



Marion City Schools  
**QUALITY**  
**PROFILE**  
2017-2018



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Marion City Schools  
**QUALITY**  
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# SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE



Dear Residents,

At Marion City Schools we believe that the key to preparing students for their future goes beyond how well students perform on tests. That's why we focus on concepts like personalized learning and student leadership as we prepare students for success after graduation.

Throughout this publication you will learn about our plan to transform how we educate students. We call it the Four Pillars. It lays out a framework that we follow to make students college/career ready. You will read much about Diploma Plus Acceptance; our goal to make sure every student graduates with acceptance into a college or university, a job training program, the military, or a high-paying, in-demand job. You will also read about other initiatives like The Leader in Me, which empowers each student to be a leader.

We strive to make how we educate students reflect the needs of our families and our community. We involve families by inviting them to attend events like literacy nights where we share tips on how to teach children to read. We sit down at the table with community and business leaders to get their input. We partner with them to build a better community.

We hear consistently from both families and community members that students must be inspired to succeed. They must be inspired to develop a passion for learning. While test scores are important, that inspiration must go beyond just test scores.

We are doing well and seeing success in many areas. We acknowledge we aren't where we need to be yet, but we believe in celebrating our successes as we continuously strive to improve. We encourage you to read our quality profile and learn more about where we are, where we are going and how we will get there.

We are proud of Marion City Schools and our accomplishments and we appreciate having the opportunity to share them with you.



Stephen Fujii  
Superintendent of Marion City Schools

# To INSPIRE a COMMUNITY of ACHIEVEMENT

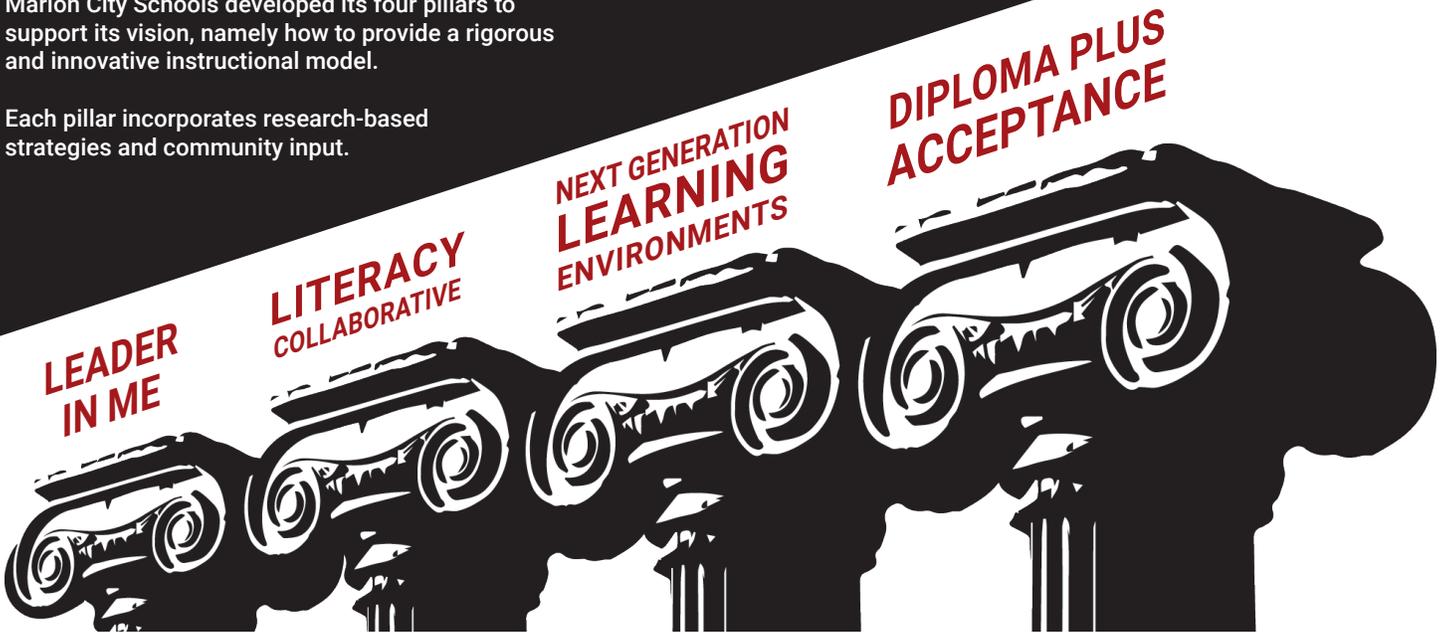
- Provide an innovative and rigorous instructional model to ensure each students' academic and personal development
- Collaboratively establish a safe, respectful and caring environment that promotes student learning
- Establish processes to communicate and collaborate effectively with stakeholders
- Manage and prioritize human and financial resources effectively to meet district goals



