



READY FOR TOMORROW

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Ready For Tomorrow: Hilliard Schools Reimagines Education With New Portrait of a Learner, Strategic Plan

In 2022, Hilliard City Schools embarked on a journey to design a new North Star for the district. Through a months-long strategic planning process, we've developed a set of goals to help drive our work each day and establish a common language around teaching and learning.

Our Portrait of a Learner, created with our Strategic Design Team, was the first step in the process. Knowing that our future educational plan is made stronger when our community is involved, our Strategic Design Team was made up of more than 300 students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and business owners.

Together, we discussed and brainstormed what it means for our students to be Ready For Tomorrow. Our Portrait of a Learner paints a picture of the competencies we believe our students need to be prepared for employment, enlistment, enrollment,

or entrepreneurship in this fast-paced world.

How we will build these skills in our students is laid out in our strategic plan, which will be unveiled this spring. Learn more at hilliardschools.org/portrait-of-a-learner/ or scan the QR Code to hear from community members about how the Portrait of a Learner competencies translate in their daily lives.



Hilliard City School District Tops Ohio School Report Cards for Value-Added

We are excited to announce a remarkable achievement for the Hilliard City School District on the most recent Ohio School Report Card. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ranked us number one in the state for value-added performance.

This recognition underscores our commitment to providing exceptional educational value to our students. Value-added measures the significant progress our district's teachers facilitate in student performance over a school year, no matter where they started. It's a reflection of the effort of our instructional staff in pushing students forward.

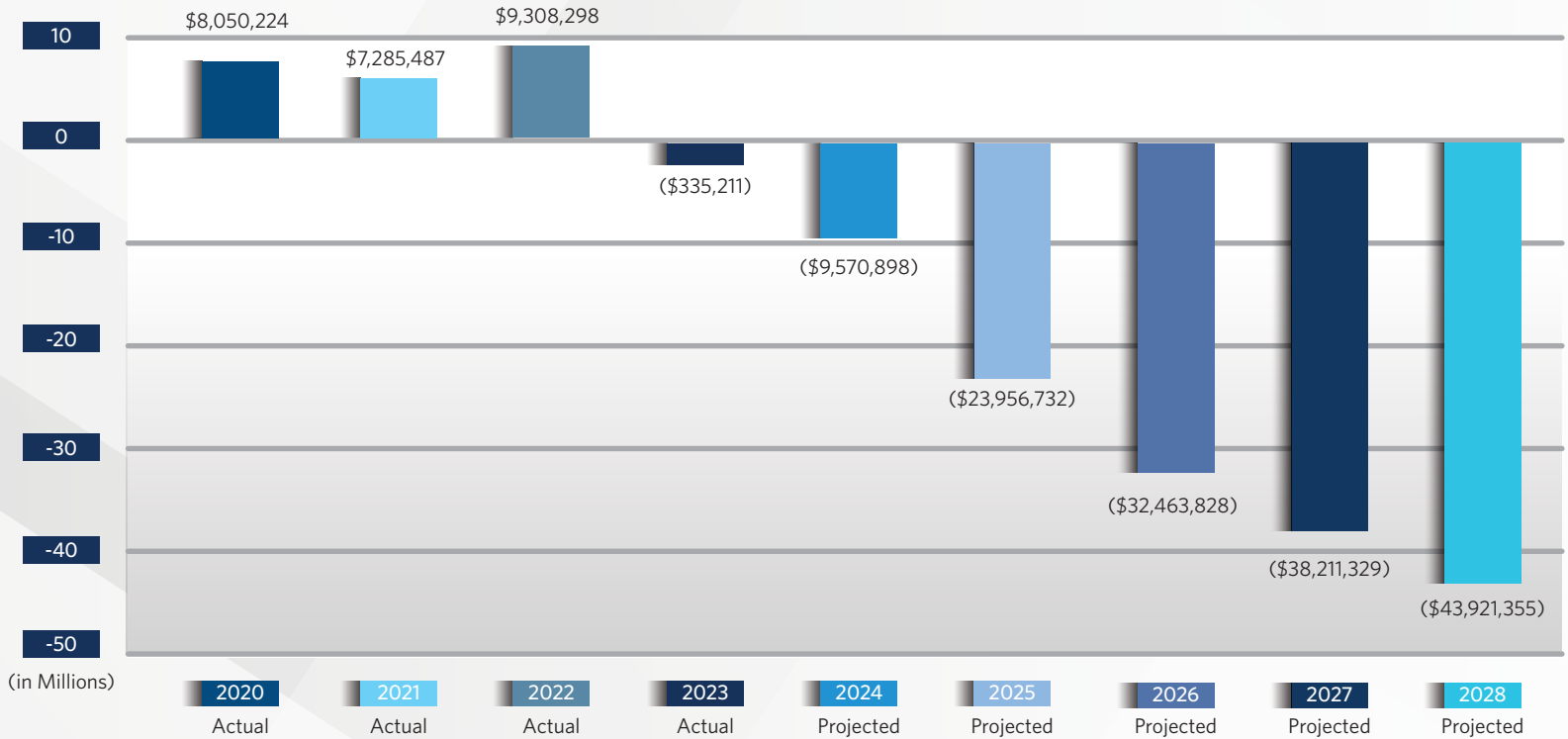
The overall value-added score comprises two components: the overall growth index and effect size. The district excelled in both aspects, securing the number one rank out of 608 districts for the overall growth index and 14th out of 607 districts for effect size.

