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2016 Annual Report

**Building a Better Future for our  
Students and Community**



**GROVEPORT  
MADISON**  
SCHOOLS





## From the Superintendent

The purpose of our 2016 Annual Report is to provide you with insights into the initiatives, accomplishments, and operations of our school district; and to keep you informed of how we are using the resources that you've provided us.

Because of the support of our taxpayers, through the passage of the 2014 bond issue and operating levy, Groveport Madison Schools is on a new path – a path toward a brighter future for our students and for this community. Your investment in our school district has allowed us to purchase up-to-date curricula, textbooks and technology, add and expand programs and services that support our students, update and maintain our existing buildings and infrastructure, and begin the construction of a new high school. To say that it's been a busy and exciting year is certainly an understatement!

Student academic achievement is on the rise. On the 2016 State of Ohio Report Card, Groveport Madison was one of only two school districts in central Ohio to receive an "A" for the amount of learning that students acquired in a single year. In fact, of Ohio's 608 school districts, less than half received that distinction. There's no question that we still have much ground to cover, but we are definitely on the right path – one leading to great success for all Groveport Madison students.

As you read through our annual report, it is my sincere hope that you take a degree of personal pride in what we've accomplished – because it truly would not have been possible without you and your support.

Should you have questions, or if I or any of my staff members can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would love to hear from you.

With great appreciation and respect,



**Bruce Hoover**  
Superintendent

## Our Mission

**The mission of Groveport Madison Schools is to build  
a community of learners, leaders and responsible citizens.**

## Our Vision

**Every Student, Every Lesson, Every Day**





#### **Groveport Madison School District Board of Education:**

Board Members: Libby Gray, Bryan Shoemaker (President), Chris Snyder (Vice President), Nancy Gillespie, Mary Tedrow

## **Promises Kept**

Earning and keeping one's trust and confidence is an endeavor that the Groveport Madison Schools Board of Education and administration takes very seriously. Together, we have been working diligently to efficiently and effectively use the resources that have been invested by our community to improve the opportunities for our students, as well as to provide them with safe, educationally-appropriate schools and activity spaces.

During the May 2014 operating levy and bond issue campaign, the Board of Education and the District's administration made several promises to this community. Throughout this annual report, we are pleased to share with you our efforts toward fulfilling those promises.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the Groveport Madison Board of Education. Regular Business Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, and Special Meetings/ Work Sessions are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Unless otherwise noted, these meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., and take place at the District Service Center, located at 4400 Marketing Place, Suite B, in Groveport.

- ☒ Restore high school busing and reinstate busing to all students living more than one mile from their assigned school building.
- ☒ Phase in new college and career readiness programs, with an emphasis on STEM courses (science, technology, engineering and math) for grades 5-12. (Pg. 6)
- ☒ Increase the number of Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings. (Pg. 6)
- ☒ Reinstate all athletics and extracurricular programs. (Pg. 6)
- ☒ Fund the integration of an educational technology plan at all grade levels. (Pg. 5)
- ☒ Begin planning for the construction of a new high school. (Pg. 12)
- ☒ Allocate \$1 million for the immediate maintenance and repair needs at the current high school until a new building opens in three years. (Pg. 13)
- ☒ Maintain a carryover fund of \$3 million by 2017. (Pg. 8)
- ☒ Establish an independent citizens' task force to review and communicate the use of taxpayer investments. (Pg. 8)
- ☒ Stretch the emergency levy to five years, and avoid returning to the voters for additional operating funds until May, 2019.

# Academic Achievement Update



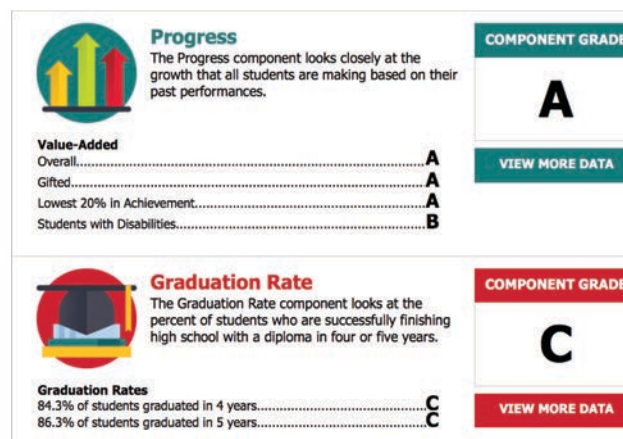
## District Continues Investments in Student Achievement

With student achievement being the very essence of our existence, the District has continued to invest in people, programs and resources to drive our improvement efforts. Thanks to the support of our voters, over the past two years, the District has been able to invest in additional staff, new programs and curricula, and updated technology – all with the purpose of improving opportunities for our students.



