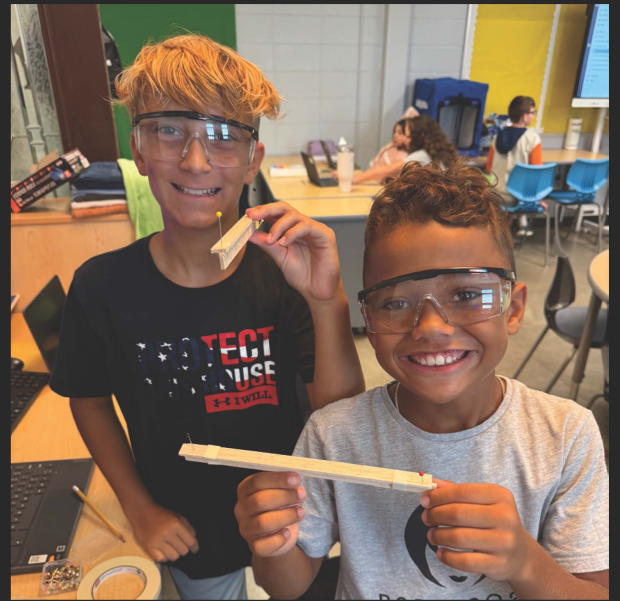


OUR Schools
OUR Stories
CONNECTING
OUR
COMMUNITY



**Purpose-Driven Pathways:
Middle School Career Labs
Guide Student Success**

Oldham County middle schoolers are now exploring future careers through hands-on career labs. These interactive classrooms allow students to discover their passions and talents by experiencing up to 15 different career paths before high school—from healthcare and engineering to criminalistics and beyond. It's real-world learning that sparks curiosity and helps students envision their future possibilities.

OUR SCHOOLS, OUR STORIES:

connecting our community

Dear Oldham County Community,

I am deeply honored to serve as the new superintendent of Oldham County Schools. Since arriving, my family and I have settled into our new home in Oldham County, and we have been overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality this community has shown us. From day one, it has been clear that this is a special place where people genuinely care about one another and about the success of our schools.

As I begin this important work, I want to share my priorities for this school year: maintaining a visible presence in our schools and ensuring transparent communication with all stakeholders. Over these first few months, I have spent considerable time visiting our schools, meeting with district administrators, and engaging with our talented educators. What I have learned is truly inspiring—this district thrives on collaboration. The way our teams work together to support student success is remarkable, and I am excited to be part of this collective effort.

I am thrilled to share some outstanding news with you. Oldham County Schools has achieved exceptional results in our state assessments (KSA), and these outcomes reflect the dedicated implementation of our strategic plan and our commitment to educational excellence.

Oldham County achieved incredible success with **11 of our 16 accountability schools earning "blue" status—the highest rating possible**. This nearly triples our Blue-rated schools from just four last year, representing a key milestone in our district's history. We have seen widespread growth across schools, showcasing the collective effort of our educators and students. Additionally, our high schools continue to maintain strong graduation rates and post-secondary readiness scores, ensuring our students are well-prepared for their future educational and career paths.

These achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff. We are excited to build on this momentum as we continue advancing our strategic priorities. I encourage you to check out our community dashboard, which showcases the work on our key initiatives at www.oldham.kyschools.us/cd

Beyond academic achievement, our school board made a decision this year that reflects our dedication to this community—voting to keep the property tax rate flat for the fourth consecutive year. This achievement is particularly meaningful because we accomplished this while simultaneously increasing staff compensation and reducing student fees for families. It is a testament to our careful financial stewardship and strategic planning.

As I continue learning and growing in this role, I want you to know that the community support that wraps around this school district is simply unbelievable. Together, we will continue building on our successes and ensuring every student in Oldham County receives an exceptional education.

With gratitude and pride,

Claudette Herald
Superintendent, Oldham County Schools



THE OLDHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



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BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: MAJOR FACILITIES *Projects Update*

South Oldham High School Addition & Renovation

We've officially broken ground! On October 14, 2025, district and school leaders joined students and representatives from RossTarrant Architects and Wehr Construction to celebrate the start of South Oldham High School's transformative expansion and renovation project.



