

OF SCHOOL REPORT



Olmsted Falls School District

Fall 2026

THE WORK MATTERS—AND SO DOES THE WAY WE DO IT TOGETHER

By Superintendent Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.



As I begin my 33rd year in education, I am grateful to serve as Superintendent of Olmsted Falls City Schools.

A new school year brings fresh possibilities: students return with new goals, families entrust us with what matters most, and every staff member steps forward to serve

them. A new year isn't a blank page—it's a page already being written, and we decide what comes next.

OUR SHARED PURPOSE

Our work begins with a simple purpose: to make a meaningful difference in young people's lives. We want every student to be known, valued, challenged, supported, inspired, and empowered—not only to succeed in school, but to build a life of purpose and possibility.

Students must learn deeply: to read, write, reason, calculate, create, collaborate, and communicate. But education can't be reduced to what's easiest to count. We also cultivate confidence, empathy, resilience, curiosity, and responsibility. These represent a broader view of success behind Designing Engaging Work, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Benefits-Based Accountability.

CULTURE IS WHAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCE

Culture is not a slogan; it is what people experience—how a student feels entering a classroom, how a family is welcomed, how we respond to mistakes. Every interaction sends a signal: You matter; or you are in the way. I see you; or I am too busy. You belong; or you are on your own.

Students may not remember every lesson, but they will remember how it felt to be in our schools. They need to feel that the adults believe in them, that being offered another chance is possible and that people see them and know their name. Small interactions between students and adults in school can become a defining moment—we should never

confuse small with unimportant.

The culture of OFCS belongs to all of us—students, families, staff, neighbors, alumni, and community partners. When we listen and assume the best in one another, we all thrive.

EXCELLENT AND UNFINISHED

Strong schools are not places where everyone agrees or nothing goes wrong. They are places where people can be honest, ask questions, acknowledge mistakes, repair harm, and keep learning. We can be proud while recognizing the need to grow, hold high expectations while extending grace, and disagree without becoming disagreeable. We can be both excellent and unfinished.

AN INVITATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

- **See people**—look beyond roles and first impressions; learn names, notice effort, listen carefully.
- **Create belonging**—make room for others, invite unheard voices, and let people contribute, make mistakes, and grow.
- **Reconnect to purpose**—when the work gets hard, remember that every act of support helps inspire and empower our students.

Public education is one of our community's most powerful promises: every child deserves to learn, belong, and build a meaningful future. We fulfill it through thousands of decisions, interactions, partnerships, and moments of care. The work matters. The way we do it matters. How we treat people, the character we show, and the culture we create matter.

Let us be ambitious for our students and generous with one another—courageous enough to grow, humble enough to ask for help, and committed enough to return to our shared purpose. Together, let us create schools where every student can say: I belong here. I am valued here. I can grow here. What I do matters here.

Thank you for choosing Olmsted Falls and for supporting our students, schools, and one another.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND FUTURE PLANNING

By Patrick Goclano, Treasurer/CFO



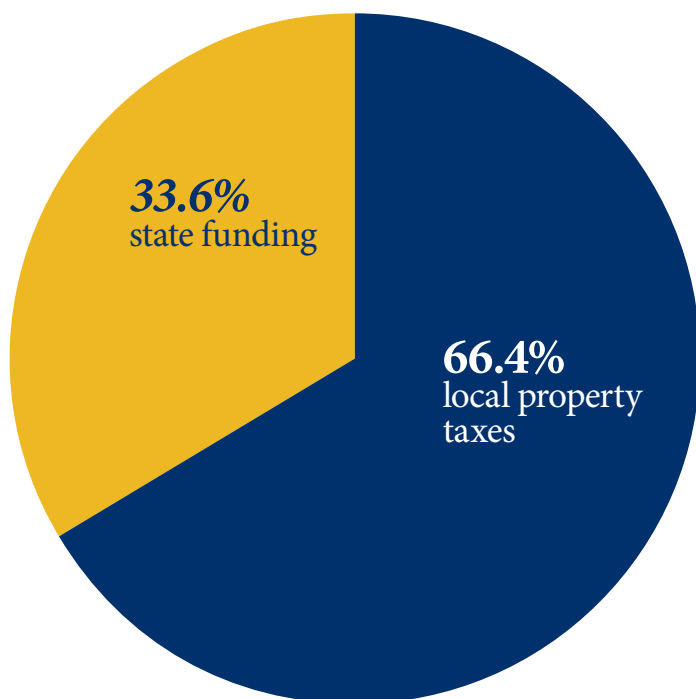
Twice a year, in late August and February, Ohio law requires every public school district to file a four-year financial forecast with the state. At Olmsted Falls City Schools, we go a step further by building a five-year forecast because looking further down the road helps our Board of Education and administration spot financial challenges early and plan for them.

