



— Lakeview Local Schools —
LAKEVIEW LEDGER
March 2026

From the Desk of the Superintendent: Financial Update & Our Commitment to Stability

Lakeview Families,

This month's newsletter is dedicated entirely to the financial outlook of Lakeview Local Schools. We believe transparency builds trust, and you deserve clear communication about where we stand and how we are planning for the future.



I often think of a school district budget like planning a long road trip. You need to check the map, monitor fuel, and adjust your route when unexpected detours arise. Sometimes those adjustments require really hard decisions, choices we do not take lightly, but they are necessary to keep our journey on course and ensure we reach our destination safely.

Our district is no different.

Our three-year financial forecast, submitted to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, allows us to look ahead and determine whether our projected expenses align with our projected revenue. Like many public school districts across Ohio, we are facing rising operational costs, inflationary pressures, and limited revenue growth.

At the same time, we must responsibly compensate the people who serve our students every day. Our teachers, support staff, bus drivers, custodians, and administrators are also managing their own household budgets. They cannot sustain frozen wages while costs for groceries, utilities, insurance, and housing continue to rise.

Maintaining competitive and fair compensation is essential not only for supporting our employees, but for retaining and attracting the high-quality staff our students deserve.

This creates a balancing act: we must live within our means while also honoring the value of our workforce.

That is why we are taking measured steps to reduce spending, align our budget with our revenue, and make adjustments now rather than waiting for a more serious financial shortfall. These decisions are not easy. They are made to protect both the educational experience of our students and the long-term financial health of our district.

Responsible leadership requires steady action, even when decisions are difficult. Our commitment is to remain transparent, proactive, and focused on maintaining the tradition of excellence our Lakeview community expects and deserves.

Thank you for your continued support of Lakeview Local Schools.

Ashley Handrych, Superintendent

Important Dates:

- MARCH 11th : Middle School Choir Concert, 6 PM
- MARCH 12th : End of 3rd Nine Weeks,
EARLY RELEASE
- MARCH 13th : **NO SCHOOL**, Late Winter Break
- MARCH 21st : LHS Senior Citizen Bash, 1-4 PM
- APRIL 1st - 6th : **NO SCHOOL**, Spring Break

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Three-Year Financial Forecast

Each year, we submit a detailed three-year financial forecast to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. This forecasting model is designed to provide a transparent look at:

- **Projected Revenue:** the funding we expect to receive from state aid, local property taxes, and other sources
- **Projected Expenses:** salaries, benefits, transportation, utilities, insurance, instructional materials, and operational costs
- **Annual Surplus or Deficit:** whether we are spending more or less than we take in each year
- **Carryover Balance:** the remaining funds we carry forward into the next fiscal year

The forecast allows us to look beyond the current year and see trends developing over time.

Our most recent forecast shows that beginning next fiscal year, we are projected to enter a period of deficit spending, meaning our annual expenses will exceed our annual revenue if no changes are made. While we currently maintain a carryover balance, it would gradually decline if we continued spending at the present rate.

Responsible financial management means addressing that projected deficit before it erodes our financial stability.

For that reason, we will implement reductions this spring to lower expenditures and bring next year’s budget into balance.

	School Year 24-25	School Year 25-26	School Year 26-27	School Year 27-28	School Year 28-29
	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29
Total Revenue	\$19,370,826.00	\$18,521,532.00	\$18,551,722.00	\$18,765,780.00	\$18,542,384.00
Total Expenses	\$18,282,267.00	\$18,499,530.00	\$18,700,634.00	\$19,384,317.00	\$20,148,138.00
Projected Annual Surplus/Deficit	\$1,088,259.00	\$22,002.00	-\$148,912.00	-\$618,537.00	-\$1,605,754.00
Projected Carryover	\$4,590,853.00	\$4,572,855.00	\$4,423,943.00	\$3,805,405.00	\$2,524,679.00

Living Within Our Means

Lakeview currently spends 30% less per pupil to educate students than the state average. To reduce expenditures in a measured and strategic way, we are eliminating five positions through attrition. These reductions will save the district approximately \$429,000 annually. This savings was already projected into this forecast model.

Attrition, reducing staff through retirements or resignations without replacing those positions, allows us to lower costs while minimizing disruption to our current workforce whenever possible.

Additional Staffing Adjustments

In addition to the reductions through attrition, we are making two additional staff reductions at Lakeview High School, as well as one classified position in the Print Shop to eliminate the \$148,912 in deficit spending.

These steps are necessary to maintain financial balance and ensure we can continue delivering a high-quality educational program within our available resources. They also require us to follow the data on student numbers and needs.

If further cuts become necessary, we will continue to communicate those changes to you.

Elementary Library Adjustment

At the elementary level, we are reducing one special area position in the library. While this means a change in how library services are scheduled, we will work within our staffing structure to create opportunities for students to check out books. Reading remains a cornerstone of academic success, and we are committed to maintaining student access to books even as we adjust staffing levels.

Understand Permanent Improvement Funds

We also want to clarify questions we often receive about Permanent Improvement (PI) funds.

Permanent Improvement funds are legally restricted dollars that cannot be used to pay salaries, benefits, or classroom supplies. These funds may only be used for specific purposes such as building improvements, major repairs, equipment, and infrastructure projects.