What's Being Done

This ambitious project will unfold in three phases over 42 months, bringing modern, student-centered spaces designed to enhance education:

phase 1

38,000 square feet of additional space including 22 new classrooms filled with natural light from expansive windows, creating bright and airy learning environments.
Expected Completion: October 2026

phase 2

88,000 square feet featuring a new auditorium, cafeteria, and welding space to support career and technical education programs.
Expected Completion: August 2028

phase 3

A renovated gym and auxiliary gym to support athletics and physical education.
Expected Completion: May 2029

Design Highlights

The new SOHS will feature:

- Light-filled spaces with large windows throughout the building
- Student art galleries integrated into hallways and common areas
- Social stairwell as the vibrant hub of school life, encouraging connection and collaboration

Every detail focused on enhancing the educational experience.

Oldham County High School Campus Transformation

Major additions are underway at the OCHS campus, with completion of the new spectator gym, Buckner High School, and Little Colonels Daycare expected by **Fall 2026**.

New Building Highlights

- Large-capacity gymnasium seating approximately 3,700 spectators
- New Buckner High School facility
- Multi-purpose spaces for instruction, training, and professional development
- Multi-sport training and weight facility
- Little Colonels Daycare bringing multiple programs under one roof
- Improved site access with increased parking and better vehicular and pedestrian circulation



Stay Updated

For detailed timelines and project updates, visit www.oldham.kyschools.us/departments/facilities

These projects represent our commitment to providing world-class learning environments that prepare our students for success today and tomorrow.

CAREER DISCOVERY STARTS HERE: INSIDE THE PAXTON/PATTERSON LABS

Oldham County Schools has partnered with Paxton/Patterson Labs to deliver career-focused education in middle school classrooms. These interactive labs put our strategic plan into practice by offering students innovative learning opportunities that spark academic curiosity and encourage them to take an active role in their education. Hands-on learning labs give students the opportunity to discover what excites them, strengthen their skills and talents, and explore career paths they may have never imagined.

"When I first came in here, I was scared because I didn't know what to expect but once I got into the flow of it, I loved it," said Liam Thacker, NOMS 8th grade student. "My favorite is engineering energy. When I got that first pinch of information, it was like a spark to my mind ignited, 'oh yeah, I really like this.' The excitement of being here and getting new modules is awesome."

Through diverse module options, students explore careers while building skills and connecting classroom concepts to real world experiences. Over the three years of middle school, students may explore up to 15 different careers before entering high school.

"We have worked for years to find ways to have middle schoolers explore careers beyond the ones they hear about in their immediate family," said Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning, Dr. Dylan Smith. "These hands-on classrooms allow students to work with a partner to explore a new career and see if it aligns with their interests."

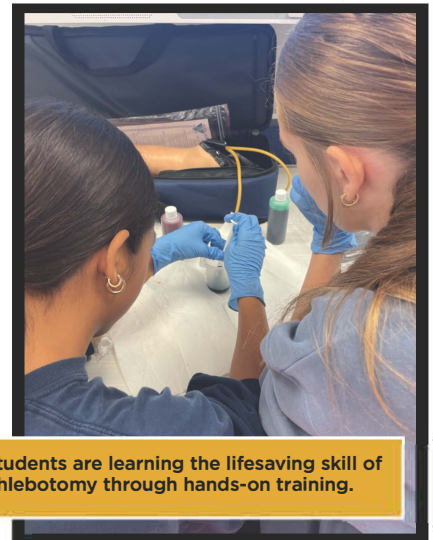
The core labs listed below align with career and technical education opportunities at the Arvin Center and in our comprehensive high schools. The additional specialized labs were selected by school leadership teams based on the interests of their students. Schools plan to expand offerings over time.

