



# Financial Update

Serve · Lead · Succeed

SPRING 2026





**W**e are pleased to provide you with the 2025-2026 Upper Arlington Schools Financial Update. This document is meant to provide our community with a clear and concise look at the state of the district's finances and the factors that will impact our financial situation in the coming years.

Everything we do throughout the Upper Arlington school district remains rooted in our strategic plan. At the start of this year, the Board of Education approved a new strategic plan for our schools to guide our work for the next five years. With the Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan, our district remains committed to prioritizing fiscal responsibility and continued educational excellence and innovation.

Financial information presented in this report was prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which differs from financial information prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States. The information presented is unaudited and prepared for informational purposes only. Annual audited financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP can be obtained at [www.uaschools.org](http://www.uaschools.org).

I hope you find this report both interesting and informative. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [treasurer@uaschools.org](mailto:treasurer@uaschools.org) or (614) 487-5000.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Geistfeld  
Treasurer/CFO, Upper Arlington Schools  
[treasurer@uaschools.org](mailto:treasurer@uaschools.org)



### Quality Profile Annual Report

This document is a companion piece to the Quality Profile, the district's annual accountability report. Learn more at [www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile](http://www.uaschools.org/qualityprofile).



### Learn More About District Finances

A variety of financial documents including monthly financial reports, state audits and the district's financial forecast are available at [www.uaschools.org/treasurer](http://www.uaschools.org/treasurer).



## 2026 Upper Arlington Board of Education

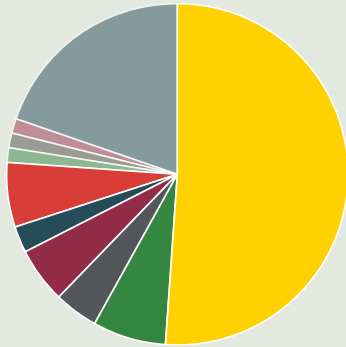
*From left, Lori Trent, Liz George Stump, Kip Greenhill, Nidhi Satiani and Jenny McKenna*

The Board of Education is proud to serve the Upper Arlington School district. We invite all residents to stay connected with the schools and to reach out with questions.

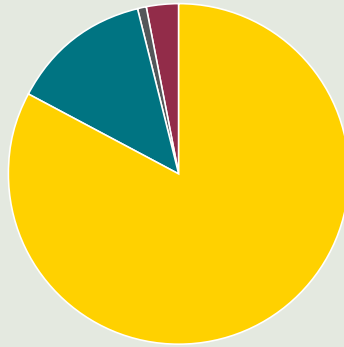




# District Fiscal Snapshot



**51.3%\***  
of general fund  
expenditures go toward  
instruction  
FY 2025



**82.8%**  
of general fund revenue  
comes from local  
property taxes  
FY 2025

*\* Amid the uncertainty around the state budget in June 2025, the Board of Education approved the transfer of funds to protect the community's investment in the district. Transfers were made to funds for capital projects, maintenance needs and benefits. Excluding transfers/advances to other funds, the percentage of general fund expenditures dedicated to instruction is 63.7%.*



**#1 in Ohio** in  
the percentage  
of funding  
for classroom  
instruction



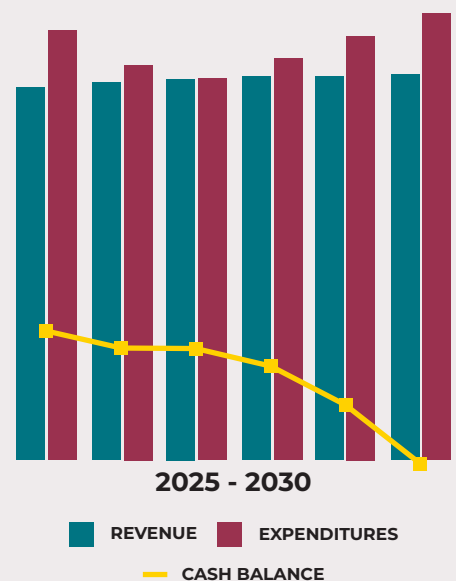
**Auditor  
of State  
Award** for 13  
consecutive  
years