It's important to understand what this forecast is, and what it isn't. It is a management tool, not a prediction of exactly what will happen. The first year of the forecast is always based on our current, board-approved budget, and every year after that is built from reasonable assumptions about revenue and expenses. Those assumptions are updated twice a year as new information becomes available.

This year's forecast tells two stories: one about revenue, and one about expenditures.

REVENUE

Like most Ohio districts, Olmsted Falls relies primarily on two sources of revenue: local property taxes (66.4% of our general fund) and state funding (33.6%).



Revenue Sources

On the local side, we are watching several emerging risks:

In Lorain County, the county approved both the owner-occupied tax credit and the homestead exemption for tax year 2025, reducing our revenue by \$24,224. Cuyahoga County commissioners have not yet approved this combination, but if both credits were approved there and applied every year, it would cost our district \$983,200 annually.

We are also tracking House Bill 309, which shifts certain fiscal decision-making from locally elected school boards to county budget commissions and county commissioners; the financial impact on our district is not yet known.

The state's updated property tax reappraisal schedule has pushed Cuyahoga County's next reappraisal to 2031, and we anticipate a one-time loss of \$295,000 in property tax revenue as a result.

A related law, House Bill 335, also limits how much additional revenue we're allowed to collect when property values are reappraised, capping that growth at a state inflation measure. So even when home values rise, our ability to capture new revenue from those increases is limited going forward.

Put simply, growth in our local property tax revenue, our single largest funding source, is essentially flat.

On the state side, state aid is expected to remain flat through fiscal year 2031, and Ohio's Fair School Funding Plan is only funded through fiscal year 2027. Two future state budgets, for FY28-29 and FY30-31, remain unknown and sit inside this forecast as open questions. As with property taxes, we are not projecting growth in state aid, and there is potential for it to decrease further.

When you combine these two primary sources with our smaller local revenue lines, which don't move in lockstep with them, total revenue across the entire general fund is projected to grow by only about 0.8% per year, on average, through FY31, well below the pace of inflation.

EXPENDITURES

Wages and benefits make up roughly 80% of our general fund budget, which is consistent with how school district budgets are typically structured. This reflects the fact that people—our teachers, support staff and everyone who serves our students—are at the heart of what we do. These costs are projected to grow by about 2.5% per year on average through FY31.



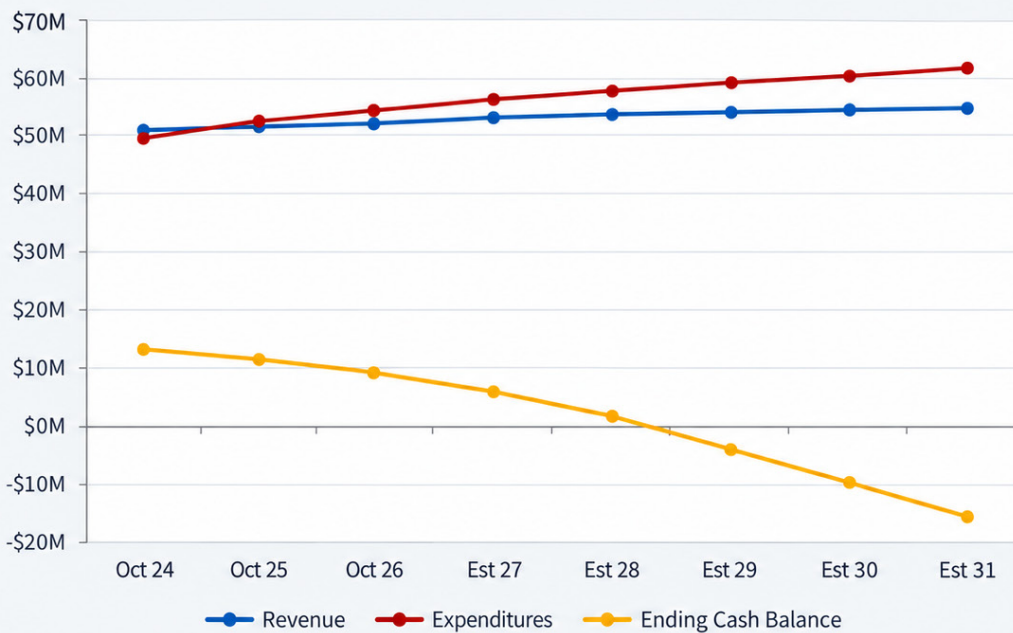
THE GAP

When revenue is growing at 0.8% annually and expenses are growing at 2.5%, the gap between the two widens every year. Our forecast currently shows Olmsted Falls' general fund moving into a negative cash balance beginning in fiscal year

2029, reaching an estimated \$3.4 million shortfall that year if nothing changes. Ohio law does not permit a district's general fund to end a year in the negative.

