



The

South-Westerner

An annual report from the South-Western City School District

A message from Leadership

Fellow Community Members:

During a third consecutive school year impacted by the pandemic, our school system was once again tested. However, we rose to the challenge to ensure learning not only continued, but thrived during the 2021-2022 school year. We are grateful for the work of our entire staff and the efforts of our families. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, our students and staff embodied a “Do what you can, with what you’ve got, where you are” mentality last year. We are very proud of their great academic gains.

We continue to expand academic opportunities for students. This past year students earned 6,396 hours of transcribed college credit, 12 students earned an associates degree prior to high school graduation, and 557 students earned an industry recognized credential. For the 2022- 2023 school year we have added additional two and three year pathways to increase the number of students that earn their associates degree before high school graduation. Emerging partnerships with Apple and career-technical programming are also a pridepoint for students as they immerse themselves in project-based learning and mobile applications. Finally, our continued work with professional development this summer has served to refine and enhance curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies used to help engage students.

This August we opened four new middle school buildings at Beulah Park (formerly Brookpark), Finland, Norton and Pleasant View, with a renovation/addition at Jackson Middle School slated to open later this fall. Each facility is equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, technology-rich resources, and additional safety features to help support an ever-evolving workforce. These facilities will close segment two of our OFCC construction efforts. We have signaled our intent to the commission to begin planning for segment 3 of our facilities work. Segment 3 will most likely focus on Grove City and Westland High School. In addition to our master plan work with the commission, we have been able to leverage federal dollars to fund seven additional capital projects, which should be completed by December 2024. While most of these projects are HVAC related, we are currently expanding the career center to offer two additional programs and add additional classrooms at Hayes Intermediate School.

Thanks to the support of our community in 2009, we find ourselves on solid financial footing. We have been able to stretch operating dollars well beyond the 2013 promise and currently have a forecast that is in the black for another five years.

As we embark upon a new school year, we find ourselves energized and resolved to prepare our students for both short-term and long-term success. Partnering with families and the community to make good on our promises, we thank our immediate and broader SWCSD Family for your efforts and continued support.

Sincerely,



Cathy Johnson, President
Board of Education



Dr. Bill Wise
Superintendent of Schools

Student Achievement

88.4%

Four-year Graduation Rate
(Highest in District History)

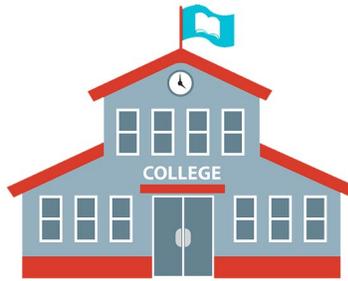


1,462 Industry Credentials Earned
by 557 Career-Tech students at the SWCA



12

Associate's Degrees Earned



6,396

College Credits Earned



\$20.1 million

in Scholarships Earned



Class of 2022

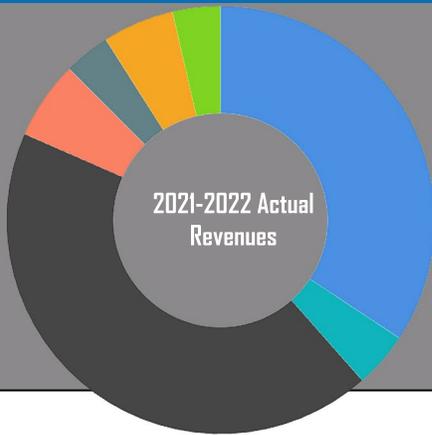
The Class of 2022 this past year certainly left their mark on education through an array of different pathways. From earning industry recognized credentials and college credits to graduating with an Associate's Degree prior to graduation, our students continue to pursue challenging pathways that will position them for success after high school.

Associate of Arts Degree Programs

The Associate of Arts degree program at SWCSD is a way for students to set themselves apart in the post-graduation job market faster and cost-free. AA degrees provide a strong foundation of career skills that employers are looking for across many industries and could help boost your lifetime earnings and employment prospects. Facilitated through Columbus State Community College at our Accelerated Learning Center (ALC), this program resulted in 11 students graduating with their Associate of Arts degree in May before even graduating high school in June.

