

#FindYourGreatness

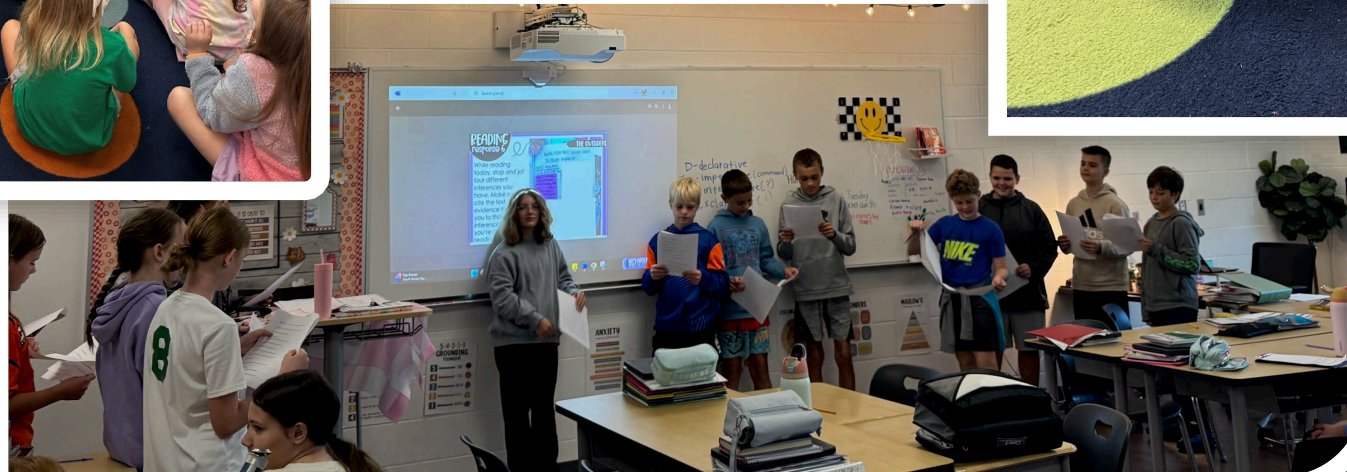


Town Hall  
September 29, 2025





# Southwest Local School District EXCELS at Preparing Students for Their Future!





# Southwest Local School District is Top Tier!



- 100% of Students Participate in Wellness Opportunities (*Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports, The Character Effect, Wildcat Wellness, Hope Squad, etc.*)
- Lowest Breakfast and Lunch Prices in the Area
- Ranked Among the Top Districts in Ohio for Transportation Efficiency

District	Overall Star Rating	College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Rating
St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City	3.5	1
Oak Hills Local	4	2
Deer Park Community City	3.5	2
Finneytown Local	2.5	2
Three Rivers Local	4.5	3
Forest Hills Local	4.5	3
Loveland City	4.5	3
Northwest Local	3.5	3
Wyoming City	5	3
Sycamore Community City	4.5	3
Reading Community City	3.5	3
Princeton City	4	3
Mariemont City	5	3
Winton Woods City	2.5	3
Mt. Healthy City	2.5	3
Cincinnati Public Schools	2.5	3
North College Hill City	2	3
Madeira City	5	4
Norwood City	3.5	4
Indian Hill Exempted Village	5	4
Lockland Local	3	4
Southwest Local	4	5

- 4 Stars on the State Report Card
- 5 Stars in College & Career Readiness
- 5 Stars on GAP Closing
- 96.04% Graduation Rate
- 92% of Students Participate in Extracurricular Activities