**AAA**  
S&P Global  
Ratings

**S&P Global  
AAA bond  
rating**, the  
highest  
possible rating

## Financial Outlook and Future Planning

This graphic from the Five Year Forecast updated in February 2026 represents a typical levy cycle for suburban school districts like Upper Arlington. More than 90 percent of the district's revenue is fixed, with little room for inflationary growth. That is primarily because of House Bill 920, a state law passed in the 1970s that ensures that voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. That is why suburban school districts like Upper Arlington return to voters every three to four years to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of school operations. Upper Arlington Schools passed an operating levy in 2022, with a commitment to return to voters in three years. After stretching those funds for an additional year, the district plans to return to voters in the fall of 2026 with a combined operating levy and bond issue.



# General Fund Overview, FY25

Total revenues/resources increased approximately 4% in fiscal year 2025 (July 2024 to June 2025). In November 2022, the community passed a new 6.9 mil tax levy. This levy generated approximately \$16.2 million annually. The first full year collection of this new levy occurred in fiscal year 2024, which was the major impact of the increase. State support increased as the district received more funding due to the legislature increasing the phase-in percentage of the Fair School Funding Plan. Finally, investment income increased due to higher interest rates and cash balances.

**In FY2025, the district's total expenditures appeared to jump by 33%, but this figure is heavily skewed by a strategic, one-time move.** The Board of Education transferred \$26.75 million out of the General Fund and into specific accounts dedicated to future capital projects, maintenance, and benefits to protect the community's long-term investments. When you set aside these internal transfers, the actual increase in operational spending was 9%. This growth was primarily driven by the addition of 30 new staff positions necessitated by three factors: the expiration of federal ESSERS grant funding, an increase in student enrollment, and a heightened need for specialized student services, including psychological support, multilingual learning, and gifted programming.

## Resources Taken In (in thousands of dollars)

	FY25	FY24	FY 23
Local Taxes*	106,078	103,527	96,875
State Support	17,248	15,965	13,470
Investment Income	3,567	2,636	953
Tuition and Fees	424	388	353
Other Revenue	611	565	531
Transfers/Advances from Other Funds	249	0	1,370
<b>Total Revenues/Resources</b>	<b>128,177</b>	<b>123,084</b>	<b>113,552</b>

## Services Provided (in thousands of dollars)

	FY25	FY24	FY23
Instruction	75,708	69,536	66,924
Pupil Support	10,339	9,185	8,557
Instructional Staff Support	6,121	5,218	5,063
Administration	7,819	7,269	6,814
Business Support/Financial	3,597	3,385	3,286
Operation and Maintenance	9,041	8,387	8,219
Transportation	2,247	2,156	1,977
Central Support	2,034	1,731	1,823
Other	1,870	1,790	1,739
Transfers/Advances to Other Funds	28,919	2,136	1,845
<b>Total Expenditures/Services Provided</b>	<b>147,695</b>	<b>110,793</b>	<b>106,247</b>

## Resources Over (Under) Expenditures (in thousands of dollars)

	FY25	FY24	FY23
	<b>(19,518)</b>	<b>12,291</b>	<b>7,305</b>

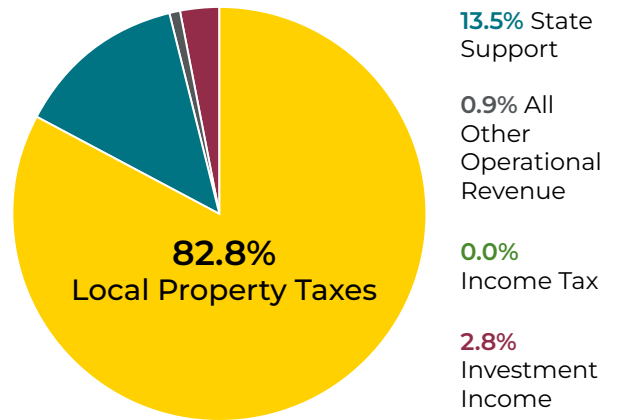
\* Tax increment financing collections are included with local taxes.

