

State of the District Visioning Our Future

Community Conversation
February 28, 2024



Presented by
Dr. Sharee Wells
Superintendent

WELCOME & SUPERINTENDENT INTRODUCTION



Mr. Darryl Hammock
WCS BOE President



Special Thanks

Board of Education
Cabinet
Principals, Administrators, & Staff
Students & Families
City of Whitehall
WEF & WYAA



WCS Cabinet Team

Dr. Sharee Wells, Superintendent

Melissa Griffith, Treasurer

Mark Trace, Deputy Superintendent

Brian Seymour, Assistant Superintendent of Academics
and Innovation

Tracey Colson, Director of School Improvement &
Family Engagement

Chris Hardy, Director of Accountability & Instruction

Ben Jessup, Interim Director of Operations

Justin Kuck, Director of Technology

Doug Shoemaker, Director of Employee Engagement,
Partnerships & Legal Services

Anna Telerski-Shultz, Director of Specialized Services

INVEST IN IMPACT
IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION

WWW.IMPACTCA.ORG/DONATE

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



OhioGuidestone

WHERE NEW PATHS BEGIN



Rock
City
CHURCH



HEART OF OHIO FAMILY HEALTH



Franklin County
**Children
Services**

DISCOVER



Communities
In Schools

Ohio



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



City of
WHITEHALL
Opportunity is Here



Franklin County
Board of Commissioners
**JOB & FAMILY
SERVICES**



POWERED BY



United Way
of Central Ohio



and many others...



Goals for Today

State of the District

- Provide an update on the district's performance and priorities

Visioning Our Future

- Gain community feedback to set the foundation for a clearly defined long-term mission, vision, and strategic plan



Today we will...

- Learn about the current state of the district
 - State results
 - District priorities
- Engage in collaborative dialogue around our
 - Strengths
 - Values
 - Areas of improvement
 - Hopes for the future
 - Desired skills and measures of success

So that we can...

- Create a long-term mission, vision, and strategic plan reflective of the school community's hopes and values
- Clearly define requirements and commitments for students and staff that drive the work and metrics for monitoring progress

State of the District

Priorities and Progress

Questions or Comments

Scan the QR code with
your phone to submit
questions or comments.



Superintendent Priorities

School Improvement

Early Literacy

Graduation & CCWMMR
(College, Career, Workforce, &
Military Readiness)

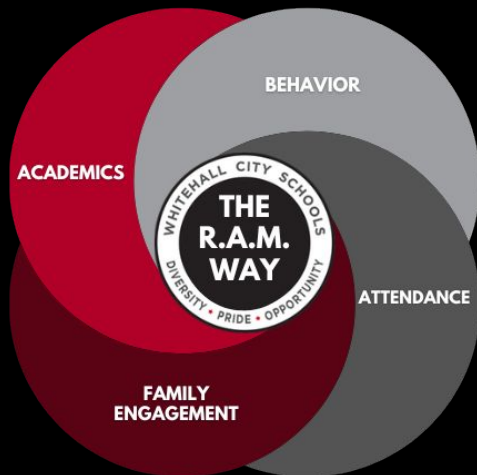
Financial Stability

Safe & Efficient
Operations

Culture & Climate

District Priorities

School Improvement



Commitment Plan

Staff Commitments



ACADEMICS

GOAL: Increase academic performance on state assessments by 15%.

FOCUS: Improve literacy through vocabulary and classroom discourse.

- Teach standards in meaningful and engaging ways
- Implement curriculum based on the Science of Reading (SoR) with fidelity
- Identify and teach essential vocabulary to be mastered
- Embed classroom discourse into daily instruction



BEHAVIOR

GOAL: Decrease disruptive behaviors by 20%.

FOCUS: Improve student behaviors through PBIS and MTSS.

- Teach and model appropriate behaviors, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution
- Provide SEL instruction
- Implement PBIS frameworks with fidelity
- Provide real-time and targeted intervention
- Collaborate on success plan creation



ATTENDANCE

GOAL: Reduce chronic absenteeism by 10%.

FOCUS: Improve attendance through Stay in the Game campaign and HB 410 implementation fidelity.

- Emphasize and recognize the importance of daily attendance
- Provide inviting and engaging classroom instruction that draws students to school
- Provide personal outreach when students miss and welcome them back when they return
- Implement WCS attendance protocols and procedures with fidelity



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

GOAL: 90% of families have a parent portal account.

FOCUS: Increase Parent Portal access and usage of two-way communication tools.

- Build strong relationships with students and families
- Ensure families have correct information
- Provide updated and timely communication about children's progress
- Complete success plans with families

District Report Card 2023

Celebrations

Etna exceeds state standards & earns 4 stars!

WCS improves Early Literacy rating from 1 to 2 stars!

WCS shows improvement in every measure!

More students score advanced now than pre-COVID!

1 of only 70, out of 607, to receive 5 stars in Progress!

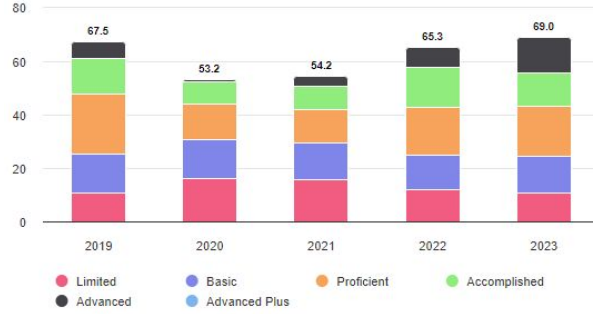
Every school improves student achievement!



