



# Licking Heights

## LOCAL SCHOOLS



# POPULAR ANNUAL **FINANCIAL REPORT**

For the year ended June 30, 2024  
Pataskala, Ohio

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[lhschools.org](https://lhschools.org)



November 26, 2024

# TO THE CITIZENS OF THE LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Todd Griffith, Treasurer

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We are pleased to present the Licking Heights Local School District's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This report makes our District's finances easier to understand and communicates our financials in an open and accountable manner.

The PAFR summarizes the financial activities and operating results previously reported in the Licking Heights Local School District's audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The PAFR is unaudited and presented on a non-Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP) basis, which addresses full disclosure and segregated funds. The PAFR focuses on the District's General Fund. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The most significant items not reported in the General Fund include: debt issuance and retirement, building and permanent improvements, retirement, and food service. For more detailed financial information, a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is available from the Treasurer's office or can be viewed on the District's website.

The Licking Heights Local School District is proud of this report. Ultimately, we thank our citizens for their encouragement in creating a report to address their needs as taxpayers more adequately. Questions, comments, and feedback regarding this report are encouraged, so please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer's office at 740-927-6926 or at [tgriffith@lhschools.org](mailto:tgriffith@lhschools.org)

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Griffith

**MISSION:**  
Elevating Every  
Learner to  
New Heights

## PILLARS OF SUCCESS:

- We Provide the Right Opportunity
- We are Welcoming
- We Celebrate Diversity
- We Adapt to Change and Growth
- We Commit to Strong Communication

# Award for Outstanding Achievement

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the Licking Heights Local School District for its PAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

To receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government must publish a PAFR, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for one year only. Licking Heights Local Schools has received a Popular award for the last five consecutive years (fiscal years ended 2019-2023). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.



## District Leadership Board of Education

The Licking Heights Board of Education is made up of five members. Ohio law requires that Board members must be a resident of the District in which they serve.

The Licking Heights Board Members are (Left to right): Mark Rader, Tracy Russ (Vice President), Hannington Tsikiwa, Tiffane Blumhorst (President), and Paul Johnson

# Academic and Career Preparation

Licking Heights offers a range of academic pathways, including traditional college preparatory courses, Advanced Placement (AP), and the College Credit Plus program. In addition to these options, students can graduate with an honors diploma or choose, as juniors, to attend Licking County's Career and Technology Education Center (C-TEC).

This year, Licking Heights introduced the "New Heights Program", which offers career-tech pathways in high-demand fields such as logistics and supply chain management, cybersecurity, arts and visual design, and program. Through this program, students can earn industry-recognized credentials, participate in work-based learning experiences, and gain the skills needed to succeed in both college and their future careers and software development.

Licking Heights elementary schools are piloting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) class as a special this year.

In 2024, the district is piloting The Academy, which is a pathway specifically designed to assist students' credit recovery and career/workforce exploration and development.

A number of student clubs, activities and organizations are available such as: Art Club, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, Model United Nations (Model UN), Chess Club, Diaspora, Cultural Identity Club, Gay Straight Alliance and Google Code Next.

# ENROLLMENT AND DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

2024	5,388
Projected 2025	5,530
Projected 2026	5,612
Projected 2027	5,696
Projected 2028	5,822

Licking Heights Local School District served 5,388 students during the 2023-24 school year in grades Pre-K through 12. With the addition of our new high school, the District is now able to accommodate growth, through build-out, with a maximum space accommodation of 5,500 students. As a result of local economic development and business growth, we are projected to grow to nearly 6,061 students by 2034.

