

WESTERVILLE BEGINS WITH WE.

WE work with Westerville City Schools to provide space for the Student Enrollment Center at Westerville Medical Campus.

AND WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

OhioHealth is committed to bringing the Westerville community the best physicians and quality healthcare services.

Our Westerville Medical Campus offers you services normally found at large hospitals, with conveniences like free short-term childcare and free valet parking. With over 120 physicians on-site, we provide your family with complete care, from primary care exams and imaging, to outpatient surgery and rehabilitation.



We have specialists for heart and vascular care, orthopedics, sports medicine, women's health and more. And, as your healthcare needs grow, we are committed to expanding our services. In 2012, we will open a new Emergency Department and expanded heart and vascular services.



WE are committed to local student athletes. Dr. Anthony Ewald, Westerville North team physician, and Amy Harrison, athletic trainer, are shown with student athlete Ellie Vosler.

WE LIVE HERE TOO.

More than a thousand OhioHealth associates call Westerville home and are actively involved in our community. OhioHealth is proud to join them, working closely with local schools and businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WESTERVILLE MEDICAL CAMPUS OR TO FIND A PHYSICIAN, VISIT OHIOHEALTH.COM/WESTERVILLE OR CALL (614) 4-HEALTH.



BELIEVE IN WE  OhioHealth

RIVERSIDE METHODIST HOSPITAL + GRANT MEDICAL CENTER + DOCTORS HOSPITAL + GRADY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
DUBLIN METHODIST HOSPITAL + DOCTORS HOSPITAL + NELSONVILLE + HARDIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL + MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL
HOMEREACH + OHIOHEALTH NEIGHBORHOOD CARE + WESTERVILLE MEDICAL CAMPUS + 21,000 PHYSICIANS, ASSOCIATES & VOLUNTEERS

District Meets All State Standards while Maintaining "Excellent with Distinction"



In another first for Westerville City Schools, Superintendent Dr. Dan Good announced that in addition to maintaining its "Excellent with Distinction" rating from the Ohio Department of Education, the district will meet all 26 standards that comprise the 2011 State Report Card and achieve its highest-ever Performance Index Score.

"Two years ago we pledged to our community that with their continued support and involvement, we would be able to achieve and maintain excellence in the Westerville City Schools," Good said. "I'm pleased to say that we've not only upheld that commitment by retaining Ohio's highest academic rating, but results from our 2011 State Report Card confirm that we continue to make steady academic progress and for the first time have achieved every report card standard."

In addition, the district also expects to earn a Performance Index score of 101.9, which is up from last year's score of 100.8 and the highest score achieved by the district since the Performance Index was implemented in 2000-01. A district's Performance Index score increases when more students score at the advanced, accelerated and proficient levels.

"Our continued success is the result of the hard work of our teachers and students, as well as the continued involvement of our families and support of our community," said Chief Academic Officer Karen McClellan. "We never stop looking for ways to improve, so we will continue to make

the adjustments necessary to raise student achievement and remain fiscally responsible in doing so."

According to Fiscal Year 2010 financial data (the most recent available), of the seven Franklin County school districts that achieved an Excellent with Distinction on the 2010 State Report Card, WCSO spent the least amount per pupil. The district also decreased its per-pupil spending from FY09 to FY10 while improving its academic performance.

McClellan said the district has a comprehensive strategy for approaching its improvement efforts, including examining its curriculum and instruction alignment; analyzing data; reviewing the resources provided to teachers; and providing focused professional development in these areas.

The district also has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements for four consecutive years and its Value Added Rating over that same three-year period has been designated as "Above." This means that students have demonstrated academic growth that exceeds state-level growth expectations.

"We continue to hold ourselves accountable for demonstrating improvement in every child," said Good. "We will continue to focus our energies on nurturing a year's worth of growth in each student, not just aggregates of the student body."

District officials will use several strategies to improve AYP and continue to close achievement gaps, including:

- Analyzing district-wide data on student groups not meeting AYP,
- Analyzing individual school data on student groups not meeting AYP,
- Providing professional development and other resources as required by the results of these analyses.
- Working closely with principals to develop goals and action plans that specify how each school and the district will accomplish higher achievement for all students.

Have you found WCSO on Facebook, Twitter or WordPress?



If not, be sure to find us, friend us and follow us! Find us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/WCSOH. Friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WCSOH. Or, follow our blog at wcsdoio.wordpress.com.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 LEVY REQUEST

The Westerville City School District Board of Education has placed a combined Property Tax and Earned Income Tax Levy on the November 8, 2011, ballot. The request is based upon a five-year financial forecast approved by the Board on May 23, 2011. The property tax portion of the request has been certified by the County Auditor at 4.06 mills and the earned income tax portion has been certified at .50% (one-half percent).

