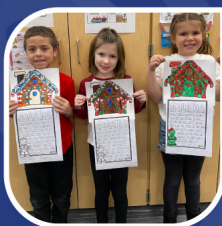




LIBERTY-BENTON
LOCAL SCHOOLS

QUALITY PROFILE

2022-2023





SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dear Residents,

Welcome to our 2022-2023 Quality Profile. This publication is designed to take a walk back through time to review all of the wonderful things our Liberty-Benton Eagles accomplished last school year.

From my perspective, it has been fun to see and experience all of the great things happening through a new lens. This marks my first year as superintendent, although Liberty-Benton has been home to my family since 2005.

This past year can most succinctly be summarized as a year of excellence. In academics, we continued to march toward the opening of our all-new PK-8 building while honoring the memories and lasting education that took place at our old building. Additionally, we earned one of the highest scores in Ohio on the State Report Card. Twenty of our students also had perfect scores on state tests.

Part of our role here at LB is to develop students' academic skills as well as the soft skills needed for success beyond school. Through Leader in Me programming, Leadership Day, Life Readiness Day, Action Teams, Kids Care Club, and more, we are training leaders of tomorrow and helping our students explore their passions so they can have successful futures.

In the area of athletics and performing arts, we had several league champions and state contenders. Our youngest learners continued learning about art through weekly classes, and thousands of works of art from our high schoolers were on display at various community events.

Of course, our finances are an important piece of preparing our students for their future. Liberty-Benton continues to deliver outstanding value in education for our taxpayers. Read about all of this and more throughout this Quality Profile.

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and students. It's a great day to be a Liberty-Benton Eagle!

Fly Higher!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Otley".

Bruce Otley, Superintendent

LIBERTY-BENTON SAYS FAREWELL TO OLD BUILDING, MOVES INTO NEW SPACE

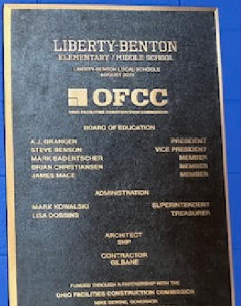
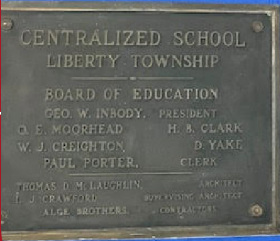
Liberty-Benton Local Schools has a long history, and in September of 2023, we took a huge leap forward in furthering our student's and community's future with the opening of an all-new PK-8 building.

In May, we honored the memories made in the elementary and middle school by taking a final walk through with families, current and former students, and community members. Today, the dedication plaque from our 1921 Centralized School Building, otherwise known as Liberty-Benton Elementary School, hangs next to the plaque dedicating the new PK-8 building across from the main office. This showcases our rich history of academic excellence.



Board Member Otis Moorhead, Principal Ira Baumgardner, Superintendent Homer Dunthan, Board Member George Inbody, and District Clerk Paul Porter pictured with Liberty-Benton's first motorized school bus. Several of these names appear on the plaque dedicating our original school.

Plaques dedicating our original and current school buildings adorn the wall across from our main office in the new PK-8 building.



ACADEMICS

L-B EARNS HIGH MARKS ON STATE REPORT CARD

★ **Liberty-Benton** once again performed well on Ohio's School Report Card, earning



4.5 Out of 5 Stars

overall. The district leads all schools in Hancock County in academics and is ranked in the top 15% of schools in the state, landing in

88th place out of 607 districts.

★ Most notably, we received a

5-Star Rating



— the highest possible — in the Achievement, Gap Closing, Early Literacy, and Graduation categories. This demonstrates that we are exceeding state standards in these areas. The district earned three stars in Progress. This means that we are meeting state standards. It's important to note, however, that it is difficult for us to advance in the Progress category since we are already a high-performing district.

★ It's safe to say that L-B is excelling, and that is the direct result of our teachers, principals, support staff, and the support of our families and community.

CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Class of 2023 accepted more than **\$650,000** in scholarship money for the 2023-2024 academic year, and more than **\$2.6 million** over the next four years.
- ★ **62%** planned to attend a 4-year college or university.
- ★ **13%** planned to attend a 2-year college or technical school.
- ★ **13%** planned to join the workforce.
- ★ **4%** joined the military.
- ★ **3%** had an apprenticeship upon graduating.

Most popular colleges :

- Bowling Green State University with 14 students
- Owens Community College with 8 students
- University of Findlay with 7 students
- Ohio Northern University and Miami University of Ohio with four students each

- ★ Most popular fields of study :

- Education - 9 students
- Business - 8 students
- Nursing - 7 students
- Engineering - 5 students



CCP OFFERS IMMEASURABLE BENEFITS

College Credit Plus courses are offered to **Liberty-Benton** students in grades 9-12. These college-level classes offer the following benefits:

- Give students a jumpstart on college
- Save families money (they are FREE to high school students)
- Help students enter the workforce sooner

Here is a closer look at our student's participation and cost-savings throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

● 23

courses offered
at Liberty-Benton

● Partner with



RHODES STATE COLLEGE

&



BOWLING GREEN
STATE UNIVERSITY

38 Number of students enrolled in CCP outside of Liberty-Benton*

288 Number of semester hours earned outside of Liberty-Benton*

86 Number of seniors who earned college credits

2531

Number of credit hours earned by the class of 2023

\$288 Average cost of one credit hour for in-state tuition in Ohio =

\$728,928

Value to Liberty-Benton parents and students in 2022-2023 school year

*Courses taken online or at another location

A large white 'A' followed by a plus sign and two small squares, all on a red background.

STUDENTS SCORE PERFECT ON STATE TEST

On Nov. 30, 2022, the **Liberty-Benton Board** of Education recognized 20 students for earning perfect scores on their spring 2022 state tests. In fact, two students scored perfect on not one but two of their state tests, bringing the total number of perfect scores to 22!

Students recognized include:

Jonathan Coldren

Adrian Cottrell

Bella Flippin

Arthur Gottardi Lopes

William Niese

Mileigh Adams

Griffin Austermiller

Elliana Huckins

Elizabeth Niese

Brodie Stuhler

Dawsyn Cramner

Collin Flake

Ashley Hochstettler

Kendyl Shadbolt

Webb Sloan

Curtis Taylor

Ian Billmaier

Eli Carpenter

Bounkeo Kaedaeng

Jacob Nelson

Blake Schlachter

Jonah Todd



QUIZ BOWL WINNERS ALL AROUND

The junior high Quiz Bowl were tournament and league champs!



LIBERTY - BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

YOU HAVE *your* THING

BE THE KING OF THE HILL ALONG.

BE THE

BE THE

BE THE

RS.

IG.



ATHLETICS

SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW

Our student-athletes had numerous successes throughout the 2022-2023 school year.



Football

Our eighth grade football team finished the season with six wins and one loss and our seventh graders had the opportunity to gain valuable experience by competing in several games in preparation for their eighth grade season.



Volleyball

The volleyball teams had a fantastic season. Both the seventh and eighth grade teams ended with matching 15-4 records and the seventh grade team won the BVC championship.



Cross Country

The cross country teams continued to improve, with the boys finishing first at the BVC Invitational and the girls third.



Basketball

The girls' basketball teams showcased their skill with a 5-1 record for the seventh grade team and a 6-2 record in the BVC for the eighth grade team. The boys had a solid season on the court as well. The seventh graders finished as BVC runner-ups with a tough overtime loss in the championship game and the eighth grade team was named league champs.

The high school girl's basketball program gained a new head coach in Chad Lieb. He has been coaching for the past 20 years, the last 11 of which have been with L-B.



Wrestling

Our wrestlers hit the mat for a Blanchard Valley Conference (BVC) championship title and Gavin Gillig was the district champion at 215 pounds, advancing to state.



Baseball

The varsity baseball team was league champions.



