

# Butler County School System

## Weekly Update

### Dr. John Strycker – Superintendent

February 21, 2018

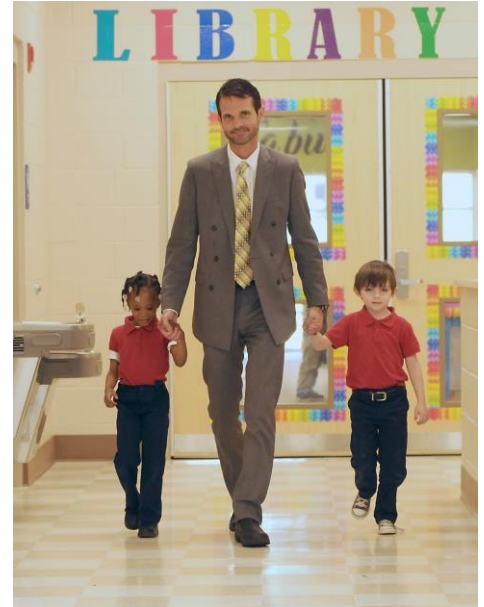
#### The Butler County Commitment – *My Commitment*

For the time being, this information will serve as my Weekly Update because it is so important to the future of our school community. This plan – **The Butler County Commitment**– is a blueprint aimed to transform a school culture. This plan takes into account that students are made up of spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical characteristics.

In my nearly 30 years as an educator, I have yet to see such a *disconnect* between intelligent and talented students and low student performance outcomes. Thank you for reading this information.

**Certainly, you are welcome to call or e-mail me any questions you have regarding the plan. I would be very happy to buy lunch or dinner for anyone who reads this information and has questions. This would allow us time to sit down and discuss any of your questions or concerns.**

[john.strycker@butlerco.k12.al.us](mailto:john.strycker@butlerco.k12.al.us) or 334-382-2665



#### The Butler County Commitment:

1. An “Old School” approach to education which includes ensuring that students have their basic needs met, that buildings are safe and clean and that students are well-disciplined.
2. Teach K-6 students solid leadership skills at the elementary level as part of the elementary school culture (*The Leader in Me* program).
3. All 7-12 students participate in at least one extracurricular activity each year without having to pay a fee as part of a graduation requirement. When kids connect to something positive on a regular basis, outstanding student performance outcomes will result.

#### Bullet-Point Information:

1. The school system ranks 133 out of 137 school systems in the state in terms of local funding support.
2. The school system has unusually high debt-per-student at \$10,950 per student.
3. The State of Alabama ranks 50 out of 50 in the US in terms of property tax revenue per-capita.
4. The current fund balance is at the “low end of healthy” according to the State.
5. The county has a current Ad Valorem tax rate of 12 mills compared to the State average of 18.2 mills.
6. The 6 mill increase (18 mills) would equate to \$3.75 per month tax increase for the average homeowner in the community with a house Fair Market Value of \$75,000.



## BUTLER COUNTY






## SCHOOL SYSTEM SNAPSHOT 2018 Edition\*

211 School Highlands Rd. | Greenville, AL 36037 | (334) 382-2665

Superintendent | Dr. John Strycker

Board Members | Michael Nimmer, Brandon Sellers, Lois H. Robinson, Linda Hamilton, Mickey Jones

### By the Numbers

	Schools <sup>1</sup> _____	7
	Students <sup>2</sup> _____	3,008
	Students on Free & Reduced Lunch <sup>3</sup> _____	75.85%
	Number of Buses _____	37
	State Funded _____	100%
	Students Bused _____	1,945
	Full-Time Employees _____	382
	Teachers _____	191
	Principals/ Assistant Principals _____	11
	Counselors _____	7
	Librarians _____	5
	Other Certified Employees _____	20
	Support Personnel _____	148

1 Schools with enrollment and Career Technical Education.  
2 Equivalent to ADM. 3 Does not account for participation in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). 4 The State of Alabama requires systems to have at least one month's operating balance on hand.

\* THIS REPORT INCLUDES FISCAL YEAR 2016 DATA.