District IRN	District Name	County	Region	College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Rating	Number of Students in the 4- year Graduation Cohort who Completed a Pathway and are Prepared for College or Career Success	Graduation Cohort
048975	Put-In-Bay Local	Ottawa	Region 1	NR	<10	<10
049783	Fort Loramie Local	Shelby	Region 6	5 Stars	65	65
047621	Fairfield Local	Highland	Region 1	5 Stars	66	67
049684	Seneca East Local	Seneca	Region 7	5 Stars	60	61
047613	Bright Local	Highland	Region 1	5 Stars	44	45
048355	Sebring Local	Mahoning	Region 5	5 Stars	33	34
049817	Russia Local	Shelby	Region 6	5 Stars	33	34
049718	New Riegel Local	Seneca	Region 7	5 Stars	34	35
049064	Southern Local	Perry	Region 1	5 Stars	41	43
049361	Miller City-New Cleveland Local	Putnam	Region 1	5 Stars	40	42
045336	Covington Exempted Village	Miami	Region 1	5 Stars	58	61
048421	Pleasant Local	Marion	Region 7	5 Stars	73	77
048439	Ridgedale Local	Marion	Region 7	5 Stars	36	38
049775	Fairlawn Local	Shelby	Region 6	5 Stars	34	36
048553	Marion Local	Mercer	Region 6	5 Stars	48	51
046649	Franklin Monroe Local	Darke	Region 1	5 Stars	47	50
048595	Fort Recovery Local	Mercer	Region 6	5 Stars	72	77
050252	Weathersfield Local	Trumbull	Region 5	5 Stars	68	73
045401	Greenfield Exempted Village	Highland	Region 1	5 Stars	147	158
048397	Western Reserve Local	Mahoning	Region 5	5 Stars	50	54
045377	Georgetown Exempted Village	Brown	Region 1	5 Stars	86	93
048819	Northmor Local	Morrow	Region 7	5 Stars	71	77
049759	Anna Local	Shelby	Region 6	5 Stars	71	77
044065	Girard City School District	Trumbull	Region 5	5 Stars	105	114
048637	Newton Local	Miami	Region 1	5 Stars	46	50
048587	St Henry Consolidated Local	Mercer	Region 6	5 Stars	69	75
048090	Riverside Local	Logan	Region 6	5 Stars	43	47
050484	Fort Frye Local	Washington	Region 1	5 Stars	90	99
049791	Hardin-Houston Local	Shelby	Region 6	5 Stars	49	54
046383	Blanchester Local	Clinton	Region 1	5 Stars	95	105
049700	Hopewell-Loudon Local	Seneca	Region 7	5 Stars	47	52
044859	Struthers City	Mahoning	Region 5	5 Stars	110	122
044594	Oberlin City Schools	Lorain	Region 2	5 Stars	73	81
049569	Lakota Local	Sandusky	Region 1	5 Stars	63	70
050336	North Union Local School District	Union	Region 1	5 Stars	106	118
045229	Bradford Exempted Village	Miami	Region 1	5 Stars	34	38
049338	Jennings Local	Putnam	Region 1	5 Stars	33	37
047969	Symmes Valley Local	Lawrence	Region 1	5 Stars	57	64
048413	Elgin Local	Marion	Region 7	5 Stars	57	64
049387	Ottoville Local	Putnam	Region 1	5 Stars	31	35
047167	Berkshire Local	Geauga	Region 4	5 Stars	93	105
045534	Mount Gilead Exempted Village	Morrow	Region 7	5 Stars	54	61
045328	Columbiana Exempted Village	Columbiana	Region 5	5 Stars	61	69
045948	Minster Local	Auglaize	Region 6	5 Stars	61	69
048926	Benton Carroll Salem Local	Ottawa	Region 1	5 Stars	101	115
047589	Liberty Center Local	Henry	Region 1	5 Stars	78	89
050286	Indian Valley Local	Tuscarawas	Region 1	5 Stars	121	139
049353	Leipsic Local	Putnam	Region 1	5 Stars	39	45
049957	Tuslaw Local	Stark	Region 9	5 Stars	78	90
049841	Fairless Local	Stark	Region 9	5 Stars	103	119
050500	Warren Local	Washington	Region 1	5 Stars	142	164
049445	Lucas Local	Richland	Region 7	5 Stars	38	44
047381	<b>Southwest Local</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>5 Stars</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>320</b>
048322	Jackson-Milton Local	Mahoning	Region 5	5 Stars	50	58

- Out of 607 Districts in Ohio, Only 64 Earned a 5-Star Rating — Southwest Is One of Them
- We Prepare Students for Their Future Better Than 92% of Districts in the State
- The Only District in Ohio With a Graduating Class of 300+ to Achieve This Distinction
- For Districts Our Size, We Are #1 in the State



