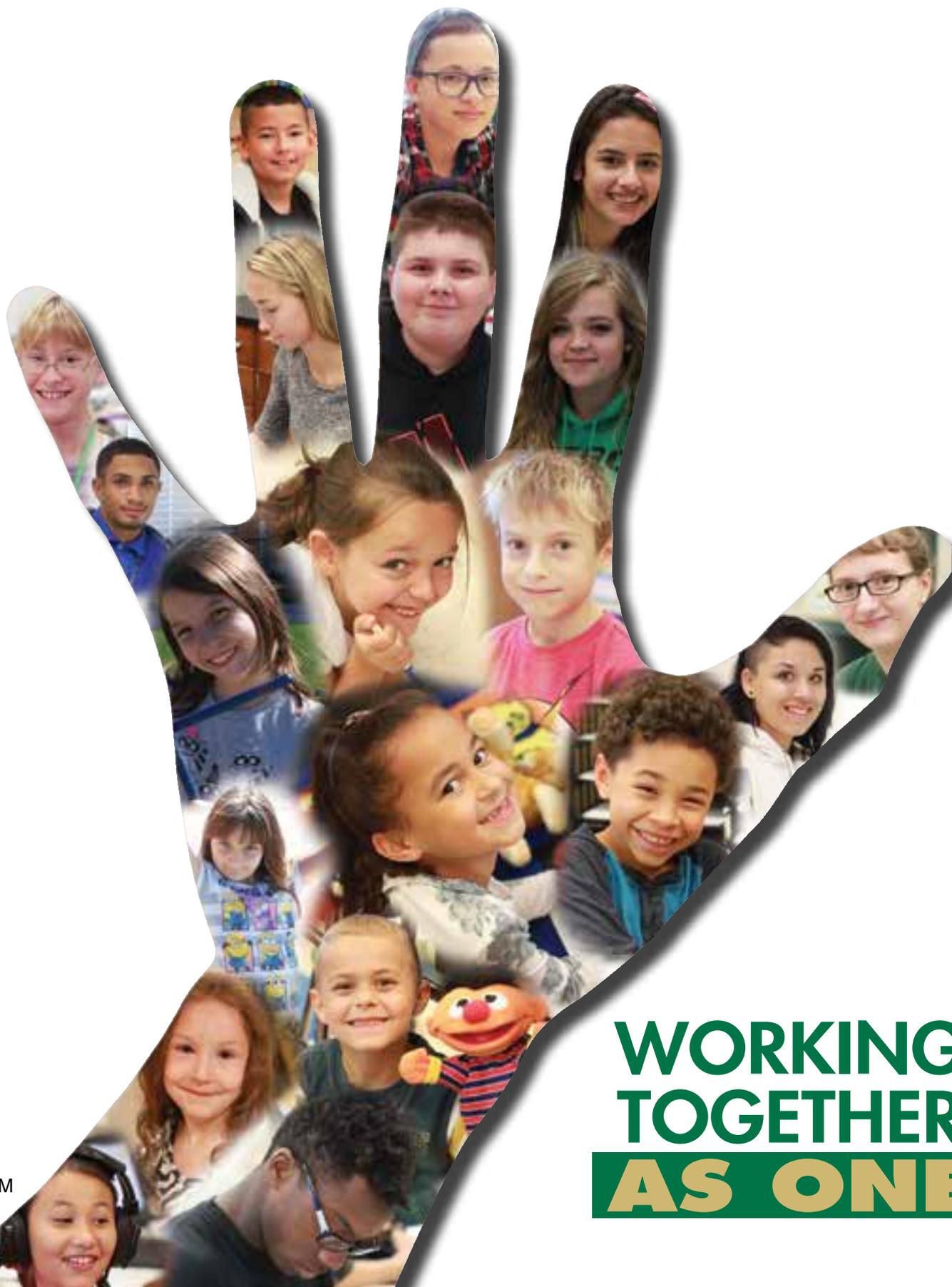


# ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

A publication of Ashtabula Area City Schools

WINTER 2016



**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
AS ONE**

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## Highlights of Ashtabula's 5-year Financial Outlook

The Ashtabula Area City Schools district remains financially stable through the forecast period of fiscal year 2020, based on 5-year forecast projections approved by the Board of Education in October. Through budget reductions and realignment over the past eight years, the district is able to reflect a solid 5-year forecast moving forward. With this positive forecast, there are three areas of fluidity that may affect how the forecast will appear in the future: restricted grants state funding, fringe benefits and enrollment.

