MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

#SHAKERRISING

A QUALITY PROFILE FOR SHAKER HEIGHTS SCHOOLS
2025-2026

Shaker Heights Schools

hello,

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT the 2025-2026 edition of Measuring What Matters, the District's annual report to the community. Our theme this year is "Shaker Rising: Learning Starts Here." This theme speaks to the heart of who we are and what we do. Learning is at the heart of everything we do — not just for our students, but for faculty, staff and community.

This year, we are proud to highlight our youngest scholars, who are beginning their journey at our award-winning preschool program at the new Ludlow Early Learning Center. As they continue through school, our students build a strong foundation that helps them find pathways to their dreams. Whether those dreams lead them to a college classroom, a construction site or the Broadway stage, their learning starts here, in Shaker Heights, and it continues for a lifetime.

These are exciting times for the Shaker Heights Schools. Our Long-Term Master Facilities Plan is well underway, transforming our historic buildings into modern, 21st century learning spaces. Our students continue to excel. For the third straight year, the District earned an overall rating of four stars on the State Report Card, meaning we exceed state standards. Our music, art and theater programs are second to none, entertaining audiences around the world.

Our work continues to be grounded in two pillars: the rigorous International Baccalaureate framework, and our bedrock commitment to educational equity through inclusive excellence.

We are accomplishing all these things while being good stewards of public dollars. Just like you, we're tightening our belts and evaluating ways to reduce costs. Additionally, we have committed to further expense reductions annually.

Our success is made possible through the hard work of our world-class faculty, buildings and grounds crews, custodians, security monitors, clerical staff, and bus drivers who transport our children every day.

Most of all, they are made possible through your continued support. We are privileged to serve this caring community.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Glasner, Superintendent
Shaker Heights City School District

★★★★

OVERALL RATING:
EXCEEDS STATE STANDARDS

The Shaker Heights City School District is proud to continue its four-star rating on the 2025 State Report Card, reflecting a commitment to academic growth and student success.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Each student is valued
- Every student must succeed
- Diversity makes us stronger
- Breadth of experience is vital
- Fiscal responsibility is essential
- We are all accountable

THE SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Alison Bibb-Carson
Lora Cover
Pamela Scott
Douglas Wang
Heather Weingart

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

David Glasner, Ph.D.

TREASURER

Donté Hayes

the shaker experience

The Shaker Experience is unlike any other. The Shaker Heights Schools redefine education through a holistic approach from PreK to Grade 12. Our commitment to excellence ensures every student thrives academically, socially and emotionally in an inclusive and supportive environment.

Inclusive Excellence

One key aspect of the Shaker Experience is our commitment to inclusive excellence and engagement. We are dedicated to breaking down barriers to ensure academic success for all students and promote a sense of community and belonging. We believe that educational equity is not just an idea, but a goal we are determined to reach for all students.

The IB curriculum development process provides students with opportunities to think critically, engage across cultures, and prepare for a global future. This includes diversity and inclusion in all forms.

One shining example of our commitment to educational equity lies in the mission of the MAC Scholars (Minority Achievement Committee). The MAC Scholars program promotes confidence, pride, respect and increased achievement amongst Black students in Shaker Heights Schools, beginning in the elementary grades, and continuing throughout their High School experience. By supporting students with mentoring, advising, achievement supports, community service and leadership opportunities, the MAC Scholars program provides a space for Black students to be successful in a supportive environment.

International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate, an internationally recognized educational program with a rigorous curriculum, features a global focus and emphasizes creative problem-solving, hands-on projects, inquiry-based learning and community service.

As IB learners, our students study traditional subjects, meeting all state academic content standards. They are also encouraged to develop the ten attributes of an International Baccalaureate Learner: Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-taker, Balanced and Reflective.

The rigorous IB Programme gives Shaker students a competitive advantage and world-class education in this global economy. It also builds on the District's mission to nurture students who are civic-minded; who are confident, competent communicators, skillful in problem solving and capable of creative thinking; and who are knowledgeable of our global and multicultural society.

Arts and Athletics

Shaker Heights is also home to unparalleled opportunities in arts and athletics. We offer a wide range of courses, extracurricular activities and sports for students to explore their interests, develop skills and build friendships.

Beginning in elementary school, students are exposed to art in a variety of mediums, with weekly visual arts and music classes. Students receive general music education starting in Kindergarten, learn a diverse array of instruments in elementary school, then they may pursue performing or visual arts with world class music, theatre and art courses in high school.