This request for additional operating revenue will appear as a single issue on the ballot. If approved, the issue will generate an additional \$21.47 million annually for the district's general operating fund. The property tax portion of the issue works out to an annual cost of \$124.34 per \$100,000 of property value, or about .51 cents per day for a home valued at \$150,000. The cost of the earned income tax is calculated by taking .005 and multiplying it by the wage earner's income. Some examples include:

Salary	Earned Income Tax Amount
\$25,000	\$125
\$35,000	\$175
\$45,000	\$225
\$50,000	\$250
\$75,000	\$375
\$100,000	\$500

An earned income tax is applied solely to wages, tips, salaries, and other employment income and to self-employment income (to the extent such amounts are includible in Ohio adjusted gross income). It does not tax Social Security income or investment income.

Approval of the issue will allow the district to maintain excellence while minimizing necessary reductions to current programs and services, continue to address the most critical areas of academic and operational need, and meet state-mandated academic requirements.

FACT

The district must make budget cuts even if this issue is approved by voters.

- Should voters approve the November 2011 ballot issue, officials will still need to make upwards of \$18 million in reductions to the district's budget over the next several in order to maintain a balanced budget through FY15.
- Without passage of this issue, the five-year forecast indicates that more severe and immediate budget cuts would be necessary to address a projected \$23 million deficit at the end of FY13. This projected deficit amount is the equivalent of more than 300 staff positions.

FACT

The Westerville City School District delivers an "Excellent with Distinction" education at one of the lowest costs per pupil among its peer districts.

- The district actually DECREASED its per-pupil cost from \$10,426 in Fiscal Year 2009 to \$10,068 in Fiscal Year 2010.
- According to the latest available data, our FY10 per-pupil cost is below the state average, ranks 12 out of 16 Franklin County Districts and is \$2,399 less than the Franklin County average.
- Of the seven Franklin County school districts that achieved an Excellent with Distinction rating in FY10, WCSO spent the least amount per pupil.

FY2010 State Report Card Rating / Cost Per-Pupil

District	Cost Per-Pupil	Rating
Grandview Heights	\$14,978	Excellent with Distinction
Columbus City	\$14,904	Continuous Improvement
Upper Arlington	\$14,840	Excellent with Distinction
Bexley	\$14,786	Excellent with Distinction
Worthington	\$12,965	Excellent
Dublin	\$12,887	Excellent with Distinction
Gahanna-Jefferson	\$11,832	Excellent
New Albany	\$11,814	Excellent with Distinction
Hilliard	\$11,475	Excellent with Distinction
Whitehall	\$10,965	Continuous Improvement
Groveport-Madison	\$10,893	Effective
State	\$10,566	
Westerville	\$10,068	Excellent with Distinction
South-Western City Schools	\$9,893	Excellent
Reynoldsburg City Schools	\$9,679	Effective
Canal Winchester Local	\$9,605	Effective
Hamilton Local	\$8,946	Excellent

FACT

The district continues to fulfill its promise of Quality Education and Fiscal Accountability.

- The district has kept its past levy promises. Officials made approximately \$11 million in financial adjustments in 2009 to maintain a balanced budget through FY10 and are reducing expenditures even further to maintain a balanced budget through FY12.
- Additional revenue is needed in order to maintain excellence, meet future requirements and build upon our academic progress. We have achieved the state's highest academic rating at one of the lowest costs per pupil among our peer districts in the county and across the state.

The production and distribution of SNIPPETS is funded by a partnership with OhioHealth and other alternative revenue sources.

Questions You May Hear

Question: If this levy is passed, when would the property tax and income tax be applied?

A. Any voter-approved tax increase is not collected until the following calendar year. Therefore, if the issue was approved in November of 2011, it would begin to be collected in January of 2012.

Question: Aside from the fact that this is a combined property tax and earned income tax, is this issue any different than past ballot issue?

A. In the past, district officials approached taxpayers for additional millage and revenue that would allow the district to address the deficit while avoiding budget reductions. In recognition of a slow economic recovery, and in an effort to minimize the impact on local taxpayers, the November 2011 issue is being presented to voters at a reduced millage level. Even with approval of this issue, the district will need to make upwards of \$18 million in budget reductions over the next several years to cover projected deficits. As a result, the district projects that this issue will fund operations with a balanced budget through June 30, 2015.

Question: Is there any type of property tax relief available to senior citizens?

A. Yes. The homestead exemption allows residents who are age 65 or older, or totally and permanently disabled, to reduce their property tax burden by shielding some of the market value of their home from taxation. Previously, most senior citizens and disabled Ohioans were excluded from the Homestead Exemption because of income tests. The new exemption, which takes the form of a credit on property tax bills, offers eligible homeowners, regardless of income, the opportunity to shield up to \$25,000 of the market value of their homestead (a dwelling and up to one acre of land) from property taxation.

Did You Know...

This levy primarily is to maintain what is already in place and to continue meeting state academic requirements.

Just How LEAN?

Our schools operate in a lean and fiscally responsible manner. According to the most recent reports from the Ohio Department of Education, our district's cost per pupil for FY10 is \$10,068, which reflects a decrease from our FY09 cost per pupil of \$10,426. Fewer than 25 percent of the state's school systems were able to achieve such a reduction to their per-pupil cost.