The Structural Gap

Revenue is essentially flat while expenditures continue to grow



~0.8%

average annual revenue growth
FY26 through FY31

~2.5%

average annual expense growth
over the same period

FY29

first year the general fund
ends in the negative

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OFCS

Current state funding is not growing fast enough to offset inflation, and we are concerned that future state budgets, along with possible further changes to property tax law, will severely impact our district's long-term financial viability.

As we plan for the future, our priority is to maintain a positive cash balance throughout the forecast. We will keep a close eye on state and local funding changes, manage our expenditures carefully, and stretch every dollar as far as it will go, so our students and families can keep counting on the well-rounded Triple A experience they've come to expect.

For additional details, scan either QR code to the right.



Scan to read
Board Presentation

Scan to read
Full Five-Year
Forecast



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

THREE DECADES OF BULLDOG DEDICATION

Olmsted Falls City Schools proudly celebrates four dedicated staff members marking 30-plus years of service, whose commitment to our students and families over the decades has helped build the strong Bulldog community we know today.



Pictured from left to right: Franca DeMuth, Louvonda Lenart, Jean Double and Brian Wilson

30 Years

Louvonda Lenart - Food Preparer & Cleaner, OFHS/ECC
Brian Wilson - Custodian, Falls-Lenox

35 Years

Franca DeMuth - Intervention Specialist, ECC
Jean Double - Tutor, Falls-Lenox



NEW STAFF JOIN THE BULLDOG PACK

Olmsted Falls City Schools is excited to welcome our new staff members for the 2026–2027 school year! We're thrilled to have these talented educators and professionals joining our team and bringing their skills, passion, and enthusiasm to our schools. Please join us in giving them a warm Bulldog welcome as they begin their journey with OFCS!

Casey Kenzig

Intervention Specialist at ECC

Julianna DeChellis

Teacher at OFMS

Jacob Miller

Teacher at OFHS

Tara Valco

Kindergarten Teacher at ECC

Rebecca Johnson

Teacher at OFMS

Isabella Paratore

Teacher at OFHS

Molly Walsh

Speech Therapist at ECC

Malachi Kilbane

Teacher at OFMS

Danielle Stevens

Teacher at OFHS

Madelyn Thai

Intervention Specialist at Falls-Lenox

Tyler Moore

Teacher at OFMS

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

BULLDOG SPIRIT UNLEASHED

The Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters kicked off the 2026-2027 school year with the first-ever Bulldogs Unleashed event, bringing together families, students, athletes, and coaches to celebrate Bulldog Nation. Highlights included the Parade of Programs, varsity football and soccer run-throughs, and the debut of the Passing the Bulldog Spirit ceremony, where Class of 2027 seniors welcomed the newest kindergarten Bulldogs with a T-shirt and certificate marking the start of their journey through Olmsted Falls City Schools.



HERITAGE DAYS PARADE, BULLDOG STYLE

Building and district administrators proudly marched in the Heritage Days Parade in July, waving to the many familiar faces lining the route. From Falls-Lenox to the Village Green, the group enjoyed sharing smiles and candy with our amazing community!



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

OCTOBER 9

NEOEIA Day - NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 12

Staff PD Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

OCTOBER 21

The Bulldog Experience!

NOVEMBER 3

Election Day / Staff PD Day
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 25-27

Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER 23, 2026 - JANUARY 1, 2027

Winter Break - NO SCHOOL



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

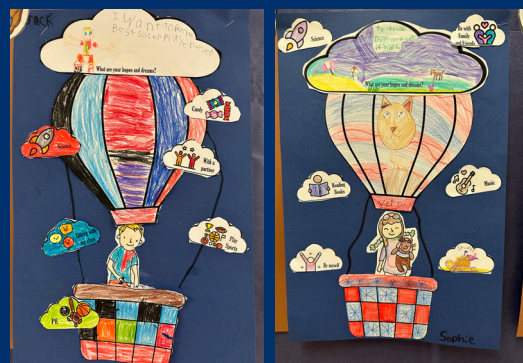
WORRY WORMS BRING COMFORT TO THE CLASSROOM

At the Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center, Kindergarten Teacher Tara Valco's classroom has a cuddly new comfort tool this year: Worry Worms, crocheted with help from parent volunteer Angela Lumby. Students keep their worms close throughout the day, using them as a fidget, a friend, or a source of comfort, whether that means a squeeze, a pet, or a hug.



BALLOONS FULL OF BIG IDEAS

All students at Falls-Lenox Primary School read "The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be" by Joanna Gaines to kick off the new school year. The story follows a diverse group of children preparing for a hot air balloon launch, each bringing their own personality, approach, and strengths to the task, reminding students that everyone has distinct gifts and should always be themselves. Students then created their own hot-air balloons representing who they are and how they learn best, which are now on display throughout the school.



