



A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of Riverside Local Schools in areas that matter most in our community.



2021 Quality profile



*One Community
Pursuing Greatness
Getting Better Every Day*





message from the **Superintendent**

Welcome to the Riverside Local School District's 2021 Quality Profile.

The Quality Profile is a more comprehensive, community-oriented companion piece to the State Report Card. This document helps evaluate the effectiveness of a school district beyond standardized testing and other statistical measures.

Throughout this document, you'll learn more about the District's academics, arts, student leadership and activities, fiscal stewardship, parent and community involvement, student services and staff leadership.

Because the State Report Card focuses primarily on how well students perform on state mandated assessments, we feel it is important to showcase the entire educational experience a student may have while enrolled in the Riverside Local School District. It's also more important than ever to share this information given the impact COVID-19 has had on student instruction throughout the course of the last two school years.

We have all come to realize the importance of in-person instruction, as well as the extra-curricular opportunities that our students can engage in outside of the classroom.

While some of the issues surrounding COVID-19 have created robust discussions in our communities, it has been reinforced by those discussions the important role public schools serve and what resources are available to students on a daily basis.

The educational experience we provide for students is invaluable to their growth and development. Our hope is we can continue to work together as a community to provide our students with the highest quality instruction, along with those experiences and activities necessary to meet their needs and well-being.

As always, we are extremely grateful for all the support from our community. Many variables determine how well a school district performs, but nothing has a more positive impact than community support.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. James Kalis
Superintendent

Our District

Our District serves approximately 4,300 students residing in Painesville Township, Concord Township, Leroy Township, Grand River, and a small section of Painesville City and northern Chardon.



Our Schools

Riverside Campus

Riverside High School &
John R. Williams Jr. High
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville Township
440.352.3341

Principal: Peter Hliatzos
Assistant Principals: Dr. Christopher Basich, Rich Frimel, Michael Lewis, Jennifer Westbrook

LaMuth Middle School

6700 Auburn Road
Concord Township
440.354.4394
Principal: Nick Orlando
Assistant Principal: Alison Hardy

Buckeye Elementary

175 Buckeye Road
Painesville Township
440.352.2191
Principal: Cassie Smolen

Melridge Elementary

6689 Melridge Road
Concord Township
440.352.3854
Principal: Gretchen Wakim

Parkside Elementary

12428 Concord-Hambden Road
Concord Township
440.358.8750
Principal: Timothy St. Clair
Assistant Principal: Julie Weber

Riverview Elementary

845 Madison Avenue
Painesville Township
440.357.6171
Principal: Traci Shantery
Assistant Principal: Debra Long



Our Board of Education



(left to right) Thomas Hach, Lori Krenisky, Jennifer Harden, Belinda Grassi, Jack Miley

Our Central Office Administrators

Superintendent: Dr. James Kalis
Assistant Superintendent: Charles Schlick
Treasurer: Gary Platko
Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Melissa Mlakar
Director of Student Services: Cheryl Lanning
Director of Marketing and Communications: Nick Carrabine
Director of Human Resources: Mallory Aliff

Our District Department Directors

Health Services: Heidi Perry
Maintenance: Richard Arlesic
Nutrition: Michelle Gifford
Registration: Crystal DiFranco
Technology: John Renwick
Transportation: Christine Illner



Academics

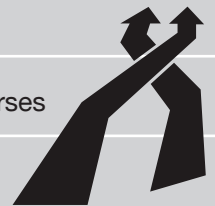
Our District's academic programs provide opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

Riverside Campus offers more than 125 courses for students in grades 8-12 including but not limited to:

10	Art Classes
7	Business Education Classes
18	English Classes
6	Health and Physical Classes
8	Applied Technology Classes
8	World Language Classes
5	Family and Consumer Science Classes
15	Math Classes
5	Band Classes
9	Choir Classes
19	Science Classes
15	Social Studies Classes

Riverside High School currently offers

12	Honors Courses
10	Advanced Placement courses
6	Dual Credit courses
3	Pre-Advanced Placement courses



LaMuth Middle School offers courses in art, technology, physical education, band, choir, math, science, English language arts, social studies and advisory. In addition, honors courses are offered in math, English language arts and advanced math.

Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School each offer more than 30 school-sponsored athletic programs and extra-curricular activities.

Our four elementary schools offer core subjects of English, math, science and social studies, as well as four electives: art, physical education, music and technology.

AP Courses include:

U.S. History	English Literature & Composition	Chemistry
U.S. Government	Calculus BC	Physics
Psychology	Statistics	
English Language & Composition	Biology	

Academics *(continued)*

College & Career Readiness

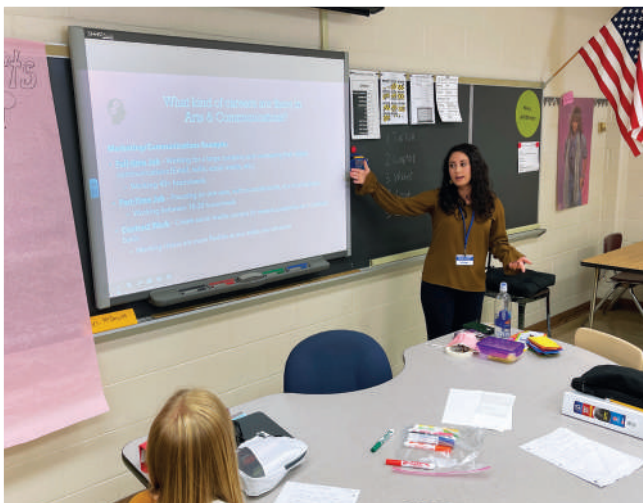
Students in 11th and 12th grade at Riverside High School have the opportunity to attend one of the leading career and technical schools in the area, **Auburn Career Center**. Auburn Career Center was the first joint vocational school to open in Ohio, and has been offering classes since 1965. Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits at **Lakeland Community College** while still in high school at no cost through the College Credits Plus program.

To gain real-life experience, 10th and 11th graders are encouraged to participate in **College and Career Shadow Day**, when students visit local businesses and organizations to learn about various professions. Seniors are encouraged to participate in **Senior Project**, which allows students to shadow a career of their choice for two weeks.

We are committed to preparing students for **life after graduation** by implementing several programs that help students determine careers they are interested in exploring.

Students at LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus use **Naviance**, which is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps schools align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals.

Staff members also developed a **Riverside Road Map**, which is a guide for students in grades 4-12 that helps prepare students for their future. The Riverside Road Map focuses on students bettering themselves, pursuing achievement and developing leadership qualities.



21st Century Learner

Students in grades 6 through 12 are assigned a Chromebook to use at school and at home as part of the District's **1:1 Initiative** to provide tools and resources for the 21st Century Learner. Elementary students also have access to Chromebooks in the classroom.

AP SCHOLARS

We are pleased to announce that during the 2020-2021 school year, Riverside High School saw the highest number of students enrolled in AP courses and the highest number of AP tests taken by students in the history of the school. In addition, 50 students were named AP Scholars, which is also the most in school history.

7	AP Scholar with Distinction
11	AP Scholar with Honor
32	AP Scholars

RHS Class of 2021

342	Graduated
45	Graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher
86	Earned an Honors Diploma
52	Earned a Community Service Honor Cord

Arts



At Riverside Campus, students have the opportunity to participate in band, choir, art and theatre.

Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Each year, the Riverside Theatre students perform a Fall Play and a Spring Musical.

Riverside Campus offers a robust art program that showcase student artwork not only in the classroom, but also throughout the entire community. Highlights every year include:

- Painting the Painesville Township snow plows, which are then displayed at local festivals, community parades and used to plow snow during the winter time.
- Participating in the Lake & Geauga Educational Assistance Foundations' The Umbrella Project, where students design and paint umbrellas to be judged by community artists and displayed at the Great Lakes Mall.
- Participating in the Cleveland Clinic Expressions Program, where students create artwork based off science and medical research.
- Hosting art shows at First Federal of Lakewood Bank and Stella's Art Gallery.
- Decorating the sidewalks surrounding Riverside Campus during the annual Chalk Festival.
- Creating ceramic bowls to donate to the Northeast Ohio Empty Bowls Project, which is a program that focuses on fighting hunger in the community.
- Displaying student artwork at community festivals throughout the year.
- Participating in the Vans Custom Culture Contest, which is an initiative coordinated by the popular shoe company.