# Where the Money Comes From

## General Fund Revenue, FY25

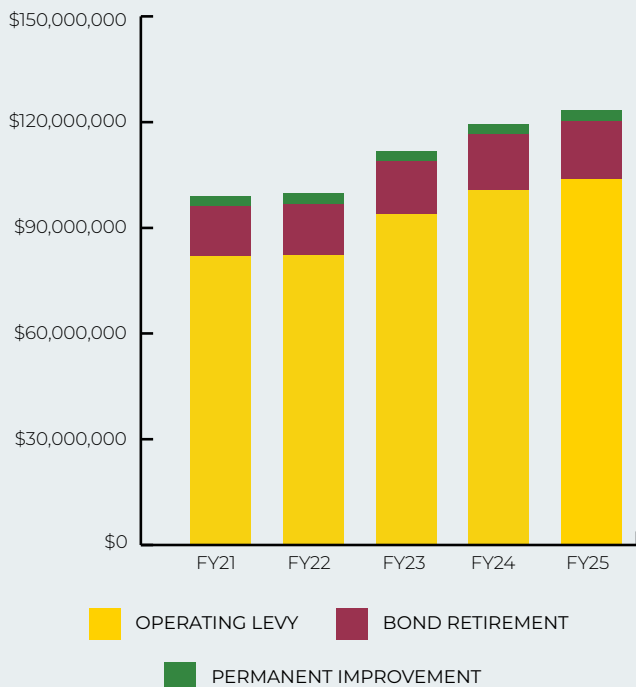
Local Property Taxes includes residential, commercial and public utility property taxes and tax increment financing proceeds. State Support includes aid based on a funding formula, the state's share of local property taxes, and the district's portion of casino revenue. All Other Operational Revenue includes tuition, student activity fees, rental charges, investment income and donations.

The district received the majority of its revenue — 83% — from local property taxes. The burden on local taxpayers is likely to grow. Approximately 90% of property taxes are generated from residential property as the district has relatively little commercial property. The district does not receive any local income tax as these taxes are strictly related to the city.



## Local Property Taxes

This graph shows the amount of cash collections received by the district from real and personal property taxes. Property taxes provide a majority of the local revenue to operate and maintain our schools. The district accounts for these collections in three funds.



**General Fund (Operating Levy):** Tax dollars are received by the district for day-to-day operations, which primarily entail employee salaries and benefits. The fluctuation between FY23 and FY24 was due to a full year of collection of a new 6.9 mil levy.

**Bond Retirement:** Tax dollars are received for the payment of principal and interest on voter-approved bond issues related to renovation/construction of buildings. Bond millage rates are set by the county auditor to generate sufficient revenue to pay the principal and interest on outstanding bonds.

**Permanent Improvement:** Tax dollars are received by the district and can be used only for repairs, improvements to buildings and grounds, technology, vehicles, textbooks, and other capital assets with a useful life of five years or more. These funds cannot be used for employee salaries and benefits. See Page 11 for details.

# Where the Money Comes From

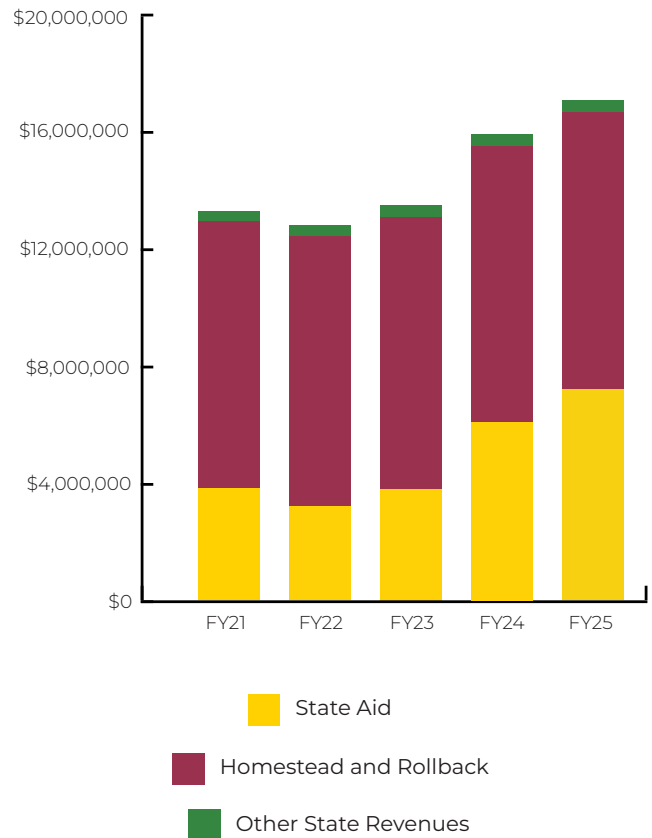
## State Support (General Fund)