Track

The junior high boys and girls track teams won BVC champion titles and Saiphone Kaedaeng, Parker Martien and Arabelle Kolan qualified for the state meet in pole vault. The junior high boys' 4x800 team also broke a 30-year school record with a new time of 9:30.

The varsity boys' track team was BVC and District champions. The team also had several state qualifiers including Stefan Kolan placing fourth in pole vault, Cason Doolittle placing eighth in the 400-meter dash, and Owen Wilkins placing seventh in the 110-meter hurdles and sixth in the 300-meter hurdles.

The girls' varsity track team was also BVC champions. Like the boys, they also had Division 2 state qualifiers. Well done to the 4x800-meter relay team of Riley Irwin, Kylie Recker, Emma Garmatter, and Madi Gaerke who made it to the state meet and Karis Willow, who placed third in the state in the high jump.

ARTS

ARTISTS IN TRAINING

Across grades K-12, **1,200** students displayed **2,000+** pieces of artwork at the Liberty-Benton Arts Festival in May.

Additionally, in the spring of 2023, 20 students in grades K-8 had artwork on display at the Findlay Art Walk at the Hancock County Library.



Students in grades K-4 also attended art classes weekly, where they explored multim medias including fibers, oil pastels, paints, chalks and sculpture. Students in fifth grade focused on drawing, weaving and ceramics.



SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP



Kids Care

Liberty-Benton's fourth grade service club, Kids Care, worked on monthly projects throughout the year to give back to our school and community.

Projects included a food drive, hosting a game at the school carnival, and showing appreciation to staff members.



Additionally, our Z-Club organized the annual Salvation Army Food Drive. Students and staff donated several hundred pounds of nonperishable food items.

High Schoolers Prepare for Future With Life Readiness Day

Liberty-Benton High School held its first Life Readiness Day last April. There were three parts to the day: life skills, including 24 sessions on topics from banking and insurance to health and diet, stress management and car care; a summer job fair; and career talk sessions, featuring professionals from the health science, agriculture and natural resources, finance, arts, architecture and construction, information technology, and transportation industries.



L-B Hosts Leadership Day

Students participated in Leadership Day, which involved playing team-building games like Human Knot, Blanket Volleyball and Marble Race and hearing from Scott Grant, who talked about the importance of personal branding.





Students Explore Interests Through Action Teams

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, students met each Thursday in 24 different Action Teams, which were centered around passion projects. Teams included the Green Machine, where students sought ways to make the school green and oversaw the recycling program; the Soaring Productions team, where students learned to use video equipment, and record and create videos; and the Nursing Home Outreach team, through which students connected with local nursing homes. Students were placed in Action Teams based on their top three choices.



Lisa Dobbins,
Treasurer

FINANCES

Liberty-Benton Local Schools is dedicated to sound fiscal management, and it shows! Ohio's public schools are funded primarily through two sources: state funding and local tax dollars. The state's Fair School Funding Plan is designed to fund schools based on a community's ability to pay. Despite the plan not being fully funded to date, approximately 41% of our district's revenue comes from the state with local taxpayer dollars filling a large portion of the remaining gap at just over 56%.

We in turn place the majority of our revenue right back into the classroom. Our largest expenditures are our staff, purchased services, such as technology, special education services, and mental health supports, and supplies and equipment.

ESSER, or COVID-19 federal relief funds, also continued to spur our progress during the 2022-2023 school year. The third round of this funding must be spent by September of 2024, however. We are exploring ways to maintain the services and programming implemented as a result of these dollars.

We are grateful for our community's support so that we can continue providing a top-notch education to the students of Liberty-Benton.