At the elementary level, students host various plays, musicals and programs for family members throughout the year. Elementary choir concerts are also held at Riverside High School.

Band & Choir students,

at both Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School, perform throughout the year at various events including local and professional sports games, the Chamber Music Festival, our elementary schools, community concerts, Severance Hall and more.



Student Leadership and Activities

A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities

Our students are committed to leadership and serving the community in the following ways:

- Riverside Campus students combine to raise thousands of dollars every year for the annual Day of Caring to help families in need.
- Students routinely volunteer for community service projects through Riverside High School's Community Service Honor Cord program.
- Students of all ages across the District raise money and organize food drives for many local nonprofits.
- Riverside High School hosts two blood drives for American Red Cross every year.
- Many students at Riverside High School participate in the SIDE Leadership program, which stands for Student Initiative for Developing Excellence. The group focuses on mentoring, being ambassadors and leaders.
- 30 students were inducted into the Riverside High School National Honor Society during the 2020-2021 school year.



Riverside High School launched the **Best Buds Club**

which is a student-led club to create friendships between regular-ed and special-ed students.



Six 2021 graduating seniors enlisted in **the military.**



Fiscal Stewardship

Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.

The District received the Auditor of State Award

for filing timely financial reports in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as well as receiving a 'clean' audit report.

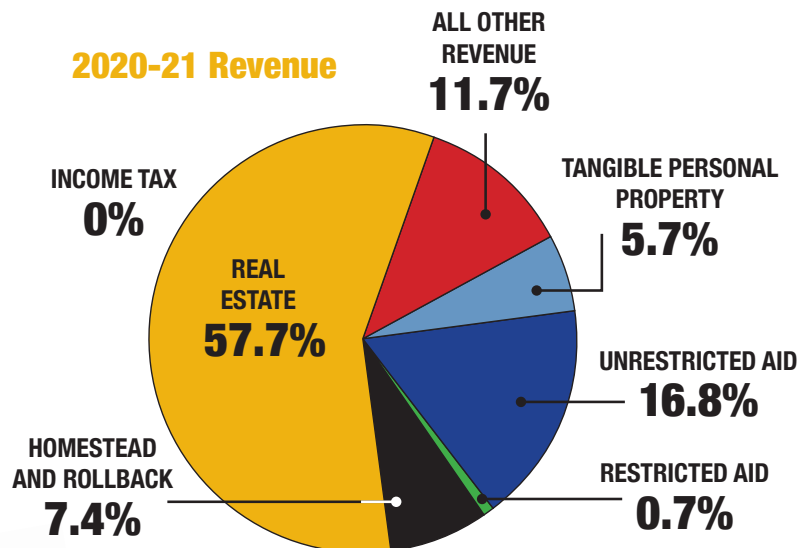
We participate in The Ohio Checkbook

which serves as a trusted resource for Ohioans to obtain both local and state financial information and enhances government transparency. Visit OhioCheckBook.gov for more information.

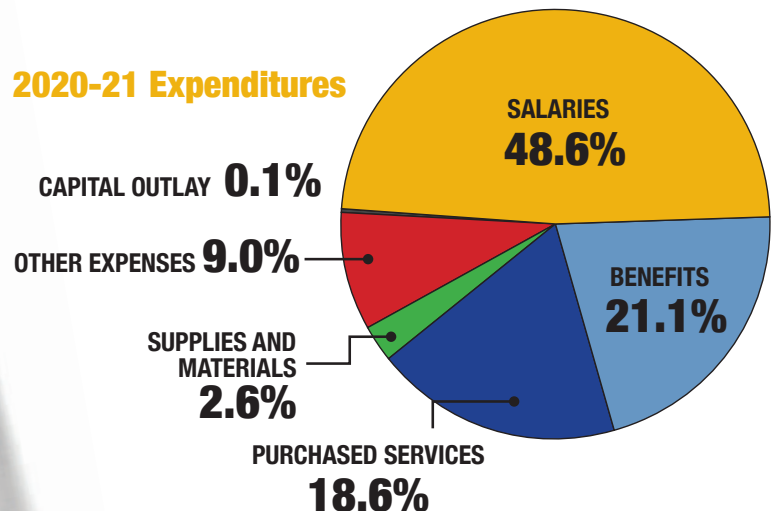
quick facts

- ✓ Based on projections in the May 2021 Five-Year Forecast, we should remain fiscally solvent through at least Fiscal Year 2025.
- ✓ Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 85% of the \$28.8 million tax revenue stream.
- ✓ The cost of personnel and benefits was 69.7% of the 2020-2021 expenditures.