In Shaker, athletics are more than just sports — they are a vital part of our community, fostering teamwork, discipline and school spirit. Our dedicated student-athletes and coaches strive for excellence both on and off the field. Our program offers a range of sports, providing students with the opportunity to develop their skills, build teamwork and foster a love for athletics.

real-world impact

Shaker Heights graduates leave the High School with the skills and experiences needed to succeed in college, a trade, the workforce or the military. The District's diverse educational opportunities give students multiple pathways after graduation.

MANY STUDENTS GRADUATE with college credits, certifications or internship hours that provide a head start — saving time and money while improving job prospects. Our programs also align education with workforce needs, from healthcare to construction to tech, benefiting our community, state and nation. Participation in pathway courses has risen steadily over the past four years. These include:

Advanced Placement (AP)

Students often graduate with college credits, certifications or internship hours that give them a valuable head start on their future.

Advanced Placement courses are rigorous and mirror college-level expectations, helping students build the skills needed for success after high school — critical thinking, time management, and academic writing. Students who take AP courses often feel more confident and better prepared for the demands of college coursework. AP courses show colleges that students are willing to challenge themselves. Admissions officers often view AP classes as indicators of academic ambition and discipline. In competitive college admissions, having AP courses can help students stand out from other applicants. College-bound students can earn college credit and placement, save money and time and explore new areas of study. Shaker Heights High School offers approximately 25 AP courses to choose from.

College Credit Plus (CCP)

Ohio's College Credit Plus program allows college-ready students to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from Ohio colleges and/or universities at little or no cost to families. This dual-enrollment program promotes rigorous academic pursuits and provides a variety of options to college-ready students in Grades 7-12, including students who may have an interest in pursuing a particular career pathway. CCP enables eligible students to take college courses for free — earning both high school and college credit at the same time. It's designed to increase access to college-level learning and reduce the overall cost of a college education.

DID YOU KNOW?:
Enrollment in Career-Technical Education (CTE) programs grew from 67 students in 2024-25 to 87 students in 2025-26, about a 30% increase.

IB Diploma Programme (IB DP)

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a rigorous, internationally recognized two-year academic program for High School students in Grades 11 and 12. It emphasizes intellectual challenge, personal growth and global awareness, preparing students for success in college and beyond. IB DP is an elective set of courses and experiences. The two-year commitment includes college-level classes in several subject areas, a class on critical and creative thinking, a research thesis and service-learning. Due to its rigor and focus on application and skills, DP students often receive preferential treatment in regards to admittance and scholarships to universities in the U.S. and around the world.

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Career Technical Education offers a strong academic and technical education to prepare students for college and careers. Heights Career Tech offers courses through a four-district consortium that provide an introduction to career fields through hands-on and simulated instruction and work-based learning. Students in CTE programs can earn industry-recognized credentials and some college credit before graduating from the High School.

strong starts

The Shaker Heights City School District is proud to open the Ludlow Early Learning Center, a Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) site funded by Cuyahoga County's Invest In Children initiative.

THIS INITIATIVE OFFERS a comprehensive early learning curriculum for children ages 3-5, designed to prepare them for a successful transition to kindergarten. The program emphasizes foundational skills in a nurturing and engaging environment within a newly renovated Ludlow school building.

A Universal Pre-Kindergarten site funded by Invest in Children.

This space is designed with early childhood learning in mind, featuring easy access to restrooms, spaces to accommodate occupational and physical therapy, a gymnasium, a multipurpose room, a secure vestibule entrance, outdoor learning spaces, flexible furniture designed for our youngest learners, smart storage and more. Ludlow continues to serve Shaker residents with playground equipment for preschool students and older children and community athletic fields.

The Ludlow Early Learning Center is the only preschool program in the state of Ohio to incorporate the prestigious International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) philosophy with continuation in Grades K-12.

The Shaker Heights Schools recently hosted a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting at the Ludlow Early Learning Center, which included a nod to Ludlow's significant ties to the civil rights movement, namely the Ludlow Community Association's success in integrating Ludlow Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood in the 1960s.

Ludlow serves as a dedicated space for early learning, providing a nurturing and educational environment for the District's youngest students. Supporting the developmental needs of preschool children, it plays a crucial role in fostering a foundation of lifelong learning.

DID YOU KNOW?:
The District has 138 students enrolled at the Ludlow Early Learning Center as of October 1, 2025, up from 92 in the 2024-2025 school year.

building opportunity

The Shaker Heights Schools are committed to enhancing the educational environment for students. The District is in the process of implementing its Long-Term Master Facilities Plan, which includes upgrades to each of the school buildings.