The district is trending toward revenue shortfalls by fiscal year 2019, largely due to limited growth in real estate tax revenue. The district anticipates increases in state revenue due to the implementation of all-day kindergarten which yields additional funding. The district was also approved for fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2018 to participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), providing free breakfast and free lunch to all enrolled students.

Because participation in the CEP program affected how students are reported to the state, the district has seen an increase in restricted grants state funding. The restricted grants state funding is required to be used for eight specific purposes: extended school day and year, reading improvement and intervention, instructional technology or blended learning, professional development in reading instruction for teachers of students in kindergarten through third grade, dropout prevention, school safety and security measures, community learning centers that address barriers to learning, and academic interventions for students in grades six through 12. The forecast also reflects reductions in restricted grants state funding beginning in fiscal year 2017 as it is unknown if the state will continue to fund districts at the same capacity.

The forecast reflects increases on health insurance at a rate of at least 7-percent per year. The Affordable Care Act also may add additional cost to the district if insurance plans exceed a specific dollar amount set by the federal government.

The last area of fluidity in the forecast is student enrollment. The addition of all-day kindergarten provides a higher enrollment being reported; however, with the increase of open enrollment students to other districts, there exists a slight loss of students. The long term effect of all-day kindergarten may result in a more stable year over year student enrollment along with increased instructional time for students.

Overall the district is in a positive financial position. The administrative team has been able to recommend to the Board of Education sometimes difficult but beneficial solutions on how to best serve the students in our community by using the existing funds available. These solutions have been able to provide bus transportation for all students, breakfast and lunch for all students, all day kindergarten and a positive financial position through fiscal year 2020.

## Nutrition Services District Report for 2015-16

Ashtabula Area City Schools Nutrition Services is participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the second year in a row. This means all enrolled students of Ashtabula Area City Schools are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school with no charge to their household each day of the 2015-16 school year. Each child will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a Free and Reduced Lunch Application. However, in order to be able to receive the meal at no cost, the minimum components must be taken, including a fruit or veggie serving.

AACS is pleased to announce the Community Eligibility Program has been extremely successful. Since the program began in the 2014-15 school year, student participation in the breakfast and lunch program has increased.

This school year, Nutrition Services is offering a birthday celebration once per month at the elementary buildings. All students will receive a free Rice Krispies Treat in celebration of the current birthdays for the month. Birthday students will receive a birthday sticker in addition to the treat.

Nutrition Services is offering additional items for breakfast in order to provide a variety of hot items for students. The lunch menu includes assorted choices throughout the month including Stir Fry Chicken with Rice, Taco Salad and Meatball Subs. Offered daily are large salads, peanut butter and jelly with a cheese stick, and fresh fruit and veggies.

Nutrition Services staff will be participating in various trainings to meet the USDA Professional Development Standards. Trainings will include Production Records and Food Safety.

Nutrition Services would like to thank parents, students and staff for supporting our breakfast and lunch programs.

## Ashtabula Starts Students Right with the Freshman Academy

Ashtabula recognizes that transitioning to high school is no easy task. Lakeside High School has decided to implement the Freshman Academy to help make this transition as seamless as possible while setting students up for success.

A critical component of the Freshman Academy is the Friday Transition Period. Every Friday, all freshman participate in Friday Transition class. This class focuses on important topics that will help students make the most of high school. Some topics include bullying, time-management, decision making, choices and consequences, and boundaries. Once students finish the first part of the academy, students then take the second part to reflect on what was learned and how to apply it. The goal is to build a culture of success.

To ensure that the Freshman Academy is influencing students in a positive way, Ashtabula has started to record data such as ninth grade attendance, discipline referrals and grade reports as a baseline for the academy's success. So far, the response from teachers has been very positive. Lakeside will continue to analyze, reflect and revise to meet the need of our students.



## Ashtabula's Gifted and Talented Program

The Gifted and Talented Resource Room Program, under the supervision of Rosemary Timonere, coordinator, provides for the unique learning styles of gifted and talented students in grades three through six. Students with exceptional intellectual, academic and creative potential require differentiated strategies and materials available in the Resource Room at Superior Intermediate.

