

2026 Quality Profile



***One Community,
Pursuing Greatness,
and Getting Better
Every Day***

A Message From Dr. Rateno

Dear Riverside Community,

It is with tremendous pride and gratitude that we share our 2026 Riverside Local Schools Quality Profile, which is a companion piece to the State Report Card. While the State Report Card focuses primarily on how well students perform on state mandated assessments, the Quality Profile showcases the entire educational experience a student may have while enrolled in our District.

This profile is a reflection of the people who make Riverside special - our students, staff, families, community members, and local businesses. Every achievement highlighted in these pages represents the collective effort of a community committed to providing our students with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed.

This year, Riverside has taken an important step forward in its journey by embracing a new Strategic Plan grounded in a clear mission: **Educating Excellence**. We believe every student deserves our full commitment, every day. This commitment is reflected not only in academic achievement, but also in the experiences, relationships, opportunities, and support we provide to help every student reach their full potential. Our strategic goals over the next several years revolve around Student Learning, High Quality Staff, Facilities, Community Engagement and Financial Stewardship.

Our vision, **One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day**, captures the spirit of Riverside. It reminds us that excellence is not a destination, it is an ongoing pursuit. It means working together as one team, maintaining high expectations, celebrating our successes, learning from our challenges, and continually looking for ways to improve.

This Quality Profile is more than just numbers and statistics, it is evidence of the dedication of our students and staff, the partnership of our families, and the continued support of our community. It represents the many ways Riverside is preparing students not only for their next step, but for a successful future beyond our schools.

As we look ahead, we do so with purpose and optimism. We are proud of how far Riverside has come, grateful for the people who have helped us get here, and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for believing in Riverside, for supporting our students, and for being part of One Community as we continue to pursue greatness and get better every day.

Thank you!



Dr. Christopher Rateno
Superintendent



Our District

Our District covers 65 square miles serving more than 4,000 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
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville Township
440.352.3341

Principal: Michael Hall
Assistant Principals: Jeff Eckles,
Rich Frimel, Courtney Patton &
Rebecca Rowell-Malinas

LaMuth Middle School

6700 Auburn Road
Concord Township
440.354.4394
Principal: Kaylee Flynt
Assistant Principal: Nick Schussler



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: Thomas Reilly

Riverview Elementary

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

Riverside Preschool

Housed at Riverview Elementary
440.357.6171
Supervisor & Gifted Coordinator:
Julie Weber

Our Board of Education



Joseph Audino, Belinda Grassi, Lori Krenisky, Denise Brewster, Jimmielee Vires

Our Central Office Administrators

Superintendent: Dr. Christopher Rateno
Treasurer: Dr. Stephen Thompson
Assistant Treasurer: Michael Patrizi
Assistant Superintendent: Dave Leone
Director of Student Services: Camille Ritt
Director of Marketing & Communications: Nick Carrabine
Director of Human Resources: Mallory Aliff

Our District Department Directors

Athletics: Dave Bors
Health Services: Heidi Perry
Latchkey Program: Julie Bealko
Maintenance: Rich Arlesic
Nutrition: Michelle Gifford
Technology: John Renwick
Transportation: Evan Palo

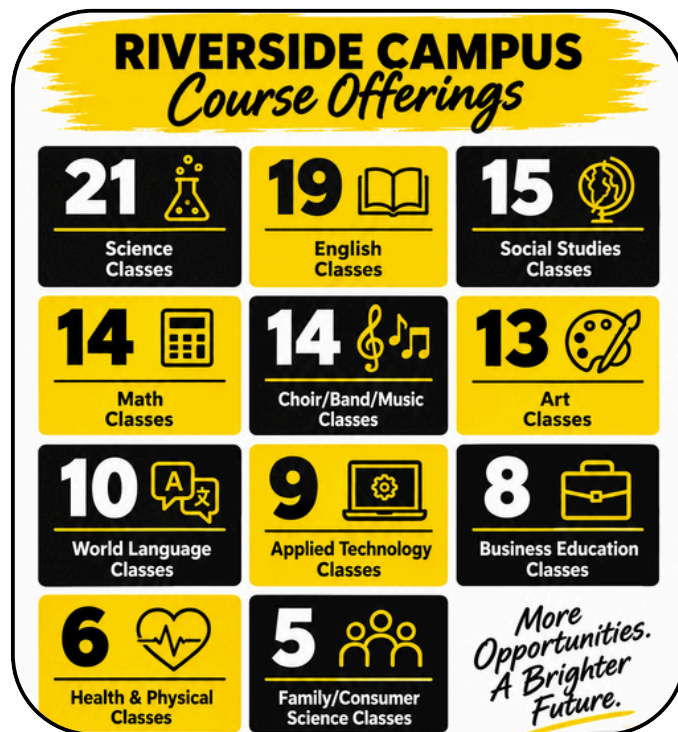
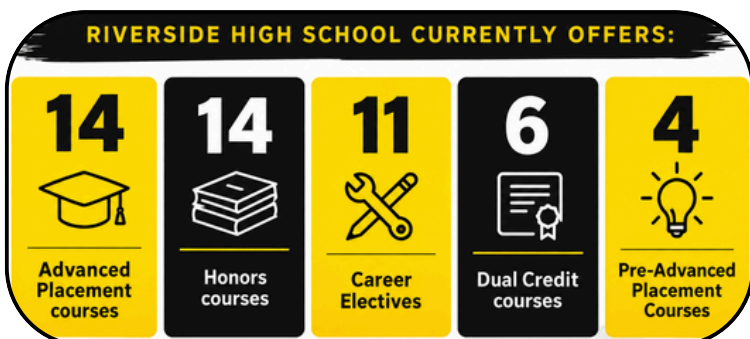


