



ROAR

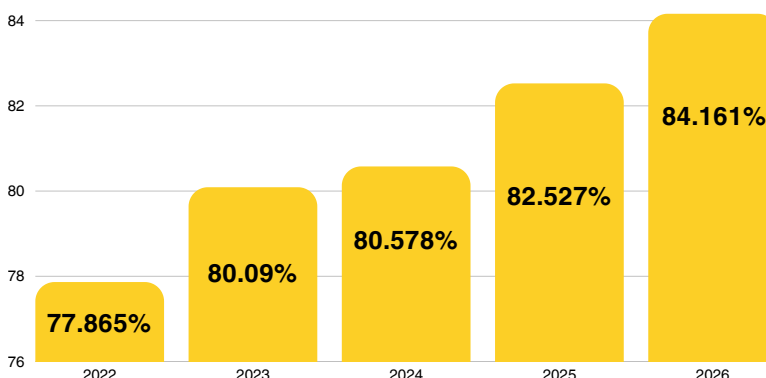
FALL 2026

NEWSLETTER

BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

We are off to a great start to the school year, and we are especially excited to begin the year on the heels of some very encouraging news about the progress our district and schools are making. Please see the great news below!

We are seeing meaningful improvement in student achievement. Our Performance Index score, which reflects performance on all Ohio state tests taken by students across the district, has continued to improve.



Andrea Celico, Ph.D.
Superintendent

CALENDAR

October

- 09 No School
- 14 Board of Education Meeting
- 16 Early Release Day- End of 1st Quarter,
- 22 PK-12 Evening Conferences

November

- 03 No School-Election Day
- 04 Board of Education Meeting
- 05 PK-5 Evening Conferences
- 18 Board of Education Meeting
- 25-27 No School-Thanksgiving

December

- 09 Board of Education Meeting
- 18 No School-End of 2nd Quarter
- 21-1/1 No School- Winter Break

January

- 04 PK-12 Students Return



↓7%

Chronic Absenteeism
Down 7% from 30.6% in 2022

Our progress extends beyond test scores. We have also made significant strides in student attendance. Over the past four years, our chronic absenteeism rate has decreased from 30.6% to 23.1%, dropping below the state average. Every day a student is in school is an opportunity to learn, grow, connect, and succeed, so this improvement is especially meaningful.

Perhaps one of the most exciting indicators of our progress is our graduation rate. In 2022, our graduation rate was 83.8%. This year, that number has increased to **just under 96%**!

These accomplishments did not happen overnight, and they did not happen because of the work of any one person or group.



~96%
Graduation Rate
Up from 83.8% in 2022

They are the result of students showing up and working hard, teachers and staff believing in what is possible, families partnering with our schools, and a district community committed to continuous improvement.

We know there is still work to do. A positive trajectory does not mean we have reached our destination in student achievement; it means we are heading in the right direction, and we intend to keep moving forward.

We have a great deal to celebrate, and even more to look forward to, as we continue working together to provide every student with the opportunity to succeed.



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

cfalls.org

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

New faces, new roles, and a shared commitment to our Black Tigers



ALYSSA BIRD
Coordinator
PK-12 Curriculum



ANDREW JOHNSON
High School
Assistant Principal



ELIZABETH COLLINS
Middle School
Principal



JOHN KINSEY
Middle School
Assistant Principal



MONICA COONEY
DeWitt Elementary
Principal



TINA MAGHES
Richardson Elementary
Principal

We are excited to welcome several new leaders to the Cuyahoga Falls City School District. Each brings a passion for education and a commitment to helping our students and schools continue moving forward. Their experience and leadership will make a positive impact on the Black Tiger community.



COMMUNITY GENEROSITY FILLS THE SHELVES

For the third year in a row, our community came together to support the Black Tiger Family Center through our annual supply drive. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, families, and community members, the drive was once again a tremendous success, helping to stock the shelves at the Family Center's new home at Preston Learning Center.

These donations will help ensure Black Tiger families have access to essential school supplies and other resources throughout the school year.



\$18,000+ DONATED

in supplies and
financial contributions
to support Black Tiger
families!

READY, SET, ROAR!