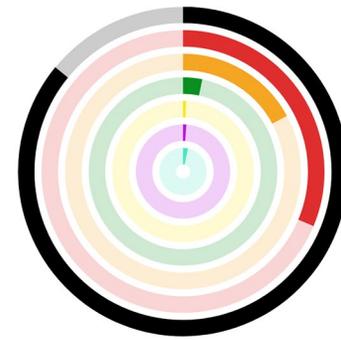
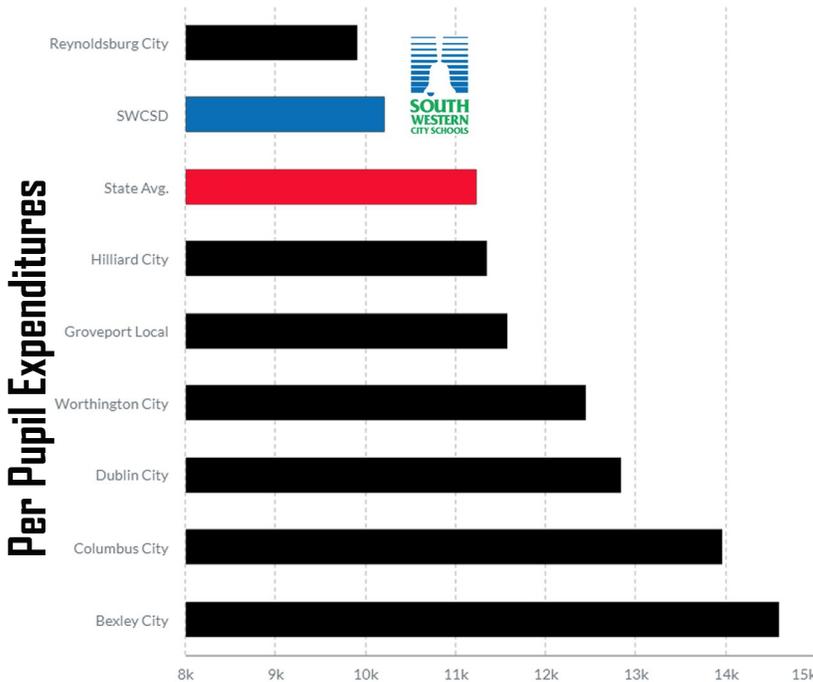
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Associate degree holders earned about 20% more per week in 2020 than workers with only a high school diploma. For students interested in going into a four-year Bachelor degree program, earning an Associate of Arts Degree will help save money and potentially get a two-year head start on your path to earning your Bachelor degree.

District Finances



General Fund Revenues

Real Estate	\$58,919,464	34.3%
Personal Property Tax	\$11,978,530	4.2%
Unrestricted Grants	\$123,916,604	43.1%
Restricted Grants	\$17,058,439	5.8%
Property Tax Allocation	\$10,173,657	3.5%
All Other Revenues	\$15,589,748	5.4%
Transfers and Advances In	\$10,372,657	3.8%
Total Revenues	\$288,009,099	



General Fund Expenditures

Personnel Services	\$166,973,683	60.1%
Benefits	\$60,615,785	21.9%
Purchased Services	\$33,194,844	12.0%
Supplies and Materials	\$6,352,969	2.3%
Capital Outlay	\$1,475,959	0.5%
Other Objects	\$2,211,478	0.8%
Transfers and Advances Out	\$6,553,254	2.4%
Total Expenditures	\$277,377,972	

Overview of Finances

At the May 9, 2022 meeting of the South-Western City School District Board of Education, treasurer and CFO Mr. Hugh W. Garside, Jr. presented the Five-Year Forecast painting a healthy fiscal future for the state's sixth largest school system. For collection year 2022, the District ranks 12th out of 16 Franklin County schools in Per Pupil Expenditures indicating that the district is highly efficient in using taxpayer dollars directly on student needs. At **\$12,542 spent per student, the District comes in under the state average of \$13,387** per student expenditure. Additionally, this past spring, the District came in a little north of \$10 million in revenue compared to expenditures while also negotiating three, new collective bargaining agreements with classified, certified, and administrative staff despite labor and fiscal hurdles that have affected other districts nationwide in recent years. Looking ahead, the District is well positioned to maintain and sustain resources for students in the 2022-2023 school year.