**\$1,851,643**

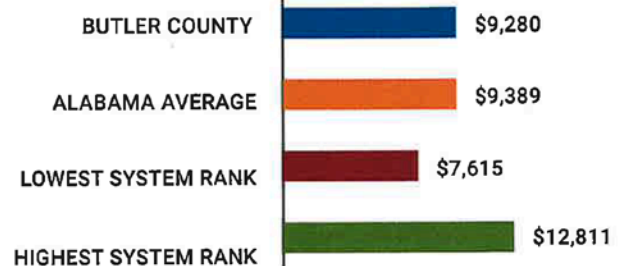
Cost of One Month's Operation (FY16)



**1.45**

Number of Months Operating Balance on Hand (FY16)<sup>4</sup>

### Compare Your School System Per-Pupil Expenditures



United States Average  
**\$12,156**

Federal Funding Rank \_\_\_\_\_ **10**

State Funding Rank \_\_\_\_\_ **48**

Local Funding Rank \_\_\_\_\_ **133/**

Your System Rankings

**OUT OF 137 IN STATE**

**SYSTEM STATE RANK 63**

## School System Revenue

Where did your school system's money come from in FY2016?



\$18,770,982	STATE	59%
\$6,569,616	FEDERAL	20%
\$6,628,113	LOCAL	21%
—	Local 10-Mill Match	
<b>\$4,441,923</b>		



Value of 1-Mill for your school system

## School System Spending

How does your school system spend state & local revenues?

	STATE SPENDING <sup>5</sup>	LOCAL SPENDING <sup>6</sup>
SALARIES	\$12,944,927	\$490,283
BENEFITS	\$5,279,081	\$100,217
OPERATIONAL COSTS <sup>7</sup>	\$1,276,535	\$2,307,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,500,543</b>	<b>\$2,897,719</b>



<sup>5</sup> Includes 10-mill match.  
<sup>6</sup> Revenues and expenditures may contain nominal variances.  
<sup>7</sup> Does not include debt service or capital outlay.

**7% OF STATE FUNDS SUPPORT OPERATIONAL COSTS**

## State Instructional Support, Per Unit

FY08 FY18

Classroom Students	\$525
Materials & Supplies	\$421.51
Technology	\$350
Library Enhancements	\$211.51
Professional Development	\$200
Textbooks	\$90
School Boards	\$77.55
Common Purchases	\$75
	\$54.52
	\$200
	\$0



**\$32,937,873**

TOTAL DEBT<sup>8</sup>  
(FY16)

**\$10,950**

DEBT PER STUDENT  
(FY16)

<sup>8</sup> The debt totals in system audit reports may differ due to audit adjustments.



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ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BOARDS

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Executive Director

Lissa Tucker, J.D.  
Director of Government Relations

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## HOW ALABAMA TAXES COMPARE

parcalabama.org

Since late 1988, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama has produced an analysis of Alabama's tax revenues. Relying on the U.S. Census Bureau's annual survey of state and local governments across the country, we are able to determine how Alabama taxes and revenue compare to other states. In the analysis, state and local spending are considered together, because states vary greatly in how they divide up the responsibilities for funding government services. This report considers data from 2015, the most recent year available.

Alabama's state and local governments collect less in taxes than state and local governments in any other state in the union.

This has been a basic fact of life in this state since the early the 1990s. It lies at the root of our perpetual struggles to balance state budgets. It underlies the difficulties we face

when trying to provide to our citizens the level of government services enjoyed by citizens in other states.

As a bottom line, Alabama governments have less tax money available finance the operation of services like schools, roads, courts, health care, and public safety.