Core Labs

- Energy and Power Engines
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design
- Biomedical Engineering
- Criminalistics
- Video Production
- Home Maintenance Systems
- Nursing
- Digital Manufacturing
- Design & Marketing
- Structural Engineering
- Robotics
- Alternative Energy

Additional Specialized Labs by School

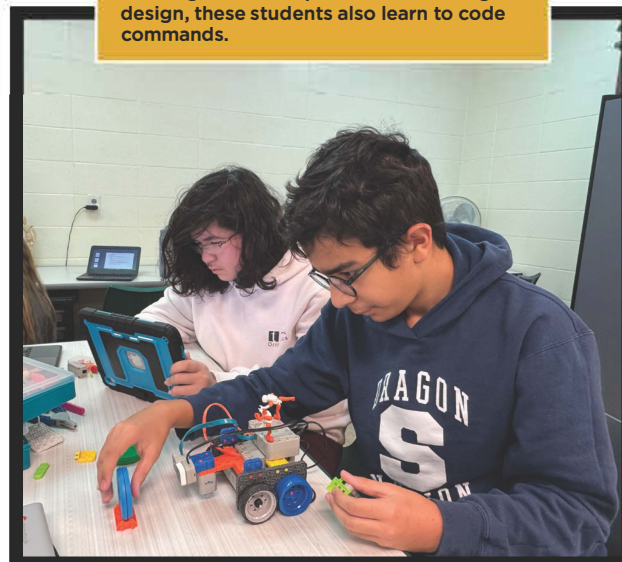
- Environmental & Power Engines
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Medicine
- Welding Basics
- Sports Medicine
- EMT
- Engineering & Fire Management
- Health Services Careers
- Child Development



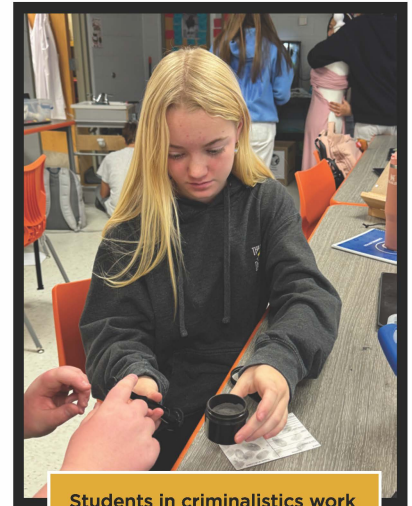
Students are learning the lifesaving skill of phlebotomy through hands-on training.



Students learn fundamental electrical wiring skills by splitting and connecting wires to power a light bulb.



Building a robot requires more than a good design, these students also learn to code commands.



Students in criminalistics work on fingerprint dusting.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN SERVICES

If for any reason you suspect your child (age 3-21) may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving special education services, please call Oldham County Schools Exceptional Children Services Department at 502-222-3737. Our goal is to ensure every child has the support they need to thrive and excel.



GOSHEN ELEMENTARY'S MUSICAL: WHERE EVERY STUDENT TAKES CENTER STAGE



Goshen 4th and 5th graders practice for their upcoming play.



4th grader Maddy Vandenberg shows off her simple machine prototype. She used the engineering and design process to design, create, and test this bird prototype using a pulley simple machine system.

At Goshen Elementary, education comes alive through an extraordinary whole-school production of "The Lion King." Every student from kindergarten through fifth grade plays an essential role in this transformative experience exemplifying innovative, collaborative, and inclusive learning.

The production emerged from the visionary collaboration of Ms. Yann, Ms. Coniff, and Ms. Liles, who united art, drama, music, and STEM programs. Students explored the story through scripts, characters, and music while mastering blocking, stage directions, and vocal projection.

Fourth and fifth graders crafted intricate animal masks and engineered scenery and costumes. Kindergarten through third graders designed props and scenery pieces. Music classes taught harmony, group singing, and cross-language communication skills.

The STEM integration shines through movable scenery created using engineering principles like levers, pulleys, and axles. Students transformed theoretical concepts into functional theatrical elements.

"Our entire school, kindergarten thru 5th, worked to put this production together. Everyone made masks in art, some kids made background scenes, in STEM we made moving props with pulleys and levers, and in music we even learned African songs," said fifth grader, George Halaris. "I really liked that we all worked together as a school."

Goshen Elementary has created more than a play—they've crafted an experience where every child is an essential contributor, reimagining integrated learning's possibilities and proving that education flourishes when every student's contribution matters.

Arvin's first-ever Fire Science Program is making history as cadets train to become future first responders. This pioneering class is building essential skills through immersive hands-on experiences and rigorous classroom learning.