## Updating Curricula and Materials

With some of the District's curricula and teaching materials dating back to the 1990s, it was challenging for Groveport Madison's teachers to make their lessons relevant to their students. Since 2014, the District has invested in curricula and materials, including the replacement of social studies, science and math curricula across nearly all grade levels.



## District's State Report Card Indicates Positive Student Growth

Based on the results of the 2016 State Report Card, Groveport Madison Schools is definitely seeing improvement in student achievement. Among the many indicators in the state report card is the "A" the District earned for "Student Progress." Students achieved more than one year's worth of learning over the course of the 2015-2016 school year.

The District also received an "A" rating for the value added (academic growth) of its gifted education students and for students who have struggled the most. In addition, Groveport Madison Schools received a "B" rating for the progress made by its students with disabilities. The District was one of only two central Ohio school districts (the other being Worthington City Schools) to earn an "A" on the student progress indicator of the report card. Of the 608 Ohio school districts, only 271 (45 percent) received an "A" on their value added score.

There are still areas of the report card in which the District must improve, and there is a plan for doing so. We have added new curricula, and we are providing ongoing training to our staff to enable them to reach beyond the traditional instructional approaches to better connect with all of our students.

We have added rigor to our instruction and have accelerated learning for our students who are ready to take on the challenges of college-level work while still in high school. We have increased our focus on career and job readiness, ensuring our students are prepared for well-paying jobs – jobs that will raise household incomes and reduce the impact that poverty has on our community. Finally, we have created more partnerships with county agencies to help address the greater needs of our community and we have begun to build partnerships with parents throughout the District.

## District Launches Online Pre-K Program

Getting children started as early as possible in quality learning opportunities is critical to their early-education success. With limited space available to provide a traditional on-site preschool program and a desire to keep costs to a minimum, the District took a novel approach to addressing this predicament; we started an online Pre-K program (an Early Learning Digital Preschool). The program serves three- and four-year-olds, helping them to develop strong vocabulary, literacy, math, logic, reasoning, and social/emotion skills to prepare them for success in school.



## Expansion of the Gifted Education Program

Over the past two years, the District has expanded its Gifted and Talented program to serve third, fourth and fifth graders (in the area of mathematics), providing instruction for up to 240 minutes each week. Fifth graders who are identified as gifted in reading and/or superior cognitive ability receive services for reading and writing. Services also are provided to students at the middle school level (in math, reading and science), and high school students may take Advanced Placement (AP) courses, which if passed can earn the student college credit. In 2016, the District expanded services to students in kindergarten through second grade.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the academic growth achieved by elementary and middle school students participating in the District's Gifted and Talented program increased significantly. In fact, Groveport Madison's Gifted Education Program earned an "A" on the State of Ohio Report Card.



## District Nears 1:1 Student-to-Computer Ratio

Having up-to-date classroom technology is vital to the academic success of our students. One of the promises made during the 2014 operating levy campaign was to complete a technology plan that would phase in high-quality, up-to-date computers for every grade level. We're very pleased to report that the plan has been completed and we are in the last phase of purchasing the computers necessary to reach a 1:1 ratio of computers to students, meaning that in the very near future, there should never be a time that students have to wait to access technology in their classrooms.

## 2016 Fast Facts

Total enrollment.....	5,797
Geographic area .....	40 sq. mi.
Number of schools.....	10
Total building square footage maintained.....	741,871
Total acreage maintained .....	150
Breakfasts served annually .....	307,282
Lunches served annually .....	602,458
A la carte meals served annually.....	22,157
District bus routes serviced daily .....	62
District students transported daily.....	4,782
Non-public and charter schools' students transported daily.....	903

## Student Demographics

American Indian/Alaskan Native.....	0.01%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	2%
Multi-racial .....	4.8%
Hispanic .....	6.3%
African American .....	41.1%
Caucasian .....	45.7%
Female.....	47%
Male .....	53%



Economically disadvantaged .....	68.21%
Limited English Proficient.....	4.32%
Students with disabilities .....	15.94%
Students qualifying for gifted services .....	12.7%
Languages spoken in the District.....	25
Mobility Rate.....	20.6%