## FOUR PILLARS

Marion City Schools developed its four pillars to support its vision, namely how to provide a rigorous and innovative instructional model.

Each pillar incorporates research-based strategies and community input.



### LEADER IN ME

Parents and business leaders encourage the district to not only focus on improving test scores but to also provide opportunities for students to reach their full potential. That is the philosophy behind our implementation of The Leader in Me district-wide as we empower students to be leaders.

### LITERACY COLLABORATIVE

Literacy Collaborative is a nationally recognized comprehensive literacy model. We have developed school leadership teams led by literacy coaches who have significant training at the primary and intermediate level. We are implementing a comprehensive instructional literacy framework that has tiered instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

### NEXT GENERATION LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Next Generational Learning Environments allow our teachers to design their classrooms to customize student learning opportunities and enable our students to assume ownership of their learning. We are teaching math classes in a station rotation model in which students rotate through stations using adaptive curriculum, project-based learning and small group direct instruction methods.

### DIPLOMA PLUS ACCEPTANCE

Diploma Plus Acceptance prepares our students for success after high school. The acceptance includes acceptance to:

- A two- or four-year college
- Adult education or internship program
- The military
- A high-demand job

We have specifically designed our pathways and clusters around the high-demand jobs and opportunities that exist in Marion County and within a 30-mile radius.

## STAFF

With a staff of over 600 dedicated and highly qualified professionals, Marion City Schools provides a supportive environment for the education of all students. We value the diversity of our student population and work hard to meet the needs of each and every student. Whether a student plans on attending college after graduation, joining the military or immediately joining the workforce - our staff is committed to not only ensuring our students graduate, but also helping them achieve and exceed their career goals.

## COMMUNITY

We are fortunate to have an extremely supportive community that continues to help to maintain the quality of our educational programs. Supportive business partnerships, collaboration with Marion Technical College and The Ohio State University-Marion, and highly engaged service agencies all play a critical role in providing the programs and services our students need to be successful.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

As the largest school district in Marion County, Marion City Schools provides many educational options, innovative experiences and learning programs not available in other surrounding school districts. Our unique opportunities begin in our elementary buildings with programs such as Leader in Me. At Grant Middle School, our students have the opportunity to explore programs such as VEX Robotics, STEM Lab and work with our GEAR UP advisors to begin to identify possible career interests. At Harding High School, our Diploma Plus Acceptance initiative helps each and every student prepare for success after high school.

In addition to our commitment of providing our students individual academic success, Marion City Schools also has a rich tradition of excellence in our Arts programs and we provide a wide range of extracurricular activities, student clubs and service groups that help prepare our students for success after graduation.



# ABOUT MARION CITY SCHOOLS



## OUR DISTRICT

The Marion City School District serves the families and students of Marion, Ohio. We educate approximately 4,300 students in eight buildings; Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Hayes, McKinley, George Washington and Taft Elementary Schools, Grant Middle School and Harding High School. The Marion City Schools also sponsor Rushmore Academy, a community school.

The Marion city limits and the Marion City School district boundaries are not identical. Many homes located within Marion city may not be part of the Marion City School District. Families considering relocation into Marion are urged to verify district boundaries by contacting the District Service Center office, their local realtor or The Ohio Department of Taxation's School District Tax Finder provides the school district of residence based on the home's address. Students residing outside the Marion City school district boundaries also have the opportunity to open enroll at Marion City Schools. Please contact the District Service Center about enrollment options.

# PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS



Marion City Schools emphasizes preparing students for success not only in academics but in their future education and careers. The district prepared a Portrait of a Graduate to identify traits needed for success including the ability to transfer what they learn into their individual life, an attitude or mindset of success locally and globally, and skills that give them the ability to successfully engage in the world. These are some of the initiatives we've put in place to prepare students for college/career success.