Upcoming projects supported by Permanent Improvement funds include:

- Roof repairs and upgrades to extend lifespan of the roof at Lakeview High School.
- A school bus purchase.
- Door replacements at Lakeview High School, required for updated legislation and legal compliance.
- HVAC repairs and replacements at Lakeview High School.
- Track resurfacing.
- Turf renewal.

While these funds help us maintain safe and functional facilities, they cannot be redirected to prevent staffing reductions or cover operating expenses.

The form below shows our five year outline of what we currently plan to use our Permanent Improvement money for. This plan is contingent on the PI Levy renewal in November.

CAPEX Planning Form	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Carryover Funds Available (PI) FY	\$317,672.83	\$195,172.83	\$96,204.78	\$383,704.78	\$46,204.78
PI Funds Available Fiscal Year-PI Levy		\$349,531.95	\$345,000.00	\$345,000.00	\$345,000.00
Total Available Resources (PI) Fiscal Yr.	\$317,672.83	\$544,704.78	\$441,204.78	\$728,704.78	\$391,204.78
PI Funds budgeted for Building Maintenance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Project/Item	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Building Infrastructure Costs					
Roof Repairs HS		\$236,000.00			
Parking Lot Sealing (HS)			\$25,000.00		
Door Replacements	\$20,000.00				
Total Building/Infrastructure Costs	\$20,000.00	\$236,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athletic Facilities					
Turf Replacement				\$650,000.00	
Track		\$40,000*			
Heaters for HS Locker Room	\$70,000.00				
Bleacher Contract	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Concrete Repairs Stadium					\$75,000.00
Total Athletic Facilities	\$77,500.00	\$47,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$657,500.00	\$82,500.00
Project/Item	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Vehicles/Trucks/Maint Equipment					
Bus Purchase		\$140,000.00		\$0.00	\$140,000.00
Truck			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
Total Vehicle/Trucks/Maint Eq	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Total Projected Project Costs	\$122,500.00	\$448,500.00	\$57,500.00	\$682,500.00	\$307,500.00
Carryover PI funds to following year/or deficit if negative	\$195,172.83	\$96,204.78	\$383,704.78	\$46,204.78	\$83,704.78

The Lakeview Track Officials Association made a generous donation of \$60,000 to the District last school year. We utilized it to purchase new hurdles and the remainder will be saved to offset the District's cost of track resurfacing. The track will cost more than \$40,000 to resurface, but with their generous gift, we are able to afford the project.

Planning for Major Facility Needs: Stadium Turf Replacement



Planning for Major Facility Needs: continued..

When the district completed the stadium project in 2015, we knew at that time that the synthetic turf field would have a life cycle of approximately 10–15 years. Like any major asset, it requires eventual replacement to remain safe and functional.

That replacement window falls within our current financial forecast cycle.

This was not a surprise expense. From the beginning, the district responsibly set aside funds in our capital outlay to prepare for this known future cost. Planning for maintenance and replacement of major assets is part of good financial stewardship, especially when those assets were built with significant community investment.

After reviewing the Three Year Financial Forecast presented by Treasurer Armstrong, the Board of Education requested that we shift the turf replacement from our capital outlay plan into our Permanent Improvement (PI) funding plan.

Permanent Improvement funds are generated from our 1-mill PI levy, which produces approximately \$350,000 annually and may only be used for facility improvements, major repairs, and capital projects: not for salaries or classroom supplies. This levy is up for renewal in November of 2026.

By moving the turf project into the Permanent Improvement funding stream:

- The replacement will be paid from PI funds, which are legally designated for facility upkeep.
- **The dollars previously saved in the general fund for this purpose will now remain available for operating expenses and employee salaries.**
- This adjustment reduced projected deficit spending in FY2028 by approximately \$650,000.

This is a strategic shift that strengthens our operating budget while still honoring our long-term facility responsibilities.

As a community member, you should expect your school district to steward tax dollars for a multi-million-dollar building and stadium project in a way that plans for upkeep and repair when needed. Hoping nothing fails is not leadership. Planning responsibly around limited resources is.

It is imperative that our community understands:

- The turf replacement was anticipated from the start.
- It is required to properly maintain and preserve the field.
- Hundreds of students use this facility each year for football, soccer, marching band, physical education, and community events.
- We are not taking money from teachers to pay for turf.

We have accommodated for this project. We have a plan. We have savings in place. And we are utilizing the appropriate funding source to complete it responsibly.

This is what long-term fiscal stewardship looks like.

Our Levy Cycle

Lakeview Local Schools will soon enter its regular levy renewal cycle. At this time, the district is not asking for any new taxes, we are simply seeking to renew existing levies. Stay informed about the timing of our levy cycle by checking out the timeline graphic included here. Your awareness and engagement help us continue to provide clarity to our community members.



Moving Forward

We recognize that staffing reductions and program adjustments impact people. These decisions are made only after careful review of our financial data and long-term outlook.

Our responsibility is to remain fiscally responsible today so that Lakeview Local Schools continues its tradition of excellence for years to come. By acting now, we position our district to remain stable, student-focused, and financially sound.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families and community.