*(percentage of students enrolled in the District for less than one-half year)*

## Staff Information

Total staff.....	661
Staff members with Master's Degree or higher .....	49.8%
Teachers with 10+ years of experience.....	48.89%

## Staff Demographics

American Indian/Alaskan Native.....	0.11%
Hispanic .....	0.22%
Multi-racial .....	0.37%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	1.7%
African American .....	2.8%
Caucasian .....	94.8%
Female .....	73.7%
Male .....	26.3%





## Special Needs Pre-school Program Earns Top Ranking in State Evaluation

Groveport Madison Schools' special needs preschool program earned top honors from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The Department of Education gave the District a "Five-Star Rating" – the highest possible rating – after a rigorous evaluation of the program.

The ODE "Step Up to Quality" program evaluates the curriculum, qualifications and credentials of employees, the level of dedication the school exhibits to continuous improvement and how well families and community partners are engaged. All preschool programs that receive funding through the ODE must undergo the evaluation process and earn a rating of three, four or five stars. A Five-Star Rating means the preschool exceeds all of the state's standards.



## Expansion of Extracurricular Programs into the Middle Schools

Students who are involved in activities, such as extracurricular programs, tend to remain connected to school and more engaged in their learning. Beginning in 2015, the District expanded its athletic offerings into the middle schools. The programs include football, girls volleyball and boys and girls basketball. Today, more than 220 students participate in our middle school extracurricular programs.

## Students Earning College Credit on Campus or in the District

In 2015, Groveport Madison Schools began participating in Ohio's College Credit Plus program, allowing seventh through twelfth graders to earn college and high school credits simultaneously, while taking college courses from Ohio State University or Columbus State Community College. Some of the courses are taught right in our schools, while others are available only on the college campus. College Credit Plus is a no-cost way for our students to earn college credit while still being enrolled in Groveport Madison Schools.



## LEVY PROMISE College and Career Readiness Programming

Over the past two years, the District has developed college and career readiness programs for students at the middle and high school levels. Career Pathways are a series of connected education and training programs and support services that enable students to secure a job or advance in a demand industry or occupation after graduation. Career Pathways focus on easing and facilitating student transition from high school to community college, from pre-college courses to credit-based postsecondary programs, and from community college to university or employment.

Through these pathways, students can attain skills in high-demand occupations, earn certification and/or credentials for specific jobs, and participate in mentorship and/or internship programs.

## LEVY PROMISE Expanding High School Advanced Placement Course Offerings

Having access to rigorous, high-quality courses is critically important to college-bound students. These courses represent college-level work, and by passing a specified assessment, the student may earn college credit.

In 2014, Groveport Madison High School was offering only three Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Today, our high school offers eight such courses, and plans are underway to further increase the number of AP courses over the next several years.

## Groveport Madison Graduates Afforded Good Opportunities Following Graduation

Our goal is to provide our students with a high-quality education and the skills and experiences necessary to afford them an array of good choices following graduation. Some students choose to directly enter the workforce, represent our country through military service, or even start their own businesses. Others may choose to attend a college or university. The choice is theirs.



## Colleges in which the Class of 2016 was accepted to attend:

Alabama State University  
 Ashland University  
 Aveda Institute  
 Berklee College of Music  
 Bowling Green State University  
 Bradford College  
 Capital University  
 Central State University  
 Clark-Atlanta University  
 Columbus College of Art & Design  
 Columbus State University  
 The Culinary Institute of America  
 Denison University  
 East Carolina State University

Full Sail University  
 Georgia State University  
 Heidelberg University  
 Hocking College  
 ITT Technical Institute  
 Jackson State University  
 Kent State University  
 Martin-Luther Universität-Halle-  
 Wittenberg (Germany)  
 Mount Carmel School of Nursing  
 Northeastern University  
 Ohio Dominican University  
 Ohio State University  
 Ohio University

Ohio Valley University  
 Ohio Wesleyan University  
 Otterbein University  
 School of Advertising Art  
 Shawnee State University  
 University of Akron  
 University of Cincinnati  
 University of Northwestern Ohio  
 University of Toledo  
 Wittenberg University  
 Wright State University  
 Xavier University



## Treasurer's Update

### Financial Outlook

The financial outlook for Groveport Madison Schools has improved significantly since fiscal year 2014. In that year, the District had an end-of-year cash balance of only \$43,000. A dramatic improvement in the General Fund cash balance has been achieved through significant, strategic budget cuts and the passage of our emergency levy.