2020-21 Revenue



2020-21 Expenditures



Fiscal Stewardship



- Our District received \$286,615 in Student Wellness and Success funds from the Ohio Department of Education to support students' academic achievement through mental health counseling, wraparound services, mentoring, and after-school programs.
- We are a member of the Ohio Schools Council and participate in several programs to obtain goods and services at highly competitive pricing including:
 - Competitive bidding for the purchase of school buses, diesel fuel, food products, and cafeteria items
 - OSC Natural Gas Program
 - Power4Schools Electric Program
 - OSC Waste and Recycling Program
- Our District was awarded \$21,630.48 in safety grant funds from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. These funds were used to install camera systems in 10 school buses. The camera systems included four interior cameras and two exterior cameras to capture school bus stop arm violations.
- On May 5, 2020, Ohio's Governor announced that School Foundation Program funds would be cut by \$300 million, and there would also be \$55 million in other education-related, line-item cuts for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. These cuts were carried forward and repeated in Fiscal Year 2021. However, on January 22, 2021, the Governor signed an executive order that returned \$160 million to school districts for Fiscal Year 2021. The School District ultimately received \$937,574 less in State funding for the Fiscal Year 2020 and \$423,373 less for the Fiscal Year 2021, due to such cuts.
- The District was awarded \$434,966 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES), \$1,632,119 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and \$3,668,112 from the American Rescue Plan. The District was also allocated \$212,274 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund and \$14,810 from the Broadband Connectivity Grant. This funding is being utilized for expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to address learning loss due to the pandemic.



60.44

Gross Tax Rate

34.15

Effective Tax Rate

Out of nine school districts in Lake County,
Riverside Local Schools has the

**third lowest tax rate in
Lake County**



\$10,814
**Expenditure
Per Pupil**

which is the
second lowest in Lake County.

- The District was awarded a \$200,000 competitive grant through the Ohio EPA Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund plus an additional \$18,242 through the State of Ohio School Bus Purchase Program, which was used to purchase ten new school buses.
- In December 2019, we refinanced \$13.7 million of the bonds issued in 2017 for the construction of Riverview and Parkside elementary schools resulting in a net present value savings of \$768,776.33 in interest expense over the life of the bonds.
- We are currently assigned an A1 rating from Moody's Investors Service indicating the District's bonds are upper-medium grade and subject to low credit risk.
- Our District partners with Lake Health as its exclusive Healthcare Sponsor of the District. Lake Health has agreed to pay the District \$230,000 over a 10-year period. These funds helped pay for the turf field at The Riverside Stadium.
- As a member of the Lake County Schools Council, a health consortium consisting of 11 school districts in Northeast Ohio, we are able to offer employees a competitive benefits package in a cost-efficient manner.

Parent and Community Involvement



Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and the community.

We are fortunate to have very involved **Parent Teacher Organizations** for each of our elementary schools and middle school as well as **Booster Clubs** for all of our high school athletic programs. These groups host a variety of events and fundraisers throughout the year to provide additional resources for our students, staff and athletes.

Community partnerships also allow for additional educational opportunities for all our students. Highlights include:

- Coordinating student-activities with local organizations such as Kids Love Musicals, Lake County YMCA, Lake County Metroparks, Morley Library, Great Lakes Theater, Just Run and more!
- Teaming up with local first responders, which allows fire fighters and law enforcement officials to visit the schools for Lunch with Law Enforcement, CPR Training, Fire Safety classes, Mock Crashes and more.
- Local business owners visiting schools to speak with students about career choices.
- Celebrating local veterans by inviting them into our schools to honor them through various programs and events.

