

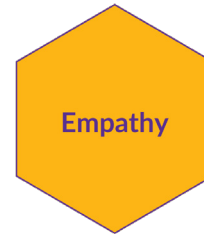
## Vision Of A Lkwd Ranger: Building Bridges Through Art



Rebeca Sever and Estella Cintron stand proudly with their art created in the pARTners class.

One of our amazing art teachers at Lakewood High, Dayna Hansen, has created a unique course that brings together many of our Vision of a Lakewood Ranger competencies.

The pARTners semester course pairs general education students with students from the MILES classroom to collaborate on art projects, foster social and communication skills, and build positive relationships in a supportive and creative environment. The class held an art exhibition at the end of last semester to showcase the MILES students' amazing work created during the semester. What an incredible opportunity for our students!



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opportunity to earn industry credentials and college credits, providing them with a head start in their educational journey.

In addition to the 15 programs, West Shore also offers 11 elective courses, from Fashion Design to Creative Cooking, to Digital Media and Entrepreneurship.

West Shore provides invaluable opportunities for industry exposure and hands-on professional experiences. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, students gain real-world experience, develop professional networks, and enhance their technical and employability skills through work-based learning opportunities.

West Shore administrators are continually striving to bring new programs to students. The two most recent programs, welding and micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS), are a great example.

West Shore has staff members dedicated to helping students find meaningful career shadowing opportunities, offering students pre-professional services such as resume building and mock interviews, and helping them design a career or college pathway specific to their interests and passions.

Family tours are available on Fridays after school. If interested, email [yakoob.badat@lakewoodcityschools.org](mailto:yakoob.badat@lakewoodcityschools.org). Sophomore students interested in West Shore are encouraged to schedule a tour and submit an application by March 1 for next school year.

## Recreation Department Winter Update

**RANGER PURPLE & GOLD CLASSIC DATE SET:** The annual 5th grade basketball tournament is set for Saturday, April 18.  
**NEW THIS YEAR:** Team photos and a hype video will be coming in March. Stay tuned for details by following our socials: Twitter: @lkwdrec; Instagram: lkwdrec; Facebook: Lakewood, OH Community Recreation & Education Dept.

**PART-TIME JOBS AVAILABLE:** There are several seasonal and part-time positions available such as event staff, scorekeepers, athletic supervisors and Fitness Facility front desk workers. Check out our website at [recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org) or stop in the office to see if you may be interested to join our team. Fill out a general application today!