

LORAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Path Forward

Understanding Our Budget Challenges
and Plans for FY2026–2027

Board Approved: February 26, 2026

WHAT HAPPENED?

We planned carefully — but unexpected revenue losses changed everything.

June 2025

State Funding Cut

-\$4.9 Million

Less from the State of Ohio than projected

August 2025

Federal Funding Cut

-\$787,000

Reduction in federal funds received

October 2025

Local Tax Break

-\$1.02 Million

Lorain County doubled property tax breaks for homeowners, veterans & disabled residents

Total Revenue Loss: \$6.7 Million per year — approximately 6% of our annual budget

THE GAP WE MUST CLOSE

We've already made cuts — but more are needed to stabilize our finances.

Already Cut in FY2026

\$6.43M

Reductions already made this year

Still Need to Reduce

\$17.6M

Additional cuts needed in FY2027

Why couldn't we cut spending faster?

We were not notified of these revenue shortfalls until mid-year — leaving us little time to make meaningful spending changes before the school year was already underway.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

How We're Making These Decisions

01

Student Safety First

Every decision prioritizes the physical and emotional safety of our students.

02

Education Quality

We aim to protect core instruction and support services as much as possible.

03

Honor Contracts

All reductions will legally honor the district's contractual requirements.

04

Continuity of Care

Student support services moved outside the district will be referred to community agencies to ensure continued access.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS | Grades K–5

The Challenge

Enrollment: **3,077 students** (81% capacity)

District cannot sustain 10 elementary buildings at this enrollment level

Students with extreme autism needs require a dedicated setting

Staff Reductions (K–5)

Teachers (LEA): 57

Principals/Asst. Principals (LAA): 7

Healthcare/Media/Secretaries (LACE): 1

Paraprofessionals (OAPSE 120): 7

What's Changing

→ 8 elementary schools remain open for grades K–5

→ 1 school repurposed as a dedicated Preschool building

→ 1 school repurposed as a new Autism School (K–12)

→ Enrollment boundaries adjusted across all 8 buildings

NEW: Autism School (K–12)

District currently spends ~\$6.5M/year (including \$1.5M in transportation) on outside placements. A dedicated in-district school is expected to significantly reduce this cost and bring families back.

PRESCHOOL CHANGES

Preschool will move to a dedicated building, focusing on legally required services only.

✓ What Stays

- All required services for students with disabilities
- Students without disabilities in required 8:7 classroom models
- A community & family hub for partner organizations

○ Positions Eliminated

- 11 teachers (LEA)
- 2 itinerant teachers (LEA)
- 1 preschool support specialist (LEA)
- 23 paraprofessionals (OAPSE 120)

Switch to all half-day preschool | LEA: 14 eliminated | OAPSE 120: 23 eliminated

Note: Families who need more hours for childcare will be connected to community partner organizations.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHANGES | Grades 6–8

Moving to a more efficient middle school model to reduce costs while maintaining core instruction.

BEFORE		AFTER	
Core Teachers:	54	Core Teachers:	43
Encore Teachers:	27	Encore Teachers:	15
Periods/Day:	6 per day	Periods/Day:	5 per day
Electives:	2 per semester	Electives:	1 per semester



Middle school restructuring reduces LEA staff by 23 positions

HIGH SCHOOL & SUMMER SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL | Grades 9–12

Staff Reductions

Teachers (LEA)

2 positions

The district will maintain existing course offerings where possible while adjusting staffing to match enrollment needs.

SUMMER SCHOOL | FY2026

Programming Reduction

Decreased summer school programming will result in a corresponding reduction in summer staffing, beginning in FY2026.

Annual Savings

\$57,900

This savings begins in FY2026 — ahead of most other reductions.

ADDITIONAL STAFF REDUCTIONS

TITLE I REPURPOSING

Using schoolwide Title I flexibility, the district will:



Repurpose 16 current Title I teachers as classroom teachers (10 elementary + 6 middle school)



Use federal Title I funds to cover 16 additional classroom teacher positions — removing those costs from the general fund

LEA positions removed from general fund: 16

ADMINISTRATIVE CUTS

Non-Rep Administrators	7 positions
------------------------	-------------

Non-Rep Admin Support (Coordinators)	5 positions
---	-------------

Non-Rep Hourly Support (Exec Sec., Payroll, AP)	4 positions
--	-------------

SAFETY & FACILITIES

Safety Officers (USW)	2 positions
-----------------------	-------------

Cleaners/Couriers (OAPSE 377)	5 positions
----------------------------------	-------------

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

Cancel All Field Trips

\$280,000 / year

All district-sponsored field trips will be cancelled moving forward, unless paid for by a grant or fundraiser. This is a difficult but necessary decision to reduce operational costs.

Also saving on transportation costs:

Starting August FY2027, all bussing for private schools and charter schools will be brought in-house, ending the contract with Auxilio. This \$620,000 annual saving is reflected under Purchased Services.

PURCHASED SERVICES & CAPITAL PROJECTS

PURCHASED SERVICES | \$1,540,000

Football stadium – Phase 2	\$680,000
Auxilio contract termination	\$620,000
Delay chiller replacements	\$200,000
Keys to Literacy materials	\$30,000
Communications expenses	\$10,000

CAPITAL PROJECTS | \$945,000

Brickwork on elementary buildings	\$650,000
Partial parking lot – George Daniel Stadium	\$110,000
2" mill for elementary parking lots	\$145,000
Elementary parking lots	\$40,000

All capital project funds are deferred, not eliminated — they will be revisited when finances stabilize.

CURRICULUM, STAFFING EXTRAS & PAY CHANGES

Science Curriculum Postponed

\$700,000

Implementation of new science curriculum is delayed until additional funding is secured. It had been scheduled for FY2026.

Supplemental Positions Reduced

\$799,518

Approximately 552 supplemental positions (coaching, clubs, stipends) will be reduced or eliminated district-wide.

Substitute Cost Reduction

\$360,000

Reducing the number of professional development days decreases the need for substitute teachers, resulting in direct cost savings.

Non-Represented Staff Pay Freeze

\$109,112

31 Non-Represented Administrators

Does not affect collectively bargained agreements.

Your Vote Matters

IF THE LEVY PASSES

- ✓ 11 mill new money levy
- ✓ May reduce the number of cuts that take effect
- ✓ Helps close the budget gap while protecting programs and staff

IF THE LEVY FAILS

- ✗ An additional \$4M–\$8M in cuts will be required on top of all reductions already planned

TOGETHER FOR OUR STUDENTS

Questions? We're Here to Help.

This plan was approved by the Lorain City School District Board of Education on February 26, 2026.
All decisions are guided by a commitment to our students, our staff, and our community.

Superintendent:

Jeffrey Graham

Treasurer / CFO:

Tia Kearney

Board President:

Courtney Nazario