Community Events allow for families to visit our schools and participate in fun activities including:

- A Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Riverside Parent Teacher Association.
- Halls of Holly, a holiday event coordinated by Riverside High School students.
- Walk to School days at our elementary schools.
- All of our PTA and Booster groups host a variety of other family and community events including dances, restaurant nights, field days, carnivals, game and movie nights, auctions, book fairs, skating and bowling parties, and more!
- An annual Community Tailgate prior to the first home varsity football game.



Student Services

A variety of services provides options to ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment and support.



81.3%	White
9.6%	Hispanic
5.4%	Multiracial
2.9%	African American
0.8%	Asian/Pacific Islander
13.8%	Students with disabilities
2.7%	English Language Learner

- Our District provides services to meet the individual needs of ALL students. In addition to regular education services, Riverside offers identification of and services to gifted students, special needs students and students for whom English is their second language.
- We partner with the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve to offer vocational programming for high school students with disabilities. The RAVE Program (Reaching to Achieve Vocational Excellence) is aligned with Ohio's Employment First Initiative.
- We manage our own inclusive preschool program, which serves both typically developing children as well as children with disabilities.

Student Services include, but are not limited to:

- School Counselors available for all students in grades 6-12.
- Mental health services provided by Crossroads for students, K-12, with social emotional needs.
- Reading tutors for students identified 'at-risk'.
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) programs used in all buildings K-12 to promote positive and school appropriate behavior.
- Intervention Specialists, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists staffed in all buildings to help and identify students with special needs in grades K-12.
- Health aides or nurses staffed in all buildings.
- Opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in prevocational work experiences and special events throughout the year.

Alternative Online Schooling Options are available through the Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve. Students can gain new credits, recoup lost credits and receive help from experienced teachers through the ESCWR Online Learning Academy.

Staff Leadership



Student growth and achievement are facilitated by high quality staff members.

- Our School Resource Officer visits all of our schools frequently to interact with staff and students.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities.
- We have a District Leadership Team, consisting of administrators and teachers that meets three to four times a year to discuss District progress, analyze data and to set goals.
- 100% of our teachers and substitute teachers are certified.
- More than 70% of our teachers have a Master's Degrees or higher.
- Our Transportation staff is committed to providing the highest level of transportation while pledging safety as a top priority.
- Our Technology staff works closely with all departments and buildings to ensure that students have access to current technology and its applications.

- Our Latchkey staff provides safe, fun and dependable child care for elementary students before and after school.
- Our Maintenance staff maintains safe, clean and attractive facilities across the District.

Our Nutrition Services Department

has been providing meals free to all students in the District since March of 2020 including meal distributions for students in the summer months.



Each summer, we host our annual

Community Kindness Day

where more than 60 staff members volunteer a day to give back to the community. Staff members are divided into teams and visit local businesses, parks and organizations to hand out gift certificates, candy, water bottles and t-shirts. Many of the teams complete many random acts of kindness outside of the giveaways, such as bringing lunch to a local fire department.

We are **RIVERSIDE!**

One Community Pursuing Greatness and Getting Better Every Day

VALUE	BEHAVIOR	OUTCOME
Better Every Day	• Do the Right Thing • Own Your Attitude and Choices • Be Coachable	Best Version of You
Pursuit of Greatness	• Act with Determination • Embrace Challenges • Seek and Provide Inspiration	Excellence
One Community	• Communicate and Collaborate • Be a Positive Influence • Build and Invest in Relationships	A Great Place to Live, Learn, and Work

The Journey To Elite!



PLAYBOOK



Riverside Local School District
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville, OH 44077

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Board of Education

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Belinda Grassi, *Vice-President*
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Lori Krenisky
Jack Miley

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Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Melissa Mlakar
440.358.8205

Assistant

Superintendent

Charles Schlick
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Student Services

Cheryl Lanning
440.358.8208

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Nick Carrabine
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Riverside Campus 440.352.3341

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Buckeye Elementary..... 440.352.2191

Melridge Elementary 440.352.3854

Parkside Elementary 440.358.8750

Riverview Elementary 440.357.6171

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www.riversidelocalschools.com

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