Academics

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

Student Learning is one of the main pillars of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to prepare every Riverside student for their success through high-quality personalized learning, meaningful relationships, and a strong sense of belonging.

Riverside Campus currently offers nearly **140 courses** for students in grades 8-12. LaMuth Middle School offers courses in art, technology, physical education, band, choir, math, science, English language arts, social studies and advisory for students in grades 5-7. In addition, honors courses are offered in math, English language arts & advanced math.



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

AP Research
 AP Seminar
 Biology
 Calculus AB
 Calculus BC
 Chemistry
 English Language & Composition

English Literature & Composition
 Environmental Science
 Psychology
 Physics
 Statistics
 U.S. History
 U.S. Government

Academics

College & Career Readiness

We are committed to preparing students for **life after graduation**. Whether students are entering the workforce, pledging military service, or planning for post-secondary education, our goal is that they are confident in their decision and have the necessary skills to be successful.

Riverside offers comprehensive college and career readiness programming starting in middle school, where students participate in career readiness electives and earn micro-credentials recognized in different industries. Through these experiences, students begin their exposure to the wide range of opportunities available to them after graduation through guest speakers, field trips, and hands-on learning activities. They also learn what courses and options are available to them at the high school.

Several new **career exploration initiatives** were also launched last school year, including a Check out the Truck event for all 2nd graders, a Riverside Reality tour for sophomores and a 5th grade Career Quest at Riverside Campus.

At the high school level, students have a variety of options to explore career pathways. Students can choose from multiple **career electives** such as: Welding; Cybersecurity; Intro to Healthcare; Public Service & Safety; Business; Construction; Education & Training; Drone Transport & Commercial Operations; Sports Industry; History & Geography of Lake County, and Arts, Communication & Theatre. Students can also participate in **work-based learning electives** that allow them to earn high school credit for employment. In addition to course work, students are also encouraged to participate in Sophomore Shadow Day, Junior Project and Senior Project, all of which are designed to promote career exploration and experiential learning.

We are also committed to providing all students foundational employability skills. Students gain these skills through earning the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal as juniors and six points toward an industry-recognized credential as seniors.

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 any college while still in high school at no cost through our **College Credits Plus Program**.



Artificial Intelligence

In order to prepare our students for an ever-evolving digital landscape, we intentionally integrate Artificial Intelligence in the classroom while prioritizing ethical and responsible use. Under the supervision of our teaching staff, middle and high school students use Google Gemini as a thought partner to support critical thinking, brainstorm ideas, and deepen subject comprehension.

Our high school students also utilize Notebook LM, which allows them to organize, synthesize, and analyze complex information. While accessing these tools, we teach digital citizenship, academic integrity, media literacy, and the ethical implications of AI, ensuring students learn to evaluate AI-generated content critically and use technology responsibly.



AP Scholars

We are pleased to announce that during the 25-26 school year, Riverside High School celebrated:

- 42 AP Scholars
- 27 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 19 AP Scholars with Honor
- 9 AP Capstone Diplomas
- 5 AP Seminar & Research Certificates

Riverside High School Class of 2026

- 328 Graduated
- 60 Graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher
- 84 Earned an Honors Diploma
- 77 Earned a Community Service Honor Cord
- 52 Earned Industry-Recognized Credentials

Arts



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

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

Each year, the Riverside Theatre students perform a Fall Play and a Spring Musical. This past school year, the Fall Play was *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* and the Spring Musical was *Between the Lines*. LaMuth Theatre performed *Matilda Jr.*

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



Our schools offer a robust art program that showcases student artwork not only in the classroom, but also throughout the 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 months.
- Participating in the Clean and Green Lake County Art Contest where students create an original logo that promotes recycling and educates against littering.
- Participating in the Laketran Bus Wrap Art Contest where students design a bus wrap billboard with a short, one sentence slogan to promote public transit.