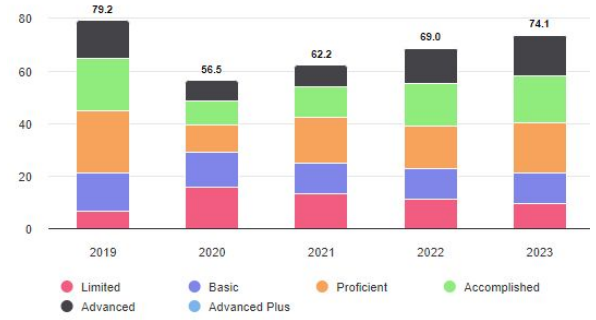
District Report Card 2023

Achievement - Trends in Performance Index by School

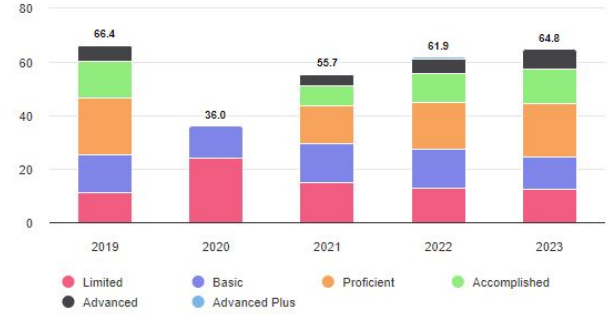
Beechwood



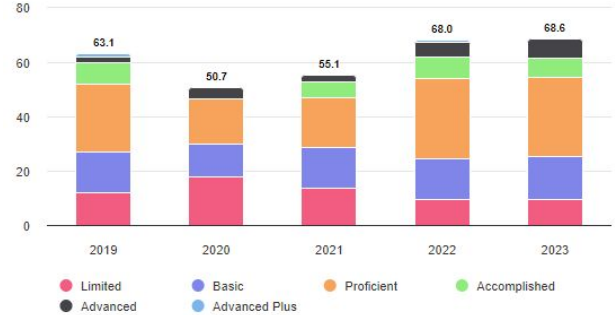
Etna



Rosemore

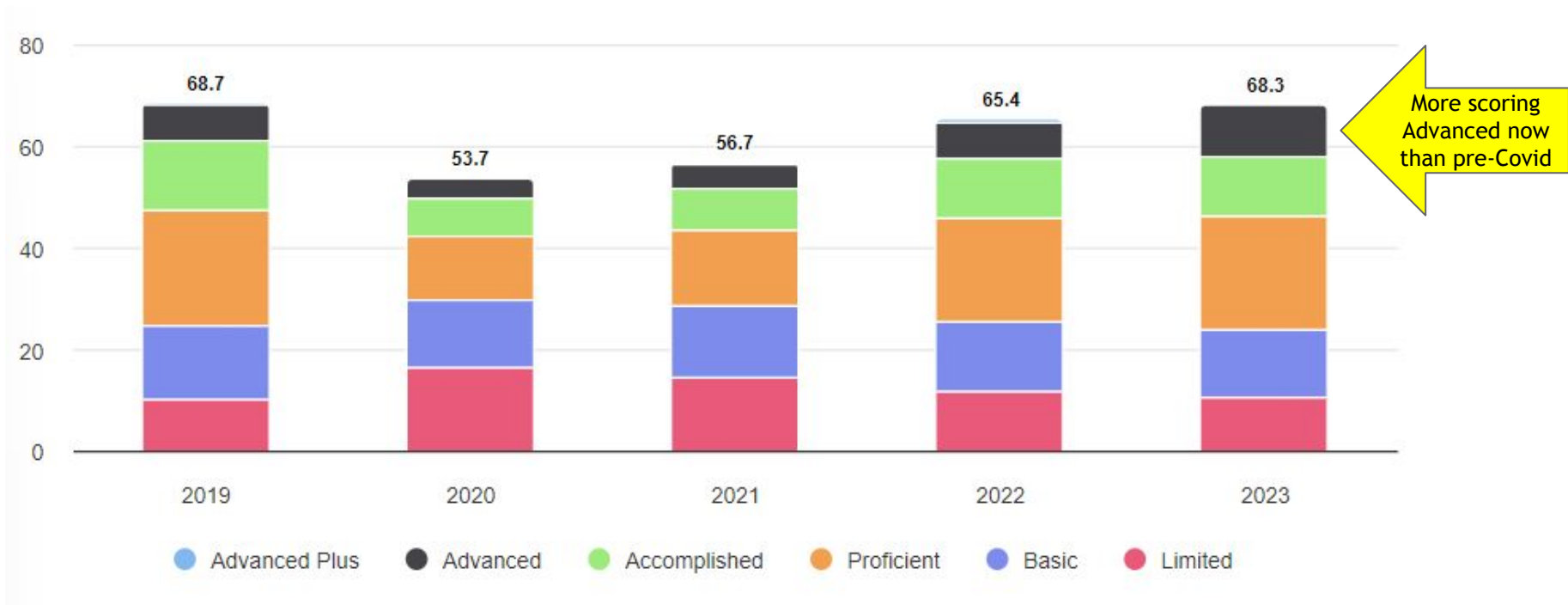


Whitehall Yearling



District Report Card 2023

Achievement - District PI Trend Data



District Report Card 2023

Overall Star Ratings



Overall State Star Ratings	
District Rating	3.5
Kae Avenue	2.5
Beechwood	3.5
Etna Road	4
Rosemore	3.5
WYHS	3

WCS earns 3.5 star rating!