## FY24 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### All Students 5,132

American Indian or Alaskan Native: 11 | 0.20%

Asian or Pacific Islander: 1,349 | 26.30%

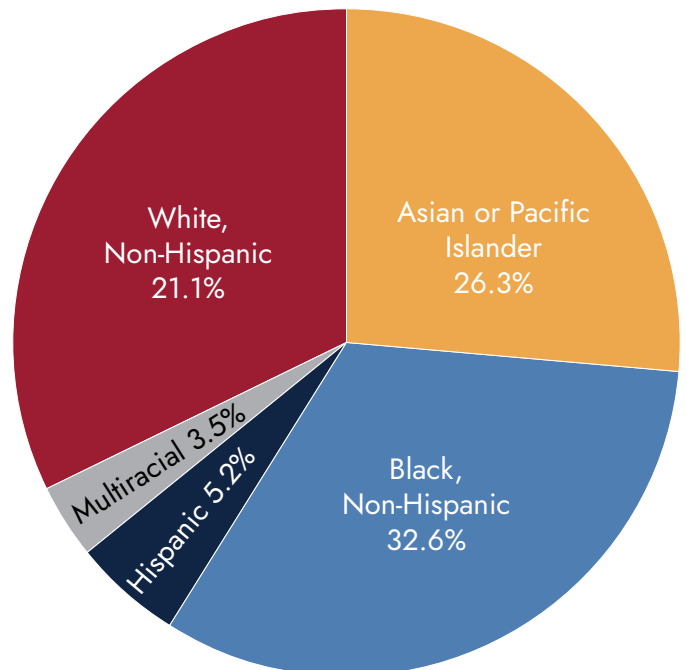
Black, Non-Hispanic: 1,675 | 32.60%

Hispanic: 267 | 5.20%

Multiracial: 180 | 3.50%

White, Non-Hispanic: 1,649 | 32.10%

Licking Heights is one of the fastest-growing school districts in Ohio, with a diverse student population speaking more than 42 languages. The District focuses on student learning and achievement while looking toward the future as it continues to be recognized as a leader in innovative best practices.



# Revenues and Resources Over Expenditures and Services

The numbers in Financial Activity Statement (below) and Financial Position Statement (page ten) represent only the General Fund and are taken from the district's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), but presented in a nonGAAP format. The ACFR can be obtained from the Treasurer's office or can be found on [www.lhschools.org/Financial.aspx](http://www.lhschools.org/Financial.aspx)

The Financial Activity Statement, known in accounting terms as the income statement, provides a summary of the resources (revenues) and services (expenditures) of the district.

Income statement data for fiscal years 2019 through 2024 are presented below. Property tax collections are

the largest single revenue source for the district. The housing market in our district is stable and growing. The increase in local taxes from FY23 to FY24 is 4%. The investment income increased significantly in comparison to the prior fiscal year. The primary reasons are the increased investments held by the district, higher interest rates, and economic changes. The state and federal revenue increased by 36% compared to FY23, mainly due to the continued implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan. Overall, total General Fund Revenues increased by 23%.

The General Fund Expenditures increased by 12% from FY23 to FY24, alongside student enrollment increases.