- Our district ranks 12th out of 16 Franklin County districts in cost per pupil and spends \$2,399 less per pupil than the county average. Our FY10 per-pupil cost is also below the state average.
- Of the seven Franklin County school districts that achieved an **Excellent with Distinction** rating last year, WCSD spent the least amount per pupil.
- Out of 609 school systems in Ohio for which the state calculates a Pupil-to-Administrator ratio, only 31 districts had more students per administrator than WCSD.
- Of the Ohio districts that have more than 10,000 students, WCSD's pupil-to-administrator ratio ranks 14th out of 18.

A streamlining of the district's administrative staff, as well as multiple salary freezes, has helped decrease administrative salary costs by \$276,000 since the 2009-10 school year. A recent *Columbus Dispatch* article about school district consolidation cited Westerville City Schools for its district-level operational efficiencies and lean management office staffing.



Question: Why can't the district redirect money being spent on the repairs, renovations and improvements being made to its school buildings and other facilities?

A. Capital Improvement dollars come from a completely separate fund than the district's general operating budget. By law, those dollars cannot be used to offset operating costs. Reducing the scope or eliminating any of these capital projects would do nothing to close the district's projected general fund deficit. All of the projects being completed were specified in the district's Master Facilities Plan and shared with the community. The funding for these projects was authorized by voters in May of 2009 by one of the highest approval rates in the district's history. Approval of this issue did not result in an increase in millage because the rate that voters approved was the same Capital Improvement Levy rate that they had been paying in the past.

Question: Can't we wait a few more months to see if the economy continues to show signs of improvement and put it on the ballot next year?

A. School districts do not begin receiving revenues from any newly-approved levies until the following calendar year. If the issue passes in November 2011, the Westerville City Schools would begin to receive new revenue just two months later in January 2012. However, if the issue fails in November but passes sometime in 2012, the district would not begin to receive new revenues until January 2013. As a result, the district loses an entire year's worth of new revenue and would have to begin enacting even deeper program/budget reductions in order to balance its budget for the 2012-13 school year.

Did You Know...

District officials are keeping their 2009 campaign promise and taking the steps necessary to maintain a balanced budget through FY12 without returning to the ballot earlier than promised.



Question: Why are district costs going up when enrollment is relatively steady?

A. While overall student enrollment growth has slowed, we have experienced significant enrollment growth within certain student populations. There are costs associated with meeting the needs of specific student populations, and unfortunately, not much assistance is provided by the state to help offset these costs. Westerville also believes in reasonable class sizes, so it has an appropriate number of teachers to maintain sufficient pupil-teacher ratios. Westerville benefits from a highly-educated and highly-experienced staff, so the compensation offered to these employees must be competitive in the local marketplace. In WCSD, 74 percent of our teachers have Master's degrees or higher, and 58 percent have 10 or more years of experience.

Did You Know...

We have achieved the state's highest rating at one of the lowest costs per pupil among our peer districts in the county and across the state.

Did You Know...

Westerville benefits from a highly-educated and highly-experienced staff; 74 percent of our teachers have Master's degrees or higher and 58 percent have 10 or more years of experience.

Question: Didn't the community just pass a levy in 2009, and did the district keep the financial promise it made at that time?

A. Yes. At that time, the revenues generated by that operating levy were projected to fund operations through June 30, 2012 (FY12). Lower property reappraisals and an increasing number of tax delinquencies are reducing the district's tax revenue. The elimination of tangible personal property tax reimbursements, reductions to kilowatt-hour tax revenues and reductions to state grants-in-aid also have reduced the district's revenues. We are making the necessary budget adjustments to keep that campaign pledge of having a balanced budget through FY12 and not returning to voters any sooner than necessary. As anticipated, funds being generated by the 2009 levy and existing millage are no longer sufficient to support the current educational program. To maintain its current educational program, the district has to ask voters for additional operating revenue.



Question: Are district costs out of line with other school districts? How do residents know we're getting the "bang for our buck"?

A. The latest figures available for FY10 indicate that the district's cost per pupil is \$10,068, which actually decreased from our FY09 cost per pupil of \$10,426. WCSD ranks 12th out of 16 Franklin County districts in cost per pupil and spend \$2,399 less per pupil than the county average. Our FY10 per-pupil cost is also below the state average. Of the seven Franklin County school districts that achieved an Excellent with Distinction rating for the 2010 report card, WCSD spent the least amount per pupil.

Did You Know...

Our Energy Conservation Program has resulted in a \$6.6 million cost avoidance since being implemented in 2007.

Did You Know...

Administrative salaries have been frozen and the teachers union is voluntarily giving back \$1.4 million in contractual compensation.

Additional questions you may hear about this issue are available on the district web site at WWW.WCSOH.ORG/LEVY



Board of Education: Kristi Robbins, President; Jeff Gale, Vice President; Cindy Crowe; Kevin Hoffman; Denise Pope
District Leadership: Dr. J. Daniel Good, Superintendent/CEO; Brat Griffith, Treasurer/CFO; Mark Hershiser, Asst. Supt./COO; Karen McClellan, Chief Academic Officer
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