



On **August 4, 2026**, voters in Oakland County will consider a **Regional Enhancement Millage** to bolster all public school districts and eligible public school academies across the county.

What Is a Regional Enhancement Millage?

A Regional Enhancement Millage is a voter-approved property tax that allows school districts to generate additional funding beyond what is provided by the State of Michigan under Proposal A (1994).

Key details:

- **Election Date:** August 4, 2026
- **Rate:** 1.5 mills
- **Term:** Six (6) years
- **Estimated Funding Impact:**
 - Approximately **\$781 per pupil annually**
 - Approximately **\$4,686 per pupil over six years**
- **Funds Available:** Beginning December 2026 (if approved)

Important: If passed, **Oakland Schools does not receive additional funding** – all funds go directly to local school districts.

It is the only mechanism districts can use to increase per-pupil funding.

Why Is This Being Considered?

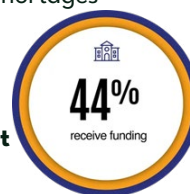
School districts across Oakland County are facing increasing financial pressures:

- Costs are rising faster than state funding due to inflation
- Limited options exist to generate additional revenue
- Bond and sinking fund dollars are restricted to specific uses

At the same time, districts are managing:

- Teacher staffing and retention challenges
- Increased student academic, social-emotional and medical needs
- Rising costs for services and supplies
- Substitute teacher shortages

Forty-four percent of students in Michigan already receive enhancement millage funding.



If approved, funds would be distributed to districts based on student enrollment. The West Bloomfield School District would focus on:

- Recruiting and retaining high-quality staff
- Maintaining appropriate staff-to-student ratios
- Maintaining and strengthening educational programs

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - PLEASE VOTE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 4, 2026

- Oakland Schools Board of Education vote, March 24
- Absentee Ballots ready, June 25
- Last day to register to vote, August 4
- Last day to pick up an Absentee Ballot, August 4
- Election Day, August 4

We appreciate the engagement of our families and community members and invite you to reach out with any questions or for more information by emailing danial.bazzi@wbsd.org.

Yours in Education,
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 28: Community Movie Night
August 31: First Full Day of School
September 4-7: No School, Labor Day

September 18: Family Fun Night at WBHS
November 3: Heroes Appreciation Breakfast
Calendar at www.wbsd.org

» News & Notes from the District

WBSD LAUNCHING ADVANCED PATHWAYS PROGRAM TO FURTHER POSITION STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

West Bloomfield Middle School is proud to launch Advanced Pathways as a pilot program for the 2026-2027 school year. This new academic opportunity is designed to challenge students who are ready for accelerated learning while expanding opportunities at the middle school level.

The three-year cohort model begins in grades six, seven or eight, and offers an advanced course sequence in English language arts, social studies and science, paired with intentional student support through advisory and a connected cohort experience.

The purpose of Advanced Pathways is simple: meet students where they are, stretch their potential and create stronger pathways into the exceptional opportunities available at West Bloomfield High School. By engaging in rigorous coursework earlier, students may position themselves for earlier access to honors and advanced placement (AP) coursework in high school, opening

doors to deeper learning experiences across subjects such as English, social studies, science, math, and more.

West Bloomfield High School currently offers 27 AP courses, providing students with a wide range of college-level opportunities.

At the same time, we know every student's journey is different. Advanced Pathways is one of many ways students can thrive in West Bloomfield schools. Students not in the program continue to have access to outstanding teachers, strong coursework, extracurricular opportunities, and multiple advanced options throughout middle school and high school.

This pilot reflects our commitment to ensuring every learner has access to the right level of challenge, support

and opportunity. **At West Bloomfield, we remain focused on helping all students grow, discover their strengths and prepare for life ahead.**



WEST BLOOMFIELD OPTIMIST CLUB BE LIKE BOB SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST AWARD CEREMONY

Thank you to the Optimist Club of West Bloomfield for investing in our students' future and supporting their next chapter! Congratulations to the three recipients of the "Be Like Bob Scholarship" from West Bloomfield High School!

Gabrielle Jerome, \$1,500 scholarship
Areeba Aalam, \$1,000 scholarship
Kamari Pittman, \$500 scholarship



West Bloomfield High School students showcased their talent and dedication at the **Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** State Leadership Conference. More than 45 students participated in this year's competitive events, demonstrating their knowledge and skills across a variety of health science disciplines. Several students earned recognition as state finalists, with a special congratulations to Gabby Jerome for capturing a first-place finish.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our students and the continued support and guidance of our dedicated health science teachers. Go Lakers!