## General Fund

FY24

FY23

FY22

FY21

FY20

### RESOURCES TAKEN IN (in thousands of \$)

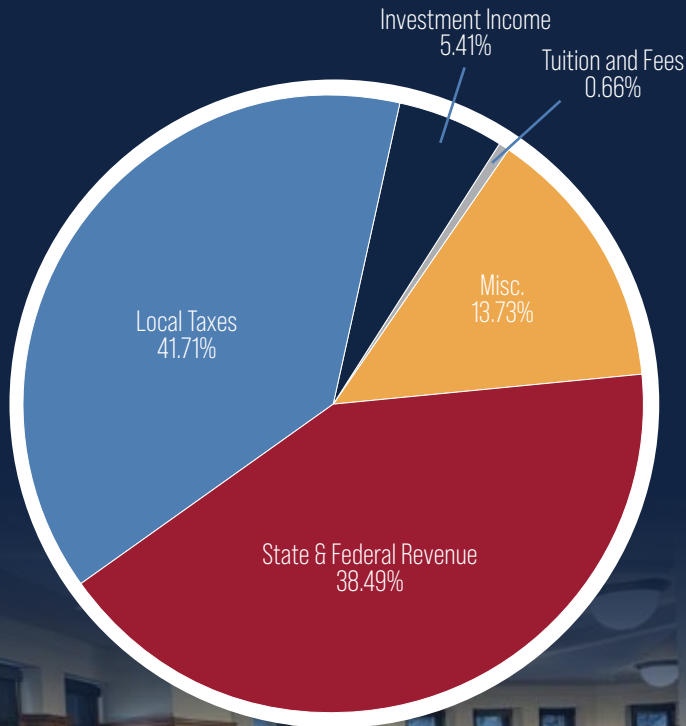
Local Taxes	\$30,426	\$29,304	\$27,082	\$29,133	\$19,754
State and Federal Revenue	28,080	20,638	17,501	16,444	15,730
Investment Income	3,946	1,111	(581)	42	628
Tuition & Fees	478	610	580	602	958
Miscellaneous	10,019	7,653	9,524	9,179	9,066
Total Revenues & Resources	\$72,949	\$59,316	\$54,106	\$55,400	\$46,136

### SERVICES PROVIDED

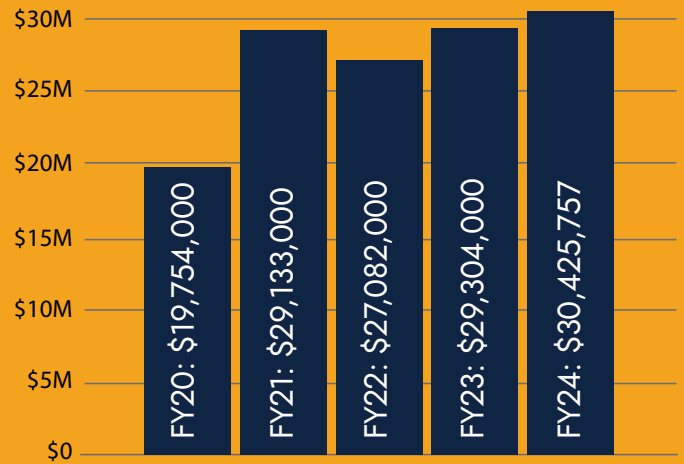
Instruction	\$29,790	\$27,735	\$26,392	\$27,050	\$25,454
Pupil Support	3,768	3,070	2,841	2,168	2,214
Instructional Staff	1,583	919	974	781	735
Board/Administration/Fiscal	6,626	6,050	5,411	4,764	4,163
Plant Operation	5,987	5,115	4,285	3,951	3,543
Transportation	4,596	3,912	3,122	2,260	3,035
Central	2,358	1,997	1,384	1,147	926
Extracurricular	743	870	649	607	641
Miscellaneous	147	130	264	183	4
Total Expenditures & Services	\$55,598	\$49,798	\$45,322	\$42,911	\$40,715
Revenues & Resources Over Expenditures & Services	\$17,351	\$9,518	\$8,784	\$12,489	\$5,421



# FY24 REVENUE



## PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVED



The graphs above depicts the amount of collections received by the District from real and personal property taxes. Property taxes provide a majority of local revenue to operate and maintain our schools. As shown on the left graph, taxes paid on homes and businesses (property) represent 41.71% of all general fund revenues.

## UNBUNDLING THE TAX RATE

Under Ohio's House Bill 920, tax rates decrease with rising values but cannot drop below 20 mills for operating levies. As property valuations increased during the triennial update and reappraisal, voted millage is reduced generating the same amount of tax revenue for the District, as was received when each levy was initially approved by the voters. The chart below shows the difference in the District's "Gross" or voted tax rates, compared to "Effective" rates or collected.