Keys to Improved Ratings = Value-Added Progress

Rating	Description
5 Stars	Significantly exceeds state standards
4 and 4.5 Stars	Exceeds state standards
3 and 3.5 Stars	Meets state standards
2 and 2.5 Stars	Needs support to meet state standards
1 and 1.5 Stars	Needs significant support to meet state standards

District Report Card Star Ratings 2023

How We Compare to Other Districts

Overall Rating: higher than Reynoldsburg, Groveport, and CCS

Achievement: same as CCS, Groveport, & Reynoldsburg

Progress: Whitehall, Upper Arlington, Bexley, Hilliard, and Licking Heights are the only districts to receive a 5-star rating

Gap Closing: higher than CCS, Groveport, Hamilton, Reynoldsburg, & Southwestern

Graduation: higher than CCS, same as Hamilton & Southwestern,

Early Literacy: higher than CCS, same as Reynoldsburg, Southwestern, Groveport, and Licking Heights,

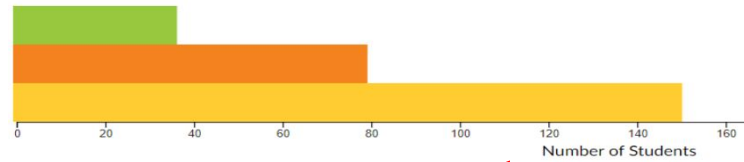
Etna scores higher than elementary schools in Groveport, Southwestern, Reynoldsburg, and Westerville



District Priorities

Early Literacy

- Pre-K Expansion
- Professional Development & Coaching
- District Structured Literacy Leadership Team
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Literacy Awareness Initiative
- Success by Third Grade United Way Partnership
- Intervention Periods
- Secondary Literacy Specialist
- Classroom discourse and explicit vocabulary instruction



- 37 (13.8%) **Demonstrating Readiness**
- 80 (29.9%) **Approaching Readiness**
- 151 (56.3%) **Emerging Readiness**

Only ~13% enter Kindergarten Ready

Rosemore MS	6th Grade Fall	6th Grade Winter	7th Grade Fall	7th Grade Winter	8th Grade Fall	8th Grade Winter
At/Above Grade Level	24%	23%	27%	30%	29%	30%
On Watch	10%	13%	13%	13%	16%	14%
Intervention	24%	20%	24%	21%	19%	20%
Urgent Intervention	43%	44%	36%	36%	36%	35%
Grade Equivalent	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.1	6.5

Whitehall Yearling High School	9th Grade Fall	9th Grade Winter	10th Grade Fall	10th Grade Winter	11th Grade Fall	11th Grade Winter	12th Grade Fall	12th Grade Winter
At/Above Grade Level	23%	20%	28%	22%	30%	20%	20%	15%
On Watch	10%	12%	12%	14%	11%	14%	19%	16%
Intervention	23%	24%	20%	20%	19%	20%	25%	25%
Urgent Intervention	44%	44%	40%	44%	42%	45%	36%	44%
Grade Equivalent	6.3	6.5	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.6	7.4	7.1

District Priorities

Early Literacy

***MOVING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION***

Strategies for offsetting early literacy deficits showing progress

Growth in Elementary

81%

Grade Level	Indicator	Fall (BOY)	Winter (MOY)	Assessment
Kindergarten	At benchmark or above	28%	44%	Acadience
1st Grade	At benchmark or above	37%	41%	Acadience
2nd	On grade level or above	15%	41%	iReady
3rd	On grade level or above	22%	41%	iReady
4th	On grade level or above	11%	22%	iReady
5th	On grade level or above	17%	28%	iReady

Grade Level	Indicator	Fall (BOY)	Winter (MOY)	% Proficient or above	Assessment
6th	Growth	982	1005	23%	STAR
7th	Growth	1024	1042	30%	STAR
8th	Growth	1042	1055	29%	STAR
9th	Growth	1047	1053	22%	STAR
10th	Growth	1070	1075	24%	STAR
11th	Growth	1065	1076	17%	STAR
12th	Growth	1077	1066	13%	STAR

District Priorities

Graduation & CCWMR

(College, Career, Workforce, & Military Readiness)

- Future Focus Days
- I Know I Can College & Career Advising
- Career Fairs
- Pathway Development
- Advising, Tracking, Intervention, & Support
- Increased academic expectations for athletes

Class of 2023

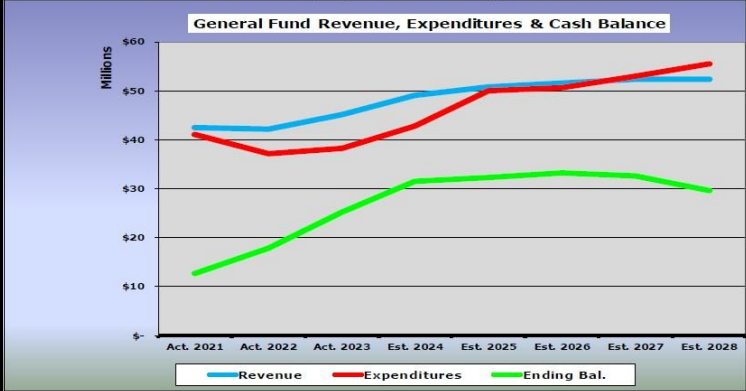
- 97% of our enrolled seniors graduated
- 61 completed CTE programs to be Workforce Ready
- Earned more than \$870k+ in scholarships & grants
- Students shine and earn full rides in arts, athletics, and academics