In 2014, voters approved a combined 6.18-mill operating levy, a \$33.3 million bond issue and a 0.5-mill permanent-improvement levy. The operating levy provided funding allowing the District to invest in the academic program, including dollars for additional staff members, curricula and materials, career-technical programs, the expansion of gifted services, technology upgrades across all grade levels and much-needed improvements to our school facilities. Funds from the bond issue are already at work, with the construction of our new high school now nearing the 30 percent completion mark. The building is within budget and on schedule to open for the start of 2018-2019 school year.

Since arriving in the summer of 2015, my staff and I have been working very hard to ensure that all of the safeguards and systems are in place to protect the investment of our taxpayers as well as those funds provided by state and federal sources.

Our efforts are paying off. By working with the administration, we have stabilized the District's finances, which has allowed the District to invest in areas that support student achievement, ensure safe and healthy learning environments, as well as provide competitive wages for our staff and guarantee on-time payments to our vendors.



**John R. Walsh**  
Treasurer

#### **LEVY** **Budget Reserve Established**

PROMISE

In keeping with promises made during the last levy campaign, we have established a \$3 million budget reserve—improving the District's financial stability significantly. By having a budget reserve, we are able to cope with the unexpected, whether that be a reduction in state funding, the loss of a major business in our area or storm damage to a school.

#### **LEVY** **Citizens Financial Review Committee**

PROMISE

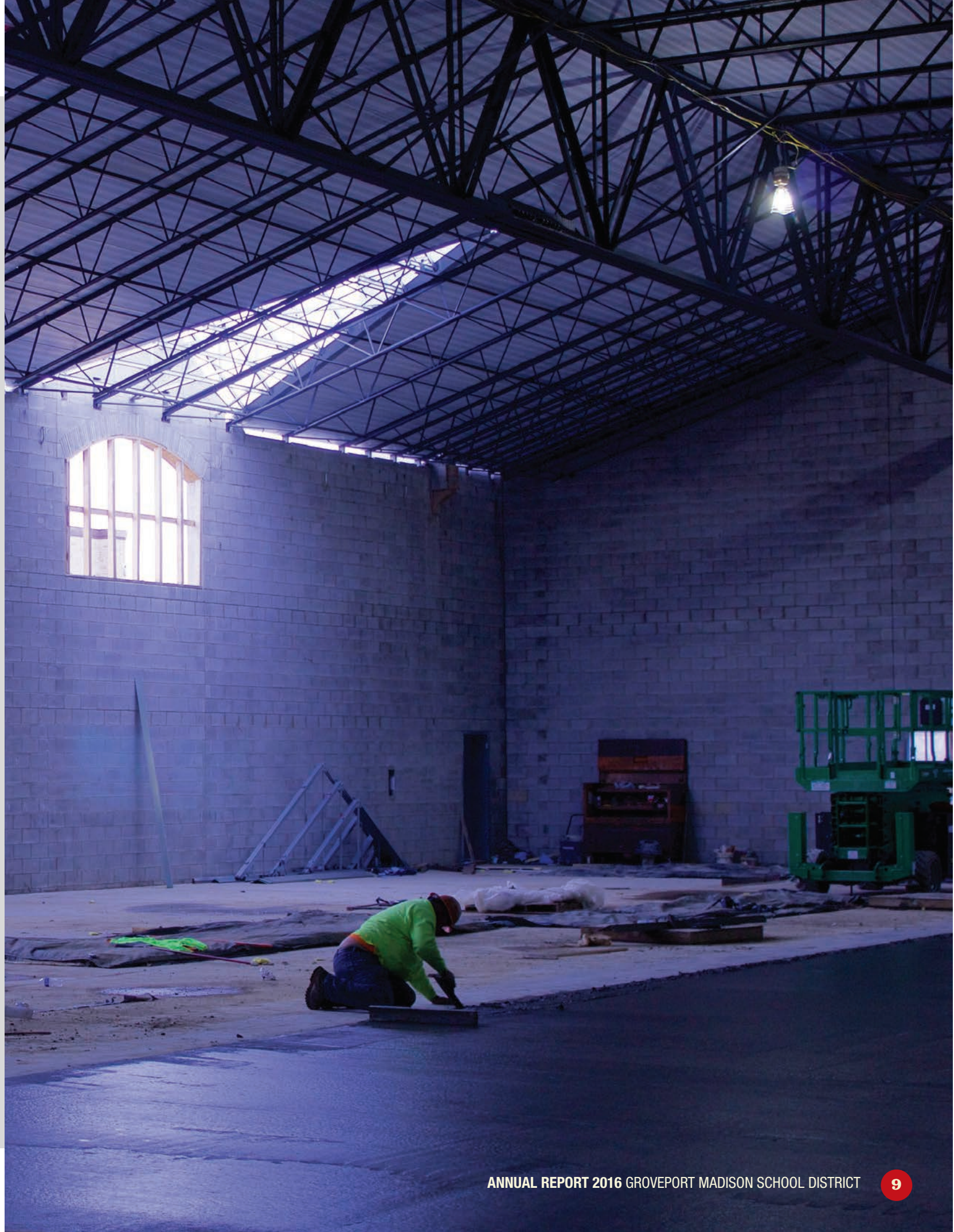
Another one of the promises made during the 2014 levy campaign was to establish a committee of area residents who would review the District's finances. We have established the committee and are meeting quarterly. We are also planning to provide financial updates to our stakeholders through presentations at various civic, community and business organizations.