*Scenes from the start of the
2026-27 school year*



CUYAHOGA FALLS SCHOOL LEVY

Levy Facts | Issue 6



BALLOT ISSUE

5.5

MILS OPERATING LEVY

YEARLY COST

\$193

BASED ON \$100K VALUATION

DURATION

5

YEAR LEVY

STRETCHING YOUR DOLLARS FURTHER

Our last operating levy was passed **7 years ago (2019)** and was projected to last only 3 years. Through disciplined budgeting, leadership stretched those dollars for **7 years**. This 5.5 mil request will generate \$6.1 million per year, which represents approximately 9.9% of the annual operating budget. State foundation funding only provides 26.5% of our budget.

\$6.73M

**CUT IN BUDGET SPENDING
OVER PAST 2 YEARS**

PROACTIVE COST CUTTING (FY25 & FY26 REDUCTIONS)

More than 60 Positions Cut + Operational Restructuring

Among the positions eliminated or reduced:

- 39 Teachers, 1 Media Specialist, 1 Counselor
- 3 Building Administrators
- 2 Central Office Directors
- 1 Career Tech Special Education Coordinator
- 3 Administrative Assistants/Secretary
- 4 Attendants/Paraprofessionals
- 2 Positions: Literacy Coach & Literacy Specialist
- 2 Custodians
- Reduced administrative budgets by 10%
- Delayed curriculum purchases
- Closed Preston Elementary School
- Sale of Schnee Learning Center
- Ended Open Enrollment

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do you need more money?

State funding does not keep pace with real inflation for utilities, diesel fuel, special education services, and health insurance. Under Ohio's HB 920 law, school tax rates automatically decrease when home values rise. The district receives a fixed dollar amount and **does NOT receive additional funding** when home appraisals increase.

What will this levy provide?

The levy will help maintain manageable class sizes by preventing teacher layoffs and keeping student-to-teacher ratios low. It will preserve AP courses, career-tech pathways and essential electives; maintain school security personnel; ensure daily bus routes continue, including high school transportation; and provide financial stability for district operations through the next five years.

What happens if this levy doesn't pass?

Further operational cuts:

- Up to 50 instructional, administrative, and support staff positions eliminated
- Reducing transportation services to Ohio's minimum requirements including reduction of high school busing
- Increasing student fees across academic programs, courses, athletics, and extracurricular activities
- Reducing athletic and extracurricular opportunities
- Reducing high school elective offerings
- Eliminating middle school teaming opportunities
- Closure of an additional elementary school
 - Fifth grade moving to the 6-12 campus
 - Redistricting of elementary schools



Board of Education
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WHY SCHOOL FUNDING IS SHIFTING CLOSER TO HOME

Ohio's school funding system has changed significantly over the past several decades, placing a greater share of the responsibility for funding public education on local communities.



One factor is the changing balance between state and local revenue. Ohio's individual income tax structure has been reduced from nine brackets to a single 2.75% rate beginning in 2026. According to research cited by the Ohio Education Policy Institute, state tax reductions since 2005 have reduced the amount of revenue available at the state level. At the same time, Ohio's share of K–12 education funding has not kept pace with the rising cost of operating schools.



Since 2011, state K–12 funding has increased approximately 23%, while school costs have increased approximately 44%. The state once covered approximately 46% of school costs in 1999; today, that figure is approximately 32%. As the state's share has declined, school districts have become increasingly dependent on locally generated revenue to support educational programs and day-to-day operations.



The distribution of local property taxes has changed as well. In 1975, Ohio homeowners accounted for approximately 46% of school property taxes, compared with 67.5% today. Over that same period, the share paid by businesses has declined by more than one-third. Changes to business taxation, including the state's 20-year phase-out of the business equipment tax, have contributed to this shift.



Kristy Stoicoiu,
Treasurer

"Sound financial stewardship and transparency are essential to ensuring every student has the resources they need to learn, grow, and succeed. We remain committed to being good stewards of our community's investment."

BY THE NUMBERS



46% → 67.5%
 1975 2026

Share of school property taxes paid by homeowners



46% → 32%
 1999 2026

State share of school costs



\$6,405

State funding per student

\$9,077

National average

Nearly 30% below the national average



FINANCE FRIDAY

Want to learn more about school funding?

Visit our Finance Friday series at
cfalls.org/financefridays

For local school districts, these trends create a difficult financial reality: **when state funding does not keep pace with the cost of educating students, a greater share of that responsibility ultimately falls on local communities.**

Sources: Ohio Education Policy Institute; Fleeter & Browning, 2025; Policy Matters Ohio/ITEP, The Great Ohio Tax Shift, 2026; Statehouse News Bureau, 2026.

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