



October 2019

As a result of this past summer's proposed amendment to HB 166, the state budget bill, and the impact of potentially losing \$5.8 million had Governor DeWine not vetoed it, there have been many questions regarding financial stewardship of the District. Below are some facts to help our taxpayers understand and begin to answer their questions.

The District has income data dating back to 1986, and in that timespan, the median federally adjusted gross income has been in the top 3 in each of those years. Therefore, the quality of the school district represents the expectations of our families, supporting strong market values for our homes.

### **How can we explain our Cost Per Pupil (CPP)?**

The Treasurer has reviewed expenditure data over the past 12 fiscal years, and the district has been in the top 5 in Cost Per Pupil (CPP) in each of those years. Our school community has made the decision over generations to expect services far above and beyond most schools and communities across the state. These expectations have amounted to a higher than average CPP for much higher than average service as a value proposition.

The above-mentioned value proposition includes, but is not limited to:

- Cost per pupil calculations vary based on enrollment, with current subtle decline having an adverse effect
- Brady renovations increased the CPP last year by approximately \$1500
  - Over the past 3 years, average annual spending increase was 1.5% (excluding Brady renovation)
- Door-to-door busing in areas where this is possible for the safety of our students
- Robust, layered inclusive special education programming
  - In-house units for multiple-handicap and other programs staffed with our own employees, allowing the majority of our kids to be educated with their peers and within their own community
  - Placement options out-of-district, while rare, are planned collaboratively with the family
- Extensive identification and service practices for gifted education
- A small [student-teacher ratio](#) in all buildings
- Extensive arts and athletics programming, especially considering our size
- A highly experienced staff that is competitively compensated, allowing us to attract high quality candidates even in certification areas where quality candidates are more scarce (i.e. math, science, music...)
  - Destination District
  - Legacy costs related to negotiated salary schedule

- A comprehensive course catalog at OHS, second to none, especially considering school size
  - Extensive Advanced Placement (AP) offerings, allowing students the opportunity to access even the most selective college programs (The Big 10, Ivy League, etc.)
    - 24 AP offerings is more than most districts our size
  - 4 World Languages with a parent group requesting a 5th
  - Extensive electives, rounding out the 120+ course offerings
- A commitment to health and safety, as well as mental health and emotional needs as evidenced by school nurses and social workers in each, Moreland, Brady and OHS
- A full-time dedicated School Resource Officer is on-campus
- At least one additional School Support Officer is on campus daily as an additional investment in the safety of our students
- Hall monitors and paraprofessional educators are an investment in an environment that is more conducive to learning due to their efforts
- Internationally recognized Fab Lab in addition to maker spaces across campus
- Clubs and competitions available to kids due to an extensive supplemental program
- A sprawling campus seated on 172 acres, offering a park-like environment
- Well-maintained buildings on campus, equipped to deliver a high quality, modern education
- Robust technology network and equipment

**When was the last new money levy?**

The last ask for new money was in 2011 as a levy to meet district financial needs for about 5 years; if we go on the ballot in 2021, 10 years would mark the longest period between new money levies in at least 45 years

**What would the impact be if we lost a significant revenue source?**

If the district incurred a loss of approximately \$5.8 million in tax revenue:

- We estimate that it would take passage of a 5 mill levy to maintain current program and service funding levels
- This would be about \$175.00 per \$100,000 of property valuation imposed on remaining taxpayers just to maintain status quo
- That kind of loss to our tax base would negatively impact the financial standing of district and potentially imperil our bond rating
  - AAA and Aaa bond ratings (S&P, Moody) afford the constituent communities a more stable financial standing as well, resulting in lower borrowing costs

## **How can we best quantify our taxes as compared to our neighbors?**

Orange CSD has the [2nd lowest tax rate](#) in eastern Cuyahoga County (in the lowest third of the 31 districts countywide)

For a much more in-depth understanding, please take time to peruse our [District website](#) as well as the financial information available on the [Treasurer's webpage](#). Also, please feel free to contact [Lynn Campbell](#), Superintendent or [Todd Puster](#), Treasurer for more information.

## **Some Fiscal Stewardship Highlights:**

- The District has earned AAA and Aaa bond ratings (S&P, Moody) for 15 consecutive years
- Student-teacher ratio is trending slightly higher, while overall staff numbers are trending slightly lower
  - Attrition and programmatic decisions are carefully considered
- Current cost per pupil (CPP) remained essentially flat, reflecting careful spending decisions
- Overall professional development and travel spending has declined significantly in the last 5 year period (down approximately 35% since FY'13)
- Negotiated benefit plan design changes to constrain rate of premium cost increase
- Capital Improvement Plan prioritizes maintenance and campus updates
  - Permanent Improvement (PI) reserve is stable
  - Energy Conservation Project savings

## **Some Performance Highlights**

While there have been several key leadership changes over the past 5 years, Orange Schools have demonstrated stability and success, a testament to the dedication of our administrators, faculty and staff.

- Performance Index (PI) is steadily increasing
  - The current 105.4 represents an increase of nearly 1 whole point
  - Important to note PI is the key ranking metric for the state report card
- District achieved an overall "A" (one of only 4 districts to go from a B to an A statewide)
- At-risk subgroups all exceeded Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) expectations, indicating continued closing of achievement gaps
- Value Added subgroups, including lower 20%, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, gifted and the top 20% of students, all demonstrated more than a year's growth