#### **LEVY** **Renewal of the Emergency Levy**

PROMISE

The District made a promise to our taxpayers to do whatever was necessary to avoid being on the ballot for additional operating funds until the spring of 2019. With the revenue that we are receiving from the five-year emergency operating levy, nominal increases in state aid, and numerous cost-saving measures already in place, we do not anticipate going back to the voters for additional operating funds earlier than May, 2019. At that time, the funds from the emergency operating levy will have been exhausted and the levy will need to be renewed in order to maintain our operation.



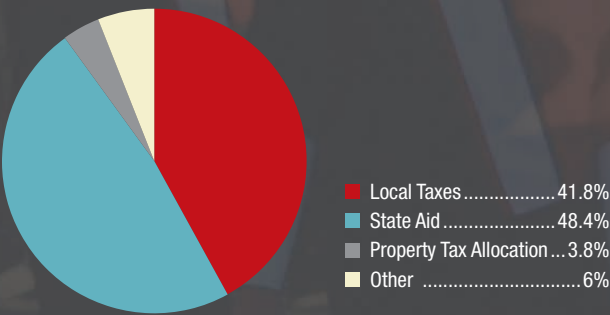






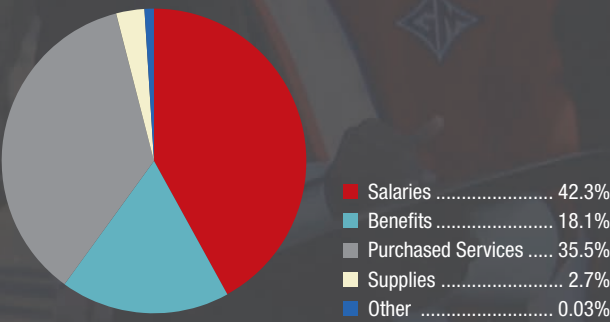
# Financials

## Revenues



In fiscal year 2017, Groveport Madison Schools’ General Operating Fund received 48.4 percent of its receipts from the State, 41.8 percent from local taxes, 3.8 percent from property tax allocations, and 6 percent from other sources.

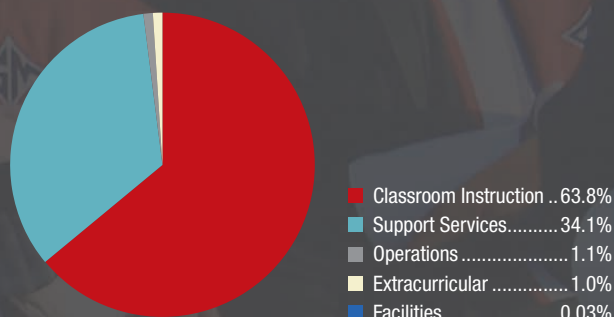
## General Fund Expenditures Breakdown by Object



Personnel costs make up the vast majority of a school district’s operating expenses. Groveport Madison Schools spent 42.3 percent of its general fund budget on salaries and 18.1 percent on employee benefits. This level of expenditure is less than that of most school districts across Ohio. Purchased services (35.5 percent) account for fixed-cost items such as contracted transportation services, electricity, natural gas, water, and telephone expenses, as well as state funds that are required to transfer through the District to be paid to community schools. Other budgeted items in this area include diesel fuel, staff development, legal fees, and copier charges. Materials and supplies (2.7 percent) account for classroom materials used on a daily basis. The “Other” category (1.4 percent) includes items such as insurance, county auditor tax collection fees, software licensing, bank charges, and county services.

