

## Superintendent Message

Hilliard Community,

This year, our district is actively engaging the community in defining what Ready for Tomorrow means. In the fall, we hosted around 300 students, parents, staff, and community members as we developed our Portrait of a Learner. This collective vision will articulate our community's aspirations for all our students. Now that it is complete, we are developing the district's strategic plan, or the roadmap, to make the vision come to life in our classrooms. We have also engaged hundreds of staff members as we work to adopt new English Language Arts resources, Math, and Health curriculums. During each process, we have shared information with our families and asked for parent and community feedback. Our strategic plan must reflect our community's hopes and aspirations for our young people! We are committed to building partnerships with our parents and our community.



David Stewart

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## Master Facilities Planning & Enrollment Projections

As we look around our community, seeing all the growth in our district is not difficult. To stay on top of what this means for our district, we have partnered with industry experts to conduct an extensive facility assessment on each building while also looking at enrollment projections over the next several years. Our current enrollment projections show a slight decrease in students over the next ten years. You can find the report on the district's Master Facilities web page:

<https://www.hilliardschools.org/mfp/>

Phase 2 of our Master Facilities Plan is underway and will provide the district with a plan for addressing our future facility needs. It will assist us in identifying which buildings to keep, renovate, replace, or repurpose and what the costs will be as we plan our future capital needs. We will continue to engage our community throughout this process as we work to provide key findings and recommendations to our Board of Education in the spring of 2024.

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# Ready For Tomorrow

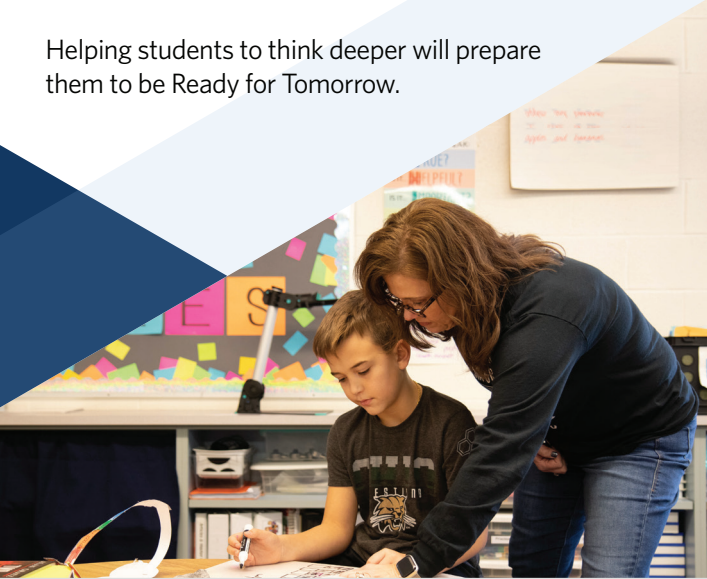
# Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics

This year the Hilliard City School District is in the process of adopting a new K-5 Math resource. Close to 170 Hilliard teachers have been involved in year-long training to focus not only on new resources but on new teaching practices.

This isn't "new math." This is professional development for teachers to foster deep learning and thinking, better engagement in class, and better peer collaboration. As a result, kids who otherwise disengage from Math are finding success. One teacher said, "I have been teaching for 25 years, and this is a game changer to my practices."

The strategies put in place in Thinking Classrooms are being implemented in all grades from Kindergarten through 12th grade. This concept is applicable in all content areas, and teachers are already seeing this in other subjects.

Helping students to think deeper will prepare them to be Ready for Tomorrow.



## Five Year Forecast

Ohio's public school districts must approve a five-year financial forecast twice each year - November and May. Hilliard's latest five-year forecast projects a declining balance that will result in a deficit by the end of the 2027 school year.

## Millage: What is it?

Property tax rates in Ohio are expressed in terms of millage, with one mill equaling 1/1,000 of a dollar or \$.001. They are set by local government entities each year based on the total value of property within their jurisdiction and the funds needed to cover projected expenses, including, but not limited to, schools, roads, and emergency services.

Historically, Hilliard City Schools has had one of the highest millage rates when compared with other Franklin County school districts. Today, however, the district's millage rate falls in the middle of the pack. This is due to stretching the levy cycle and conservative fiscal management.

School District	Total Millage	Millage Average
Worthington	59.693109	
Upper Arlington	53.086765	42.877244
Westerville	51.399333	
New Albany	49.460321	
Dublin	49.344742	
Gahanna	46.555868	* These Districts also have a School District Income Tax, which is not included in the millage above.
Hilliard	46.340644	
*Bexley	46.248794	Reynoldsburg 0.50% Canal Winchester 0.75% Bexley 0.75%
Whitehall	40.190510	
*Canal Winchester	39.700014	
Columbus	37.497074	
*Reynoldsburg	37.047044	
South-Western	35.736228	
Grandview Heights	35.375576	
Groveport-Madison	33.743730	
Hamilton	24.616148	

This declining balance is the outcome of several factors, including essentially flat state funding, inflation, and House Bill 920, which was passed in 1976 and states that even when home values increase, voted property tax levies cannot generate additional dollars based on inflation.

We are currently examining different strategies to address our financial challenges and will keep you posted on any developments.



## Career From Here

As our seniors look toward graduation celebrations at the end of May, the district is committed to helping each student, without exception, be Ready for their Tomorrow.

Graduating seniors looking to enter the workforce, gain an internship, or join a pre-apprenticeship are invited to participate in the Career from Here Career Fair and Hiring Event this month. In its second year, this event will bring companies like Ohio Health, Wexner Medical, Worthington Industry, Messer Construction, JP Morgan Chase, and all Military Branches to our students. These companies will talk to students and hire some on the spot for in-demand jobs such as health care, IT, skilled trades, and advanced manufacturing.

Last year at this event, 40% of students that participated landed an opportunity with a participating organization. Events like this align with the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component of the State Report Card. One student said, "I appreciated the opportunity to be connected with these businesses to launch my career."

	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected	FY 2027 Projected
+ REV	\$221,827,716	\$219,195,670	\$227,149,813
- EXPND	(\$225,536,225)	(\$234,578,132)	(\$264,192,605)
+ REV Surplus/DEF	(\$3,708,509)	(\$15,382,462)	(\$37,042,792)