# Financial Efficiency and Community Trust

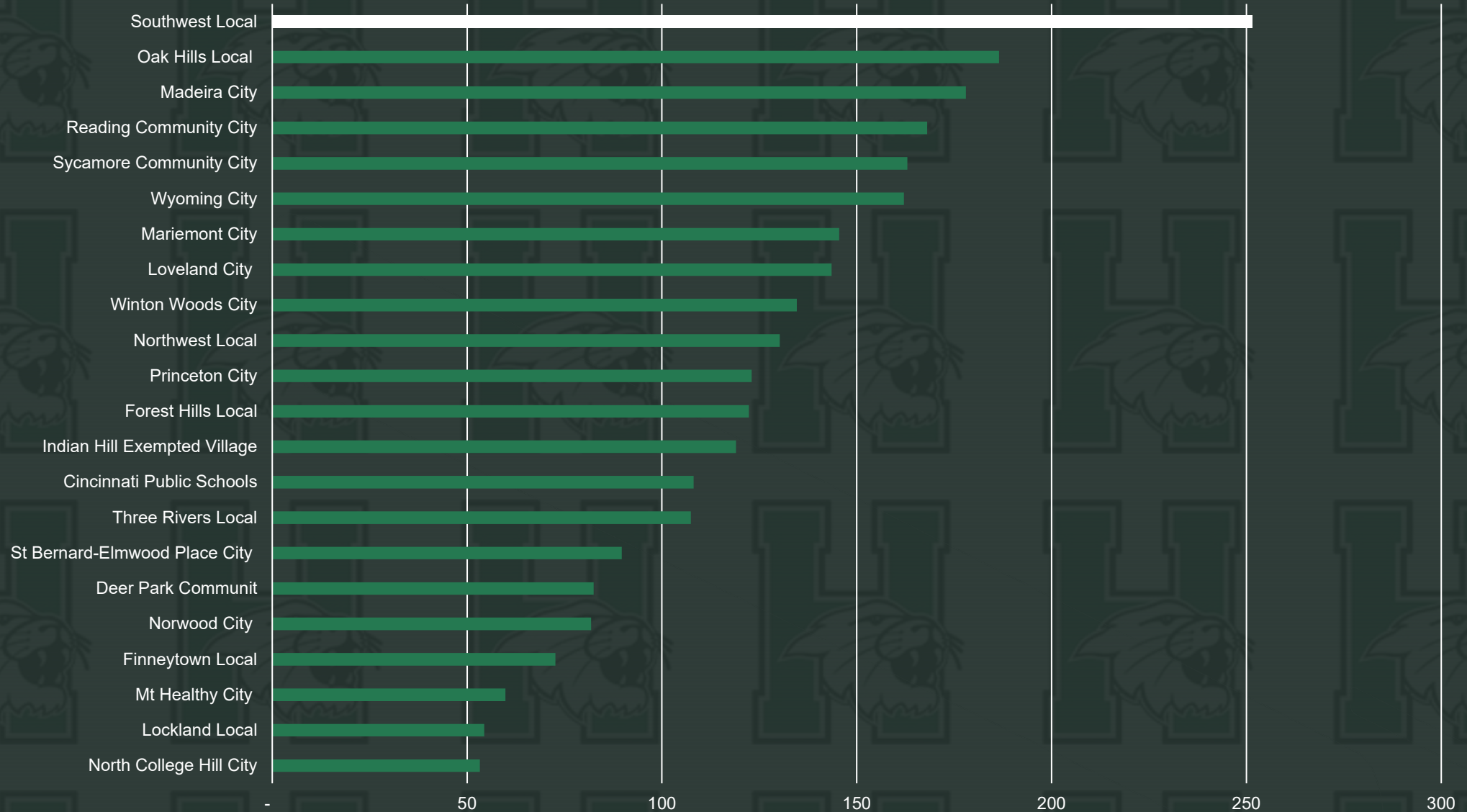


- Lowest Per-Student Spending in Hamilton County
- Clean Audits and Awards From the State of Ohio and Other Agencies Each Year
- Top 1% in Ohio for Fewest Administrators per Student
- **Top 2% in Ohio for Transportation Efficiency**  
*(1 fewer bus driver than in 2019 while transporting 450 more students)*
- **Food Service Operates at a Net Profit Each Year**  
*(Most Ohio districts must subsidize food service with general funds)*
- Consistently Ranked in the Top 10% of Ohio's Most Financially Efficient Districts
- Highest Student-to-Staff Ratio in Hamilton County
- 2nd Lowest Tax Rate in Hamilton County - Behind Indian Hill