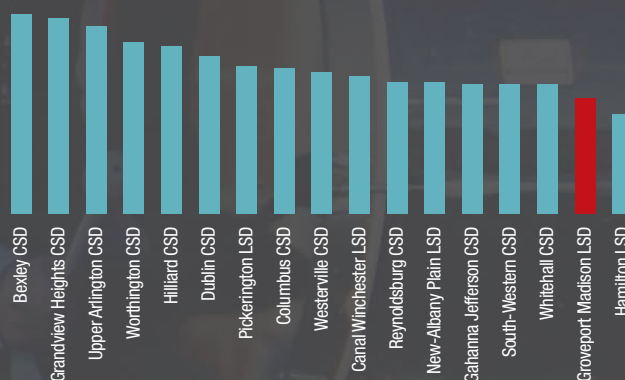


## General Fund Expenditures Breakdown by Function



The largest percentage of the budget (63.8 percent) was spent on teaching and supporting students. These expenses include instructional staff, health services, guidance services, psychological services, classroom aides, and therapy services. Support services (34.1 percent) includes funds for administrative services, fiscal services, instructional and office technology, food services, transportation. Operations (1.1 percent) accounts for utilities, equipment, maintenance vehicles, etc. Extracurricular activities (.03 percent) keep students engaged in school, help to develop student leadership skills and promote school and community pride. Facilities (.03 percent) includes expenses for the upkeep, safety and maintenance of our facilities and grounds.

## Comparison of Millage Rates



The Board and administration of Groveport Madison Schools have worked diligently to keep our expenses in check and to use the resources we've been provided in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. When comparing the total millage rates of the other Franklin County school districts, Groveport Madison Schools' are nearly the lowest in the county.

Comparison of Millage Rates	
School District	Total Millage
Bexley CSD	112.53
Grandview Heights CSD	110.05
Upper Arlington CSD	106.01
Worthington CSD	96.94
Hilliard CSD	94.35
Dublin CSD	88.59
Pickerington LSD	83.20
Columbus CSD	81.88
Westerville CSD	80.35
Canal Winchester LSD	79.00
Reynoldsburg CSD	74.45
New-Albany Plain LSD	74.09
Gahanna Jefferson CSD	73.26
South-Western CSD	73.15
Whitehall CSD	73.10
Groveport Madison LSD	55.90
Hamilton LSD	55.90



**Thanks to the support of our community, through the passage of the 2014 operating levy and bond issue, the District has been able to stabilize its finances, make much-needed updates to our older schools and begin construction of a new high school.**

## Facilities Update

### Construction of the New High School is Well Underway

Preparing to construct a 240,000 square foot building is never easy, especially when you are building a school that needs to serve more than 1,500 students for decades to come. In the design process, more than 100 meetings took place with students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members to come up with the best recommendations for what should be included in the new high school. With guidance and direction from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (who is paying for 53 percent of the cost), we believe we have come up with plans that will make the community proud.

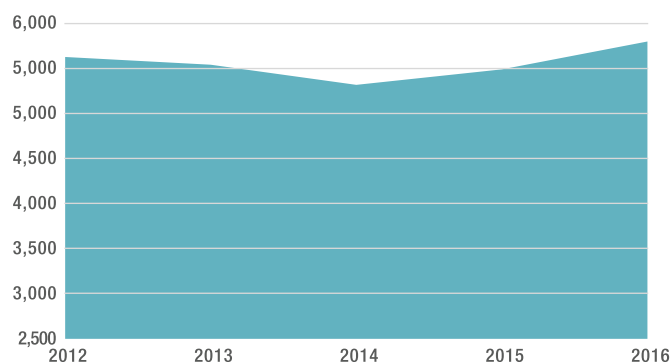
At the time of the printing of this report, the new high school was nearing its 50 percent completion mark. To date, more than 210,000 concrete blocks have been laid and 4,462 cubic yards of concrete have been poured. Electricians have already run more than 14,800 linear feet of electrical cables – and they're just getting started in the academic areas. The roof decking is nearing completion on the athletic wing and the pre-cast concrete decking is being put in place, forming what will become the second floor of the academic wing.

