OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 12, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

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BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brandon Lester

Board of Education President

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DISTRICT FINANCIAL PRECAUTION PLAN

Todd R. Meyer, Superintendent

Ryan Jenkins, Treasurer

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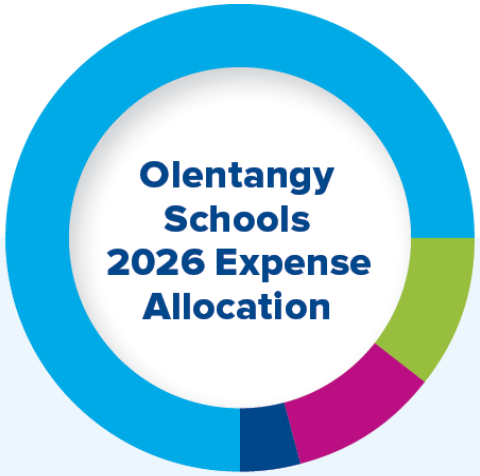
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Resource Stewardship
- Impact of Growth on School District Funding
- Why a Financial Precaution Plan is Needed
- Plan Moving Forward: Three-Phase Approach
  - Phase 1: Changes to Assumptions
  - Phase 2: Implemented for the 2027-28 School Year
  - Phase 3: Implemented after June 30, 2028 (if needed)
- Looking Ahead

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Olentangy is committed to managing taxpayer dollars responsibly while maintaining the staff, programs, and learning environments students need to succeed.

For the 2025-26 school year, only six of the 607 traditional public schools in Ohio dedicated a higher percentage of expenditures to classroom instruction, and 45 spent less on administration as a percentage of total operational expenses.



75.53%
Instructional*

10.33%
Administrative Costs**

10.14%
Operation of Facilities and Food Service

4.00%
Student Transportation

**Includes instruction provided by teachers, pupil and staff support services*

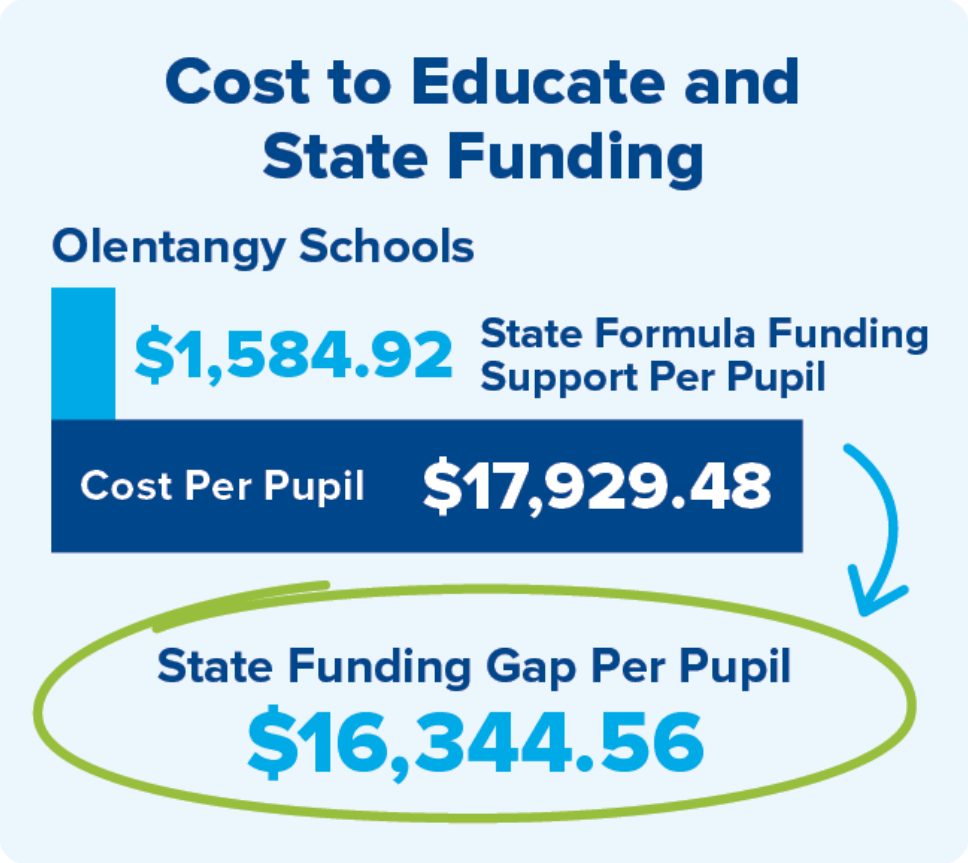
***Central office expenses, part of administrative costs: 6.4%*