"We have been working on options for starting a First Responders pathway for a while," said Principal Matt Watkins. "After South Oldham Fire administration contacted us, we held a couple of 'how can we make this work' meetings-and now we're off and running! Teaching firefighting skills is invaluable because it prepares the next generation of first responders, builds community safety awareness, and creates pathways for young people to serve their communities in meaningful ways."

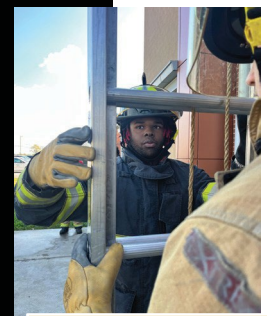
The inaugural class of 11 students has already achieved significant milestones, earning BLS and CPR certifications while studying Safety and First Aid fundamentals. Each cadet received their own bunker gear and in-class uniform, transforming them into professionals-in-training. Students will receive EMT training and earn certification during their second year in the program.



The Building Construction unit culminated in assembling a custom dollhouse, which later became the centerpiece of an unforgettable live fire training exercise. Students set their creation ablaze to observe smoke patterns, fire growth, and behavior firsthand—a powerful lesson in fire science principles.

This groundbreaking program combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, preparing students for careers in emergency services while building camaraderie and professional skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

"I really wanted to take this class because I really want to help others while doing something that is meaningful to me," said OCHS senior Julian Estrada. "This class has really helped me learn the skills and confidence I need to become a firefighter. I really like that I get to work and train in the fire department as a cadet. It is a great opportunity."



"I signed up to take this class because I like that I'll already have certifications and be ready to start my career when I graduate. Plus, I love putting what we learn into hands-on training." Jayke Watson, OCHS junior

ARVIN'S INAUGURAL FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM BLAZES NEW TRAIL



FISCAL YEAR 2025: A STRONG FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The budget for Oldham County Schools is an essential resource that brings our strategic plan to life and transforms our educational vision into tangible results. Through thoughtful resource allocation, we’re able to strengthen student achievement, support innovative programming, and provide meaningful growth opportunities for our teaching staff. This financial snapshot reflects our dedication to openness and accountability while showing how each dollar works purposefully toward our goal: delivering exceptional education to every student in a setting designed for their growth and achievement.