## \$1.9M

More than \$1.9 million in scholarships were awarded to Harding seniors during the 2016-17 school year.

## 57

57 students inducted into National Honor Society.

## 160

160 Seniors headed to two- or four-year colleges.

## GEAR UP AT MARION CITY SCHOOLS

For many families, the thought of sending children to college seems impossible. The federally funded Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs at Marion City Schools is designed to show them that possibilities do exist. GEAR UP works with students in grades 7th through 12th to identify possible career interests and what schooling after high school may be required. Advisors work with students and their families to help them find ways to finance their college education and make attending college possible.

## GRADUATE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Ohio's College Credit Plus program lets students in grades 7th through 12th take classes at public colleges and many private colleges for free. Marion City Schools' Graduate Pathways to Success program goes one step further by guiding them along the way. GPS advisors give students extra coaching and support. They work with students to create a structured academic pathway that incorporates both high school and college credits. Students enrolled in GPS can earn an associate of arts degree, associate of technical studies degree, or medical assisting certificate for free before they graduate from high school.



## SIMULATED WORKPLACE

Success in the workplace takes skills like leadership, teamwork, ethics and creative thinking. Our Simulated Workplace initiative teaches these skills by transforming career technical education students into work-ready employees. Students create mock companies, allowing them to learn as though they were on the job. They take ownership of their learning and performance in the classroom. Virtual reality modules used in Simulated Workplace classes engage students in the learning. Local business and industrial representatives volunteer to rate each training program to ensure students are receiving the skills they need.

# 82.3%

82.3 percent of Seniors declared Diploma Plus Acceptance, which means acceptance into a two- or four-year college, adult education, the military or a high-paying, in-demand job.

# 2,500

More than 2,500 community service and volunteer hours their senior year.

## PRESIDENTIAL PATHWAYS

The struggle for many students may come after they graduate high school, not before. We continue to help students beyond the day we hand them a diploma. Presidential Pathways mentors reach out to students throughout the year after high school graduation to offer support and guidance. They help students overcome obstacles and connect them with support agencies like Marion County Job and Family Services if needed. Whether a student enters college, a job or the military, we continue to support them to help them achieve success.

## CAREER CLUSTERS AND PATHWAYS

Grant Middle School and GEAR UP at Marion City Schools works with students to identify potential career interests. Once students reach Harding High School, this research helps place students in one of three career clusters, or groups of careers that share common features. The clusters are: Arts, Business and Communication; Automation, Manufacturing and Engineering; and Health and Public Service. English and social studies teachers aligned with each cluster include material in their curriculum that matches the specific career cluster. Students may receive additional instruction within these clusters at Tri-Rivers Career Center and its Robotics and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (RAMTEC), Marion Technical College, and The Ohio State University at Marion.

Pathways are a part of the district's Diploma Plus Acceptance Pillar, which focuses on preparing students to leave Marion City Schools with a clear path to employment or higher education. Advisors and teachers work with students to identify needed classes and skills and establish a pathway to success within their specific career cluster. Our advanced career pathways integrate academic and technical content to prepare students for more options after high school graduation. They offer opportunities for dual credit and lead to an industry-recognized credential, advanced training, or an associate's degree.

## GRANT STEM LAB

Grant Middle School features a classroom dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, or STEM, learning that's committed to introducing students to in-demand fields in today's workplace. The STEM Lab provides STEM-related classes for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students including non-traditional courses like computer programming, forensics, STEM investigations, engineering and robotics, astronomy, and Grossology, a class that combines studies on human anatomy and hygiene. The lab provides a space for direct instruction, group work and individual exploration. The curriculums, taught by co-instructors Rick Lehman and Kristin Tope, requires students to care for high-tech materials and help drive communication and teamwork skill development that prepares them for future education and career success.