This achievement stands as a testament to the collective efforts of our entire school community – from our teachers and administrators to our supportive families and engaged students.



Five Year Forecast

Annual Revenue Surplus/(Shortfall) By Fiscal Year



Beginning in Fiscal Year 2023, our district's expenditures exceeded our revenues. To manage this shortfall, we began to utilize our cash balance reserve. This means that the money we've saved up is being used to cover the gap between what we spend and what we bring in.

As we move forward, Treasurer Melissa Swearingen says, "It's essential to continue to be transparent about our financial situation. Our current five-year forecast, which was updated in November 2023, paints a clear picture of the challenges we face. According to this forecast, our cash balance is projected to decline rapidly, with the possibility of reaching a negative balance by the end of the 2027 school year." Our revenue is projected to grow by less than 1% annually, while our expenditures are projected to grow by more than 4% annually. One reason for this can be attributed to the changing demographics of our students. More students are coming to us needing more supports, which come at higher costs.

To provide some context, let's look back at previous levy initiatives. In November 2016, our community generously approved a 4.5 mil

operating levy. This was a significant step for our district, as it was the first operating levy request since 2011. At 4.5 mils, it was also the smallest operating levy request in over 30 years.

Looking ahead, we are exploring options to address our financial needs. One possibility is placing an operating levy on the ballot in November 2024. This decision will ultimately be made by the Board of Education with careful consideration and in consultation with our community.

We understand that these financial matters may raise questions or concerns. We want to assure you that we are committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency. You can find all current and archived reports by scanning the QR code below.



Master Facilities Plan Update

We are excited to share an update on the progress of the Master Facilities Plan (MFP), a collaborative effort involving community members, staff, and students to ensure the continued success of Hilliard City Schools.

Since February 2022, stakeholders have been actively engaged in phase two of the MFP, building upon the foundation laid by the Facilities Task Force in 2016. This ongoing process has focused on addressing several key areas, including our aging facilities, permanent improvement funding, growth projections, and enrollment capacity.

Deputy Superintendent Mike McDonough highlighted the extensive community feedback received through surveys and meetings, underscoring the commitment to transparency in decision-making regarding educational programs, facility usage, and capital investment.

The MFP recommendations being presented to the Board of Education will tackle fundamental

questions crucial to shaping our district's future:

- What schools will best prepare and inspire students to achieve their full potential?
- How will our student population change in the next five to ten years?
- What are the optimal sizes, numbers, and locations of schools to meet these needs?
- Where are new schools needed, and which existing buildings require replacement, expansion, modernization, or repurposing?
- What are the associated costs and timelines for implementing these changes?

We remain committed to fostering a learning environment that empowers every student, without exception, to succeed.



For those interested in delving deeper into the MFP details, scan the QR code above.





Beyond the Numbers: Hilliard Schools Embrace Changing Student Needs Amid Stable Enrollment

Keeping an eye on the future enrollment of Hilliard City Schools is an important part of our financial and facilities planning.

There is no question that the Hilliard community is growing. Despite all of the new housing developments throughout the district, however, our latest enrollment studies and experts tell us that these communities will take years to develop fully. As a result, overall enrollment for the district is expected to remain flat over the next 10 years.

We are experiencing a shift in our current enrollment demographic that could impact our future needs. Over the past ten years, we have seen a significant increase in students requiring special education support, along with our students who don't speak English as their first language. Our special education enrollment has gone up by over 1,000 students, and in our EL program,

we have seen an increase of close to 7%. We are closely monitoring this trend, its financial impact on our staffing needs, and how many new classrooms we need to accommodate the growth.

Hilliard City Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education. Each student comes to us with experiences and knowledge. It is our job to find each student's entry point in their learning and lead them to the next level of thinking. As we navigate our future, we remain committed to collaborating with families and community partners to ensure every student, without exception, receives a quality education, no matter their needs.

Leaders and Lifesavers: Training for Every Hilliard City Schools Student

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking initiative in collaboration with the Norwich Township Fire Department that will equip every high school student in the district with CPR/First Aid certification. This program, a first of its kind in our district and possibly beyond, represents a significant investment in our community's safety and the future success of our students.

Beginning with our graduation-required high school health course, Norwich Township Fire personnel trained health teachers and school nurses to be certified CPR/First Aid trainers. Upon graduation, each student will possess the skills and knowledge necessary to respond effectively in emergencies, potentially saving lives.

But the benefits of this program extend beyond just acquiring life-saving skills. Students who earn CPR/First Aid certification will also receive the Industry-recognized Credential, demonstrating readiness for college and career pathways.

This certification, recognized by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, is a valuable asset for students pursuing further education or entering the workforce.

Another life skill each student will have the opportunity to earn beginning next year is the Leadership Excellence Credential. This credential teaches students essential leadership and strategic management skills while challenging their thinking. Students will discover who they are as a leader, improve their style, and adapt their approach to solving real-world problems.

As we embark on this journey, we are excited about its impact on our students and community. By equipping our youth with life-saving skills and professional credentials, we are preparing them for success and fostering a culture of safety and empowerment within our district.





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