OUR VISION for all Shaker Heights children is they engage in their learning and growth in facilities:

- that are welcoming, modern and safe;
- promote academic excellence in inclusive, diverse, and integrated learning environments;
- are operated and maintained by a fiscally responsible school district.

The Long-Term Master Facilities Plan includes two segments with separate ballot initiatives. The community passed a bond issue in November 2023 to support Segment 1, which includes renovating Ludlow to reopen as a preschool center, renovating and expanding Woodbury to become the new Middle Years building, and renovating the elementary schools. Segment 2 includes renovating or building a new High School.

The Shaker Heights City School District is proud to welcome preschool students at the newly renovated Ludlow Early Learning Center for the 2025-2026 school year. The renovated Woodbury building will house students in Grades 6-8 as they begin the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Updated facilities, including modern classrooms and a newly built auditorium and natatorium at Woodbury, will provide a high-quality learning environment for our students to thrive. The center building of Woodbury, which was built in 1918, is being retained and renovated. The new building will include secure entrances and ADA accessibility. Woodbury is currently planned to reopen for Grades 6-8 in Fall 2027.

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code below to visit the District's webpage dedicated to the facilities process.

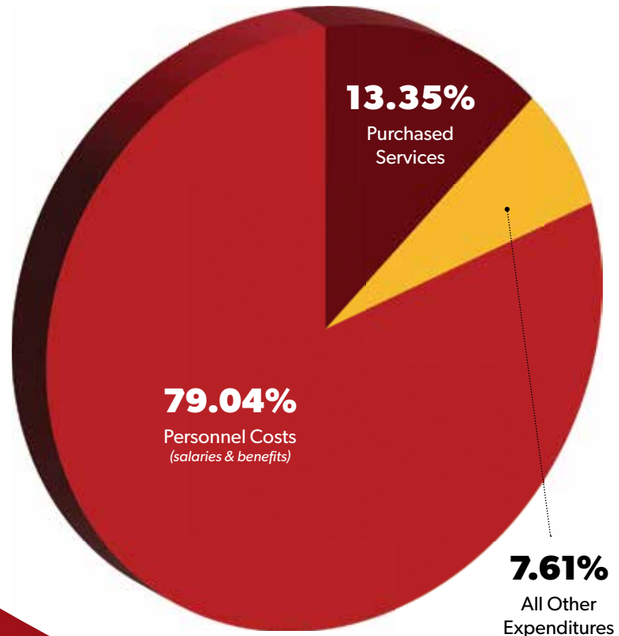
investing in our future

Strong schools depend on sound financial management. In Shaker Heights, we invest strategically, spend wisely and always keep students at the center of every decision.

THE SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT is committed to being a responsible steward of public funds while prioritizing investments that directly support student learning and well-being. With one of the lowest administrative cost rates in Cuyahoga County and a strong record of financial transparency, the District maximizes resources for classrooms and support services. Careful planning and thoughtful reductions allow us to sustain excellence in education while honoring the trust of our community.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
TOTAL = $119.4 MILLION



Fiscal Responsibility with a Student-First Focus

The District prioritizes spending where it matters most — directly in the classroom and in support of students' social and emotional well-being.

The District's good management practices have not gone unnoticed. Earlier this year, the District applied for the Ohio Credit Enhancement Program. As a result, Standard & Poor's upgraded the District's long-term bond rating from AA to AA+, ensuring that the District can continue to enjoy favorable borrowing rates. The Treasurer's Office each year receives numerous accolades and commendations from the Auditor of State and from professional organizations that acknowledge the accuracy and integrity of the District's financial reporting.

In the Shaker Heights Schools, every decision is made with care and every investment reflects the District's mission: to give students the best possible education while being responsible stewards of the community's resources.

DID YOU KNOW?: District expenses are expected to increase by 4% annually through Fiscal Year 2029, while revenues are expected to increase by less than 1%. Salary and wages account for 58% of the District's general fund spending. Salaries and wages have increased at a historical rate of 3.1% percent, and are expected to increase at a rate of 3.5% in the coming years.

Keeping Administrative Costs Low

The Shaker Heights City School District's goal is to maximize resources for instruction and support services. According to the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC), a nonpartisan government agency that provides research, drafting, budget analysis and other support services to members of the Ohio General Assembly, Shaker Heights ranks in the bottom third of Cuyahoga County school districts in the percentage of its budget spent on administrative expenses. The analysis found that the District spent 8 percent of its annual operating budget on administrative expenses in FY24.