District Priorities

Financial Stability

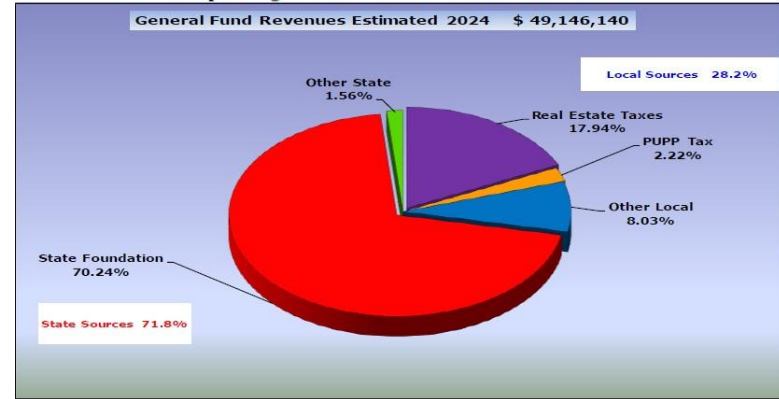
- Added \$360k+ in safety grants
- ~\$1.8 million in educational grants
- Forecast is stable due to new Fair School Funding Formula

General Fund Revenue, Expenditure and Ending Cash Balance



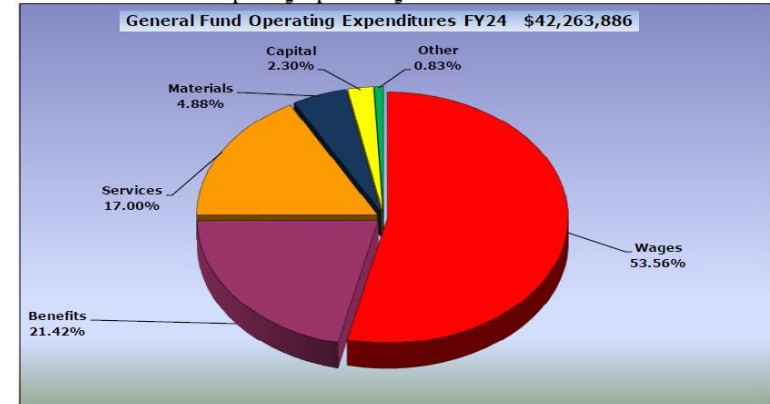
REVENUES

Operating Revenue Sources General Fund FY24



EXPENDITURES

All Operating Expense Categories - General Fund FY24



Whitehall City Schools

District Enrollment

17.7%
SWD

18.5%
EL
24 FL

44%
Black

~3390 Students

28%
Hisp

18%
White

10%
Multi



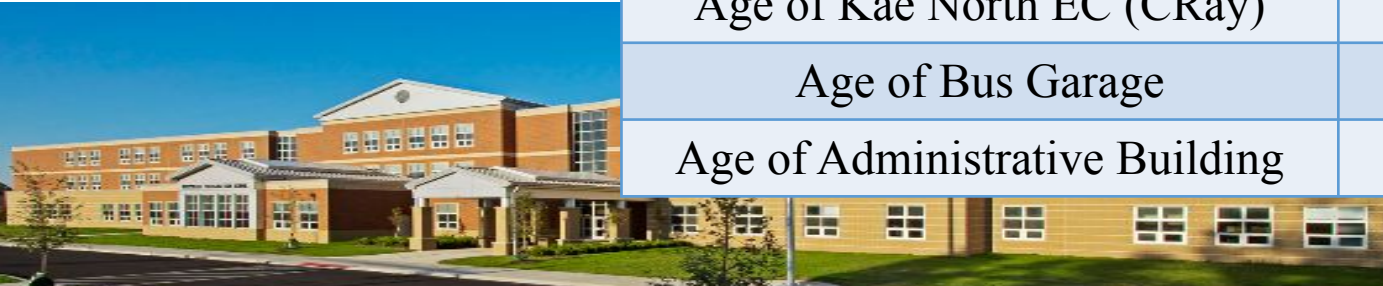
Whitehall City Schools

Our Schools & Facilities

**Safe & Efficient
Operations**



Number of Buildings	8
Average Age of New Buildings	10 Years
Age of Kae North EC (CRay)	Approx. 60 Years
Age of Bus Garage	Approx. 102 Years
Age of Administrative Building	Approx. 50 Years



District Priorities

Safe & Efficient Operations

- Increased School Resource Officers
- Fusus partnership with WPD
- Upgraded camera systems
- Active aggressor shooter trainings
- Updated school safety procedures
- Implemented Health Labs
- PALS alternatives to suspension and expulsion
- CHAMPPS training
- Provide Behavior Coach Support
- D.A.R.E. program for all 5th graders



District Priorities

Culture & Climate Staff & Student Focus

- RAMWay, Rockin Rams, & Innovator Awards
- Athletics & Arts Competitions
- Extracurriculars & Learning Trips

Athletic Highlights

- Bowling - Division Winners 3yrs in a row
- Wrestling - League Champions & MS State Qualifiers
- Cheerleaders - 2nd Place
- Track - State Qualifiers
- 3 State Coaches of the Year

AT WHITEHALL CITY SCHOOLS WE,

ACT, COMMUNICATE, AND STRIVE TO BUILD

THE R.A.M.WAY

"RELATIONSHIPS ALWAYS MATTER"

- 1** **Speak & act with professionalism**
Maintain professional conversations about the district, community, and students.
- 2** **When frustrated...**
Share concerns directly and proactively with the person involved & refrain from gossip!
- 3** **Assume positive intent and...**
• Listen for understanding
• Be open and reflective
• Remember it is professional - not personal
- 4** **Understand & respect others regardless of...**
Age, race, gender, sexual orientation, differences, WCS...



Visioning Our Future



Why Are We Having this Discussion?

It's the perfect time to set a vision for the future!

