

Community Forum



Thursday, May 14, 2026

Presenters



Mr. Joseph Knoll
Superintendent



Mr. Ben Marko
Treasurer

Financial State of Schools in Ohio

Financial State of the Schools in Canfield

Purpose of Presentation

O.R.C. § 9.03(C)(1):

Not permitted to (e) Support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate for public office, the investigation, prosecution, or recall of a public official, or the passage of a levy or bond issue.

RATHER: Permitted to share neutral, verifiable, factual information regarding District finances, operations and facilities.

Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES ARE HIGHER THAN EVER



now **45th** in the nation in
state funding for public schools.

In 1991, homeowners
and farmers paid
47% of school
property taxes.



Today, they pay
nearly **70%**

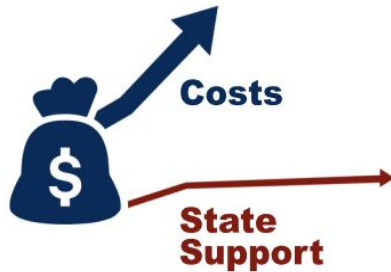
WHY?

Tax policy shifts have reduced or eliminated business and utility contributions, while declining state revenue has slowed school funding. **The result:** *homeowners and farmers are carrying a greater share than ever before.*

Property Taxes

SCHOOLS ARE DOING MORE WITH LESS

The cost of running schools goes up every year, but the state's support hasn't kept up.



In **22** years state school funding has grown less than **1%** a year when adjusted for inflation.

Schools are being asked to do more with the same money.

Schools have:

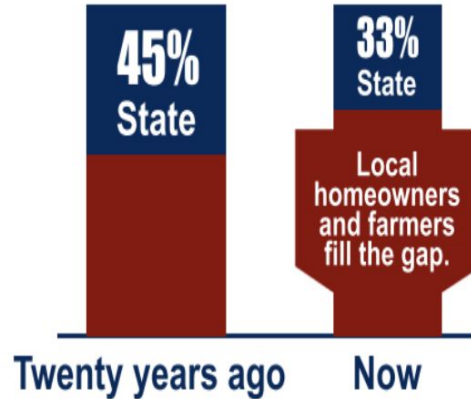
- Consolidated. There are 75% fewer districts than a century ago.
- Shared Services.
- Delayed Facility Updates/Maintenance.
- Increased Safety and Security Measures.
- Delivered Quality Results and Accountability.

Property Taxes



OHIO IS OUT OF BALANCE

The state has shifted the cost of education directly onto homeowners.



HB 920



School Funding in Ohio & House Bill 920

FACT:

- Ohio House Bill 920 was passed in 1976 to protect taxpayers from automatic tax increases caused by inflation and rising property values.
- The law prevents school districts and other local governments from receiving additional revenue when property values increase after county reappraisals.

When property values rise, HB 920 requires tax rates on existing voted levies to be reduced.

- This means school districts generally collect the same dollar amount approved by voters when the levy originally passed.
- As a result, rising home values do not automatically create more operating revenue for schools.

HB 920



School Funding in Ohio
&
House Bill 920

EXAMPLE:

“If voters approve a levy that raises \$5 million, HB 920 generally keeps that levy generating about \$5 million even if property values increase later. The tax rate adjusts downward so schools do not automatically collect more money.”

TALKING POINT:

“In Canfield, rising home values do not automatically increase school funding. House Bill 920 adjusts tax rates to keep revenues from existing levies stable. That’s one reason why the district must periodically return to voters for additional support.”

FACT: A 10% increase in home valuation does not generate 10% additional revenue for the district.

EdChoice - Universal Vouchers

FACT: Ohio has diverted large and growing amounts of public education funding away from traditional public districts and into private-school vouchers.

For fiscal year 2025, Ohio spent approximately:

- **\$1.09 billion total** on all private-school scholarship/voucher programs.
- Historically, EdChoice targeted lower-performing districts and schools. Since the Ohio expanded EdChoice Expansion is a near-universal program, Canfield families are now eligible for vouchers despite the district being one of the top-performing systems in the state.
- The CLSD has joined the EdChoice lawsuit.