Investing Wisely, Planning Responsibly

Ohio's school funding system places a significant burden on local taxpayers. In Shaker Heights, about 70 percent of the District's revenue comes from local property taxes. But due to House Bill 920, passed in 1976, school districts do not receive additional revenue when property values rise or inflation increases. Instead, tax revenue from voter-approved levies is frozen at the amount approved, which is why most districts need to return to voters to request new operating levies, typically every two or three years. In recent years, the Shaker Heights City School District has worked hard to delay that cycle, and has not sought a new operating levy since 2014. Temporary COVID-19 relief funds and a period of low inflation helped the District stretch its dollars further — and it has used that time to plan responsibly.

The District has already identified $2.5 million in cost-saving opportunities, and we are committed to continuing this work by finding additional reductions each year. These reductions are thoughtful and strategic. The District is identifying efficiencies in purchasing and using strategic attrition — such as retirements and resignations — to avoid layoffs and maintain high-quality instruction for students.

The District remains committed to being transparent, efficient and fiscally responsible, while continuing to provide an excellent education for every student in Shaker Heights.

innovative education

Shaker Heights Schools offers a wide range of programs that prepare students for college, careers, and creative pursuits. From hands-on Career Technical Education to personalized learning at The IC to innovative design labs, students have multiple pathways to explore their interests, develop skills and thrive.

Career Technical Education

Heights Career Tech Consortium Career Technical Education (CTE) programs offer a strong academic and technical education to prepare students for college and careers. The programs provide an introduction to career fields through hands-on and simulated instruction and work-based learning for 11th- and 12th-grade students. Students in CTE programs can earn industry-recognized credentials and some college credit before graduating from high school. CTE programs include audio engineering, culinary arts, digital video production, robotics, sports medicine and more.

Innovative Center for Personalized Learning

The Innovative Center for Personalized Learning, also known as the IC, serves students interested in a non-traditional high school experience that gives them more voice and choice over when, where, how and what they learn as they advance toward high school graduation and a college and career path of their choosing.

Learning at the IC begins with each student's strengths, interests and needs and is facilitated by an outstanding team of SHTA educators. The IC is designated as a blended-learning model school, which allows students to complete their course work through a mix of online learning and in-person project-based learning facilitated by our IC educators and aligned to student interests, community needs and IB approaches to teaching and learning.

The IC is guided by the District's mission, vision, equity policy and strategic plan as well as the values of health and wellness, inclusive excellence, personalization, community partnerships and teachers and students as co-designers of meaningful, authentic learning that lasts.

Design Labs

The Shaker Schools Foundation supported elementary schools and Shaker Heights Middle School with equipment for design labs. These unique spaces provide students with a place to express their creativity — anything from art to technology to engineering. The goal is to have the design cycle embedded into all classrooms, opposed to existing only as a stand-alone program or class. The use of design labs also bolsters accessibility to and use of 21st-century technology and tools across all classrooms. This will lead to increased academic opportunities and pathways for all students and student achievement improvements.

Design labs have flexible furniture to accommodate student collaboration. Students have access to a diverse array of equipment, including art supplies, tools, 3D printers, a wind tunnel and more. These labs increase opportunities to integrate design learning experiences and science, math, the arts and engineering into the curriculum. Even teachers in other subjects, such as history, can use tools in the design labs to infuse technology and design concepts into their lessons. With a design lab, teachers have the opportunity to challenge their students to think outside the box.

together we thrive

Communities play a huge role in supporting public schools, and their collaboration can make a big difference in student success and school quality.

THE DISTRICT'S Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) helps to harness crucial community resources and build relationships. The mission of FACE is to collaborate with groups and organizations to develop outreach activities, programs, mentoring and partnerships designed to foster student achievement and engage parents in the educational process.

The **Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)** is a crucial partner in this effort. PTO Council is the umbrella organization overseeing, guiding and collaborating with each school's PTO unit. PTO Council provides educational grants to teachers and supports enrichment activities in each school building.

The **Shaker Band Boosters** support the Shaker Heights band programs by coordinating events, contributing financially, communicating, and soliciting volunteers to assist with events throughout the year.

ChOrD (Choir and Orchestra Devotees) is an organization that encourages and welcomes all choir and orchestra parents and guardians to become involved by offering their support for "behind the scenes" activities, including hospitality, communication and student scholarships.