## JROTC

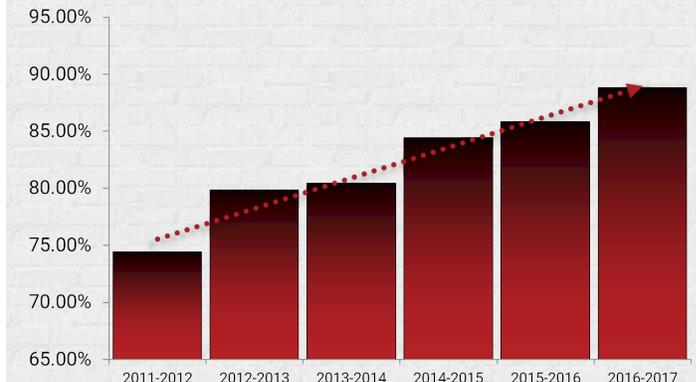
Among our pathways is Harding's Junior Army Reserve Officers Training Corps, the first JROTC program in Marion County. Completing the program lets students enter the military or a college's senior ROTC program at a higher rank. Students who join JROTC are under no obligation to join the military and learn employability skills like leadership and citizenship that helps them succeed in careers and in life.

## VEX ROBOTICS

Marion City Schools is among area school districts that have a rich tradition in participating in robotics. Both Grant Middle School and Harding High School students participate in VEX Robotics, which gives them the opportunity to build, program and operate their own robots. They learn concepts like engineering and computer science along with life and employability skills including teamwork, critical thinking and project management. Teams from Grant Middle School won the Ohio VEX Robotics Championship in 2013, 2014 and 2015 while a Grant team received the Ohio State Excellence Award in 2015. Both Grant and Harding regularly have teams qualify for the Ohio VEX Robotics Championship and the VEX World Championships.



HARDING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES OVER SCHOOL YEARS



# MEETING STUDENT NEEDS

## RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION

Among our Four Pillars of instruction is Literacy Collaborative, a nationally recognized reading program that helps increase student achievement, empowers teachers and makes reading a major part of our school culture. Instructors teach students in individualized settings, small groups and large groups so that teachers can match students' different learning styles. Literacy coaches receive more than 230 hours of training and participate in professional development each year in partnership with The Ohio State University. They then lead professional development to develop capacity in teachers and address building and district needs as teachers receive 40 hours of training in year one, 20 in year two and 10 in year three and beyond. Literacy coaches work with teachers and students throughout the day while coaches and teachers study data from literacy assessments to target students' needs.



## PERSONALIZED LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

We introduced Next Generation Learning Environments into our schools as another one of our Four Pillars as future employers demand skills like creative thinking and problem solving. NGLEs allow students to design their classrooms in a way that encourages students to take ownership of their learning. They focus heavily on digital learning that uses technology to strengthen students' experiences. We are teaching math classes in a station rotation model that includes adaptive curriculum, project-based learning and small group instruction methods. Another example of a Next Generation Learning Environment is our Grant Middle School STEM Lab in which 6th graders study coding and 6th through 8th graders study robotics and pre-engineering.

**Not every student learns the same. Marion City Schools addresses that by putting programs in place that match with students' individual learning styles.**





## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Preschool prepares children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond by teaching pre-math and pre-reading skills and building children's social and emotional development. Each of our elementary schools includes a preschool program that provides developmentally appropriate activities that encourage each child's needs, capabilities and interests. Our program is aligned to the Early Learning and Developmental Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Each of our preschools has achieved the Step Up to Quality five-star quality rating administered by the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.



## GIFTED EDUCATION

Marion City Schools' gifted education program understands that students with the ability for high achievement require education designed to help them reach their full potential. The gifted department works to screen and identify children who are gifted and give them an opportunity to benefit from gifted services. That may include acceleration into a higher grade level when appropriate. For example, during the 2016-2017 school year, Marion City Schools had 190 students taking one or more classes above their grade level. Additional gifted services are offered in classrooms taught by Gifted Intervention Specialists or teachers who have received specialized training in meeting the needs of gifted students. Gifted services at Marion City Schools can begin as early as kindergarten and are offered through 12th grade.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Marion City Schools provides high-quality special education services for students ages 3 through 22. Our buildings offer a continuum of services ranging from specialized learning centers focused on meeting individual needs of different disability categories to co-taught classroom settings. Our special education staff consistently participates in training and professional development to ensure students are receiving the highest quality of instruction to support their different learning styles and needs.

Harding's work study and transitions programs offer students with disabilities the opportunity to participate in meaningful job experience in the community to help develop employability skills and to help prepare them for life after high school. All students participating in the work study program during the 2016-17 school year gained acceptance to college or accepted a high-demand position within the community.



# EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BE LEADERS

## THE LEADER IN ME

We believe every student can be a leader. That's why every one of our elementary buildings features The Leader in Me, a program that teaches 21st century leadership and life skills and creates a culture that empowers students to be leaders. The program is based on Stephen Covey's book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and breaks down the traits of successful people to a level that elementary students can understand. Students keep leadership notebooks, help lead events in their schools and talk to adults about how they are leaders. Schools host Leader in Me lunches and other events attended by community representatives who share how they are leaders in their fields and lives. Benjamin Harrison Elementary School, the first elementary school to champion The Leader in Me, is one of Ohio's first Leader in Me Lighthouse Schools.

## LEAD AT GRANT

The focus on leadership continues at Grant Middle School through its LEAD program. LEAD is the middle school version of The Leader in Me. Students and staff read "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" and focus on different habits throughout the school year. Students are split into action teams focusing on leadership, culture, and academics. They learn about creating Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) and keep a leadership notebook to track their progress. Grant hosts LEAD at Grant breakfasts and leadership days that give students an opportunity to talk to representatives from various careers throughout the Marion area. Students help plan events and serve as the school's ambassadors as they greet visitors.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND TEAM BUILDING AT HARDING

Harding High School gives students numerous opportunities to take a lead in planning school events. Four students from each class serve as officers on Harding's Student Council while other students act as representatives. The student council, an integral part of the student leadership structure at the high school, acts as the governing body for students and provides student input and service. The council is responsible for planning events including United Service Day, celebration events, fundraisers, and school pride events. Other leadership opportunities include extracurricular activities and clubs like the Junior Civitan Club, which partners with its community counterpart to provide service learning opportunities for students. Each athletic team appoints a team captain or captains who serve as ambassadors and advocates for their team.

Marion City Schools believes leadership is an important quality for students to develop as they prepare for their future. We stress student leadership in all of our buildings starting with the elementary schools.



Experience in the fine arts is an essential part of the educational experience. Engagement in the arts has been shown to raise student attendance, foster a love for learning, enhance student creativity and develop teamwork. Each of our buildings offer students education in the visual and performing arts as we recognize involving students in the arts encourages many students to feel connected to school and value their education.

# THE ARTS



## MUSIC AND THEATER PROGRAMS

Our music program is unique because we offer ability-grouped ensembles. There are 4 choirs, 2 show choirs, marching band, concert band, symphonic band, winter guard, drum line, orchestra, chamber orchestra, and electric strings. We offer far more ensembles than any other school in the Marion area. We also offer a fall musical, AP Music Theory and Music Appreciation for those students wanting to enhance their knowledge of music farther.

Not only do we offer many opportunities, we also excel in competitions and regularly earn superiors at Ohio Music Education Association events, qualify for state events, or place in finals at show choir competitions. We have also had students make it into state audition-only ensembles such as OMEA All-State Choir and Cardinal Chorale regularly. Students planning on attending college/university as music majors also have made it into high-ranking schools such as New York University, Berklee Conservatory of Music, American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and many Ohio schools.

Harding Singers and Singers Xtreme host one of the largest show choir competitions in the midwest. Our band program hosts OIPA events and also has served as a practice site for The Madison Scouts.



## VISUAL ARTS

We support the visual arts at Marion City Schools with the understanding that the arts provide students with the opportunity for self-expression, collaboration and creativity. Each of our school buildings give students a chance to learn art techniques from qualified art educators. We offer a wide assortment of visual art skills ranging from drawing and painting to the digital arts. Selected students have the opportunity to display their art in their buildings, the district service center, community events and the district's art show held annually at Harding High School.

# KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED



Educating students and preparing them for the future goes beyond academics. We value the importance of athletics and other extra-curricular activities and respect how they keep students engaged in school and prepare them for life's challenges.

## **ATHLETICS**

Harding Stadium, located behind Grant Middle School, is the home of the county's first synthetic turf thanks to donations from area businesses, organizations and residents. Their support enabled us to install a turf surface that provides a safe and resilient playing field beneficial to all young athletes and expands potential uses of the track.