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

COST AVOIDANCE

Category	Total Savings FY20-26	Description
Bus Route Avoidance or Elimination	$715,000	Through additional walk zones and routing efficiencies
Architectural Savings from Prototype	$10,642,578	2016, 2020, 2025 Bond
Energy Savings Program	$3,500,000	Energy Savings FY20-26
Premium Holiday/Insurance Savings	$6,400,000	District portion of premium savings through self-insured health insurance premium holiday
Debt Refundings Since 2020	$20,483,874	Savings gained by refinancing existing debt
1 1/4 mill debt service reduction	$8,482,172	Decrease in 2023 taxes for community
Elementary fee reduction	$300,000	Elementary fees dropped from $30/year to $0/year
1/4 mill debt service reduction	$1,747,900	Decrease in 2024 taxes for community
Staffing Savings FY24-FY26	$5,255,265	Various Staffing Adjustments, Reductions, etc.
Staffing Savings FY27	$3,079,595	FY27 Staffing Adjustments, Reductions, etc.
1/4 mill debt service reduction	$2,060,562	Decrease in 2026 taxes for community
Total	**$62,666,947**	

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP



Providing an exceptional educational experience requires careful stewardship of the resources entrusted to Olentangy Schools. The district earns the support of our community by being financially responsible without sacrificing educational excellence. Through efficient and deliberate management of taxpayer funds, we deliver an exceptional value in public education.

- Olentangy's cost per pupil is **$500-$600 per pupil less** when compared with other high-achieving central Ohio school districts.
- Olentangy's cost per pupil is **$3,000+ per pupil less** when compared with Ohio school districts with similar enrollments.

HOW GROWTH IMPACTS SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING

As a school district grows, and property values grow, many believe that results in additional real estate taxes to support the additional costs for students and staffing.

Reasons this is not reality:

- HB 920 eliminates aggregate real estate tax growth on existing properties as tax rates are decreased when property values increase.
- While new properties are added each year, the additional real estate tax revenue on these new properties is not enough to pay for the added costs of additional students that move into the new home.
- Recent property tax reforms now limit the growth of real estate taxes generated by inside millage to the rate of inflation over the previous three years.
- State funding has not generally 'filled' the gaps between local tax revenues and the cost to educate students. While the district supports the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP), the plan continues to rely on outdated inputs (i.e., using cost data from Fiscal Year 2022) that drive the state's share of the funding formula.

WHY A FINANCIAL PRECAUTION PLAN IS NEEDED

- Olentangy updates our financial forecast twice each year. In February 2026, our forecast showed a negative cash balance in FY29.
- The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is required to examine financial forecasts to determine if a school district has the potential to incur a deficit.
- In collaboration with ODEW, the District is adopting a required a "financial precaution plan" to show how we might balance the budget in 2028-29 without a new operating levy:
  - Olentangy's financial forecast shows a negative cash balance in FY29
  - At that time, our options will be to reduce spending or increase revenue via a levy, but ODEW doesn't let districts count on a levy until it passes
  - The precaution plan is **NOT** a cut list
  - An actual cut list would be Board-approved after announcing our plan to be on the ballot

WHY A FINANCIAL PRECAUTION PLAN IS NEEDED

Olentangy must identify and implement changes to the August 2026 financial forecast that:

- Change assumptions to revenues or expenditures to reflect any updates to the forecast
- Enhance revenues
- Reduce expenditures
- Using changed assumptions, enhanced revenues and reduced expenditures from Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028
- Using all revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions in previous steps, analyze the forecasted cash balance in Fiscal Year 2029; if a cash deficit remains, the District must implement additional plan items to eliminate the cash deficit forecasted at the end of Fiscal Year 2029

PLAN MOVING FORWARD

THREE-PHASE APPROACH

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CHANGES TO ASSUMPTIONS

BUDGET CUTS/ADJUSTMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FEBRUARY 2027 FINANCIAL FORECAST

Assumption Change	2027 Adjustment	2028 Adjustment	2029 Adjustment
Transfer from 070 Fund	$7,226,168	$0	$0
Transfer from 027 Fund	$4,364,469	$0	$0
Health Insurance Increases	($1,513,131)	($2,462,999)	($2,491,174)
Interest Assumptions	$0	$323,271	$622,297
Reduce Other Objects	$1,750,000	$2,065,334	$2,138,134
Reduce Capital Outlay	$1,095,330	$0	$0
Forecasted COLA Wages to 0% FY29	$0	$0	$7,239,504
Total by Year	**$12,922,836**	**($74,394)**	**$7,508,761**

PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR

Plan Item to be Implemented by June 30, 2027	2028 Adjustment	2029 Adjustment
Pay to Participate Fees from $80 to $120	$311,280	$311,280
Reduce Departmental & Bldg. Budgets by 10%	$4,554,054	$4,690,676
Total by Year	**$4,865,334**	**$5,001,956**
Cumulative Total for Plans to be Implemented by June 30, 2027	**$4,865,334**	**$9,867,290**
Cumulative Total for Plans to be Implemented by June 30, 2027, with Updated Assumptions	**$17,713,776**	**$30,224,493**

PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER JUNE 30, 2028

Plan Item to be Implemented after June 30, 2028	FY 2029 Adjustment
RIF Staff x 166 + Unemployment offsets	$14,455,579
Eliminate interscholastic athletics	$7,988,575
Eliminate HS Busing	$398,738
Eliminate Field Trips	$278,015
Eliminate Professional Development Subs	$595,251
Total by Year for Plan	**$23,716,158**
Cumulative Total with Updated Assumptions and All Plans approved before/after June 30, 2027	**$53,940,651**

- This is a fluid document that serves as a framework for the measures enacted to achieve the goal of eliminating cash deficits. It should not be interpreted as a formal cut list.
- The goal of the document is to facilitate planning and thoughtful discussion about these topics, and the members of the Board of Education will continue to deliberate about them throughout the 2027-28 school year.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Olentangy Schools has not passed an operating levy since 2020.** The district has made its last operating levy, passed in April 2020, last for 6 years – and a total of over 7 years before the next planned levy. A lower operating ask failed in 2024.
- **WHEN** will the district seek additional operating funds? The next election dates are:
  - Tuesday, May 4, 2027 – Special Election
  - Tuesday, November 2, 2027 – General Election
  - Tuesday, March 21, 2028 – Presidential Primary
- **WHAT** type of levy will the district seek? Options are a traditional fixed-rate property tax levy, an income tax, or an earned income tax.
- **HOW MUCH** will the district need to ask for to effectively operate the District?

Olentangy will continue to monitor its finances accountably and transparently, but growth challenges will put a strain on resource needs, and by extension, the length of levy cycles.

Should an operating levy pass before the 2028-29 school year, the district's intention is to NOT enact the final measures in the plan, resulting in $23.716 million in 'lost' cash balance.

LOOKING AHEAD

- District leadership is always interested in "stretching the dollar" as much as possible, so be prepared to tighten budgets further in the coming years.
- Our elected officials will have an opportunity to secure more state funding for Olentangy during the next state budget cycle, which will occur through the first 5 months of 2027.
- Treasury to update the Board of Education on a quarterly basis.
- The Financial Forecast will be updated in February and August 2027.