- Hosting community art shows at First Federal of Lakewood Bank and Stella's Art Gallery.
- Decorating the sidewalks surrounding Riverside Campus during the annual Chalk Festival.
- High School seniors painting their own parking spots in the parking lot.
- Displaying student artwork at community festivals throughout the year.

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



*Ava Passalacqua won the 2026 Laketran Contest



Student Leadership & Activities

A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities.



Our students throughout the District are committed to being leaders and giving back to the community. Throughout the year, our students give back in the following ways:

- Participating in a District-Wide Community Kindness Day where each school partners with a local nonprofit and students complete various meaningful and impactful volunteer projects to help those in need.
- Students at Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School manage Care Closets, which is a designated room at each building that is an open resource for students who may need personal items, school supplies, snacks, clothing or other basic items.
- 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 and food pantries throughout the school year.
- Riverside High School hosts blood drives for American Red Cross every year.
- Many students at Riverside Campus participate in SIDE Leadership, Culture Creators, Best Buds Club and other programs that focus on developing leaders while mentoring younger students.
- 19 students were inducted into the Riverside High School National Honor Society during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Ten 2026 graduating seniors enlisted in the military.

Student Activities

Students can participate in a wide array of Extra-Curricular activities including, but not limited to:

Academic Challenge
Academic Decathlon
Athletics
Dance
Drama
Flag Corps
Junior Council
Majorettes
Marching or Pep Band
Mock Trial
National Honor Society
Robotics
SAFE
Ski Club
Student Council
Yearbook
& More!



Community Engagement

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

Community Engagement is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. We are fortunate to have a great relationship with - and support from - parents, community members and local businesses and organizations.

Community partnerships also allow for additional educational opportunities for all our students district-wide. Highlights include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating student-activities with local organizations such as Lake County YMCA, Lake Metroparks, Morley Library, Cleveland Cavaliers, Great Lakes Theater, Just Run and more.
- Partnering with several area organizations and businesses to provide career exploration and work-based learning opportunities to our students. Partnerships with the City of Painesville, Lake County Sheriff's Department, Painesville Township and Concord Township Fire Departments, University Hospitals, United Way, Cleveland Construction, the Alliance for Working Together and more provide speakers, classroom materials, and on-site work experiences and tours for our students.
- Local businesses participating in the District's Business Advisory Council. Members of the BAC work hard to assist, advise and advocate for the District.

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

- A community-wide Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween Festival, Halls of Holly Winter Festival, Spring Carnival, Craft Shows, Community Tailgate Party, Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally and more.
- Senior Citizen Appreciation Nights, which includes a free dinner and free preview of the high school's fall play and spring musical.
- Celebrating our Military community by bringing local veterans into our schools and honoring them through various programs and events.
- All of our PTA and Booster groups host a variety of family and community events including dances, restaurant nights, field days, game and movie nights, auctions, book fairs, raffles, skating and bowling parties and more.



Financial Stewardship

Financial Stewardship is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to strengthen Riverside's long-term sustainability through fiscal stewardship, community engagement, community partnerships and proactive advocacy.

Understanding Ohio's Complicated School Funding System:

- The responsibility for funding public education has increasingly shifted to local communities. Since 1975, the share of Ohio's local property tax burden paid by residential and agricultural property owners has increased from 46.1% to 67.5% while business property tax contributions have declined.
- State support has not kept pace with the cost of educating students and inflation has reduced the purchasing power of state education funding.
- Ohio's property-tax system generally does not allow school districts to receive a windfall when property values increase due to House Bill 920. Under House Bill 920, voted levies are designed to generate approximately the same amount of revenue as when they were approved. As property values rise, the effective tax rate on those levies are adjusted downward.
- Recent changes to Ohio's tax laws have created additional uncertainty for school districts. New legislation affecting the 20-mill floor, reappraisals, inside millage, county budget commissions and homeowner tax credits may affect how much revenue districts receive from existing levies.
- The District operates efficiently while maintaining a lean organizational structure. The District's average Expenditure Per Pupil is \$16,045, which is the second lowest across Lake and Geauga Counties.
- The District remains committed to responsible financial management and transparency while continually monitoring revenue, expenditures, enrollment, state funding and changing tax laws through its five-year financial forecasting process.
- Through attrition, the District has eliminated more than 15 positions in the past two years while also netting significant savings in switching healthcare consortiums.
- Overall, the District has committed to nearly \$3 million in savings in the past two years.
- Despite all of the above, the District is currently in deficit spending and is forecasted to enter Fiscal Emergency by Fiscal Year 2030 according to the August 2026 Five-Year Forecast.