- Positive momentum
- Stability and direction
- Local growth and development
- Changing workforce and educational demands

152,170

Total Jobs Available

90,440

Over \$50K Salary

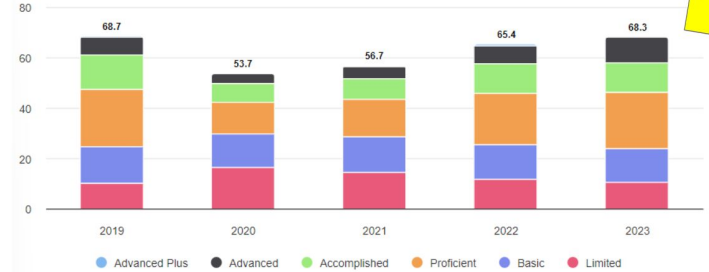
3,647

Internships

As of February 12, 2024

<https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/>

District Achievement Results



WHITEHALL

Whitehall state of city: Development plans announced for Broad, Hamilton site

Gary Seman Jr. ThisWeek group

Published 4:33 p.m. ET March 19, 2021 | Updated 7:44 p.m. ET March 19, 2021



This is an artist's image of Phase 1 of the redevelopment project on Broad and Hamilton streets. The project includes a new office, retail and 276 mixed-income residential units.

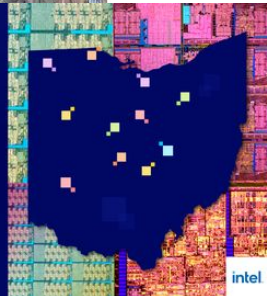


Department of Education & Workforce

Intel Addresses Semiconductor Workforce Shortage with 1-year Certification Program

The certificate program launches in 2023-24 to help build a local talent pipeline.

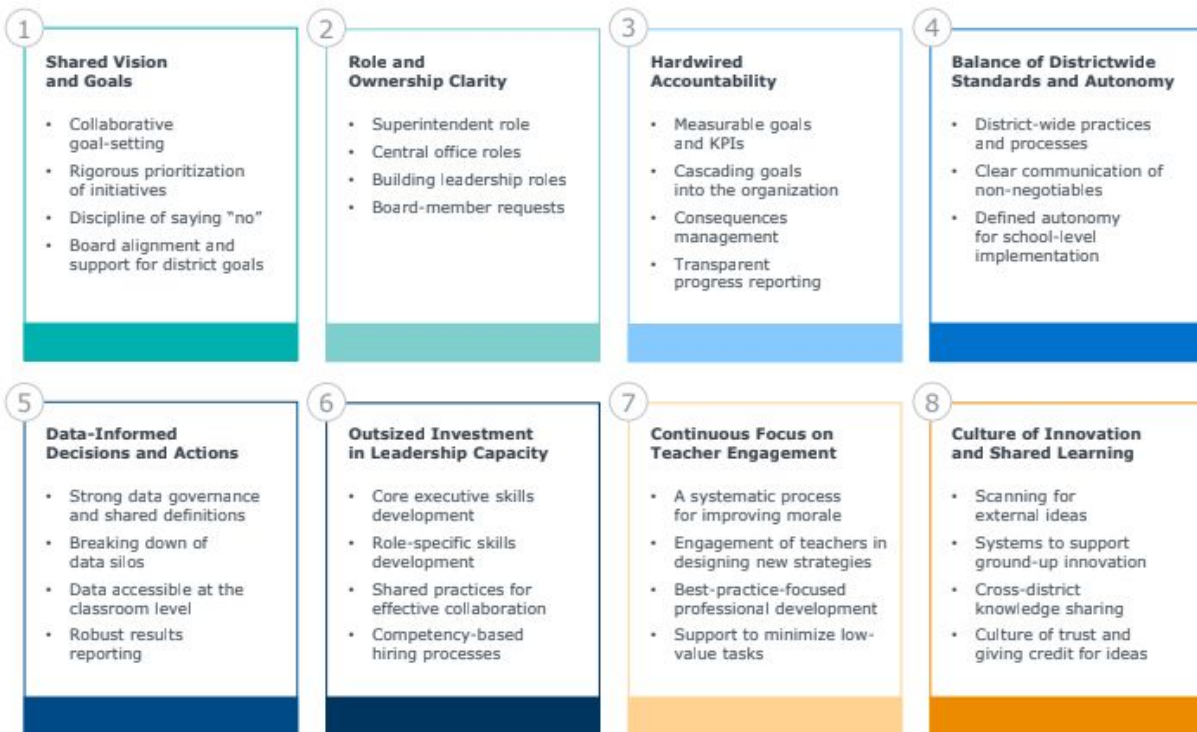
- Clark State
- Central Ohio Technical College
- Columbus State CC
- Lorain CC
- Marion Technical College
- North Central State College
- Northwest State
- Owens CC
- Rhodes State College
- Stark State
- Zane State



intel

The Eight Hallmarks of High-Performing Districts

How to Build an Engine for Progress in Schools



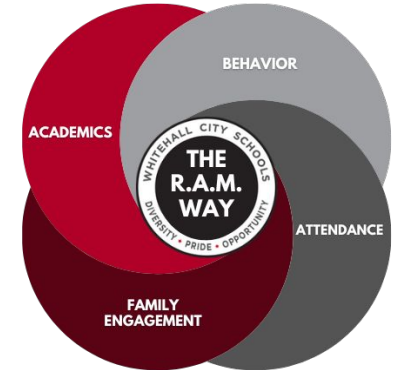
1

Shared Vision and Goals

- Collaborative goal-setting
- Rigorous prioritization of initiatives
- Discipline of saying “no”
- Board alignment and support for district goals

Key Findings From Existing Research

- “Collaborative goal setting” and “Board alignment and support of district goals” were identified as two of the five district-level responsibilities with statistically significant impact on student achievement by Marzano and Waters (2006)
- Studies have shown that clearly defined vision statements increase employee creativity and innovative behaviors.²