The mission of the program is to provide a stimulating environment, promoting advanced learning through critical thinking and problem solving skills. The program has provided enriching opportunities for gifted students through diverse activities and has reached beyond the conventional curriculum for over 25 years.

Students identified by the State of Ohio as gifted cognitively, academically or creatively, meet once a week with Theresa Clutter, Gifted Intervention Specialist, and engage in interdisciplinary units of study. All subject areas are included in the units with a concentration on

the higher level thinking skills of Bloom's Taxonomy: creating and evaluating.

Experiential learning is the core of the GT program. Students venture to University Circle for classes and special events at The Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Botanical Garden and Western Reserve Historical Society. University Circle's cultural center is an incubator for experiential learning, extending life-long opportunities while preparing young leaders for the future. Other educational venues include: Great Lakes Science Center, Federal Reserve Building, Maltz Museum and Playhouse Square.

Students participate in several competitions during their GT day: Stock Market, Word Masters Challenge and Cleveland Orchestra. Foreign language instruction is provided by high school teachers and students. Other experts in the field of engineering, finances, medicine, technology, music and art, volunteer their time in the GT classes.

## We are a Technology-Rich District

We are a technology-rich district that is constantly adapting to meet the growing technologically based requirements of the 21st century classroom, as well as the associated technology-based operational support systems, maintenance, transportation, and nutrition services. Some highlights:

- Introduced next generation of interactive projectors (Epson Bright Link 595) at LHS, LJH and ELC
- Increased investment of efforts/resources for supporting mobile device initiatives with federal funding (eRate) subsidizing costs associated with expanding the wireless infrastructure
- The school improvement coordinator implemented a managed mobile device plan
- Migrated to the industry standard, Google platform for district e-mail and classrooms with Google Classroom and Google Docs
- Met (or exceeded) every technology related requirement established by the state for successfully conducting online state testing in school year 2014-15
- Huge endorsement by the community in the renewal of the textbook and technology levy on Nov. 3, 2015



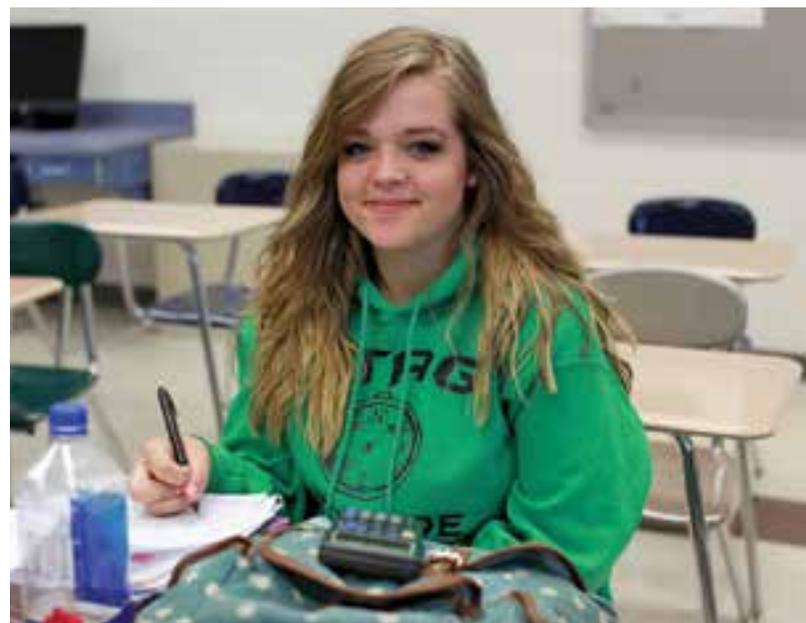
## Ashtabula's English as a Second Language Program

The ESL Program continues to grow throughout the district by working with students weekly throughout the various buildings. We offer English to Speakers of Other Languages from age pre-K to adult, are TESOL endorsed, have an ESL district coordinator, ESL district translator, ninth through 12th grade full-time integrated ESL teacher at Lakeside High School, and pre-K through 12th full-time para-professionals for all buildings.

We continue to be on the forefront by providing the best technology for our ESL students. ESL students have the opportunity to use iPads, Rosetta Stone software and teacher-created virtual classrooms where parents and students unite to know about community events, work on homework, know what is going on at school and are able to answer questions or concerns 24/7.

