



## **District Information**

- Rural district located in Fayette County
- Consolidation of 12 districts (established in 1955)
- Territory consists of 401 square miles in the counties of:
  - Fayette
  - Pickaway
  - Clinton
  - Ross
  - Highland
  - Madison
- Student enrollment of 2,652 (grades K-12)
- Centralized campus consisting of 135 acres and 5 buildings:
  - Elementary (PK-5)
  - Middle School (6-8)
  - High School (9-12) \* New HS scheduled to open in January of 2019
  - Central Office
  - Bus Garage
- Student free lunch participation = 42%
- Student reduced lunch participation = 7%
- Students with disabilities = 16%
- Total FTES = 312.54
- Total general fund expenditures (FY16) = \$26,523,200
- General fund revenues for FY16
  - 55.5% local
  - 43.9% state
  - .6% federal
- District tax base
  - 47% agricultural
  - 25% residential
  - 12% commercial
  - 14% public utility personal property
  - 2% industrial, mineral and railroad
- Total millage = 34.97
- Class I effective millage = 32.28
- Class II effective millage = 33.72
- We are at the 20 mill floor for operations
- We use an emergency levy because it is outside the 20 mill floor

## **Transportation Department**

### **Travel**

- District size = 401 square miles
- 2 daily bus routes
  - HS/MS
  - Elementary
- Number of busses used per route = 29
- Total miles traveled per day = 4,400
  - This is equal to driving to California and back on a daily basis
- Average student ride time = 30 minutes
- Longest student ride time = 65 minutes
- Open enrollment stops = 6
- Other facilities traveled to each day:
  - Cooperative ESC Unit – Washington Court House
  - Fayette County Alternative School – Washington Court House
  - Pioneer Center – Chillicothe
  - Ohio School for the Deaf – Columbus
  - Family Recovery Services - Hillsboro
- Calamity Days
  - 2013-2014
    - 13 delays
    - 12 cancellations
  - 2014-2015
    - 14 delays
    - 12 cancellations
  - 2015-2016
    - 5 delays
    - 6 cancellations

### **Staffing**

- 1 supervisor
- 1 assistant supervisor
- 2 mechanics
- 1 route assistant
- 26 bus drivers
- 3 van drivers

## **Equipment**

- Total fleet
  - 33 regular busses (International)
  - 5 handicapped accessible busses (International)
  - 8 vans
- All busses equipped with Synovia System which consists of GPS and tracking of time and attendance
- Each bus is equipped with 7 cameras (Angel Trax System)
- Each van is equipped with 1 camera (Angel Trax System)
- Average lifespan of busses = 12 years or 275,000 miles
- Permanent improvement funds are used each year to purchase new busses

**JOINT EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TESTIMONY  
DAVID LEWIS – MIAMI TRACE LOCAL SCHOOLS  
OCTOBER 13, 2017**

Good afternoon. My name is David Lewis and I am the superintendent of the Miami Trace Local School District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about school transportation on behalf of the rural districts in Ohio. The safe transport of students is a responsibility that we take very seriously. However, school transportation is a challenge that is magnified for districts such as ours.

Miami Trace is a rural district of approximately 2,700 students located in Fayette County, as well as parts of five other counties. We have a centralized campus of 135 acres that consists of an elementary, middle school, high school, central office, bus garage, as well as the construction site for our new high school. Our district covers 401 square miles, most of which consist of rural county roads. Running two separate routes, our busses travel approximately 4,400 miles each day. This is equivalent to driving to California and back every day! As you can imagine, this creates a lot of wear and tear on our busses.

Our transportation fleet consists of 38 busses and 8 vans, all of which include GPS tracking and video capability. On average, a bus is on the road for 12 years or 275,000 miles before its retired. We take great pride in maintaining our fleet; therefore we try to purchase 2-3 new busses each year using permanent improvement funds. If the funding formula covered the cost of replacing busses, these funds could be used in other areas that would have a positive impact on our student population.

During FY14 and FY15 our general fund was responsible for approximately \$400,000 and \$295,000 respectively to cover the cost of safely transporting our students. The biennium budget for FY16 and FY17 has lessened the burden to our general fund, but the impact to our permanent improvement fund remains. Over the past 3 years we have spent approximately \$800,000 from the permanent improvement fund on transportation. If this trend continues, our district may be deprived of addressing other needs in the future.

I'm not an expert on school funding, but I do have a good understanding of fairness. Each district throughout the state has a uniqueness that cannot be emulated. Factors such as student enrollment, tax base, and district territory vary from district to district. These dynamics should not prohibit any students from receiving the education they deserve. We rely on our local tax payers for a great deal of our district funding, and we owe it to them to stretch their tax dollars as far as we can.

Many rural districts face the same challenges as Miami Trace. In order to reduce the burden to our local tax payers, I ask that you take a long hard look at how school transportation is funded in the state of Ohio. Thank you.