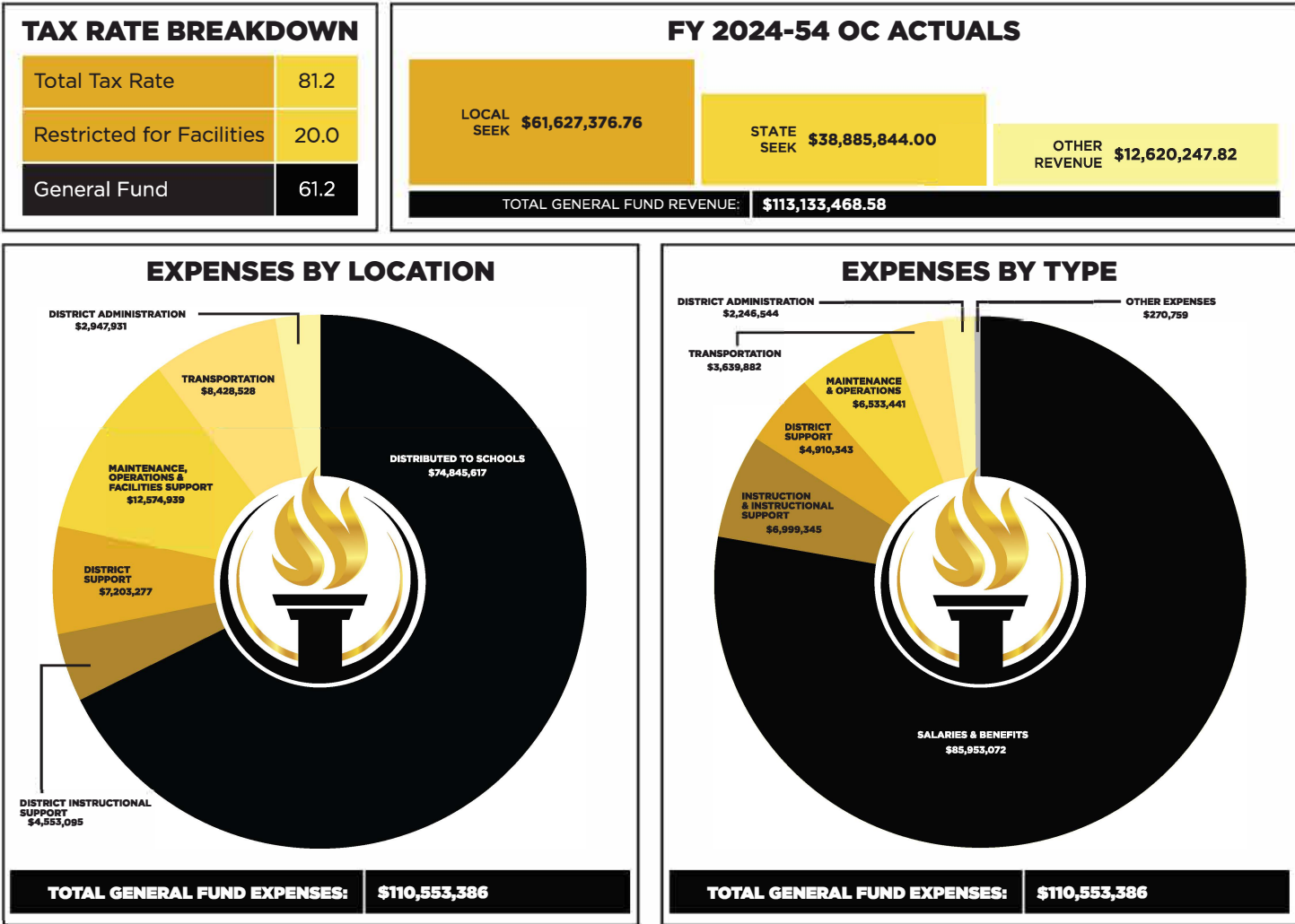
Oldham County Schools concluded the 2025 fiscal year with a **strong general fund balance**, reflecting exceptional fiscal management. Our financial strength was driven by **revenues surpassing projections by 7%** and **expenses kept 9.7% under budget**.

This prudent stewardship allowed OCS to make significant investments in our team during fiscal year 2025:

- ✓ A **7% salary increase** for all certified staff.
- ✓ A **\$2.00 per hour increase** for classified staff.
- ✓ A **one-time stipend** of \$2,000 for all full-time and \$1,500 for all part-time employees.

For fiscal year 2026, we were able to keep tax rates flat once again, while still providing a 5% salary increase and a one-time stipend of \$3000 for full-time and \$1500 for part-time employees.

While these achievements are notable, our commitment continues. We remain dedicated to identifying further cost efficiencies, ensuring we can provide our staff with **competitive compensation** while continuing to be exemplary stewards of taxpayer dollars.



SERVING *beyond* THE CLASSROOM



The Jake Luxemburger Foundation with the South Oldham Fire Department Toy Drive is one of the many charities that Central Office employees support.

Our staff embodies the leadership and service called for in our strategic plan through meaningful charitable giving year-round. From generous payroll deductions supporting local and national charities to organizing toy and food drives that benefit families in our community, our team demonstrates that serving others is at the heart of who we are. Our students actively join in this culture of generosity, participating in charitable initiatives that teach them the importance of giving back and making a positive impact in their community.

Voluntary employee payroll contributions help Fund for the Arts provide funding to our schools, enabling us to offer diverse arts classes and programming for students. Most of this funding comes back to Oldham County Schools through FFTA's 5x5/Teacher Arts Grant (TAG) program which enables teachers to apply for funding to bring arts-based experiences to their schools. The annual employee FFTA giving campaign has raised an average of \$7,600 for TAG over the past five years, earning participating schools a \$500 grant and three full scholarships for Arts Center programs.