The ESL Team has recently traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to attend the annual Ohio Department of Education TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Conference. This year, new ESL Standards will be rolled out and implemented into their daily instruction. The OTELA has been replaced by the new English Assessments OELPA (Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment). This will be administered in a computerized format. Along with this, the ESL team recently attended another conference to learn engaging ways to provide general education teacher support for working with their ESL students in their specific content areas.

The ESL team is hearing from the families that they greatly appreciate the efforts that have been made to unite the families with the schools by providing staff who speak Spanish and are available at any time to help. It is wonderful to receive positive feedback. Parents are feeling welcome in our buildings and no longer feel that language is a barrier. They understand we are here to provide the very best of services to their child. It has been a beautiful sight to see parents coming in and touring our buildings and becoming more involved in their children's education and future.



## Safety First on Ashtabula Buses

Getting students to and from school every day is an important task. Ashtabula Area City Schools takes the safety of its students very seriously. This October, cameras were installed on each bus. Each bus received six cameras, four interior and two on the exterior. The camera system also has GPS, which gives Ashtabula the ability to know where the bus is located as well as other information such as speed, turn signals, stop arm activation and more. AACCS looks forward to seeing this system help keep students and drivers safe.

# Superintendent's Message

## Ashtabula Area City Schools: Taking Education to a Higher Level

Ashtabula Area City Schools has faced hardships: lower funding, the elimination of teaching positions and operating in an area with a high rate of poverty. Normally, these three strikes would lead a district on a path to failure. Ashtabula's path has proven this idea wrong. We are on a path leading the district and its students to success.



This year, enrollment has increased! We have begun to focus on our early childhood education with the goal of inspiring students to begin to love learning at an early age. With this in mind, we have added all day kindergarten and implemented the Early Learning Center Preschool.

During the past few years, Ashtabula Area City Schools has remained fiscally responsible, which has allowed us to bring back bussing. This has made it possible for more of our students to attend school on a regular basis, thus increasing their chance of success. We have also implemented new technology in hopes of creating more opportunities for our students to excel. The 5-year fiscal outlook ensures that Ashtabula continues to move in a positive direction.

Students, staff and community members are not the only ones recognizing the growth and success around Ashtabula. In a letter received Sept. 24, Ashtabula Schools was commended for its positive changes by Jacqueline Gee, a graduate student in Cultural Foundations at Kent State University who holds a bachelor's degree in education. She commended the district for continuing to inspire and promote educational achievement despite our hardships.

When we receive compliments like this, it is a direct reflection of how well the entire Ashtabula staff is performing, despite the various challenges that schools and families face day to day. When walking into one of our buildings, it is apparent there is a shared passion for learning by teachers, staff and students alike. This is one of our secrets to success. Each member of the Ashtabula Area School District are all "me's," but when we each do our part, we become an unstoppable force.

The 2015-16 school year is no doubt our best yet. We continue to move in a positive direction in order to take education to a higher level.

—Mr. Patrick Colucci, Superintendent

### All-School Calendar, 2015-16

Dec. 21-Jan 1 .....	Winter Break (no school)
Jan. 15 .....	End of 2nd Nine Weeks
Jan. 18 .....	MLK Day (no school)
Jan. 19 .....	Records/Training Day (no school)
Feb. 4 .....	P/T Conference Pre-K-12 (3 hrs.)
Feb. 11 .....	P/T Conference Pre-K-12 (3 hrs.)
Feb. 15 .....	Presidents Day (no school)
March 18 .....	End of 3rd Nine Weeks
March 25-31 .....	Spring Break (no school)
April 1 .....	Conference Comp. Day (no school)
May 26 .....	Graduation Day
May 30 .....	Memorial Day (no school)
June 1 .....	Last Student Day/End of 4th Nine Weeks
June 2 .....	Teacher Professional Day
June 3 .....	Last Staff Day-In-Service (no school)



### Contact Us

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Ashtabula, OH 44004  
440-992-1200

### Our Website

[www.aacs.net](http://www.aacs.net)

### Buildings

Lakeside High School..... 440-993-2522  
Lakeside Junior High School...440-993-2618  
Erie Intermediate School .....440-992-1260  
Superior Intermediate School .440-992-1270  
Huron Primary School.....440-992-1230  
Michigan Primary School..... 440-992-1250  
Ontario Primary School.....440-992-1240  
AACs Early Learning Center..440-992-1280