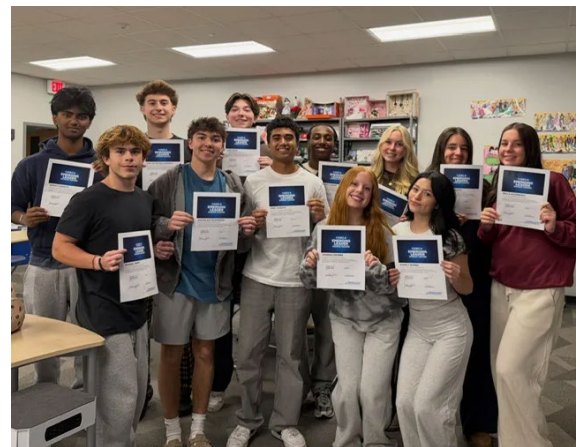


West Bloomfield Middle School's young musicians delivered outstanding performances at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Band & Orchestra Festival held at Bloomfield Hills High School.

Under the direction of Ms. Cole and Ms. Kang, both the Middle School Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra performed three prepared selections and successfully completed the festival's challenging sight-reading component, which requires students to perform brand-new music after only a few minutes of preparation.

Both ensembles earned First Division "Superior" ratings, the highest distinction awarded at the festival. This remarkable achievement reflects the students' dedication, preparation and teamwork, as well as their commitment to musical excellence.

Congratulations to all our talented student musicians on an exceptional performance!



Recognizing outstanding leadership, academic excellence and dedication to career and technical education, several students were honored with a prestigious **Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)** distinction this year. This award celebrates DECA members who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to developing leadership skills, serving their communities and maintaining strong academic achievement throughout their high school careers. Their accomplishments reflect the hard work, determination and professionalism that define future business leaders.

Congratulations to Krzysztof Balajewicz, Marely Barba, Liam Berri, Matilda Edvardsson, Nicholas Falkowski, Luca Gioia, Hannah Grubbs, Neel Kamath, Arnav Kamath, Emilio Kamoo, Maya Klepaski, Amarina Kriko, Bella Kuzminsky, Daniel Owens, Daniel Prifti and Sophia Zholob.

» News & Notes from the District



West Bloomfield High School Fire Club wrapped up another successful year, giving students hands-on experience and an inside look at what it takes to become a firefighter.

Throughout the program, students trained in key areas including emergency medical services, ladder operations, rescue techniques, and other critical aspects of being a first responder.

This unique partnership provides valuable real-world learning opportunities while helping students explore careers in public safety. A special thank you to the **West Bloomfield Fire Department** for their continued collaboration and commitment to making this impactful program possible.



West Bloomfield Township Public Library brings magical authors to WBSD students. This year they sponsored the visit of author Kelly DiPucchio. The library also supplied all of our Pine Tree program books and runs an amazing summer reading program.

WBHS STUDENTS EXPLORE MEDICAL CAREERS

WBSD's Medical Mentorship students thank the Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield medical professionals they shadowed. There were 10 field trip opportunities, in addition to HIPAA and bloodborne pathogen training.

A WBSD 1991 alum, Regional Chief Medical Officer Manu Malhotra, addressed the students and thanked them for



the energy they bring to the hospital. Dr. Wilfred Allen described how important the program is in providing students an opportunity to explore various medical fields and professions, and shared WB has one of the best programs he's ever seen.

Thank you to Liza Zanotti, Kelli Danton, Mark Smith, and Eric Pace for connecting our students to these real-world experiences.



Capturing Kids' Hearts recognition reflects the intentional work, commitment and care team WB brings every single day!

Congratulations to 2025-2026 Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools® Award recipients: Doherty Elementary, Gretchko Elementary, Scotch Elementary, Sheiko Elementary, and West Bloomfield Transition Center.



WBHS ALUM SPOTLIGHT ON Lauren Sallen Class of 2013

LOOKING BACK ON YOUR TIME AT WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT EXPERIENCES OR MEMORIES STAND OUT TO YOU THE MOST?

At the risk of sounding cliché, the single memory that stands out the most was when I met my best friend, Sara Colville, during Mr. Latra's ninth grade health class. Seventeen years later and we are still best friends.

Some other impactful memories were when I made the MIFA ensemble as a sophomore, when I was accepted to Michigan State University and of course when I walked at graduation!

WAS THERE A TEACHER, CLASS, AND/OR SUBJECT THAT HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU, AND WHY?

I have two teachers who made a huge impact on me. I took English with Mr. Toy and also worked as his independent study my senior year. Besides being an amazing teacher and role model, Mr. Toy really taught me the importance of reading for pleasure. He was always recommending interesting and unique reads – my senior year I was particularly interested in Japanese literature and he started me on my journey with several memorable and profound novels. Since then, I read all the time and try to always explore different genres and subject matter thanks in part to Mr. Toy.

Secondly but equally impactful was Señora Bye. She unlocked a love for language I didn't know I had. I ended up minoring in Spanish in college because I fell in love with Spanish – gracias a Señora Bye. She was also a tremendous female role model to have at WBHS. Señora Bye was so approachable and funny, but she was also incredibly dedicated to her students and hardworking. I remember wanting to be just like her, and I still do!