State sources of revenue generated \$17,248,000, or 13.5%, of all general fund revenues. Because of a relatively high property valuation and income per pupil, as well as other demographic figures, the district is considered wealthy and receives much less than the state average. In fact, private schools received more in state support per pupil in comparison with the district. District leaders continue to advocate for raising our state support to the same amount a private school receives.

A portion (\$7,260,000) of the district's state support comes from State Aid, which in most years is a formula calculation based mostly on student enrollment. Before FY2022, the district was on a state guarantee where it received the same amount of state funding as the previous year. A new funding formula was implemented by the State of Ohio for FY2022, which is driven by a base cost methodology that incorporates components identified as necessary to the education process. This formula changed how funding is distributed so that it is based on where students are educated versus their district of residence. Starting in FY2024, the legislature made adjustments to the formula during its biennium budget process. The three most impactful adjustments for the district were:

- The phase-in of the formula to 66.7% in FY25 and 50% in FY24, compared with the 33.3% phase-in during FY23.
- An increase in the funding floor from 5% to 10% (Upper Arlington is on the funding floor).
- Updated base cost inputs in the Fair School Funding Plan from FY18 values to FY22 values.

The majority of state support (approximately \$9,571,000) derives from the state's share of local property taxes, also referred to as Homestead and Rollback credits.



## Casino Revenue

The state legislature designated 34% of tax receipts generated from casinos to school districts across the state starting in calendar year 2013. The district is appreciative of any additional funding; however, as illustrated in the chart below, the impact of this revenue source is minimal. Casino revenue is included in "Other State Revenues" in the graph above.



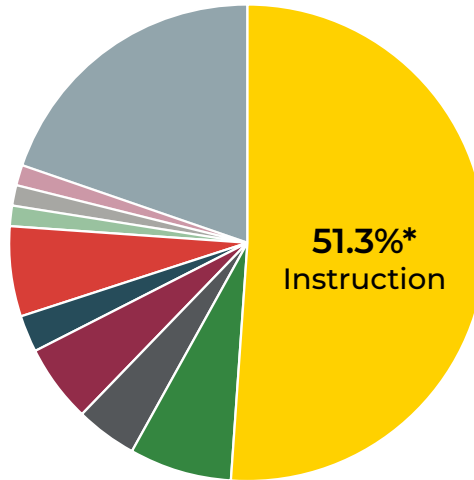
**0.3%**  
of the district's  
total revenue/  
resources

# Where the Money Goes

## General Fund Expenditures and Services, FY25

### Instruction

This largest expenditure category relates to the direct instruction of our students. Students are directly impacted by expenditures from this category.



- 7.0% Pupil Support
- 4.1% Instructional Staff Support
- 5.3% Administration
- 2.4% Business Support/Financial
- 6.1% Operation and Maintenance
- 1.5% Transportation
- 1.4% Central Support
- 1.3% Other
- 19.6% Transfers/Advances to Other Funds

\* Amid the uncertainty around the state budget in June 2025, the Board of Education approved the transfer of funds to protect the community's investment in the district. Transfers were made to funds for capital projects, maintenance needs and benefits. Excluding transfers/advances to other funds, the percentage of general fund expenditures dedicated to instruction is 63.7%

### Pupil Support

This area comprises all guidance services, health/safety monitors, health aides, nurses, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychological services.