## ASSESSED VALUED OF PROPERTY REAL ESTATE TAXES

COLLECTION YEAR	RESIDENTIAL/ AGRICULTURAL	COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL	PUBLIC UTILITY	TOTAL
2024	\$919,485,570.00	\$170,873,183.00	\$121,926,860.00	\$1,212,285,613.00
2023	\$627,190,810.00	\$154,606,004.00	\$113,131,960.00	\$894,928,774.00
2022	\$610,923,020.00	\$140,390,179.00	\$93,123,270.00	\$844,436,469.00

## SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES FOR HOME OWNERS

TYPE	GROSS RATE	EFFECTIVE RATE	YEAR APPROVED	LENGTH APPROVED
INSIDE-OPERATING*	4.800	4.800	N/A	Permanent
VOTED-OPERATING*	34.400	24.700	Various	Permanent
BOND RETIREMENT	10.150	10.150	Various	Various
PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT	1.990	1.001	Permanent	
TOTAL RATES	51.340	40.651		

\*Rates are for the 2023 tax year collected in the year 2024.

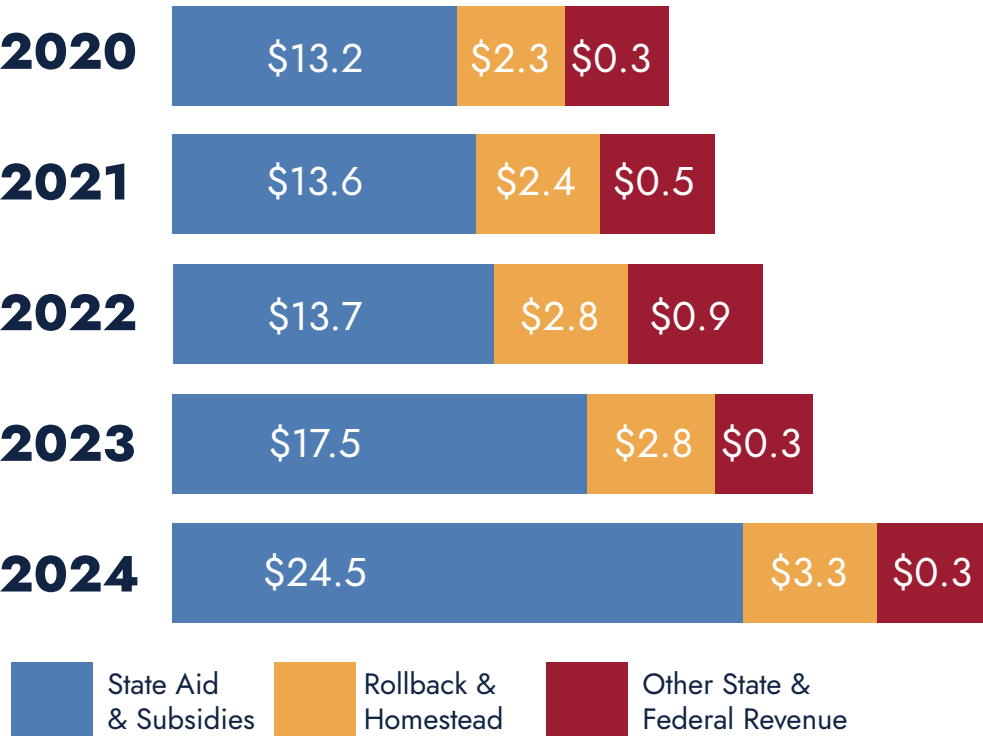
# DISTRICT REVENUES & RESOURCES

State and Federal sources of revenue generated \$28.1 million or 38% of all General Fund revenue for the District.