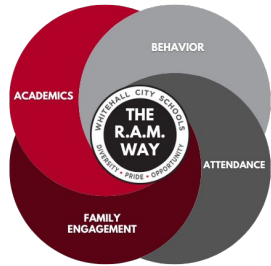


1) School Leadership That Works (2006)

2) Sitten, Mutonyi, and Lien et.al. (2021), National Library of Medicine

Source: Mahmood, A., Siddiqui, S. W., & Anwar, M. (2018). Factors affecting shared vision in organizations culture. Journal of Basic and Applied Scientific Research, 4(1), 148-150. Waters, T., Marzano, R. J., & McNulty, B. A. (2006). School district leadership that works: The effect of superintendent leadership on 18 administrative achievement. Retrieved September 24, 2023, from <https://www.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED481179.pdf>

Time to get an even clearer focus... Long-Term Vision and Goals, Communicated in Plain Language



SAMPLE DISTRICT


VISION 2030
LIFE READY - CAREER READY
COLLEGE READY

Mission To inspire and educate students to be productive citizens.

A destination district committed to excellence. **Vision**

Values

- Students First
- Continuous Improvement
- Integrity
- Communication
- Positive Relationships
- Resiliency



Motto MISD: A great place to live, learn, and teach.

Guiding Statements

1. Students will read on level or higher by the beginning of third grade and will remain on level or higher as an MISD student.
2. Students will demonstrate mastery of Algebra II by the end of eleventh grade.
3. Students will graduate life ready.
4. Students will graduate college and/or career ready.

Vision 2030

- Long-term vision provides a consistent north star for the district
- Vision and goals formally adopted as board policy
- Selection criteria for hiring a new superintendent ensure alignment with Vision 2030
- Values make “continuous improvement” central to the district’s identity

Guiding Statements

- Sentences in plain language rather than “pillars”
- Statements 3 and 4 clarify the vision
- Statements 1 and 2 define the two additional measures that, if achieved, will make everything else easier

Strategic Planning Process

5 Steps to Strategic Planning

Activate on the Strongest Strategies & Plan

5 - DELIVER

Rigorously Test Assumptions

4 - DESIGN

Respond to Data with Strategy

3 - DREAM

Analyze System Data

2 - DISCOVERY

Clarify Mission/Vision

1 - DEFINITION



Our Process

- Engage all stakeholders
- Identify core values
- Establish a mission and vision for the future
- Develop competencies for learners, staff, and community
- Define goals and metrics
- Align systems
- Bring the plan to life

Things to keep in mind before we vision...

Questions or Comments

Scan the QR code with
your phone to submit
questions or comments.