### Instructional Staff Support

These expenditures include library services, curriculum development, staff training, technology integration support and teacher aides.

### Administration

These expenditures represent those of the administration and Board of Education's operation of the district. This includes school building administration and secretarial support.



### Business Support/Financial

These costs include business services such as risk management, construction management, courier services and tax collection fees. Also included are various financial functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, auditing, budgeting and reporting, and fringe benefit administration.



### Operation and Maintenance

These costs relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school including building maintenance, grounds and custodial services.

### Transportation

These costs relate to providing transportation to students who live in the Upper Arlington City School District, consistent with Board of Education policies and the laws of the State of Ohio.

### Central Support

These central support expenditures include community relations, technology department, human resource management, and other service costs across the district.

### Other

These costs account for salaries, benefits and supplies for club- and athletic-related activities.

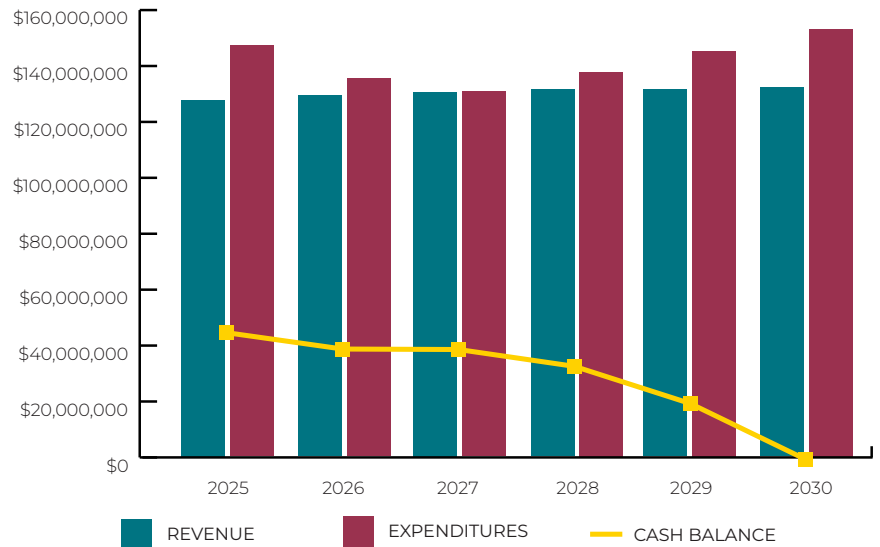
### Transfers/Advances to Other Funds

Transfers/advances account for withdrawing money from one fund and placing it in another fund either temporarily (advances) or permanently (transfers).

# State-Required Financial Forecast

All Ohio school districts are required to file a financial forecast with the Ohio Department of Education. The report reflects three years of historical revenues and expenditures as well as a forecast of the current fiscal year and three additional fiscal years. Upper Arlington Schools reports an additional forecast year. While the forecast is an important planning tool, it paints a picture of the future based upon a combination of current realities, certain assumptions and predictions. As such, it is a living document that is subject to frequent change and is officially updated in August and February of each year. The most recent forecast is available at [www.uaschools.org/treasurer](http://www.uaschools.org/treasurer).

**Financial Forecast Summary**  
Projected Revenue, Expenditures and Cash Balance



## House Bill 920

In Upper Arlington, more than 90 percent of district revenues are fixed, with little or no room for growth. A major factor in this is House Bill 920, a state law passed in the 1970s that ensures voted operating levies do not grow as property values increase. In fact, as property values increase, tax rates actually decrease for homeowners, so the district gets about the same amount of money. Generally speaking, because of House Bill 920, the only way school districts see an increase in property tax revenue related to operating levies is when voters approve a new operating levy. That is why suburban school districts like Upper Arlington return to voters every three to five years in order to keep up with inflation and maintain the current level of operations.



\* The district realizes a small amount of new revenue from new construction.

