



State of the Schools

April 28, 2026

Mike Chokshi,
Superintendent



Inspiring Students to **Learn, Lead, and Serve**

The Wickliffe Way



What have I seen in my first year leading this district? I've seen the Wickliffe Way in Action, and I've seen a District that acts like a Family.

Partners in the Community

City partnership: ie. Ball Fields

Business partnership: ie. Lubrizol

Alumni partnership: Active, Generous, and Proud

Community Partners:
Organizations and leaders who show up in the face of struggle

WCSD Staff & Culture

Deeply Committed to every student and family

Graduates who return to teach and work here

Culture of Care & Collaboration

Expectations that are consistently high, and student-focused

New **Communication** Tools:
Facebook, Super's Updates

Students & Families

Students who show determination and a desire to grow - our future learning to "Lead, Learn, Serve".

Families who stay engaged, fight for their students, and show up

Parent-Teacher Organization that is collaborative, engaged and active across the community

A Community that rallies... to support others after fire, protect spring sports, "friendliest" city

A Year to Celebrate



Our Blue Devil Pride on Display... a Sample!



The **Wickliffe Way** in Action...
Our **Campus**, Our **Community**, Our **People**

Athletics

- **Football:** Playoff Run (*again!*)
- **Soccer** (Girls): Playoff Appearance (*again!*)
- **Ball Fields:** Grand Opening
- **Flag Football** (Girls): Program Growth

Band & Choir

- Outstanding performances all year
- **Rockefeller Review:** Y2K-themed

Lead, Learn & Serve

- **Hands-on** Community Learning Program
- **Partnership** with Rust Belt Riders... work on protecting local soil health
- Looking to strengthen in 2026-27

Academic Growth & Accomplishment



Superintendent's Note:

Reading performance has **strengthened across all grade levels...** with early elementary showing especially notable gains.

Tiered Supports Working

Targeted interventions are making a measurable difference for students who need support.

Excellent Graduation Rate

2nd Highest Grad rate in Lake County, 99% at Upper School, over 12% higher than State Avg.

Strong Classroom Practice

Professional development focused on early literacy, which appears to be translating directly into stronger instruction.

Early Elementary Reading

Notable improvements. Students successfully improving reading skills as they move through the grade levels.



Graduation Outcomes

Among the strongest in the region... and it SHOWS!

98.4%

WCSD Graduation Rate

*2nd Highest
in Lake County!*

99.1%

WCSD Upper School

*4-Year
Graduation Rate*

86%

Ohio Statewide
Average

(WCSD is >12% points above)

Preparing Every Student



Key College & Career Pathways

College Credit Plus (CCP)

Students earn college credit while still in high school

AP Coursework

Advanced Placement courses available across disciplines

Career-Tech Education (22 Programs)

Internships, Job Shadowing, and College & Career courses on campus. Real-world skills and earns industry credentials



Left:

Students preparing lasagna in December 2025, photo courtesy of Wickliffe Family Resource Center



Right:

Wickliffe School Counseling Dept. and College Now funded a field trip to Baldwin Wallace & University of Akron for 10th & 11th graders

Financial Reality



*I need to be direct with you... **the State of our Schools is Strong, but we face serious financial challenges, and operate with a lot of uncertainty.***

No New Revenue Since 2015

Wickliffe has not passed new general fund revenue in over a decade. Costs have continued to rise.

State Funding Gap

State funding has not kept pace with district operational needs, shifting more pressure onto local revenue.

HB 920 Limitation

Ohio law prevents property tax revenue from rising with home valuations — even as home values in Wickliffe climb.

Deficit Projected by 2028

Without new local revenue, the district will enter deficit spending by 2028, with potential to trigger stronger state oversight.

Potential Property Tax Abolishment

Signatures being collected, but still short of necessary amount to make 2026 ballot. Possibility could upend our financials if abolishment passed by State voters

Campus Well-Maintained, Efficient

Our Facilities remain a prized and cherished asset. We work hard to maintain our facilities, and continue to realize efficiency & savings.

Changes for 2026-27



***We made difficult decisions demanded by our financial position.
These major changes are effective beginning next school year.***

Transportation

5 bus routes eliminated. Walk zone expanded to 2 miles. Busing continues for K-8 students beyond 2 miles.

Lower School Electives

Electives reduced to state-required minimum (PE only). K-6 enrichment programs eliminated.

Half-Day Kindergarten

All kindergarten students will attend either AM or PM sessions beginning 2026-27.



Pay-to-Participate

Athletics and extracurriculars shift to full-cost model. Fees estimated at \$1,200–\$2,000 per family.

High School Offerings

Electives streamlined to courses required for graduation. Foreign Language and Choir not offered.



**TinyURL.com/
WCSDReductionPlan**

May 5: What Wickliffe Is Deciding - ISSUE 3



*Repeated deficit spending can trigger state intervention under Ohio law.
For small districts, that path can lead to consolidation with neighboring districts.*

Wickliffe has operated independently for generations... local decisions, local culture, local control.

Issue 3 Details:

This is an Earned Income Tax, **NOT a property tax**. It applies to wages, salaries, tips, commissions, and self-employment income for working residents.

Cost at Median Income

Wickliffe median household income: ~\$79,000.
At 1%, that equals approximately \$790 per year, or about \$66 per month for working households.

What is NOT Taxed if passed:

The following are **EXCLUDED** if passed:

Social Security, Pensions, Retirement, Disability, Rental Income, Worker's Comp, Unemployment, Child Support, Inheritances, and Investments (*Cap Gains, Dividends, Interest*)

When It Takes Effect

If approved: 1% continuing Earned Income Tax beginning January 1, 2027... funds available to the district in 2027-28.



Thank You, Wickliffe

This district has strong bones... we have a dedicated and talented staff, a proud community, engaged families, and students who show up ready to work.

Some decisions ahead are hard ones. We'll make decisions focused on efficiency, transparency, and we keep a clear focus on what really matters.

Wickliffe is a community that knows how to come together. I've seen it first-hand this year, and have no doubt about what this community *can* do.

*Inspiring Students to **Learn, Lead, and Serve***

Mike Chokshi | Superintendent, Wickliffe City Schools