Story Tellers Live! at Locust Grove Elementary—made possible through Fund for the Arts



Student's Vision Becomes Reality: OCHS Opens Colonel Care Center

When OCHS junior, Nicky Byers, learned that some community members lacked access to food and basic necessities, he took action. He approached local businesses to request donation commitments, then he pitched his idea to Principal Natalie Brown. Now, OCHS is opening the Colonel Care Center to help students and families who need a little extra support. This family resource center will be a welcoming place where the OCHS school community can connect with resources like food assistance, clothing, school supplies, or help navigating services. The goal is to make the Colonel Care Center self-sustaining with quarterly fundraisers such as the Colonel Craft Fair—all proceeds will benefit the center.

"I just wanted to get involved and help people out. We are starting out with food and we are planning a coat drive for the winter. We want the Colonel Care Center to be operational year-round. I hope by the time I graduate this has expanded to other schools and in surrounding areas." Nicky Byers, OCHS student

Turning Vision Into Reality: How OCEF Grants Bring Classroom Ideas to Life

Through Oldham County Educational Foundation's Pyramid Awards program, teachers receive direct grant funding to bring innovative classroom projects to life. La Grange Elementary's Reading Trading Cards exemplifies this support in action.

"Winning the Pyramid Award has been transformational—and our new reading game has turned our library into a visual literacy playground where students hunt for trading card challenges displayed throughout the school," said Melinda Hadley, MLS. "The excitement is contagious; one student told me, 'I used to always just read my favorite book series, but now I read all kinds of genres and I like them, which I never thought I would.' Since launching the program, library checkouts have increased by 58%, and students are finishing the books they choose—reading has become something our students celebrate."

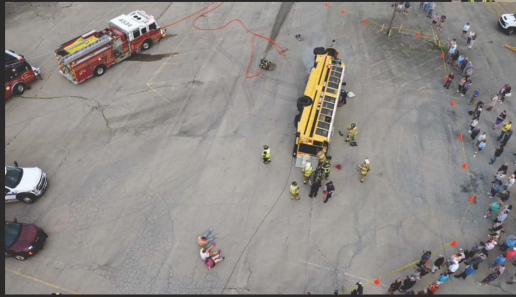
In 2025, a record-breaking \$52,109 was given directly to teachers and staff to fund projects in their classrooms. This adds to the over \$600,000 awarded over the 30+ year history of OCEF.



Showing off her collection! This proud reader shares her earned reading trading cards with Kentucky Commissioner of Education, Dr. Robbie Fletcher, explaining how each one represents a book she's completed.

Transportation Team Participates in Lifesaving Safety Training

Bus drivers and transportation staff participated in a realistic rollover simulation designed to prepare them for emergency situations. The hands-on training featured our own driver trainers volunteering as mock victims, portraying various injury scenarios with remarkable dedication to help their colleagues learn critical response procedures.



This comprehensive exercise reinforced a vital message: focused, distraction-free driving can prevent emergencies before they happen. By experiencing a simulated crisis situation, our drivers gained invaluable knowledge about emergency protocols and response procedures.

A Community Effort

This training exemplifies the strong partnerships between our school district and local emergency services. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organizations that made this training possible:

- Oldham County Police, including our dedicated School Resource Officers
- La Grange Fire Department
- Ballardsville Fire Department
- Oldham County EMS
- Air Methods Bedford KY
- Burrow's Wrecker Service

Safety First, Always

The safety of our students remains our highest priority. Annual training exercises like this rollover simulation ensure our transportation team maintains the highest professional standards and stays prepared to protect the precious cargo they transport every day—our children.

We're proud of our transportation staff's dedication to continuous learning and grateful for the community partners who invest their time and resources in keeping our students safe.

JOIN OUR TRANSPORTATION TEAM!

Be part of a team that puts safety first and values every member.

\$21.25/hour

starting pay for drivers

Guaranteed 6-hour minimum daily
with opportunities for additional hours

NO CDL? NO PROBLEM!

We provide ON-SITE CDL training
We'll help you get licensed and on the road!

WHY CHOOSE US?

- ✓ **Work with a dedicated, professional team**
- ✓ **Make a difference in students' lives**
- ✓ **Comprehensive safety training**

READY TO DRIVE WITH US?

Contact our Transportation Department today!



502-222-9337



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