### Learn More About House Bill 920

Scan the QR code, or [click here](#), to watch a video explanation of House Bill 920 and how it impacts suburban school districts like Upper Arlington.



# Tax Rates and Valuation

All tax rates for the district, except inside millage and bond retirement, are reduced as property valuations increase. In accordance with House Bill 920, as property valuations increase during the triennial update and reappraisal periods, the voted millage is reduced to generate the same amount of tax revenue for the district as was received when each levy was initially approved by the voters. The chart below illustrates the difference between the district's gross (voted) tax rates and the effective rate (the tax rate that is being collected for residential properties). The rates below are for the 2025 tax year collected in calendar year 2026.

## Unbundling the Tax Rate

2025 Collection Year

	Gross Rate	Effective Rate	Year Approved	Length Approved
Inside Operating*	5.65 mills	5.65 mills	N/A	Permanent
Voted Operating	107.11 mills	31.58 mills	Various	Permanent
Permanent Improvement	2.0 mills	1.13 mills	2007	Permanent
Bond Retirement	5.7 mills	5.7 mills	Various	Various
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>120.46 mills</b>	<b>44.06 mills</b>	—	—

\* Inside operating millage is provided by the Constitution of the State of Ohio and is levied without a vote of the people. It is called inside millage because it is "inside" the law. This millage amount does not change. Due to new legislation regarding inside millage, this amount could decrease in calendar year 2027.

Source: Franklin County Auditor

## Assessed Valuation

A Year-Over-Year Comparison

Collection Year	Residential	Commercial	Public Utility	Total
2026	\$2,720,640,930	\$182,615,170	\$34,864,520	<b>\$2,938,120,620</b>
2025	\$2,710,537,550	\$207,686,120	\$39,648,010	<b>\$2,957,871,680</b>
2024	\$2,704,208,530	\$191,441,570	\$36,631,720	<b>\$2,932,281,820</b>
2023	\$2,142,430,500	\$178,291,730	\$35,529,580	<b>\$2,356,251,810</b>
2022	\$2,129,321,590	\$183,166,090	\$33,759,250	<b>\$2,346,246,930</b>
2021	\$2,112,763,320	\$167,126,010	\$31,930,290	<b>\$2,311,819,620</b>
2020	\$1,780,400,940	\$138,290,130	\$29,552,740	<b>\$1,948,243,810</b>
2019	\$1,770,205,240	\$139,692,830	\$28,203,640	<b>\$1,938,101,710</b>
2018	\$1,770,534,840	\$146,465,390	\$26,122,100	<b>\$1,943,122,330</b>
2017	\$1,572,002,900	\$130,772,140	\$25,476,890	<b>\$1,728,251,930</b>

\* During the past 10 collection years, residential assessed valuation averaged more than 90 percent of the district's total assessed valuation.

Source: Franklin County Auditor

# Property Tax

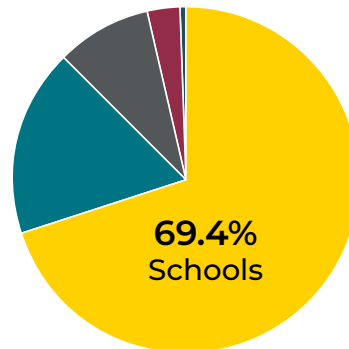
Shown below are the 2026 collection year amounts generated from an Upper Arlington home that the county auditor appraised at \$100,000. The pie chart represents the percentage of each dollar going to each taxing entity. The approximate total of \$2,223 is the annual amount a \$100,000 home would generate in taxes. These amounts, which are rounded to the nearest dollar, include the portion the state pays directly for state credits such as Homestead (owner-occupied) and Rollback for levies passed before November 2013.