***Our dilemma is that we hate change
and love it at the same time.***

***What we really want is for things to
remain the same but get better.***



SYDNEY J. HARRIS

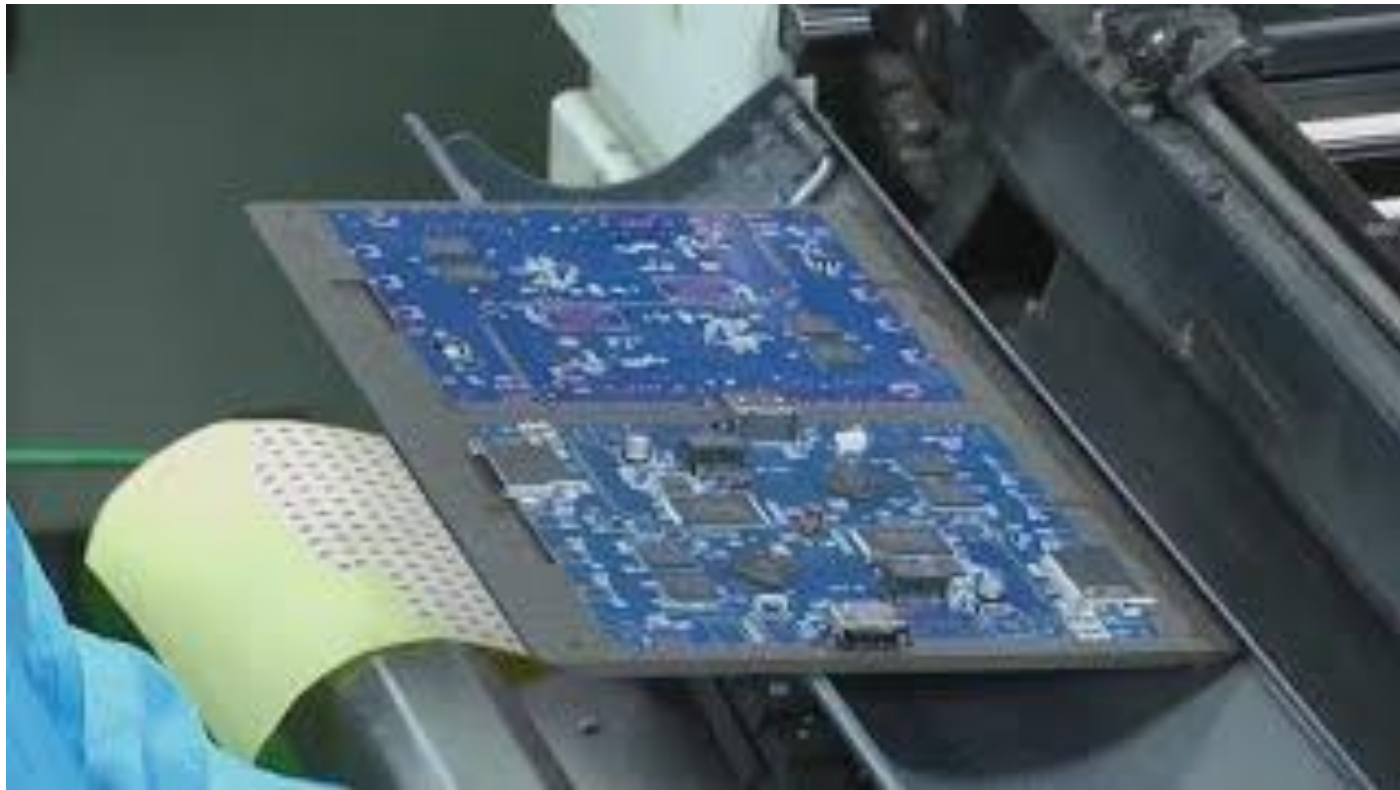
Our Visionary Theme

2023-2025 and Beyond

The Columbus Dispatch

“Innovation at WCS is the catalyst for success and student achievement.”

Impact of Intel



Around Us Locally



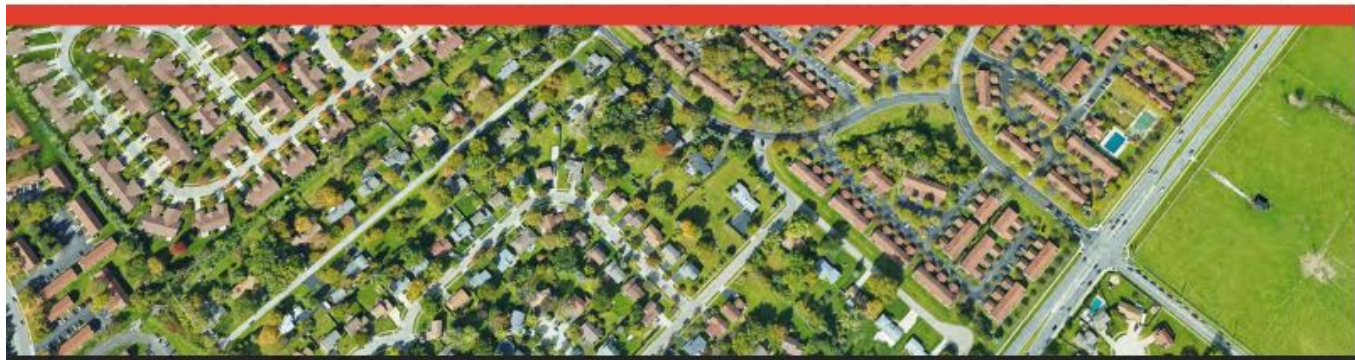
**Metro Columbus
Today:**
Record growth and
change in our region.



United Way
of Central Ohio



Columbus grew just 1.5% in land area, but squeezed 119,000 more people into the city limits.



City of Columbus – 2010 to 2020

**Total
Population**

905,748

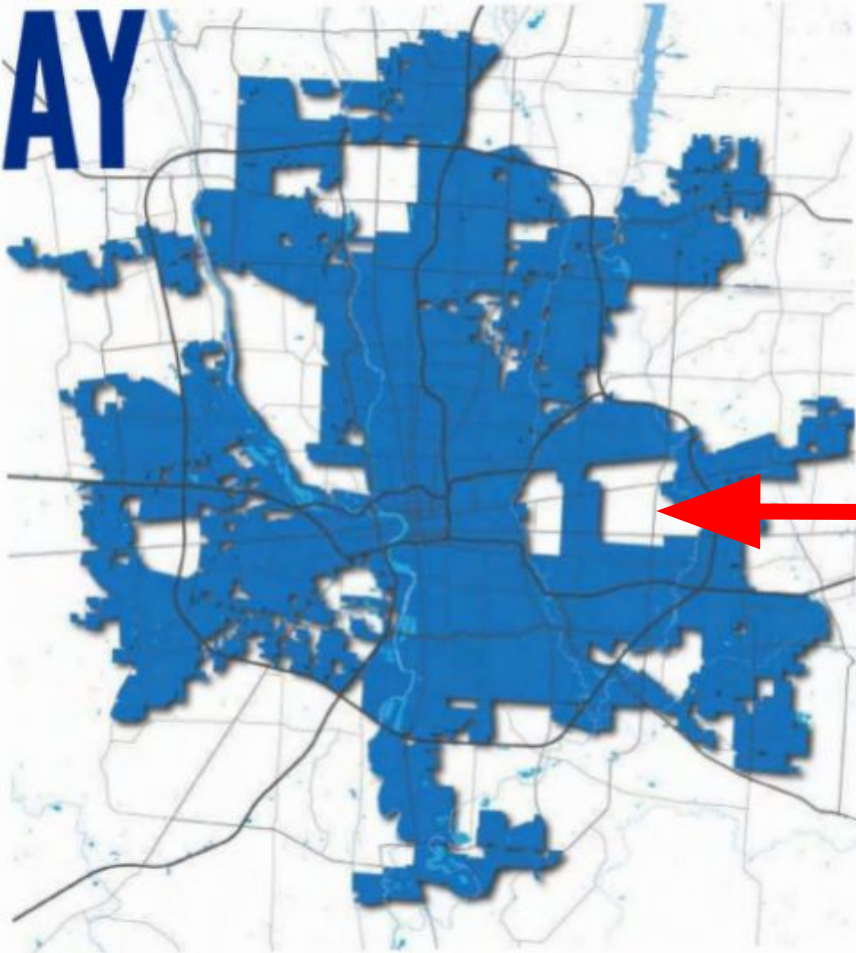
**Highest
percentage
increase
since 1950s**