Financial Stewardship

BY THE NUMBERS



59.52
GROSS TAX RATE



26.63
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE



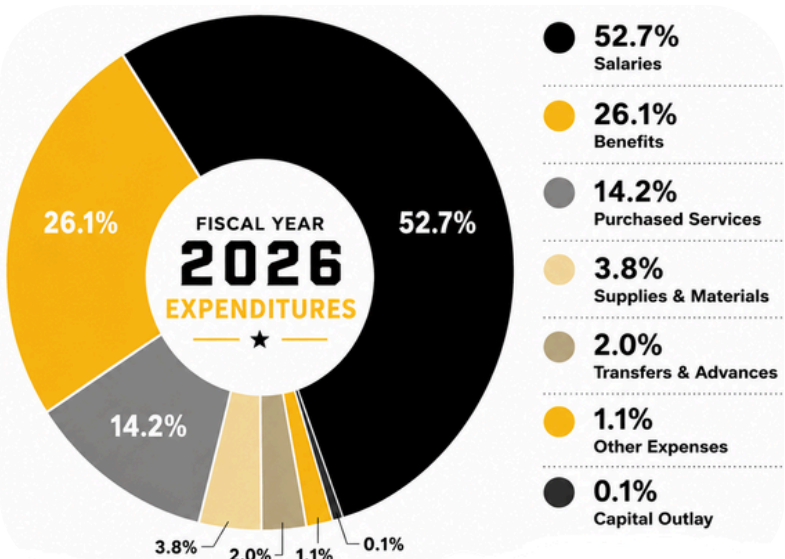
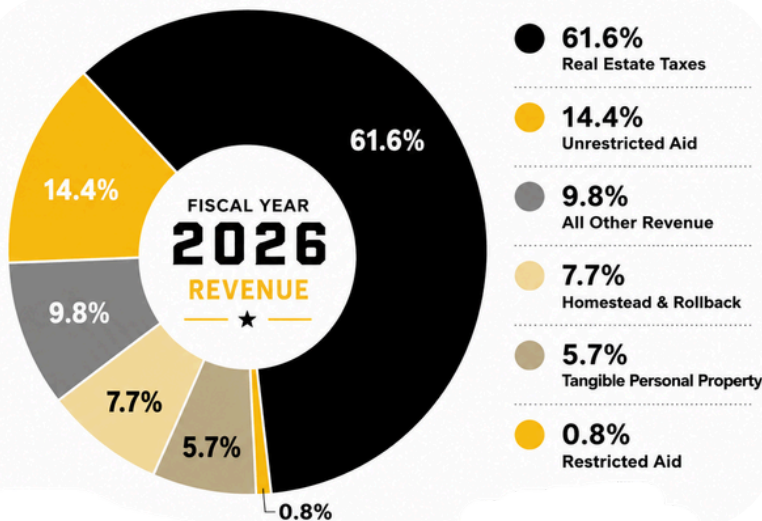
\$16,045
EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL

which is **second lowest** in Lake & Geauga Counties.



Transparency:

- The District participates 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.
- The District's bond rating is currently Aa3 by Moody's Investors Service. The District's bonds are considered high quality and subject to very low credit risk.
- The District is a member of the Ohio Schools Council and participates 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.
- Residential real estate taxes account for approximately 89% of the \$35 million tax revenue stream.
- The District received \$164,014 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.



Facilities

Facilities is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to develop and maintain modern, equitable facilities that inspire community pride and meet the evolving needs of our learners.

Five Year Facilities Plan:

- In May of 2026, the Board of Education approved the District's new Facilities Plan, which can be read in its entirety on our website.
- This plan was developed following years of professional facility assessments, financial considerations, enrollment and demographic data, and extensive community engagement.
- This comprehensive plan guides the District's efforts to maintain safe, modern and equitable learning environments while preparing our students for success and also addressing community needs.
- The plan takes a phased, fiscally responsible approach. Segment I of the plan addresses critical facility needs using existing revenue and Permanent Improvement resources, while Segment II looks toward the District's long-term secondary school needs and future funding options.
- Looking ahead, the District is exploring a new 7-12 secondary campus designed to honor the architectural character and tradition of Riverside High School while providing modern, flexible and technology-rich learning environments. The long-term vision also includes improvements to the Community Field House, and a dedicated Transportation Facility.