Our efforts to improve our athletic facilities expand beyond the turf. Other improvements include a new surface on the Grant tennis courts and a new infield at our baseball field. We installed a state-of-the-art eight-lane all-weather track in 2014.

Marion City Schools moved into the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference in 2014, allowing us to cultivate local rivalries and decrease travel time for student athletes. We offer a wide-range of athletic options including the recent addition of boys' and girls' junior varsity soccer teams. About half of our high school students were involved in athletics during the 2016-17 school year. Grant students can also compete in athletics and we have programs including soccer and football available for our elementary students.

**28** **First-team  
All Star Athletes  
During 2016-17  
School Year**

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

We offer a rich variety of extra-curricular activities at Grant and Harding. Students can engage in the arts, including an Anime Club at Grant Middle School and a Comedy Club that is one of about 30 clubs offered at Harding High School. They can expand their skills of persuasion by joining Harding's mock trial club, submit poetry and short stories to Harding's Jacob's Well literary magazine, or learn about growing their own food with the Greenhouse Club. Activities like the Junior Civitan Club introduce them to leadership and community service.

We at Marion City Schools value the part we play in building a better community. In order to do so, we believe in encouraging families and the community to get involved. We stress concepts like community service and invite our business and community leaders to have a seat at the table and give us their input.

# PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



## PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

Families play a vital role in preparing students for success. Our elementary schools' literacy nights let parents and guardians experience firsthand how we focus on reading and student leadership. Many of our schools hold grandparents breakfasts and other events that encourage family members to get involved in our students' education. That way we become partners in convincing students of the value of education.

## ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING

Students sometimes need extra support and encouragement. We value our community members who help make that happen by volunteering through Marion Mentors 21, an organization dedicated to finding adult role models to mentor our students. The Marion Mentors 21 program is powered by the collaboration of Marion City Schools, the Marion Family YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Marion County, United Way of Marion County, Nucor Steel and members of Marion's faith-based community. Mentors work with students to improve their self-esteem, expand their knowledge of opportunities to succeed and reinforce student leadership concepts taught through The Leader in Me.



## SEEKING COMMUNITY INPUT

Marion City Schools is dedicated to doing our part to build a better community and listening to input from the community on what it needs. We regularly talk to local business and industry representatives about what skills they need future workers to have. We ask them to help evaluate our technical education programs and sit on advisory committees. Our partnerships enable us to achieve successes like one-on-one mentoring, simulated workplace experiences and other educational opportunities that make us stand out among local districts.

## A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

We want students to understand the concept of paying it forward, especially when it comes to thanking the community for its support of our schools. We emphasize the importance of community service. Most of the high school student body heads into the community to complete service projects on Harding's annual United Service Day. Grant Middle School also stresses community service while our elementary buildings hold fundraisers for various causes.



# FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

**TOTAL FISCAL YEAR 2017 EXPENDITURES**  
Like most school districts, the majority of our expenses are staff salary and benefits.