The Board of Education and the administration have tirelessly worked to oversee the construction project and have demonstrated great care to ensure that the project is completed in an expedient and cost-effective manner. We are happy to report that at this juncture, we are within budget and on schedule for a fall 2018 opening.

To see pictures, videos and additional information on the new high school, visit our website, at

[gocruisers.org/constructionupdate.aspx](http://gocruisers.org/constructionupdate.aspx)

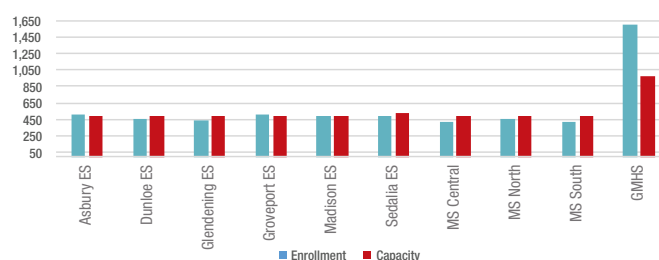
Five-Year Enrollment Trendline



### Enrollment Growth Continues to Exceed Expectations

With affordable housing, friendly and welcoming neighborhoods and good-quality schools, families continue to find Groveport Madison Schools a desirable school district in which to locate. As a result, enrollment in the District is growing year after year. This year, the District reached a record enrollment of 5,797, increasing by more than 100 students over the 2015-2016 school year. While enrollment growth is a positive indication of our increasing quality and desirability, it is also creating overcrowded conditions at many of our schools.

Enrollment -vs- Functional Capacity





## District Continues to Add Modular Classrooms to Accommodate Enrollment Growth

The District currently has a total of 20 modular classrooms to house an ever-growing enrollment. Glendening Elementary has four modular classrooms, Groveport Elementary has two modular classrooms and the high school has a total of 14 modular classrooms. In the summer of 2016, the District will install an additional 12 modular classrooms at Sedalia Elementary. Modular classrooms will accommodate short-term enrollment growth, but with more students expected over the next several years, the District and community must look at long-term solutions.

## Building for the Present and the Future

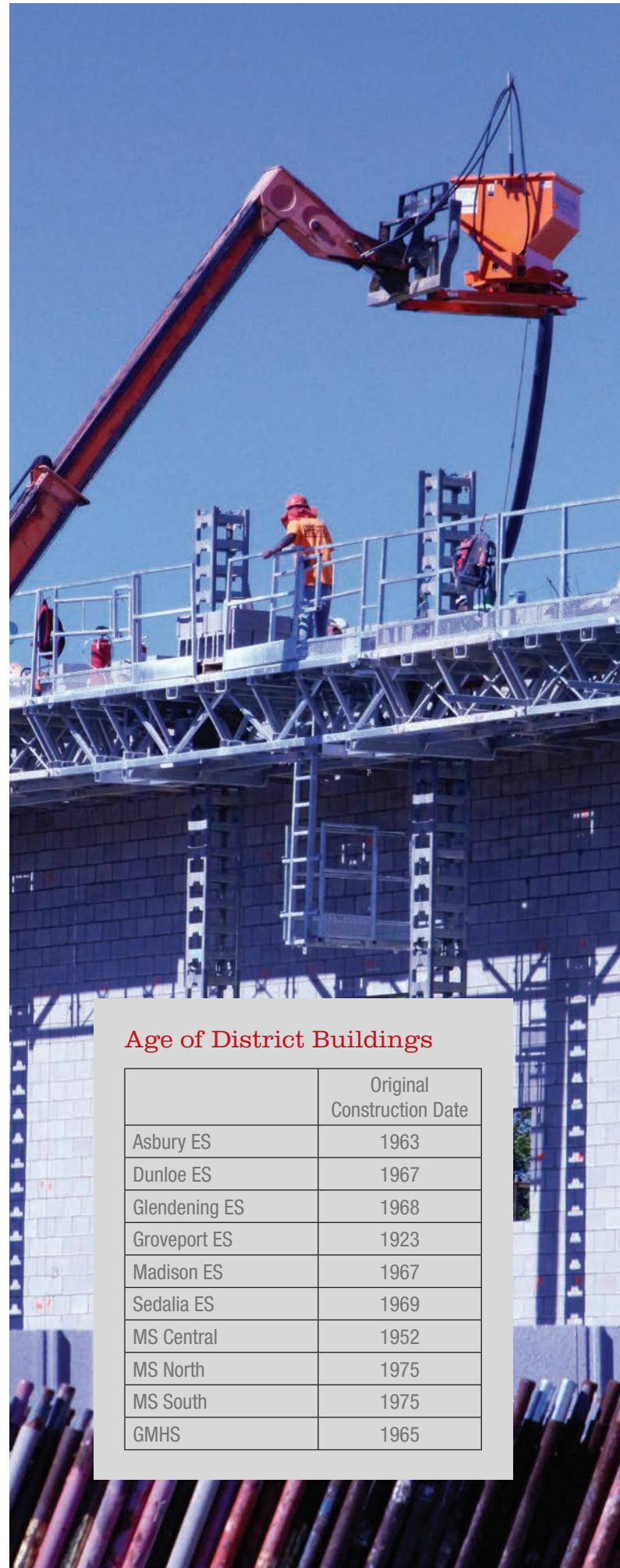
The Board of Education and administration are currently researching options to address the District's overcrowding issues. The Superintendent has asked the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to complete a facilities assessment for the District, and the Board and administration will develop recommendations to share with the community.