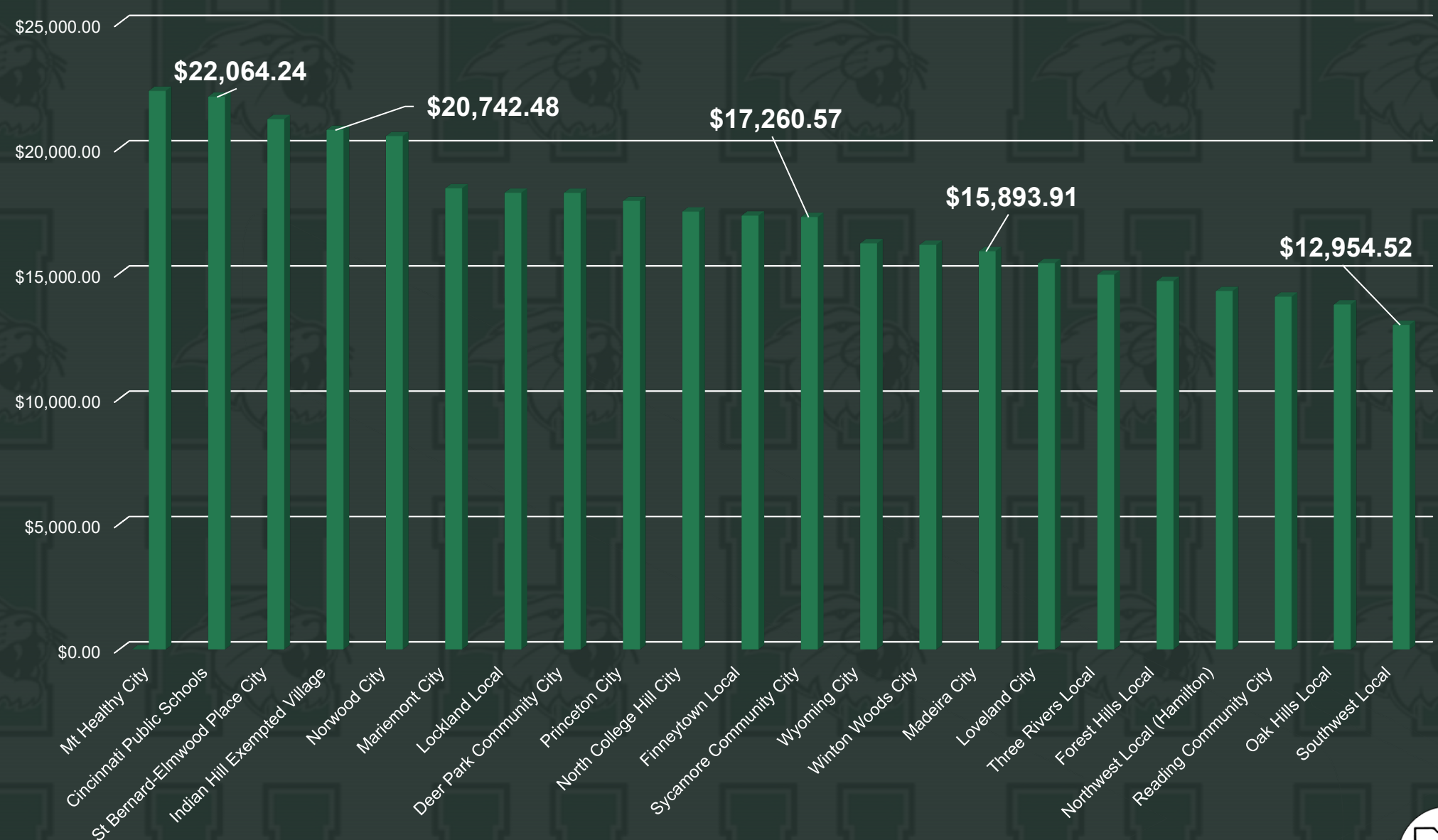




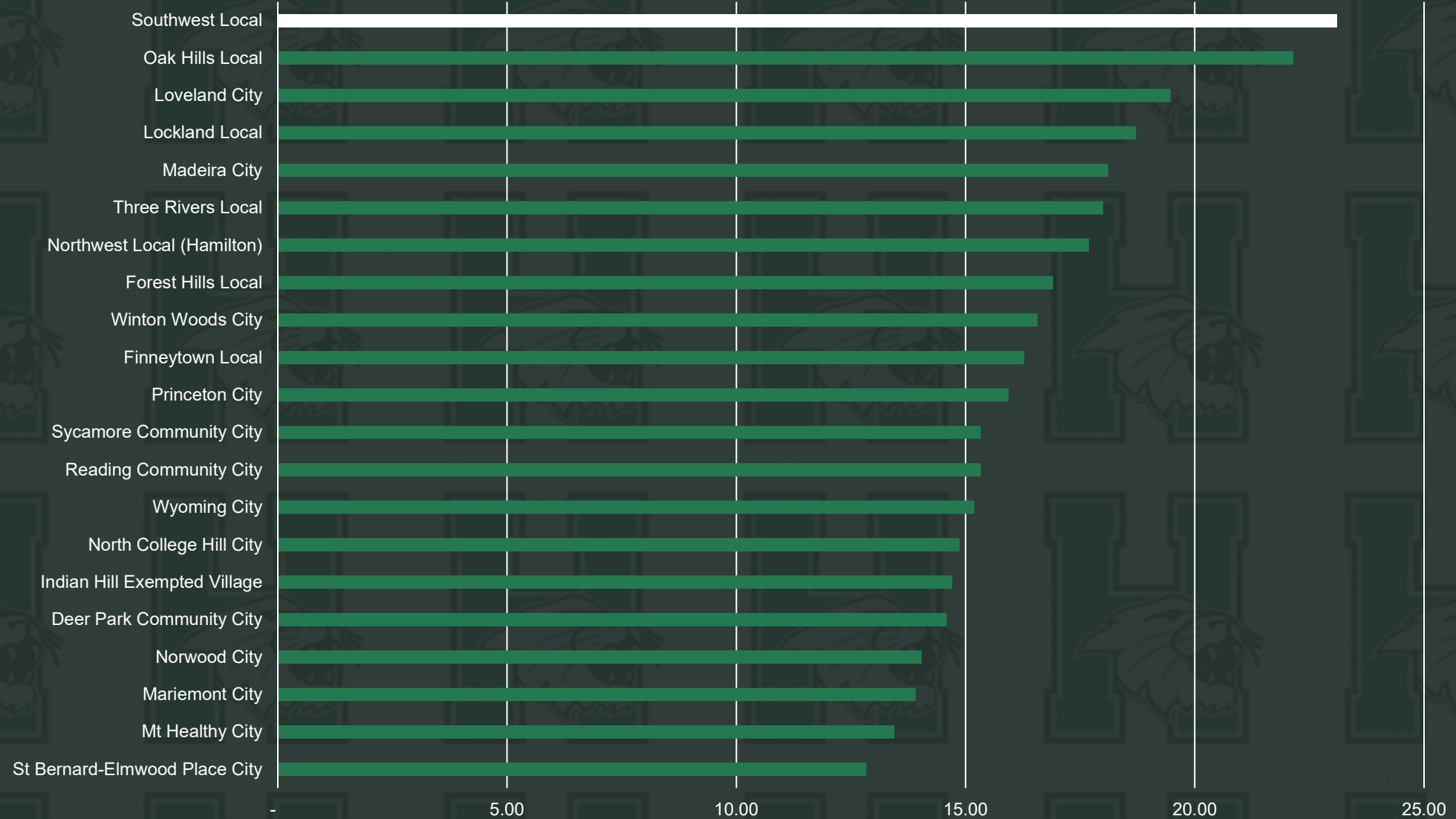
# Students Per Administrator



# 2024 Cost Per Student \* Source 2024 CUPP Report

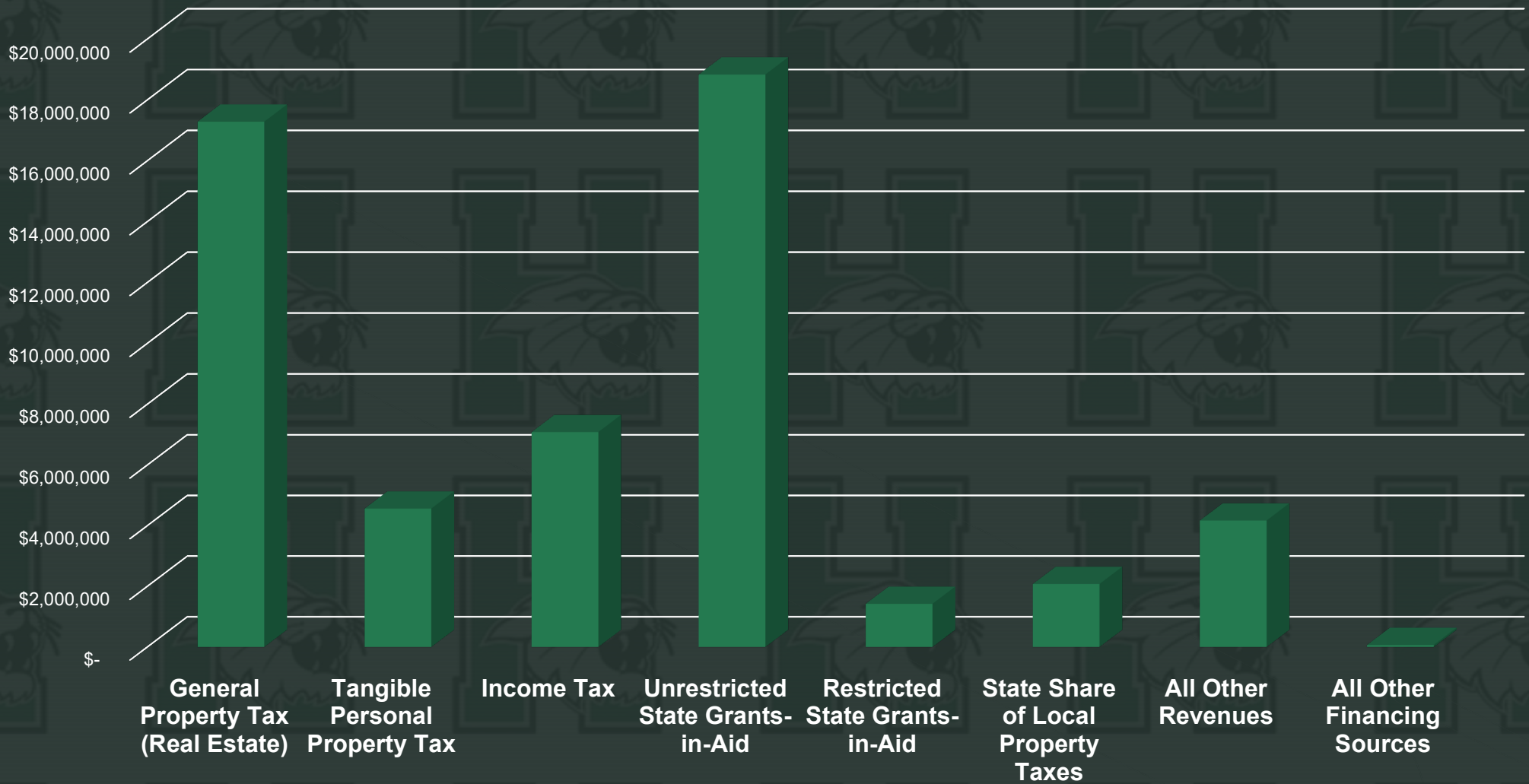