**TOTAL FISCAL YEAR 2017 REVENUE**  
The vast majority of our annual revenue comes from State funding sources.

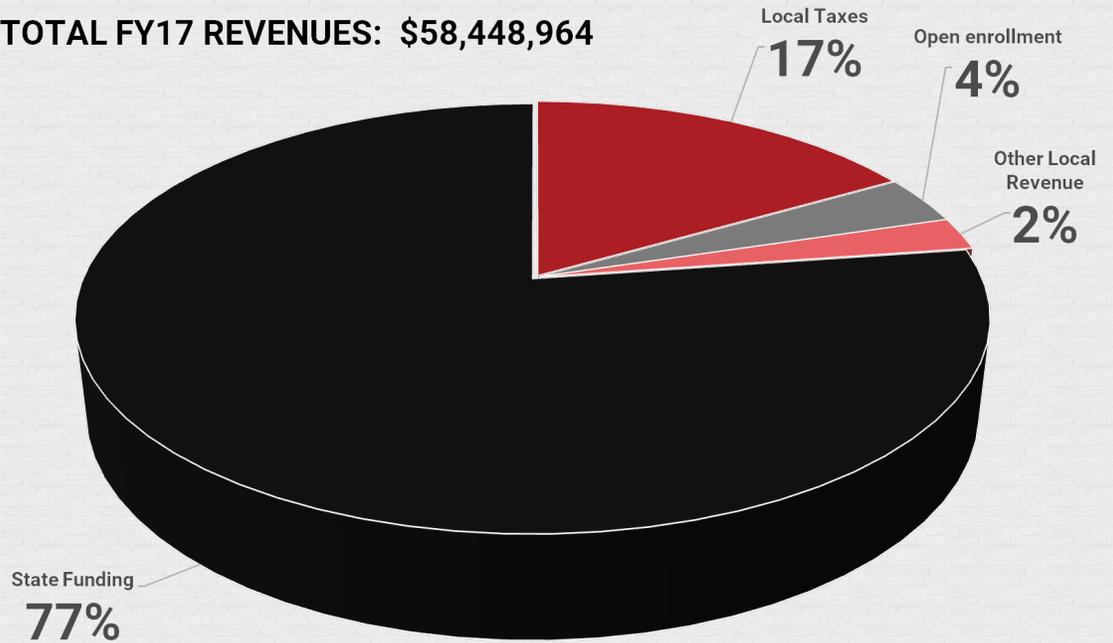
**68%**

68% of our total budget is spent on direct classroom instruction (teachers, books, supplies, etc). The percentage of our budget dedicated to classroom instruction is consistent with the average of other districts across Ohio.

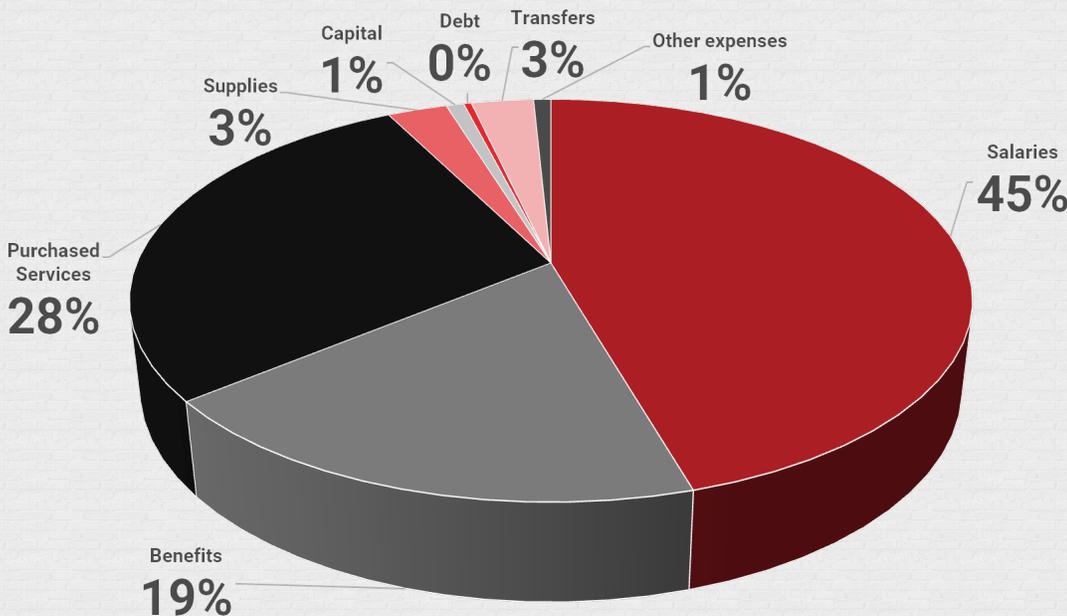
**\$8,510**

\$8,510 is the amount that Marion City Schools spent per pupil last year. 53% of districts in Ohio spend more than MCS per each student. The state average expenditure per student is \$8,880.

**TOTAL FY17 REVENUES: \$58,448,964**



**TOTAL FY17 EXPENSES: \$57,439,361**



**\$350,000**

By refinancing our district debt in 2017 and securing a lower interest rate, the Marion City Schools saved local taxpayers over \$350,000.

**\$2,000,000**

Through our hard work in applying for available grants, Marion City Schools was awarded approximately \$2,000,000 in competitive grants to help fund current programs, mentoring, develop new programs, provide preschool services and afterschool programs.

# MARION CITY SCHOOLS

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[www.marioncityschools.org](http://www.marioncityschools.org)

[Facebook.com/Marion-City-Schools](https://www.facebook.com/Marion-City-Schools)

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