Fair School Funding Plan



THE FAIR SCHOOL
FUNDING PLAN

FACT:

- Does not include fully updated cost sets (frozen 2022 levels) {Cost to educate}
- Updated local property values and income data,
- As a result, the district still relies heavily on local taxpayers and levies to sustain operations and programming.

Canfield is considered a Higher-Capacity District...

- The state expects the community to shoulder a larger portion of school costs locally,
- The district does not receive the same level of state aid growth as lower-wealth districts,
- Local levies remain an important part of long-term financial stability.

Property Tax Bills

- H.B. 124 – County Auditor Control of Property Valuations
- H.B. 129 – Calculation of the Floor, Limited Renewals of Emergency and Substitute Levies as Fixed-Sum Levies
- H.B. 186 – Limitation on Floor Increases to Inflation on Voted Levies, Modification of Credits (Rollbacks), Sales Tax Holiday Reduction to Pay for Retroactive Credits
- H.B. 309 – Expands Authority of County Budget Commissions
- **H.B. 335 – Limitation of Inside Millage Increases to Inflation**



Mr. Ben Marko
Treasurer

Financial State of the Schools in Canfield

Cash Balance Review

The Board supports good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. To that end, the Board is committed to operating the District with fiscally sound management practices. The Board directs the administration, teacher, and other school personnel in charge of making budgetary decisions and/or recommendations to responsibly manage operational costs while maintaining a high level of educational excellence within the District.

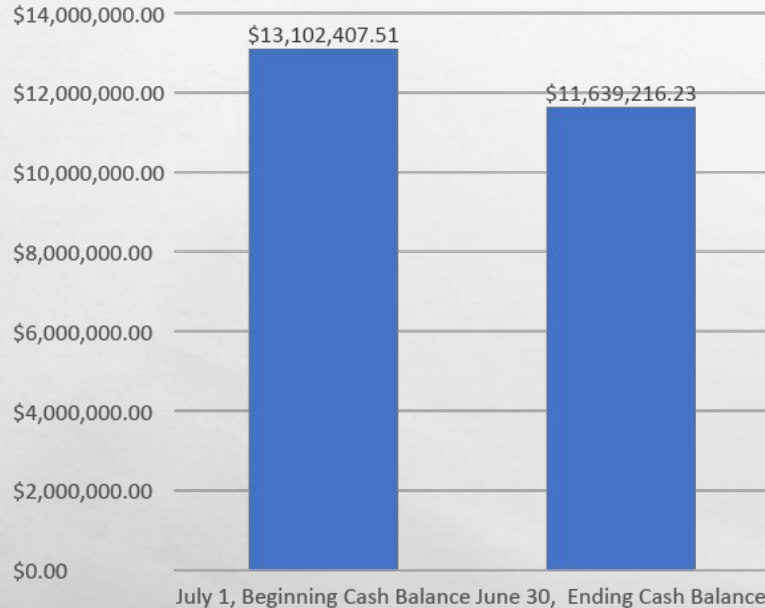
As part of its commitment to sound fiscal management, the Board affirms that tax levies shall be pursued and/or the District's finances otherwise managed to ensure a General Operating Fund unencumbered unreserved cash balance equivalent to at least sixty (75) days of operating expenditures. The Board directs the Treasurer/CFO to maintain such a cash reserve.

Promptly upon receiving any indication that such cash balance may not be achieved within any year of the forecast period, the Treasurer/CFO shall report such a finding to the Board. Upon such notification by the Treasurer/CFO, the Superintendent and Treasurer/CFO will prepare and propose options that the Board may consider to forestall such an eventuality.

FY26

Financial Forecast Key Indicators & Analysis Canfield Local SD

Current Fiscal Year Projected Financial Analysis



Projected General Fund Revenue \$31,619,503

Projected General Fund Expenditures \$33,082,694

Projected Loss for the Year \$1,463,191

Staffing Reductions Since 2020

Through Attrition:

- Certified Staff: 4
- Classified Staff: 8
- Retire/Rehire: 5

Approximately \$3,500,000 of savings from these reductions

Staffing Changes Since February Forecast

- 2 Teacher positions not being replaced after retirements
- 1 Building Secretary not being replaced after retirement
- 1 Tutor position not being replaced after moving into a Teacher Position
- 1 Retire/Rehire Teacher

Savings next year: Approximately \$500,000

Are we Keeping Expenditures Low?