# Students Per Staff Ratio





# Revenues

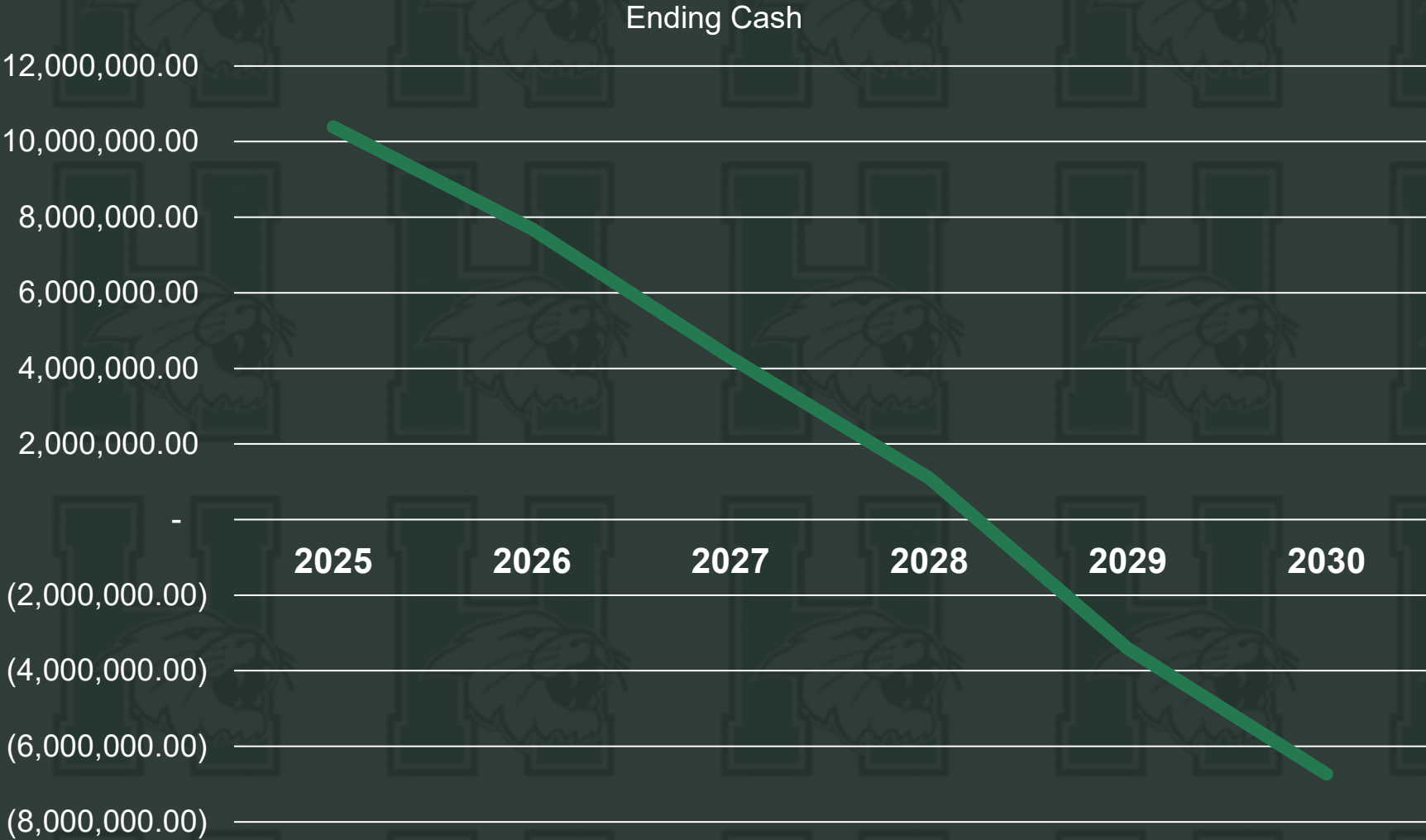


# Expenses (2025)





# Cash Position



# State Level Changes Driving Changes



## FACTS on House Bill 96

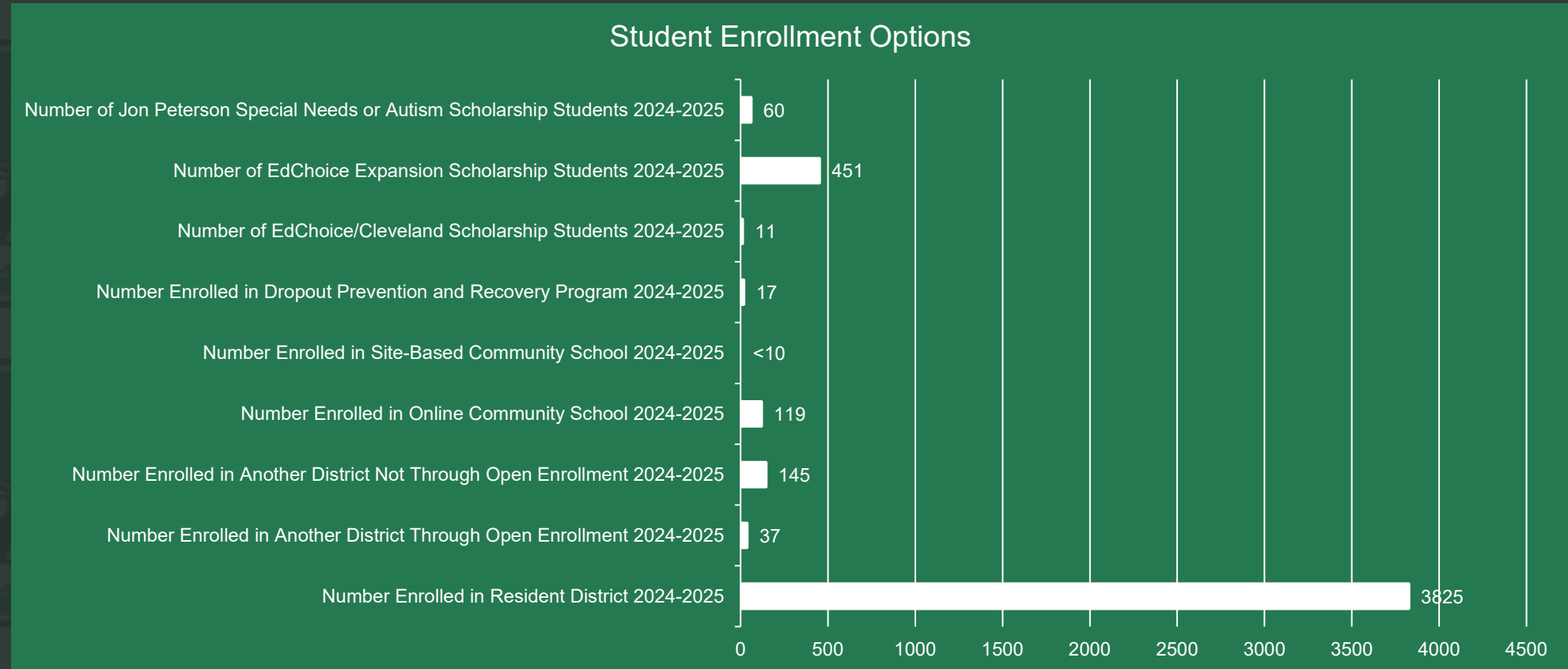
- State's Biennium Budget (House Bill 96 & Processes)
- **State Cut Nearly \$2M in Aid to Southwest**  
*(We had planned for a \$1M increase)*
- Private School Vouchers Receiving Significant Increases in State Aid
- Current Legislation Could Reduce Future Tax Revenues From the State:
  - **HB15** – Reduced Public Utility Taxes
  - **HB129** – School District Income Taxes Included in 20-Mill Floor
  - **HB186** – Limits Increases in Valuation for 20-Mill Floor Districts
  - **HB309** – Modifies County Budget Commissions