\$11,136

Cost per pupil



20%

The district is among the 20% of public districts with the lowest expenses per pupil and the highest academic performance index scores



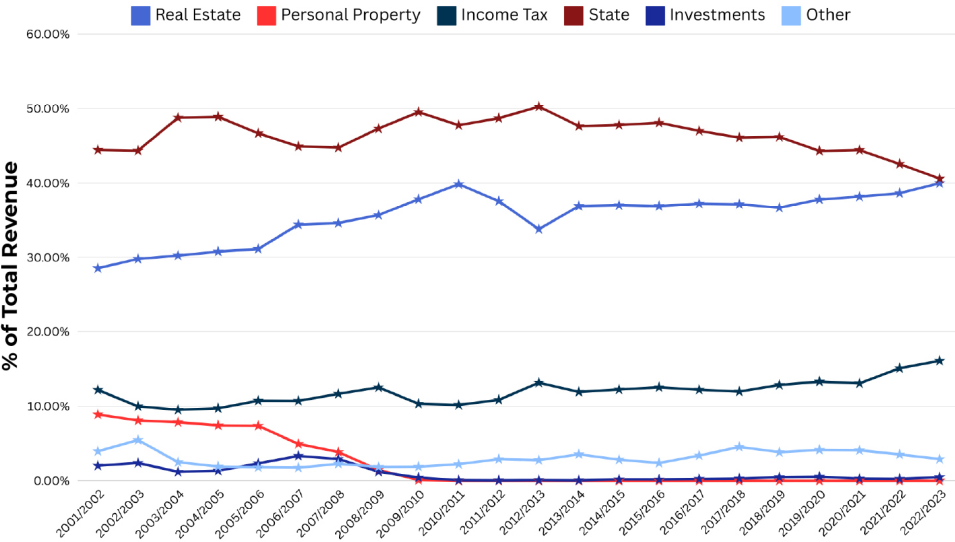
For the **13th**
consecutive year
the district received the
Auditor of State Award



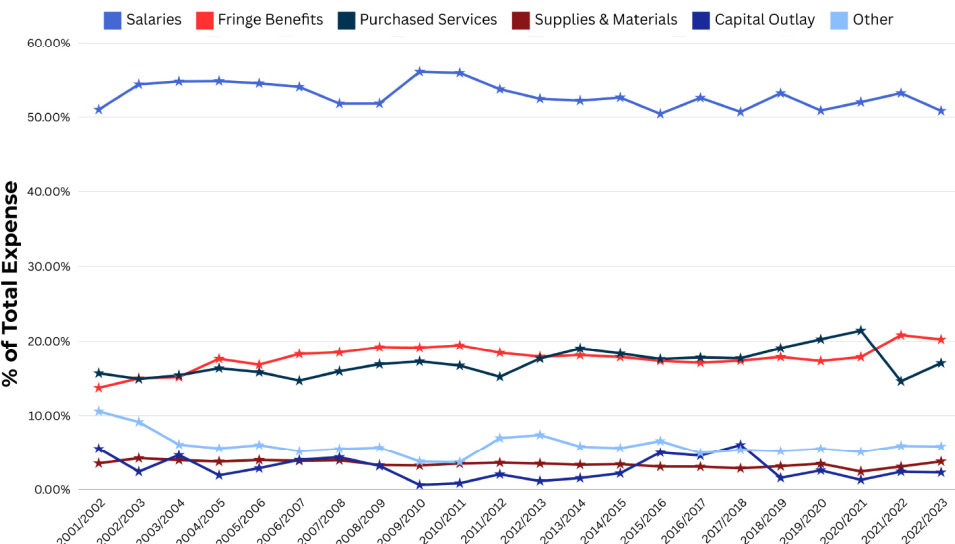
65.8%

of the district budget is
spent directly on
classroom instruction

Where Each Dollar of Revenue Comes From



Where Each Dollar Goes



BOARD OF EDUCATION DRIVING FORCE FOR L-B ACHIEVEMENTS

We are so grateful for our Board of Education and their commitment to making L-B the best it can be. Thank you for all that you helped us accomplish during the 2022-2023 school year!




2022-2023 Liberty-Benton Board of Education,
from left to right: Brian Christiansen, Jim Mace,
Steve Benson, Mark Badertscher and A.J. Granger.



Liberty-Benton Local Schools
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Findlay, OH 45840

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