Canfield Local SD, Mahoning	Similar Districts Average	Statewide Average of All Districts
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E - Operating Expenditure Per-pupil Data (FY25)

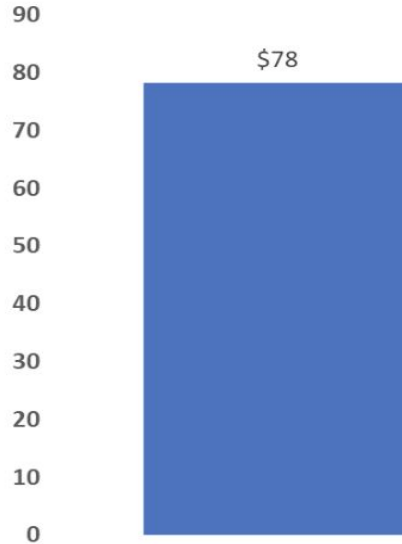
40 Administration Expenditure Per-pupil	\$1,458.44	\$1,848.83	\$2,328.24
41 Building Operation Expenditure Per-pupil	\$2,413.75	\$2,840.85	\$3,380.49
42 Instructional Expenditure Per-pupil	\$8,606.08	\$9,243.80	\$9,997.31
43 Pupil Support Expenditure Per-pupil	\$668.47	\$1,094.85	\$1,281.04
44 Staff Support Expenditure Per-pupil	\$273.08	\$493.46	\$622.17
45 Total Operating Expenditure Per-pupil	\$13,419.83	\$15,521.79	\$17,609.24

Are we Keeping Expenditures Low?



Student Cost Per Day

Daily Cost Per Pupil



FY 2026

Our property owners pay 53% of \$78.00 which is \$41.34. With almost 7 hours of school per day, the community is paying approximately **\$6.12 per hour** per student for transportation, lunch service, education, building maintenance, and extracurriculars.

Option 1: Expenditure Reductions Only

- Before 2027/28 school year
 - \$3,200,000 reduction in expenditures
 - Reductions may include: staffing, course/elective offerings, extracurricular programs/athletics, field trips, and transportation.

Option 1

Calendar Days Cash on Hand

Financial Forecast Key Indicators & Analysis

Canfield Local SD

Days Cash On Hand



Option 2: Increasing Revenue Only

- Passing a new levy in calendar year 2026
 - Begin collecting in calendar year 2027
 - The district could continue to make small staffing changes as needed
 - 5 mills or \$175 annually/\$100,000 of auditor's valuation

Auditor's Valuation	Annual Cost
\$100,000	\$175
\$200,000	\$350
\$300,000	\$525
\$400,000	\$700
\$500,000	\$875

Option 2

Calendar Days Cash on Hand

Financial Forecast Key Indicators & Analysis

Canfield Local SD

Days Cash On Hand



3. Mixture of Reducing Expenditures and Increasing Revenue

- Passing a new levy in calendar year 2026
 - Begin collecting in calendar year 2027
 - \$1,800,000 in expenditure reductions
 - 3 mills or \$105 annually/\$100,000 of auditor's valuation

Auditor's Valuation	Annual Cost
\$100,000	\$105
\$200,000	\$210
\$300,000	\$315
\$400,000	\$420
\$500,000	\$525