The District is at the very early stages of the discussion, and there are by no means any specific plans on the table. We are committed to involving our staff and the community in helping us to research what grade level and construction options are best for the District to consider.

## Investing and Maintaining Current Buildings

With many of the District's buildings dating to the 1960s – and one building dating back to 1923 – maintaining these structures is vital to their survival. Since 2014, the District has completed the following upgrades to our existing buildings:

- Completed tuck-pointing at Groveport ES to eliminate leaking through exterior walls
- Replaced the gymnasium floors at MS North and MS South
- Repaired the bleachers at MS North and MS South
- Upgraded restrooms at MS South
- Replaced the roof at Asbury ES
- Renovated main offices at MS North and MS South
- Repaved bus lane at MS South
- Purchased new cafeteria tables for MS South
- Completed roof repairs at MS North and MS South
- Replaced wood shingles at MS North and MS South
- Replaced the roof on the storage garage at Groveport ES
- Replaced broken furnishings throughout the District with donated furniture from another school district
- Installed sound panels, technology desks and storage cabinets in all elementary schools to support the Read 180 program
- Replaced broken furnishings in numerous special needs classrooms
- Painted the interiors of Asbury ES, Glendening ES, Sedalia ES, MS North and MS South



### Age of District Buildings

	Original Construction Date
Asbury ES	1963
Dunloe ES	1967
Glendening ES	1968
Groveport ES	1923
Madison ES	1967
Sedalia ES	1969
MS Central	1952
MS North	1975
MS South	1975
GMHS	1965

## District Contact Information

### Schools and Contact Information:

#### Asbury Elementary

Staci Peters, Principal  
5127 Harbor Boulevard  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
614-833-2000

#### Dunloe Elementary

Naim Sanders, Principal  
3200 Dunloe Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
614-833-2008

#### Glendening Elementary

Curt Brogan, Principal  
4200 Glendening Drive  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-836-4972

#### Groveport Elementary

April Bray, Principal  
715 Main Street  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-836-4975

#### Madison Elementary

Tricia Faulkner, Principal  
4600 Madison School Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
614-833-2011

#### Groveport Madison Schools District Service Center

4400 Marketing Place, Suite B  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-492-2520

#### Sedalia Elementary

Matt DeCastro, Principal  
5400 Sedalia Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
614-833-2014

#### Middle School Central

Neil Britton, Principal  
751 Main Street  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-836-4957

#### Middle School North

Brandy Grieves, Principal  
5474 Sedalia Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232  
614-837-5508

#### Middle School South

Darren Fillman, Principal  
4400 Glendening Drive  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-836-4953

#### Groveport Madison High School

Aric Thomas, Principal  
4475 S. Hamilton Road  
Groveport, Ohio 43125  
614-836-4964



## Get and Stay Connected!

The Groveport Madison Schools' website, [www.gocruisers.org](http://www.gocruisers.org), is loaded with information to help keep you connected to District happenings on a daily basis. Find your child's bus route and lunch menus and stay on top of school- and district-wide events and celebrations by making [www.gocruisers.org](http://www.gocruisers.org) one of your "favorite" websites.



To check out our pictures and get the latest news, "Like" us on Facebook @GoCruisers and follow us on Twitter @GMSchools.









Groveport Madison Local Schools  
District Service Center  
4400 Marketing Place, Suite B  
Groveport, Ohio 43125