New in 2022-2023



The new SWCSD.us

Over the summer months, the district worked on the rollout of a new website for students, staff, families, and community members. With an increased emphasis on navigation and supplemental photos and videos that showcase the pride we have in our school system, the goal of the migration to the new site was to improve upon the end-user experience. We hope as you navigate our new digital home that the new format can be a tool for you and your family as you plan your school week, access resources, or stay connected to district news and updates.



Opening of Four Middle Schools

In mid August, the district held ribbon cutting ceremonies for four new middle school builds at Beulah Park Middle School (formerly Brookpark), Finland Middle School, Norton Middle School, and Pleasant View Middle School. The new buildings and expansion project at Jackson Middle School were part of the second phase of South-Western City School District's Ohio Facilities Construction Commission project.

In addition to a website transition, the district also moved to a new software system for our transportation department. Each day, the State of Ohio's sixth largest school system runs approximately 184 routes spanning 119-square miles. This new software system enables us the ability to maximize route efficiency, key-in on high traffic areas to find alternate routes, and continue to refine how we get students to and from school in a timely manner. As an extension of this new system, mid-year we plan to roll out a new parent app called StopFinder where families can receive access to a mobile tracker based on geo fields specific to their home or childcare provider. Stay tuned to www.SWCSD.us for rollout information updates heading into the winter months!

Transportation Mobile App



Our Community

The South-Western City Schools Educational Foundation

The South-Western City Schools Educational Foundation (SWCSEF) was established in 1986 as a means to raise funds to provide student scholarships for post-high school education. Since that time, the SWCSEF has expanded its mission to include funding for innovative school programs as well as student achievement and scholarships. Through the use of volunteers, the SWCSEF is able to ensure that all of its proceeds are used to support students and their educational needs.



The SWCA Council of PTAs

The South-Western City Schools Council of PTA was chartered in 1962 and is one of the largest PTA councils in the State of Ohio with 32 active PTA units in membership. The mission of the PTA council is to promote direct involvement in all units as a unified voice by bringing attendance areas together to support the activities that bring parent involvement in our schools.

PTA units in the South-Western City School District provide an avenue for parents to become engaged and involved in their child's education through partnerships that enhance student learning and enrich the lives of the students within the schools. From field days to literacy nights, the PTA's of the SWCSD provide educational programs to families for little or no cost. PTA also provides a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and share their opinions about what is happening in their child's school. To join a PTA or find out how to get involved with one-off events or more long-range volunteerism, contact your building principal for more information.



Staff Spotlight



Left-to-right: Dr. Bill Wise (Superintendent), Diane McCune, and Marge Moretti (Monterey Elementary Principal)

Monterey Elementary School's Diane McCune named 2022 Crystal Apple Winner

Each year at our Employee Awards event, we present the Crystal Apple Award to only a select group of School Bell Award recipients who stand out from the rest of the nominations in terms of afterhours work, dedication, and the implementation of initiatives that impact students. This award is our district's highest honor.

This year's honoree is Mrs. Diane McCune. Diane was nominated by a community member who writes "Diane is an educational aide in one of the Monterey Elementary cross-categorical units serving children with special needs each day. In addition to this role, she also oversees the crossing guard program for the school and has started a gardening club for students to engage with during and outside of the school year."

To support this homegrown gardening initiative, Diane has applied for and received a number of annual grants to fund the building of raised flower beds, purchasing of plants, and gardening maintenance. During the summer, she also takes time to tend the garden – something she never left through the upheaval of COVID disruptions to her work calendar. "From food drive support to holiday programming assistance, she continuously goes above the call of duty each day to assist students in our building and beyond," said Principal Marge Moretti.

Transportation Supervisor Tim Cox named Supervisor of the Year

South-Western City School District Transportation Supervisor, Tim Cox was named the recipient of the Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation's (OAPT) Pupil Transportation Supervisor of the Year. Mr. Cox has been South-Western City School District's Transportation Supervisor for the past 15 years, directly overseeing the daily operations for the sixth-largest school district in the state of Ohio. This includes managing 275 staff members and a 210 bus fleet that runs 184 routes with 12,000 students daily over 119 square miles. In the 2020-2021 school year alone, this equated to 1,889,366 miles driven.





South-Western City Schools

District Service Center

3805 Marlane Drive

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