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QUESTIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Todd R. Meyer

Superintendent

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STUDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Our new "Token of Gratitude" program celebrates the everyday actions, meaningful moments, and extra efforts that make a difference across Olentangy Schools. October was our first month for this recognition, and we celebrated our three Token of Gratitude recipients this morning.

Congratulations to:

- Janoah Lee, transportation driver
- Shawn Mickens, Wyandot Run Elementary physical education teacher
- Marissa Rice, Cheshire Elementary 4th grade teacher







STUDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Veterans Day was yesterday, Wednesday, November 11, and it is an important day of recognition and gratitude throughout Olentangy Schools. Each of our schools finds its own meaningful way to honor the veterans and active-duty military members in our community.

Two examples are Indian Springs Elementary and Liberty Middle School. Last Friday, both schools welcomed local veterans and active-duty military members for Veterans Day breakfasts, recognition with student performances, and classroom speakers to share their experiences, stories and perspectives with students.













INTERNAL PROCESSES

The 2026-27 Quality Profile is arriving at 56,181 residential home addresses this week.

The Quality Profile is one way that Olentangy Schools reports to taxpayers on the health of the district, shares stories, and quantifies its overall educational value in the six district pillars that encompass our Olentangy student experience.



SUPERINTENDENT ACTION ITEMS

- Accept, with regret, the following certified retirements:
  - Bussard, Kara, Wyandot Run Elementary teacher, effective August 3, 2027
  - Callaghan, Philip, Olentangy Hyatts Middle School teacher, effective August 3, 2027
  - Parker, Elizabeth, Olentangy Meadows Elementary teacher, effective May 31, 2027
- Accept, with regret, the following classified retirements:
  - Wright, Cheryl, Berlin Middle School secretary, effective January 5, 2027
- Recommend Approval of Student(s) for Graduation, Pending Certification of Completion of All District, State, and Local Requirements
- Recommend Approval of Student Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips

SUPERINTENDENT ACTION ITEMS

- Business Management and Facilities Items:
  - Declare transportation as impractical for students.
  - Recommend approval to purchase technology network equipment from Dayton Cincinnati Technology Services, LLC. (DCTS) in the amount of $207,647 for the district's Deer Haven Elementary project.
  - Recommend approval of a GMP #1 amendment with Elford, Inc. in the amount of $483,199 for a total estimated project cost of $3,400,708.
  - Recommend approval of Builder's Risk Insurance Policy with Ohio School Plan in the amount of $128,410 for the district's new Hyatts High School (#5).
  - Recommend approval of a Resolution to enter into an Amendment and Extension to the Electric Master Supply Agreement with Direct Energy Business, LLC. via the Ohio School Consortium.

2026 UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Classified Interview Day	Friday, November 20, 12 – 2 pm at the Olentangy Administrative Offices
Conference Exchange Day, No School	Wednesday, November 25
Professional Development Day, No School	Monday, November 30

Next Meeting:

Board of Education Regular Meeting	Thursday, December 10, 6:30 pm

TREASURER'S REPORT

Timothy Ryan Jenkins

Treasurer

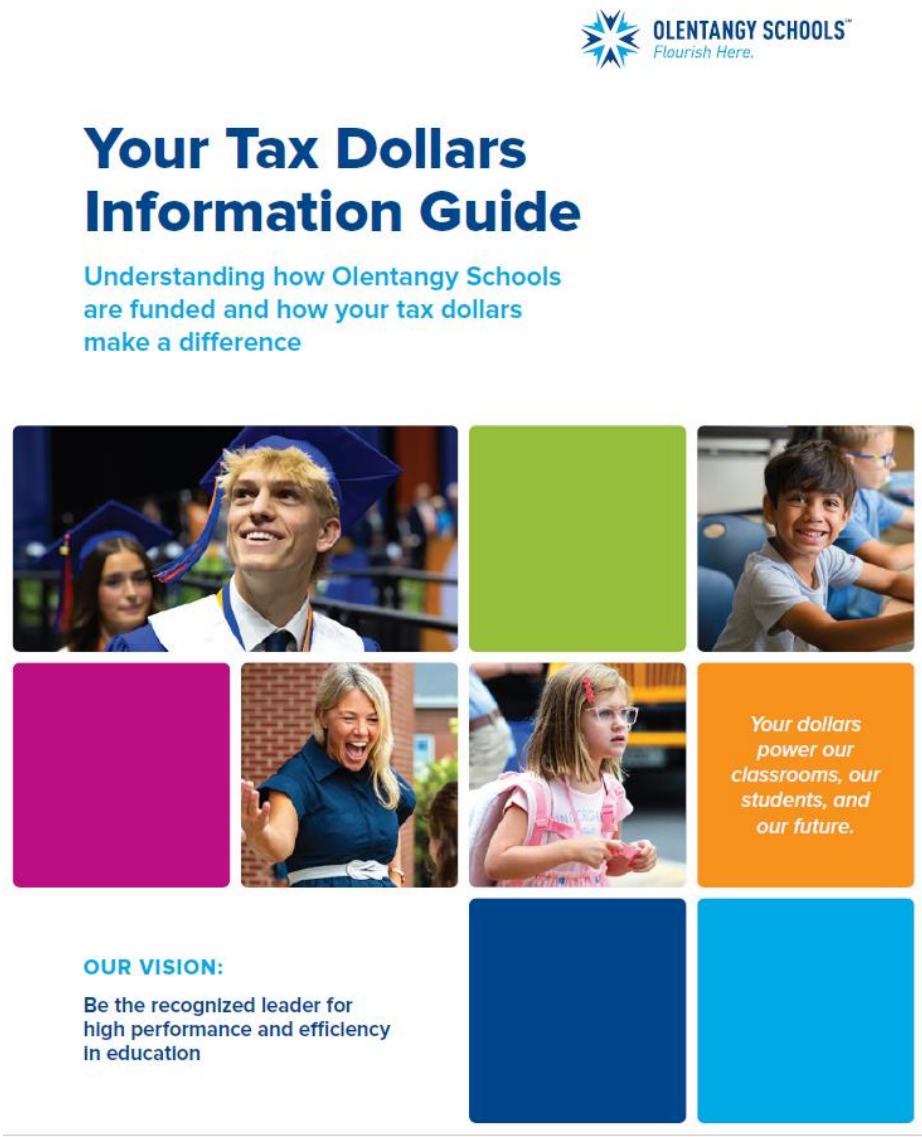
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YOUR TAX DOLLAR INFORMATION GUIDE

The Your Tax Dollars Information Guide is available now on our district website and is also linked in the Quality Profile mailed to every Olentangy resident.

This guide explains how schools are funded, how property taxes shape local education, and how Olentangy Schools uses those resources to serve students in a reflective, respectful, and responsible way. It is the foundation of our strategic initiative to educate our community on how Olentangy Schools, and all Ohio school districts, are funded.



TREASURER ACTION ITEMS

- Recommend Approval of Restated 08.27.26 BOE Meeting Minutes
- Recommend Approval of Restated 09.08.26 BOE Meeting Minutes
- Recommend Approval of BOE Meeting 10.22.26 Minutes
- Recommend Approval of BOE Special Meeting 10.29.26 Minutes
- Recommend the Acceptance of October 2026 Monthly Financials



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THANK YOU

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- Public participation is the community's time to present any ideas, issues, or concerns to the Board of Education.
- Public participation is not a dialog or discussion. It is an opportunity to present any ideas or concerns to the Board in a public forum. They will respectfully listen to the comments.
- Public participation will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- Each participant has a limit of 3 minutes.
- Participants must state their full name and address when stepping to the podium.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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BUSINESS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

Jeff Gordon

Chief Operations Officer

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BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES DISCUSSION ITEMS

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ACTION AGENDA

- Board Action Items
- Treasurer Action Items
- Superintendent Action Items

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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ADJOURNMENT

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