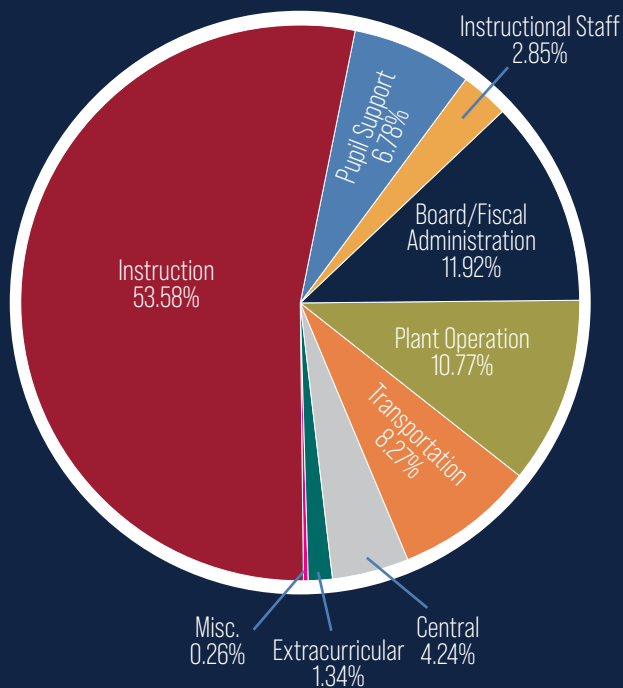
The majority of State Aid & Subsidies includes School Foundation aid, which is a formula calculation based upon student enrollment. The State of Ohio has implemented a new school funding model (Fair School Funding Plan) starting from FY22. This plan includes a base cost of education a typical Ohio student, additional costs to serve the needs of students with unique needs (special needs, English Language Learner (ELL), gifted, etc.), and an objective formula for determining state and local shares if school funding based on local property values and income level. Significant changes to the new formula include the elimination of the District's accounting for the revenues and expenditures attributable to district students attending community schools or those on autism or other special education scholarships. In addition to Foundation revenue, the District also receives Poverty Based Assistance and Career Tech funding from the State.

The District also receives Rollback and Homestead payments, which represents the portion of the local tax bill paid by the State instead of the local taxpayer. Currently, the State pays 10% of the taxes due on all property and an additional 2.5% on residential and agricultural owner-occupied property. An additional exemption is provided to senior and disabled citizens, regardless of income.

Other State/Federal Revenue includes the public utility reimbursement, Medicaid reimbursement, catastrophic cost reimbursement, and casino revenue. Federal sources in this category include E-rate reimbursements for telecommunications services, internet access, and internal connections. The District receives these reimbursements based on its percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches and other socio-economic factors.



# EXPENDITURES GENERAL FUND



Total Expenditures & Services  
**\$55,598,214**



## INSTRUCTION

is the largest expenditure category. Students are directly impacted by expenditures from this category, which relate to the direct instruction of our students.

## PUPIL SUPPORT

areas comprise all guidance services, nurses, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and psychological services.

## STAFF SUPPORT

costs include library services, technology integration support, and literacy collaborative support.

## BOARD/ADMINISTRATION/ FISCAL

costs represent those of the administration and Board of Education's operation of the District. Also included in this category is school building secretarial support and financial services, such as payroll, accounts payable and receivable, auditing, budgeting and reporting, and fringe benefits administration.

## PLANT OPERATION

expenditures relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school including building maintenance, grounds and custodial services.

## TRANSPORTATION

expenditures relate to providing transportation (mostly by bus) to all students who live in the Licking Height Local School District, consistent with Board of Education policies and the laws of the State of Ohio. In FY2024 the bus fleet transported 4104 regular and special education students to Licking Height Local School District.

## CENTRAL SUPPORT

expenditures include community relations and technology maintenance staff, computer network maintenance contracts, district wide postage costs, and strategic planning type activities.

## EXTRACURRICULAR

expenditures account for the salaries and benefits of club advisors and athletic coaches.



# DISTRICT'S DEBT

Our district had 133.3 million in debt outstanding as of June 30, 2024, the majority of which is related to 2022 school facilities bonds. The 2022 bonds were issued to build an elementary school, an athletic complex, a transportation center, and an addition to the current high school to accommodate another 350 students. Debt per Capita (total debt of the district divided by the district's population) is \$4,552.89. It represents the debt the district carries in relation to its population.