Alabama's U.S. Rank on Per-Capita Tax Collections, 2015	
State and Local Tax Sources	Alabama's Rank Among U.S. States
<b>Property</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Sales and gross receipts (total)</b>	<b>30</b>
General sales	31
Selective sales	20
Motor fuel	27
Alcoholic beverage	3
Tobacco products	42
Public utilities	5
Other selective sales	29
Individual income	36
Corporate income	35
Motor vehicle license	44
Other taxes	28
<b>All Taxes (total)</b>	<b>50</b>

# History of Ending General Fund Balance

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## Fund Balance

- 2017 - \$2,624,299
- 2016 - \$2,686,037
- 2015 - \$2,866,876
- 2014 - \$2,254,480
- 2013 - \$2,115,072
- 2012 - \$2,659,169
- 2011 - \$1,676,966
- 2010 - \$1,126,854

## Without Pass Through

\$383,023

\$944,761

\$1,247,468

\$912,791

\$1,185,170

\$2,115,118

\$1,400,686

\$1,017,201



# Butler County School System

## Weekly Update

### John Strycker - Superintendent

**January 24, 2018**

#### The Butler County Commitment

In November of 2005, a community in Michigan transformed their public education system and local economics forever with an innovative concept – ***The Kalamazoo Promise.***

According to Wikipedia, The Kalamazoo Promise was a pledge to pay up to 100 percent of tuition at any of Michigan’s state colleges or universities for graduates of the Kalamazoo public school system. The students were required to live within the Kalamazoo school district to receive the minimum funding of 65% benefit. In order to receive the full amount, students must have attended Kalamazoo Public School since kindergarten.

“Research published by the Upjohn Institute in 2015 shows that the Kalamazoo Promise *significantly* increases college enrollment, college credits attempted, credential attainment, and the researchers conclude that such scholarships can both increase educational attainment and provide net economic benefits.” -Wikipedia

I was a school superintendent in Michigan at the time this took place. Guess what? PEOPLE FLOCKED TO KALAMAZOO LIKE THERE WAS NO TOMORROW! The school, business and real estate market flourished. This is not to mention the most significant outcome of the initiative - CHILDREN ACHIEVED!

#### The Butler County Commitment – How does that sound? Why not us?

The Butler County Commitment could be based upon our current plan:

- ✓ Continue our “Old School” approach to education which includes ensuring that our students have their basic needs met and by continuing to guarantee that our buildings are safe and our students are well-disciplined.
- ✓ Continue our plan to teach our K-6 students solid leadership skills at the elementary level as part of our elementary school culture (*The Leader in Me* program).
- ✓ Continue our plan that all 7-12 students participate in at least one extracurricular activity each year, without having to pay a fee, as part of a graduation requirement, understanding that when kids connect to something positive on a regular basis outstanding outcomes will result.

I am unaware of any school system in the State of Alabama that requires all 7-12 students to participate in at least one extracurricular activity as a graduation requirement. I believe the reason is because of a lack of direct funding toward such an initiative.

**During the February 13 Board of Education meeting, I will present a plan with the basic goals described above along with our plan to finance such an effort.**

Like that of the Kalamazoo Promise (which worked!), let’s dare to be different. Let’s dare to put in place ***and fund*** a plan that requires ALL our students to be involved. Let’s be the school community where all students are connected to something and someone through involvement and participation. Let’s be the system where our students have free admission to all games and events with a free shirt that says, “The Butler County School Family – Our Commitment.”

It’s our time, Butler County, to stand out and be different in the best interest of our students.