Recent Facility Updates:

- In early 2026, Riverside High School opened its new 4,500 square foot Career Technical Experience (CTX) Wing thanks to a **\$2.5 million** grant from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to expand career elective offerings.
- Through the District's Permanent Improvement Fund:
 - Riverview Elementary was expanded by eight classrooms, which opened to staff and students in early 2026.
 - Buckeye Elementary is currently in the process of adding a new gymnasium and a 12-classroom addition along with a full renovation of the current Buckeye Elementary building. This project is slated to be completed by August of 2027 - which will also allow the District to close Melridge Elementary. While the District plans to hold on to the Melridge building in some capacity, closing the school will result in an estimated savings of about \$500,000 per year.
 - The Field House gym floor was refurbished in the summer of 2026. This was the first time the floor has been renovated since opening in 2021.



Student Services

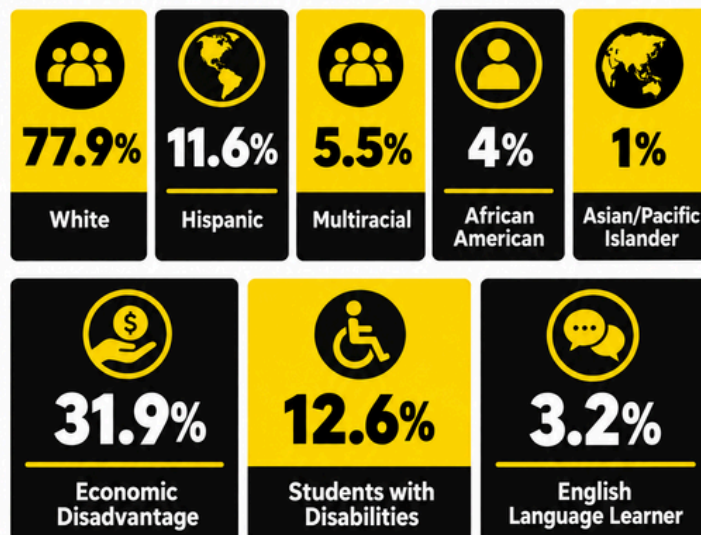


Our District provides services to meet the individual needs of all our students, which include:

- School counselors at LaMuth Middle School and Riverside Campus.
- Mental health counseling provided by Signature Health counselors for students identified in need in grades K-12.
- Reading and math intervention for students identified 'at-risk.'
- Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) programs in all buildings to promote positive and school-appropriate behaviors.
- Intervention Specialists, school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists staffed in all buildings.
- Health aides or nurses staffed in all building clinics.
- Instructional coaches and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to meet academic and behavior needs at the Tier 1, 2 and 3 levels.
- Community-based vocational programming (RAVE) aligned with Ohio's Employment First Initiative for select high school special education students.
- Integrated preschool programming for children ages 3-5 that follows state-approved curriculum and is aligned with the Ohio Early Childhood Content Standards.
- Gifted Education at Riverside (GEAR) programming across all buildings to provide equitable access to rigorous, individualized instruction tailored to each student's readiness level.
- Specialized professional learning and state-aligned service delivery to continuously strengthen our gifted education capacity across the District.

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

OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS — RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS —



High Quality Staff

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

High Quality Staff is another pillar of our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to empower and invest in a thriving, dedicated staff through meaningful professional growth and a supportive workplace culture.

- 100% of our teachers and substitute teachers are certified and 72.9% of our teachers have a Master's Degree or higher.
- Staff members are continuously learning and staying current through professional development opportunities.
- Each building in the District is staffed with a full-time School Safety Officer, in addition to a district-wide full-time School Resource Officers.
- Our Transportation staff is committed to providing the highest level of transportation while pledging safety as a top priority. Our bus drivers cover 65 square miles on a daily basis and average 3,504 daily miles driven.
- Our Technology staff works closely with all departments and buildings to ensure that students and staff have access to current technology and its applications.
- Our Latchkey staff provides a safe, fun and dependable child care for nearly 400 elementary students before and after school. Latchkey also runs a Summer Program for more than 100 students.
- Our Maintenance staff maintains safe, clean and attractive facilities - both inside and outside. Our District has more than 240 classrooms and 82 acres of land that is tended to on a daily basis.
- Our Nutrition staff provides high quality meals to students for breakfast, lunch and special events and serves more than 2,400 meals every day.
- Our Building, Classroom, Lunch & Playground Aides, Assistants & Substitutes help our students and staff on a daily basis across the District.





Riverside Local School District
585 Riverside Drive
Painesville TWP, OH 44077

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Assistant Treasurer
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www.riversidelocalschools.com

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