WHAT LESSONS OR SKILLS DID WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL HELP YOU DEVELOP THAT YOU STILL USE TODAY?

West Bloomfield is a very unique and special community because of how diverse we are. When I got to university, I was shocked at how sheltered my peers were and how little they knew about other cultures/ethnicities/religions. So a huge lesson that West Bloomfield taught me is embracing diversity!

It's so important in the "real world" to be able to interact and embrace people from all different backgrounds and that was something that I'm grateful was engrained in me throughout my time at WBHS.

HOW HAS YOUR APPRECIATION FOR WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHANGED OR GROWN SINCE GRADUATING?

There's definite truth to the adage "absence makes the heart grow fonder". I remember chomping at the bit to graduate so I could experience a change of scenery. Now that I'm in my 30s with young children, who will in a few short years be in public school, I look back fondly on my time at West Bloomfield.

IN WHAT WAYS DID BEING A LAKER HELP SHAPE WHO YOU ARE PERSONALLY OR PROFESSIONALLY?

Being a Laker gave me the freedom to embrace my interests. High school is such a formative time, and I left WBHS having a stronger sense of my personal identity. I certainly still had a lot to learn after high school, but going to a high school that encouraged individuality gave me confidence to continue on my personal and professional journey. Now, I work as the CEO of a marketing company. The choices I made since leaving WBHS led me to a thriving career and a fulfilling personal life.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS?

I would advise the graduating seniors to embrace all of the opportunities that lie ahead of them. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone when it comes to your studies or profession.

I would also suggest that you don't compare yourself to your peers. There are so many paths to take after graduation – different colleges to go to, different jobs to take, different communities to become involved in. No single path is the "right one".

Congrats!

2025-2026 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



West Bloomfield Preschool Academy
Mimoza Lila



Elementary Schools

Doherty-Tiffany Emert, Gretchko-Elise Arnoldi, Scotch-Cheryl Caplan, Sheiko-Amy Quinlan



West Bloomfield Middle School

Lindsay Belli



West Bloomfield High School

Lorig Bishop



Adult/Alternative Education

Julie Potocsky



Oakland Early College

Lindsy Krauser

WB Transition Center

Laura Hennicken

2025-2026 SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR



West Bloomfield Preschool Academy

Julius (Jewel) Edwards



Elementary Schools

Doherty-Naomi Schwartz, Gretchko-Randi Fogel, Scotch-Amy Harris, Sheiko-Amy Myers



West Bloomfield Middle School

Antoinette Morton



West Bloomfield High School

Peggy Houle



Oakland Early College

Heather Kremer



ECSE

Joy Ochens

Thank You, RETIREES!

We appreciate all the years of service these dedicated educators gave to WBSD and its students.

We will miss them, and we wish them the best for whatever comes next!

Susan Aisner - WBHS
32 years

Rhonda Nash - Scotch
25 years

Elise Arnoldi - Gretchko
32 years

Joy Oetjens - ACS
25 years

Tricia Bairski - Sheiko
25 years

Leroy Phillips - WBHS
4 years

Michael Bauer - WBHS
4.25 years

Eric Pierce - WBHS
25 years

Ajay Bedi - WBHS
30 years

Christine Preston - WBTC
23.5 years

Michelle Berman - Sheiko
29.5 years

Marilyn Schafer - Sheiko
7.5 years

Michelle Campbell - OEC
25 years

Joanne Scheloske - WBMS
30 years

Jennifer Birmelin- WBMS
24 years

James Scrivo - Scotch
25 years

Lisa Coddington - WBHS
26 years

Theodore Stinson -
Operations
32 years

Esther Davidson - ACS
22 years

Kristin Strutton - Sheiko
31.5 years

Rejean DeGrendel - Scotch
25 years

Eric Whitney - ACS
8 years

Mario Inchaustegui -
WBMS
27 years

Laura Wowk - WBHS
28 years

Katherine Law - ACS
25 years

FREE ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS 65+

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for West Bloomfield School District residents aged 65 and over to attend plays, athletic games and musical performances free of charge. Cards are available at district schools and the ACS Office at 5810 Commerce Road.



WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

15th Annual FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Saluting our U.S. Military, Police,
& Fire Heroes



5 p.m. - FREE Fun Activities: Touch a Truck, Bounce Houses,
Dunk Tank, Games, Fun, & More

6:45 p.m. - Opening Tribute Ceremony

7 p.m. - WBHS vs Lake Orion

★★★★★ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18** ★★★★★



Elementary and middle school students wearing spirit
wear items are admitted into the game for FREE!

**WEST BLOOMFIELD
HIGH SCHOOL**

www.wbsd.org