# 2024 – 2025 Parent Choice Data

Below is breakdown of that choice selected by families for Southwest Local Schools last year:



# Ed Choice Expansion Numbers (Vouchers) have Increased in Ohio by 333.6% Over the Last 3 Years!

School Year	Total number of Vouchers awarded STATEWIDE
2020-21	17,155
2021-22	20,702
2022-23	23,272
2023-24	87,112
2024-25	100,903 (Cost to taxpayers \$492,623,252.34)
School Year	Total number of Vouchers awarded in SLSD
2020-21	39
2021-22	44
2022-23	53
2023-24	416
2024-25	451 (\$3,792,008 of your tax dollars)





# HB96 Winners and Losers

- 
- Lakota Local +\$3,200,000
  - Indian Hill +\$745,000
  - Madeira +\$185,000
  - Ross +\$499,000
  - Winton Woods +\$3,529,000
  - Sycamore +\$3,647,704

- 
- Southwest Local -\$1,890,000
  - Columbus City Schools -\$6,575,000

- 
- Southwest Is 1 of Only 6 Districts Cut by Over \$1.5M in 2027
  - 12th Largest Cut in Ohio as a Percentage of State Revenues (-10.4%)
  - 17th Largest Total Cut Over the 2-Year Period (\$1,890,596)
  - 182 Districts Receive Less Aid
  - 24 Districts Lose at Least \$1.2M in Aid Over 2 Years



# Where Do We Go From Here?

- We Have **TWO** Options:
  - #1 – Significantly Decrease Spending by \$3M... OR
  - #2 – Increase Revenues Through an Operating Tax Levy
    - Levy options include:
      - Real Estate Permanent Levy
      - Real Estate Emergency Levy
      - Earned Income Tax.
    - All Levies (Except the Permanent Levy) Can Be Limited to a Set Time Period





# Activity

- Balance the Budget
  - Working through Tough Decisions to Make Cost Reductions Necessary to Balance the Budget after State Cuts



# Your Feedback


Scan the QR or use link to join



<https://forms.office.com/r/zq71b2krCi>

 Copy link

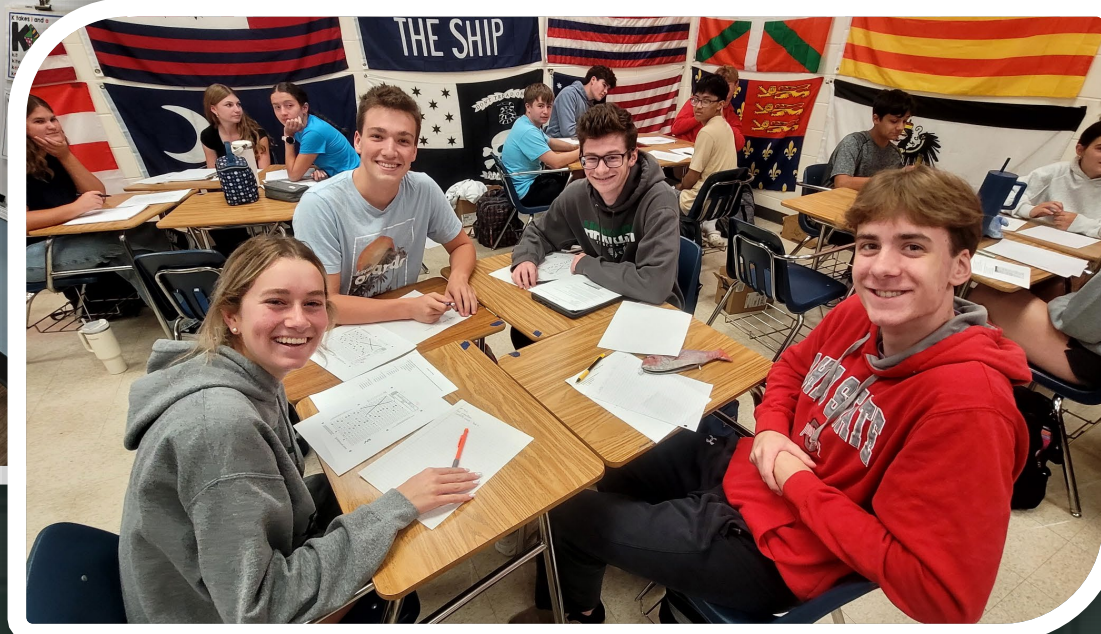
What surprised you most about how state decisions impact our district's finances?



Wordcloud All responses 1 of 5



# Thank You!



Questions? Email us at: [SLSDFacts@southwestschools.org](mailto:SLSDFacts@southwestschools.org)