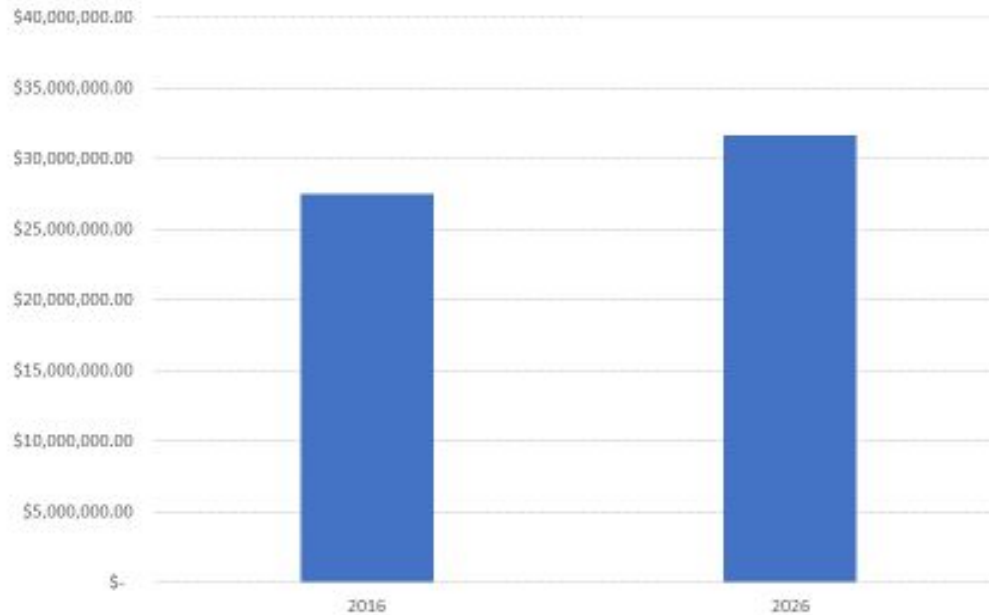
OPTION 3

Calendar Days Cash on Hand

Financial Forecast Key Indicators & Analysis
Canfield Local SD

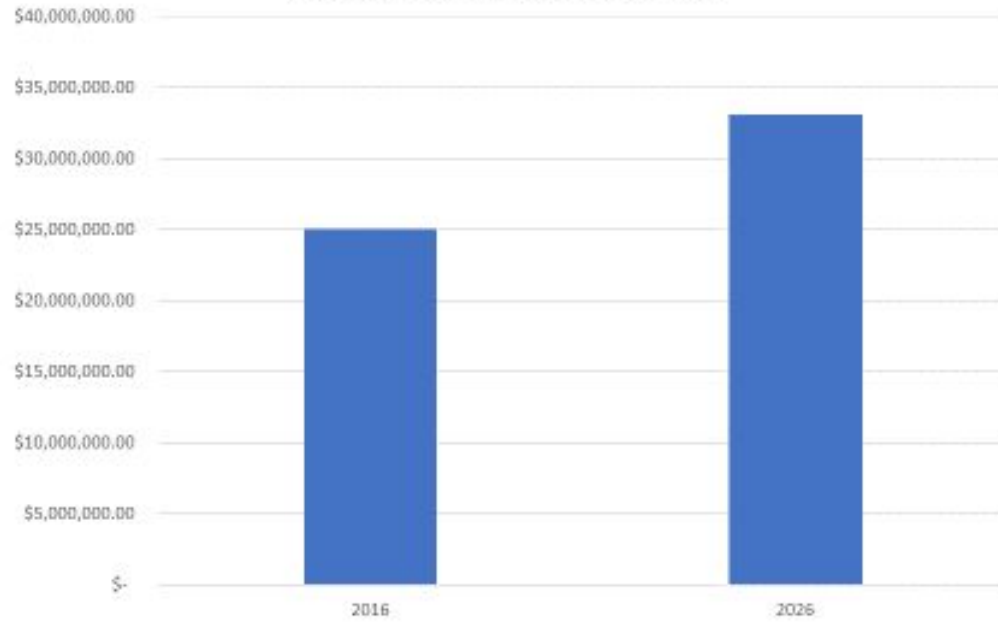


Revenue Over the Last Decade



Revenue increases of approximately 1.4% annually or 15% total
Inflation increases of approximately 3.05% annually or 35% total

Expenditures Over the Last Decade



Expenditure increases of approximately 2.8% annually or 33% total
Inflation increases of approximately 3.05% annually or 35% total

Levy Cycle

Current School Levies

Emergency Levy:

- Originally passed in May 1986 for 6.5 mills
- Last Renewed November 2020 for 10 years
- Current effective millage 0.91

Current Operating Expense Levy:

- Originally passed November 2013 for 5.9 mills
- Last Renewed November 2022 for 5 years
- Current effective millage 3.66
- Renewable in November 2027, May 2028, or November 2028

Thank you!



CANFIELD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
State of the Schools