## 2026 Approximate Annual Cost

Per \$100,000 in Home Value

Schools	\$1,542
County	\$411
City	\$192
Library	\$67
Columbus State	\$11

**Total**  
**\$2,223**

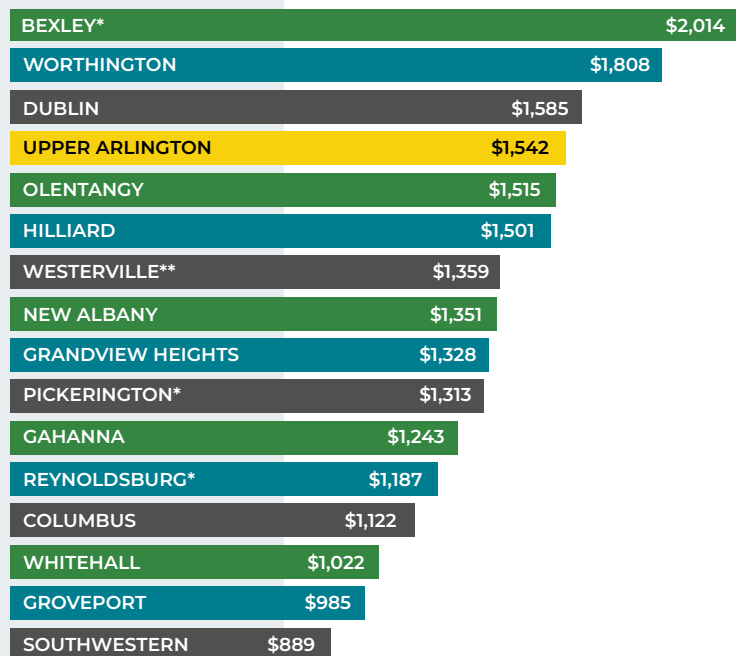


## 2026 School Property Tax Rates

This chart illustrates the residential property tax collections for 2026 on a county-appraised \$100,000 home for various school districts in Franklin County. These amounts, which are rounded to the nearest dollar, include the portion the state pays directly for state credits such as Homestead (owner-occupied) and Rollback for levies passed before November 2013.

\* The district's school income tax collection was converted into mills by dividing calendar year 2025 gross income tax distribution by tax year 2025 total property tax valuation and multiplying by 1,000. Information was obtained from the Ohio Department of Taxation website. School district income tax rates are the following: Bexley (.75%), Pickerington (1%) and Reynoldsburg (.5%).

\*\* This amount only includes property tax for Westerville City School District and not a new 0.75% income tax starting calendar year 2026 since there was no income tax collection in 2025.



# Permanent Improvement Fund

In November of 2007, Upper Arlington voters approved a 6.2-mill combined operating levy and permanent improvement levy, with 2.0 mills (currently collected at 1.13 mills), or approximately \$3,000,000 per year, in permanent improvement revenue. The permanent improvement levy has allowed the district to dedicate funds specifically to repair, maintain and upgrade its buildings; purchase educational resources and textbooks; and purchase vehicles and technology equipment — all vital in meeting the needs of our students. These funds cannot be used for employee salaries, day-to-day operations or consumables.

## Accumulated Expenditures, FY 2009-2025



### Buildings and Grounds \$37,798,000

These funds have addressed immediate space needs of the district at all levels and immediate concerns related to keeping the district's school facilities safe, dry and secure (renovation of entrances, patching of roofs, HVAC improvements, ADA enhancements, parking lot updates, renovation of athletic venues, maintenance / custodial equipment, additions to educational buildings, and other projects).

### Technology and Resources \$14,446,000

Traditionally, these funds were used for printed textbooks. Starting in FY 2016, a majority of these funds were used for student and staff devices relating to the one-to-one technology initiative. These funds have also been used for technology upgrades, implementation of wireless networks, creation of a computer replacement cycle and phone system replacement.



### Vehicles \$3,023,000

These funds have reduced the average age of the district fleet (buses and maintenance), allowing for increased student and staff safety.

# Capital Project Reserve Funds

Responsible planning for future financial needs is a crucial part of the district's commitment to being a good steward of the community's investment in its schools. With that commitment in mind, the Board of Education in January 2023 approved moving forward with a capital project reserve fund to proactively plan for eventual replacement needs for district facilities such as new HVAC systems, roofs, or a turf field once it has reached its expected lifespan. This had been discussed during the first phase of the facilities master planning process. Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the district set aside a minimum of \$750,000 annually in permanent improvement and general funds for the capital project reserve fund. The current balance in this fund as of December 31, 2025, was \$4,945,000.