FALLS-LENOX PRIMARY SCHOOL

GROWING READERS ONE TOMATO AT A TIME

All summer long, Mrs. Patay's first graders at Falls-Lenox Primary School had a special job waiting for them at home. On the last day of school, each student took home a tomato plant and a challenge: read to it every day, and it just might grow into a sweet summer treat. Student Sarah G. took the challenge to heart, caring for her plant all season, snacking on fresh cherry tomatoes while playing outside, and even helping harvest them for a family dinner.



A FALLS-LENOX TRADITION, SQUEEZED FRESH

The Bulldog Friendship Camp hosted its annual Lemonade Stand, bringing together students, staff, and community members for a sweet tradition with an even sweeter purpose. Alongside refreshing lemonade, campers practiced valuable life skills like teamwork, patience, and connecting with the community. Bulldog Friendship Camp serves students entering grades 1 through 3 who receive Extended School Year services alongside positive peer role models. Proceeds fund a last day pizza party and a donation to a charity chosen by the students. This year, students selected Berea Animal Rescue Friends (ARF) and are projected to donate more than \$500, their largest gift yet.



OLMSTED FALLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (OFIS)

NEW SCHEDULE BUILDS MIDDLE SCHOOL READY FIFTH GRADERS

This school year, Olmsted Falls Intermediate School introduced a new fifth grade schedule, moving from four teaching teams to two teams of five teachers. Students now rotate between teachers for Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies, a structure that more closely mirrors middle school and helps build organization, independence, and comfort navigating multiple classrooms. The new approach also supports an Advanced Math class and gives students the chance to connect with a wider variety of peers. While both students and teachers are still adjusting, initial feedback has been positive, and OFIS is excited to see how this new experience helps make the transition to middle school more comfortable and successful.



FINDING THEIR NEXT GREAT READ

Students in Mrs. Barylski's fourth-grade class picked out their independent reading books and settled into their special classroom "nooks" to start exploring them. There's nothing quite like the thrill of a great book and a cozy spot to enjoy it. What a fun way to keep the love of reading alive!



OLMSTED FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL (OFMS)

GEOMETRY BY TOUCH

Students in Mrs. Kho's pre-algebra class at Olmsted Falls Middle School are practicing their geometry vocabulary through hands-on challenges, including a puzzle where one blindfolded teammate maneuvers the pieces while classmates call out directions to rotate, reflect, and translate. The activity turns tricky vocabulary into a team effort everyone remembers.



OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL (OFHS)

FROM MINI MARCHERS TO THE MAIN EVENT

The OFHS Bulldog Marching Band welcomed the community's youngest music lovers to the field for its annual Mini Marchers event. Kids from preschool through rising fifth grade explored instruments, learned school cheers, and practiced marching alongside their high school mentors before moving into the stadium to join the community in a special preview show of the marching band's traditional pre-game presentation and the half-time show planned for the first home game!



A STRONG START FOR OFHS STUDENTS

Olmsted Falls High School kicks off each year with grade level assemblies led by building administrators and school counselors, covering everything from club opportunities to important safety information. Student leaders also have the chance to speak, sharing details about their clubs and activities and helping fellow Bulldogs connect right from the start.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS LEAD THE WAY

A big shoutout to our Student Ambassador cohort at OFHS. On Orientation Day, these dedicated Bulldogs helped new students and families navigate the high school, shared their love for our school, and made sure everyone felt welcomed and supported from the very first day.



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OUR SCHOOL REPORT



20th Consecutive Year!

IS PUBLISHED TO MAINTAIN A REGULAR LINE OF
COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE
OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

NEWS AS IT HAPPENS: OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

There are great things happening **every day** across the Olmsted Falls City School District! Keep up with the news and information via the district's social media channels.



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ofalls.wordpress.com

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OLMSTED FALLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Phil Eckenrode **Vice President:** Justin Funk

Members: Kelly Abood, Patrick Antos, Amy Lauderdale



ALL RESIDENTS of the Olmsted Falls City Schools
community are invited to

THE BULLDOG EXPERIENCE

A PreK-12 Showcase of Learning,
Creativity & Connection

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
Special Event Kick-Off @ 6:00 PM
The Bulldog Experience 6:00-8:00 PM

at
OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
26939 Bagley Road

Come experience what it means to be a Bulldog! The Bulldog Experience is a district-wide celebration of the learning, creativity, talent, relationships and opportunities happening every day across Olmsted Falls City Schools. Explore our five schools, meet students and staff, see engaging student work, enjoy pop-up performances, discover what happens behind the scenes and share your voice.

This event will provide students, families, staff and community members an authentic look at the many ways our local school district inspires and empowers students across all grade levels.

Come ready to **SEE, EXPERIENCE and CONNECT!**