Take care,

*John*

# Butler County School System

## Ad Valorem Tax Butler County - Draft Proposal

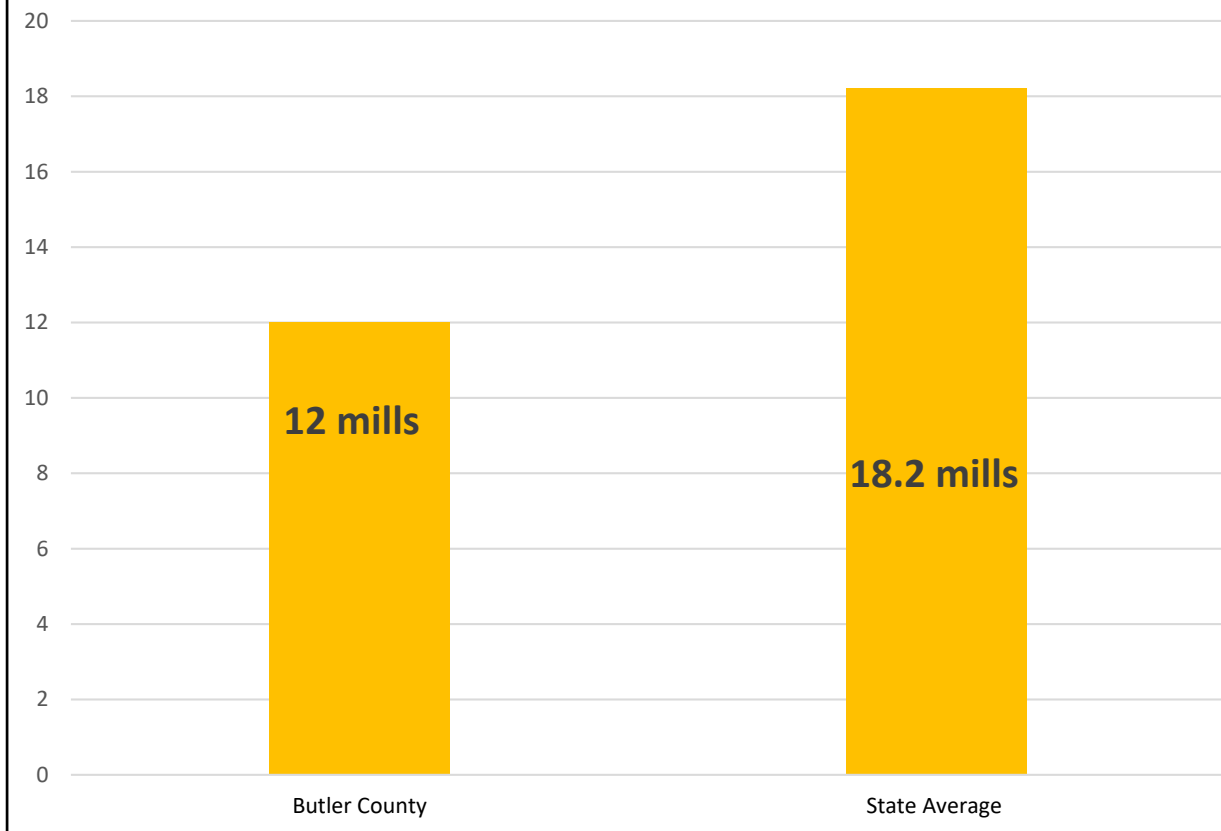
	<u>Mills</u>	<u>Value of 1 Mill</u>	<u>Ad Valorem</u>
Current	12	\$234,210.0	\$2,810,520
<u>Proposed</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>\$234,210.0</u>	<u>\$4,215,780</u>
			\$1,405,260
	Curriculum Resources		\$300,000
	Athletics:		\$250,000
	<i>Example: Additional Sports, Equipment, &amp; Transportation</i>		
	Arts (Art, Music and Drama)		\$250,000
	K-12 Extracurricular Activities (Ex: Robotics)		<u>\$100,000</u>
	<b><u>Sub-Total =</u></b>		\$900,000
	Fund Balance/Debt Reduction		
	Facility/Technology/Other		
	<b><u>Sub-Total =</u></b>		\$505,260
	<b>Total =</b>		<b>\$1,405,260</b>