PURPOSE	MATURES	INTEREST RATE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE
2000 School Improvement Bonds	12/1/28	0.064	725,000.00
2016 Advance Refunding Bonds	12/1/24	0.0173	1,250,000.00
2017A School Facilities Improvement Bonds	10/1/37	3-5%	39,960,000.00
2017B School Facilities Improvement Bonds	10/1/38	3-5%	7,390,000.00
2017C Refunding Bonds	10/1/29	4-5%	4,750,000.00
2020 Advance Refunding Bonds	12/1/28	0.59-1.43%	9,265,000.00
2021 Refunding Bonds	12/1/32	3-4%	5,105,000.00
2022 School Facilities Bonds	10/1/59	4.5-5.5%	64,900,000.00

## FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

	FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACTUAL	FISCAL YEAR 2025 PROJECTED	FISCAL YEAR 2026 PROJECTED	FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROJECTED	FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROJECTED	FISCAL YEAR 2029 PROJECTED
Beginning Balance:	\$28,756,528	\$40,554,634	\$49,546,904	\$52,618,167	\$49,557,866	\$40,947,287
Revenue	72,410,838	77,291,500	75,055,492	74,744,526	75,494,630	76,085,897
Expenditures	(60,612,732)	(68,299,230)	(71,984,229)	(77,804,827)	(84,105,209)	(91,000,197)
Revenue Surplus or (Deficit)	11,798,106	8,992,270	3,071,263	(3,060,301)	(8,610,579)	(14,914,300)
Ending Balance	\$40,554,634	\$49,546,904	\$52,618,167	\$49,557,866	\$40,947,287	\$26,032,987

Our current five-year forecast (November 2024) projects that Licking Heights Schools' FY25 and FY26 ending General Fund cash balance will be approximately \$49,546,904 and \$52,618,166, respectively, with declining balances after that.

The increase in cash balance from FY24 to FY25 is due to the District's focus on economic development, rising property values, and the continued implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan. This focus has yielded a significant increase in revenue, but we also expected to see a substantial increase in expenses alongside the significant enrollment increases.

## CAPITAL ASSETS AT JUNE 30

	FY24	FY23	FY22
Land	3,418,055	3,418,055	3,418,055
Construction in Progress	47,660,582	4,498,812	-
Land Improvement	1,187,670	1,044,989	1,131,441
Building and Improvements	99,634,937	102,201,137	105,208,061
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	1,417,275	904,817	867,364
Vehicles	2,010,499	1,754,067	1,734,285
Intangible right to use asset	98,249	237,584	359,525
Total Capital Assets	155,427,267	114,059,461	112,718,731

A District's inventory of capital assets often represents its most significant investment of resources. As of June 30, 2024, our District had \$155 million invested in net capital assets acquired and constructed to help provide essential services (directly or indirectly) to our District's students. Construction in Progress increased to \$48 million during FY24 from \$5 million in FY23 due to the construction of a new bus garage, athletic complex, elementary school, and high school addition.

# ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES

The Financial Position Statement, known in accounting terms as the balance sheet, reports the assets available to provide services. Liabilities are the amounts for which the district is obligated to pay in the future. The amount below represents the difference between the assets of the district and the liabilities which it must pay. This amount provides the “net worth” of the district. The district as a whole is financially improving. Information is provided for the district’s General Fund.