In addition, in June 2025, the Board of Education took proactive steps to establish a new capital projects fund focused on future facilities construction and transferred \$14.3 million to help offset the cost of a phase two master plan for the community.



## Debt

### Bond Ratings

For many years, Upper Arlington Schools has been one of six Ohio school districts able to maintain high bond ratings from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's. In January of 2025, both bond agencies upheld the district's high ratings.

### Outstanding Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of debt principal and interest. Revenues from this fund are generated from local sources in the form of property taxes. Approximately \$182,629,000 in bonds was outstanding as of December 31, 2025. The outstanding bonds relate to the bond levy approved by voters in November 2017 and with the original issue of \$230,000,000. In 2022, \$73,500,000 of these bonds were refinanced for a \$24,200,000 gross savings (interest and principal) over the life of these bonds.

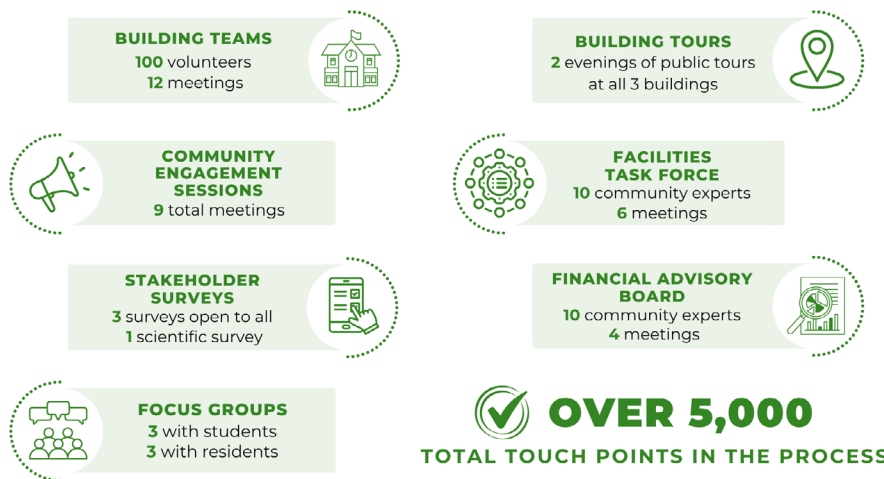
### Leases

The district entered into a lease agreement in 2024 for the purchase of technology devices related to its one-to-one technology initiative. As of December 31, 2025, the total outstanding lease amount is approximately \$2,059,700 in principal.

# Future Financial Focuses

## Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan: Facilities Improvement

Launched in the fall of 2024, phase two of facilities master planning for Upper Arlington Schools focuses on shaping the future of the aging middle schools and Burbank Early Childhood School. Guided by the principle that your voice matters, this phase has prioritized a transparent and inclusive process, ensuring all stakeholders could learn about the physical and educational needs of these schools and share their perspectives. With more than 5,000 touch points in the process as of the end of 2025, stakeholder feedback has been vital in helping the district move closer to a thoughtful plan that truly reflects the community's vision for these schools. As planning continues in 2026, the district remains committed to keeping the community informed, engaged and involved in finalizing a master plan, with a combined bond issue and operating levy expected in November 2026.



## Excellence & Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan: Capital Financial Planning

Upper Arlington Schools is partnering with a third-party adviser to develop a comprehensive capital financial plan aligned with the district's Excellence and Innovation 2030 Strategic Plan and projected operational needs over the next decade. This work will result in a detailed 10-year maintenance plan for district facilities, with a strong focus on asset replacement and ongoing upkeep. It will also identify potential new capital projects and initiatives, while outlining flexible financing models to responsibly support both long-term maintenance requirements and future investments.

This planning process will provide a clear, data-informed roadmap to guide decision-making, prioritize investments, and ensure the long-term sustainability of district resources. It will also help the district proactively address infrastructure while maintaining high-quality learning environments for students and staff.



## UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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Upper Arlington, OH 43221

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