The **Shaker Heights Sports Boosters** is a nonprofit organization that champions a thriving athletic community with opportunities for all Shaker Heights Schools student-athletes in Grades 7-12. Membership is open to those who want to support all Shaker athletes, and supports all of our teams with the resources they need to excel.

FORWARD TOGETHER

Forward Together is a collaborative planning process involving the City, the Shaker Heights Public Library and the District. Launched in 2019 with a focus on facilities, Forward Together has expanded beyond physical buildings to issues of community interest, such as absenteeism.

SHAKER SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Advancing Equity, Opportunity & Excellence

The Shaker Schools Foundation proudly supports the District's strategic initiatives by raising and distributing funds that enhance academics, arts, athletics, technology, social-emotional learning, and co-curricular opportunities for all students.

YOUR GIFTS SUPPORTED THESE PROJECTS AND MORE IN 2024-2025:

Elementary Schools
- Preschool Literacy Night
- The Lion King musical at Lomond
- Jungle Terry presentations at Boulevard
- In-line Skating Program at Onaway
- Learning the Ropes at Fernway
- Boys Empowerment Group at Mercer

Middle School
- Screenagers film presentation
- Hands-on Food Science Class
- Sixth Grade Camp & 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
- MAC Scholars trip to Detroit

High School
- ArtExposed Student Art Show
- New Recording/Podcast Studio
- T-shirt printer for design projects
- RTA passes for attendance support
- Travel assistance for 41 students on international trips

And More!
- More than 200 students supported with sports & extracurricular fees
- Cultural festivals including Chinese New Year and Mano e Mano El Festival
- A wide range of field trips, including Fieldstone Farm, Lake Farm Park, Cleveland Cavaliers, Playhouse Square, Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, CWRU Think[box] and Djapo Cultural Arts

Together, these programs enrich learning, expand horizons, and ensure that all Shaker students have access to meaningful experiences.

To support these programs or learn more about upcoming events, visit shakerschoolsfoundation.org or contact:

Holly McCormick, Executive Director
216-295-4325

The Shaker Schools Foundation helped to support a trip to China for students in June 2025.

SAVE THE DATE

A Night for the Red & White:
Saturday, March 14, 2026 | 7 p.m. | The Agora
Join us for our annual benefit to support Shaker students!

THE SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15600 Parkland Drive
Shaker Heights, OH 44120
p: 216.295.1400

www.shaker.org

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2025 grad stats

350 GRADS

13 Shaker Heights High School seniors who were named National Merit Finalists or Commended Students in 2025

28 Grads ready for certification and/or job placement from the Career Technical Education (CTE) program

29 Student-athletes in eleven sports committed to athletics after high school

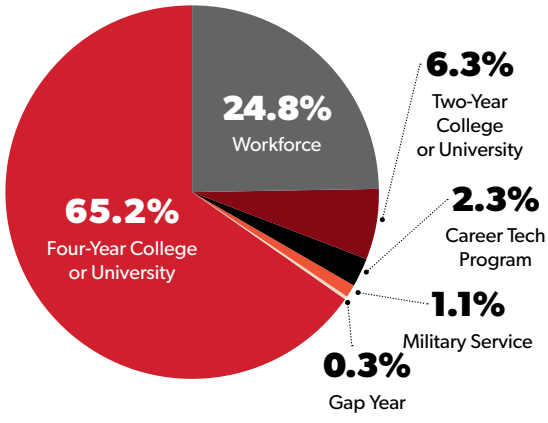
ACCEPTANCES BY THE NUMBERS

- **16** Acceptances to the Top 25 Schools *(as ranked by U.S. News & World Report)*
- **95** Acceptances from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- **22** Acceptances at Institutions through Early Decision
- **6** Acceptances to Institutions Outside the United States
- **3** Acceptances to Ivy League Schools
- **10** Acceptances to the Top 25 Liberal Arts Colleges *(as ranked by U.S. News & World Report)*
- **8** Acceptances at Visual Arts Colleges

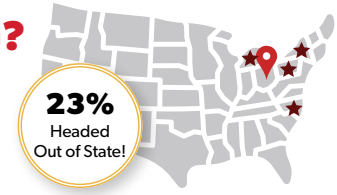
82 Graduates heading to school with credit through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program

POST-GRADUATION PLANS

What our 2025 grads are up to now!



WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

Top Out-of-State Destinations: New York, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania

One student is going international!