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY21</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and investments	\$40,439,545	\$27,473,160	\$29,544,282	\$27,688,909
Receivables	\$41,027,723	\$36,503,346	\$29,689,931	\$28,608,719
Total Assets	\$81,467,268	\$63,976,506	\$59,234,213	\$56,297,628
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts Payable Due to Other Govt’s/	\$703,111	\$564,087	\$153,426	\$135,354
Employees	\$6,059,565	\$5,138,433	\$4,939,057	\$4,219,283
Total Liabilities	\$6,762,676	\$5,702,520	\$5,092,483	\$4,354,637
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS</b>				
Property Taxes	\$22,718,241	\$20,321,801	\$22,454,550	\$21,668,014
Other Revenues	\$9,543,299	\$6,863,214	\$141,538	\$317,278
Total Deferred Inflows	\$32,261,540	\$27,185,015	\$22,596,088	\$21,985,292
Total Liabilities & Deferred Inflows	\$39,024,216	\$32,887,535	\$27,688,571	\$26,339,929
Assets over Liabilities & Deferred Inflows	\$42,443,052	\$31,088,971	\$31,545,642	\$29,957,699

## ASSETS

Cash and Investments represent the amount of physical cash held by the District in checking accounts and on hand for purposes of paying expenses, as well as interim funds invested by the Treasurer in a variety of accounts. The investment of those interim funds allows the District to earn interest on its cash. The Cash and Investments is increased by 47% from FY23 to FY24 . Receivables represent the amounts that are owed to the District at June 30, 2024.

## LIABILITIES

Liabilities are those amounts the District owed to employees, other governments or vendors for items or services that have been provided to the District, for which payment is expected to be made within twelve months.

## DEFERRED INFLOWS/ DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Inflows of Resources and Deferred Outflows of Resources are neither assets nor liabilities as they relate to the current fiscal year. Unlike current assets and liabilities, amounts classified as “deferred inflows” or “deferred outflows” are amounts which will not be recognized as a revenue or an expense until the future period to which the inflows or outflows are related. For FY24 the District’s General Fund reported deferred inflows related to tax revenue received but not available for use until a future period, and no deferred outflows.

# EMPLOYERS AND TAXPAYERS

## TOP 5 PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS JUNE 30, 2024 (PUBLIC UTILITIES TAX)

	Total Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Valuation
1	AEP Ohio Transmission Co, Inc.	\$54,231,320	44.49%
2	Ohio Power Company	42,488,130	34.85%
3	AEP Ohio Transmission Co, Inc.	11,149,050	9.14%
4	Licking Rural Electric Co.	850,280	0.70%
5	Columbia Gas of Ohio	843,280	0.69%

## TOP 5 PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS JUNE 30, 2024 (REAL ESTATE TAX)

	Total Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Valuation
1	Sidecat LLC	\$34,460,210	3.16%
2	Distribution Center 456 LLC	17,983,950	1.65%
3	Amgen Inc.	17,281,380	1.58%
4	Montauk Innovations LLC	13,597,500	1.25%
5	AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc.	11,458,910	1.05%

## TOP 5 EMPLOYERS IN LICKING COUNTY 2023

	Employer	Percentage of Total Employment
1	Licking Heights Local School District	3.27%
2	Thayer Investments LLC	1.83%
3	American Electric Power Service Corp.	0.92%
4	West Licking Joint Fire District	0.87%
5	Southwest Licking Local School District	0.84%

\* Information on principal employers for 2024 was not available

# LICKING HEIGHTS STATISTICS

BREAKFAST  
SERVED  
**330,697**

LUNCH  
SERVED  
**566,337**

BUSES  
IN FLEET  
**58**

OPERATING  
SPENDING  
PER PUPIL  
**\$8,865**

EMPLOYEES  
**664**

SQUARE  
FOOTAGE  
MAINTAINED  
BY THE DISTRICT  
**790,022**

HOME  
LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN  
**42**

ECONOMICALLY  
DISADVANTAGED  
STUDENTS  
**60.60%**

GIFTED AND  
TALENTED  
STUDENTS  
**11.50%**

2024  
GRADUATES  
**313**

ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
LEARNERS  
**12.08%**

STUDENTS  
**5,388**

STUDENTS WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS  
**14.10%**





**Licking Heights Local School District**

6539 Summit Road  
Pataskala, OH 43062

740-927-6926

[www.licking-heights.k12.oh.us](http://www.licking-heights.k12.oh.us)



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Licking Heights Local Schools