State Average Ad Valorem Rate	18.2
Proposed Ad Valorem Rate	18

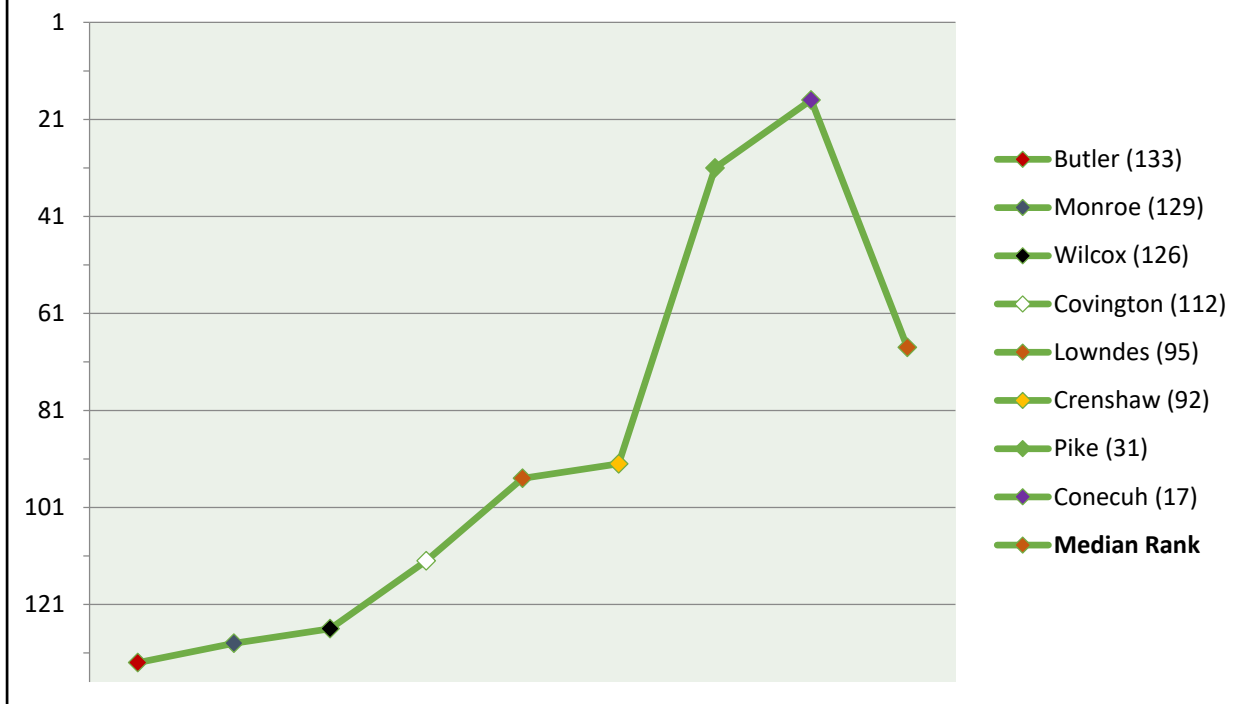
**Draft Example: September 2018**

		<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Arts</u>	<u>Extracurricular</u>	<u>Total</u>
W.O Parmer Elementary	479	\$49,314		\$41,095	\$16,438	\$106,846
Greenville Elementary	341	\$35,106		\$29,255	\$11,702	\$76,064
Greenville Middle Schl.	641	\$65,992	\$59,211	\$54,993	\$21,997	\$202,193
Greenville High Schl.	621	\$63,933	\$120,163	\$53,277	\$21,311	\$258,683
McKenzie (K-6)	251	\$25,841		\$21,534	\$8,614	\$55,988
McKenzie (7-12)	171	\$17,605	\$33,088	\$14,671	\$5,868	\$71,232
Georgiana (K-6)	216	\$22,237		\$18,531	\$7,412	\$48,181
<u>Georgiana (7-12)</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>\$19,973</u>	<u>\$37,539</u>	<u>\$16,644</u>	<u>\$6,658</u>	<u>\$80,813</u>
Total =	2914	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$900,000
GMS (7-8)	306					
System (7-12)	1292	*Funding distributed on a per-student amount				

## Butler County compared to State Average



## Local Funding Rank Comparison (137 School Systems)





<b>Fair Market Value of Your Home</b>	<b>Taxable Value of Your Home</b>	<b>Millage (6.0 mills) Estimated Annual Increase</b>	<b>Millage (6.0 mills) Estimated Monthly Increase</b>
\$ 25,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 15	\$ 1.25
\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 30	\$ 2.50
\$ 75,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 45	\$ 3.75
\$ 100,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 60	\$ 5.00
\$ 125,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 75	\$ 6.25
\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 90	\$ 7.50
\$ 175,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 105	\$ 8.75
\$ 200,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 120	\$ 10.00
\$ 225,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 135	\$ 11.25
\$ 250,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 150	\$ 12.50
\$ 275,000	\$ 27,500	\$ 165	\$ 13.75
\$ 300,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 180	\$ 15.00

**Average home value in Butler County**