+15.1%

**Largest
numeric
increase in
history**

+118,715

TODAY



**What impacts
Columbus,
impacts
Whitehall.**

Whitehall

Whitehall grew for first time in 50 years

1970s	-15.8%
1980s	-3.4%
1990s	-6.7%
2000s	-5.9%
2010s	+11.4%



2000 to 2010

2010 to 2020



+10.6%

+15.1%



+8.8%

+13.8%



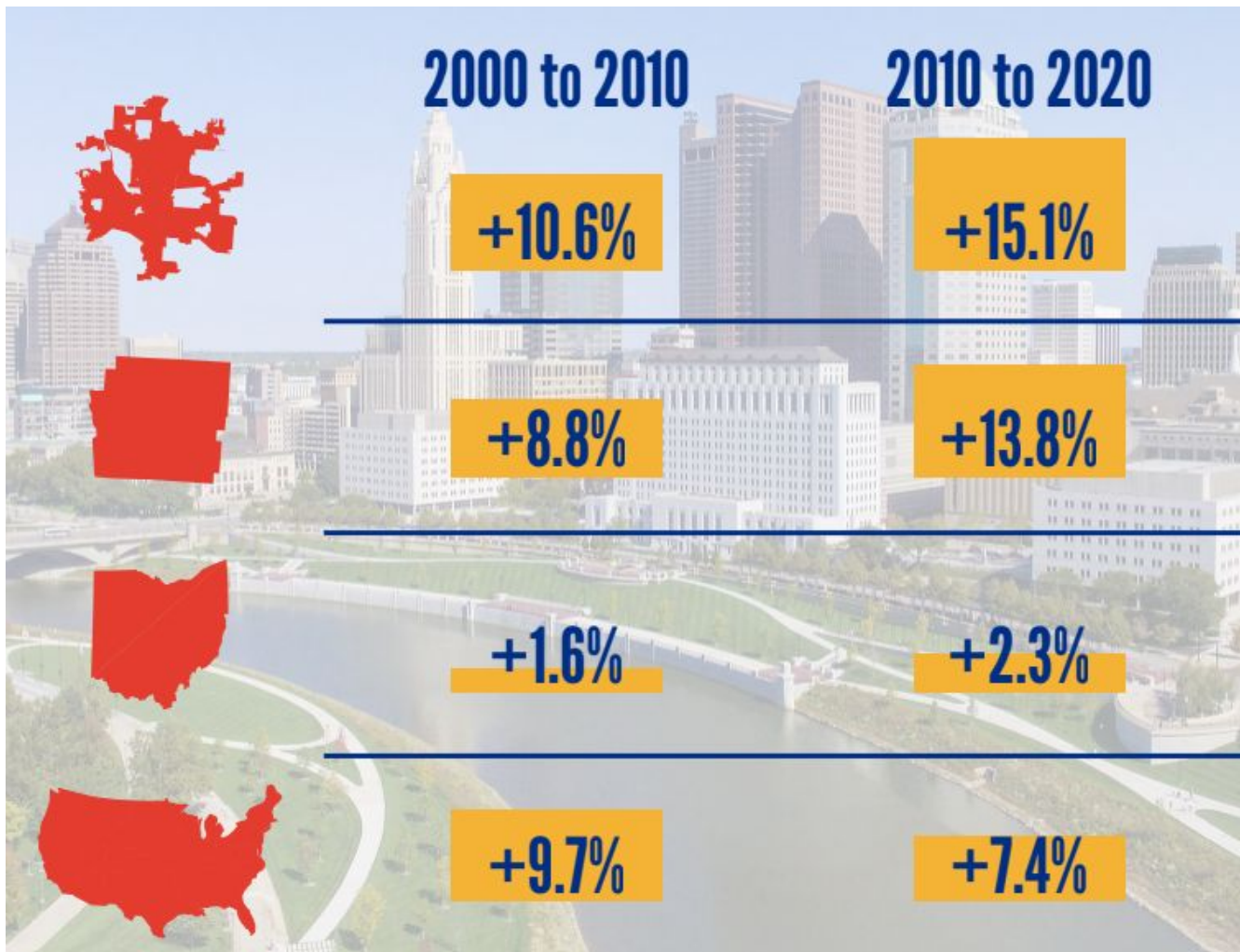
+1.6%


+2.3%




+9.7%

+7.4%





**All of the
net growth
in the **City**
of **Columbus**
was due to
diversity.**



**All of the
net growth
in **Franklin**
County
was due to
diversity.**

Housing Units Per Households

2010



107
100

2020



102
100

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Housing Units Per Households

2010



107
100

2020



102
100

2030



96
100

Foreign Born in Metro Columbus Compared with Ohio

% of Population

3.8%



8.4%

Columbus
Metro

Share of State Population

18%

COLUMBUS METRO
Share of Ohio
Population

24%

COLUMBUS METRO
Share of Ohio
Foreign Born

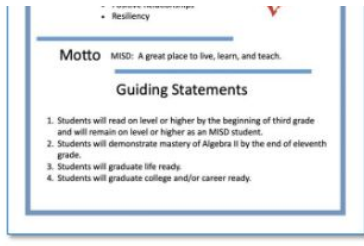
Around Us Nationally – Impact of Tech & AI



We Need a Plan



What is Whitehall's Future?



Next Steps

Small Group Discussion for vision and future

- What are four words that come to mind when you think of Whitehall?
- What are the values of the Whitehall Community?
- What skills do you want to see all WCS students graduate with?
- What do you see as the key strength of WCS?
- What do you see as WCS area(s) of improvement?
- What are the most important things the Whitehall City School District can do for the youth in this community?
- How would you measure the success of the Whitehall City School District?