



Forest Hills
School District

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • EXCEL

May 2, 2023 Levy

Informational Presentation



May 2, 2023 Levy

Combination Levy — 6.9 mills

- 5.4 mill operating levy
- 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy
 - District Informational Levy Webpage (details on what this will cost and fund)
<https://www.foresthills.edu/levy.html>
 - [Priority Maintenance Plan](#)

Home Market Value	Cost Per Month
\$100,000	\$20.13
\$200,000	\$40.26
\$300,000	\$60.39

The levy cost is based on the market value of a home, as assessed by the Hamilton County Auditor.

Excellence in Forest Hills



Community Connections

- Elementary Adopt-A-Roadway
- ‘History to Schools’ Field Trips to Anderson Center
- Outstanding Volunteers

High-Quality Education

- AHS and THS are in Top 5% of Ohio high schools (U.S. News and World Report)
- Six “Hall of Fame” elementary schools (OAESA)
- Best Communities for Music Education—just awarded AGAIN on Wednesday (National Association of Music Merchants)
- District-wide PBIS recognition of excellence (Ohio PBIS Network)

Why a Levy and Why Now?

- **Deficit Spending**

- [Current Operating Fund Forecast](#)
- FHSD entered deficit spending in the 2022-2023 school year. A negative cash balance is projected to occur by 2026 if the trend is not stabilized.

- **House Bill 920**

- HB 920 prevents inflationary adjustments to voted levies. The last time the district requested new money was in 2019. Funds from that levy have not kept pace with inflation, rising wages for high performing staff, utilities and maintenance costs.
 - [2023 Residential Tax Rate](#)
- Many school districts across the state ask voters for tax levies every few years in order to maintain normal operations.

- **Combination Levy**

- The permanent improvement levy will allow FHSD to begin chipping away at the most critical projects and create a plan to meet additional needs over time.

critical

District Benchmarks

- [Cupp Report FY22](#)
 - ODE report that provides data values for more than 60 variables and also includes two columns of comparison data values – one for similar districts and one for the state.
- [Similar Districts FY22](#)
 - Twenty school districts identified by ODE as most similar to FHSD based on enrollment and demographic data.
- Comparisons with Hamilton County and Nearby Warren County districts
 - [Cost Per Pupil](#) (Source: ODE Cupp Report)
 - [Residential Tax Rates—2023](#) (Source: County Auditors)
 - [Hamilton County Comparison Data](#) (Tax Rate, CPP, % Spent in Classroom, Performance Index)
- [Performance Index](#)
 - The Performance Index is a calculation that measures student performance on the Ohio State Tests. (Source: Ohio Report Card data)
- [Return on Investment](#)
 - Comparison of Cost Per Pupil and Performance Index for Hamilton County School Districts. No district in Hamilton County has a better performance with a lower cost per pupil.

Year-Over-Year Reductions

Goal: Make FHSD as lean as possible, while maintaining a high level of performance and support.

Current Actions

- \$750,000 in reductions prior to 2023-2024 school year
 - These will happen whether the levy passes or fails.

Past Efforts

- \$2.7 million in reductions since 2018

Levy Passage: What It Means

- **Maintain Current Educational Standards**
 - No new programs or costs, but FHSD will be able to offer the same high-quality educational opportunities to students
 - Keep class sizes at similar levels
 - Maintain similar offerings in music, media and gifted programs
- **Address Critical Maintenance/Repair Needs**
 - The PI levy will set aside much needed money for capital improvement projects.
 - These funds are required by law to be used for any property, asset or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more.
 - This will allow FHSD to address things like building updates, roofs, parking lots, heating and cooling systems, or new buses or technology.

Levy Failure: Impact on Education

- **Larger Class Sizes**
 - The reduction of teachers at the secondary level will likely cause an increase of average class sizes in listed subject areas.
- **Less Robust Personalized Learning**
 - Phase 2 reductions limit FHSD's ability to align and collaborate between buildings to deliver current levels of personalized learning and curriculum to students across all grade levels.
- **Reduced Support Services**
 - Fewer students will be able to receive intervention services from a reading specialist.
 - The elementary gifted program will have to be redesigned, including less pull-out instruction and potential restructuring of grade level delivery.
 - Dedicated case coordinators are reduced at the secondary level, shifting some special education responsibilities to other employees and administrators.

Informational Levy Website

CONTACT | INTERACTIVE CALENDAR | NEWS | (513) 231-3600



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WHY FOREST HILLS | DIRECTORY | BOARD OF EDUCATION | DEPARTMENTS | GET INVOLVED



- Facts/Information
- Videos
- FAQ Sheets

<https://www.foresthills.edu/levy.html>

Welcome

Forest Hills is a place where all members of the district are engaged in providing educational opportunities that empower students to excel. With a tradition of excellence and a supportive community, Forest Hills School District provides an innovative curriculum, high expectations and total devotion to young people.



@FHSchools
APRIL 19, 2023

Check out this inspiring story about 2018 Turpin High School graduate Ryan Scoble! We're so happy he's made it this...
<https://t.co/tytVDGwiCF>

@FHSchools
APRIL 18, 2023

Take a look at this brief video on

Live Levy Presentation



Superintendent and Treasurer will be live on YouTube to provide an overview on the combination levy and answer questions from the community.

When: Tuesday April 25, 2023 from 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Where: [FHSD YouTube Page](#)

Search “Forest Hills School District” on YouTube

Please submit questions prior to the event by emailing contact@foresthills.edu (questions can be submitted during the event as well).



Questions & Comments



Phase 1 Reductions – \$750,000

Reduction Item	Estimated Cost Reduction	Description
Central Office Positions (3)	\$300,000	Elimination of one Central Office Administrator and two Central Office certified staff positions
Secondary Certified Staff (3)	\$243,000	Elimination of three teaching positions (ELA, Science and World Language)
Elementary Certified Staff (2)	\$162,000	Elimination of English as a Second Language teacher and Reading Specialist
Building Budgets	\$15,000	Each building will implement a 2.5% reduction in its overall budget
Summer School Staff	\$20,000	Reduction of staff members
Preschool Tuition Increase	\$9,900	FHSD Preschool Tuition is increasing \$308 per student

Phase 2 Reductions – \$1.8 million

Reduction Item	Estimated Cost Reduction	Description
Certified Positions	\$1,100,000	Reduction of 15 certified staff positions
Pay-to-Participate Fees	\$344,000	Increase Pay-to-Participate fees for athletics/band by \$125 per student, per activity. Band would be \$300, AHS/THS athletics would be \$300, NMS athletics would be \$250. Add \$175 Pay-to-Participate fee for theater
Transportation	\$400,000	Reduction of bus operators, routes and corresponding maintenance/fuel costs <ul style="list-style-type: none">● District-wide changes to pick-up/start times of up to 30 minutes per building to accommodate fewer routes● Offsetting start times at elementary buildings<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Disruption to shared programs like music, arts, band etc.○ Fewer opportunities for elementary staff to align curriculum

Phase 2 Certified Reductions (if necessary)

Subject Area/Role	Impact
Case Coordinators - Secondary (2 positions)	Less responsive oversight to special education programs and services. Impact on other administrative responsibilities (discipline and supervision, testing, scheduling etc.) that may not receive the same level of attention.
Gifted Specialists - Elementary (3 positions)	Three remaining Gifted Specialists will support two buildings each. Pull-out Gifted instruction will happen less often across all elementary schools with potential reduction in grade level model.
Media Specialists - Elementary (3 positions)	Reduced certified instructional time related to media, innovation, STEM and digital citizenship. The three reductions are offset by support roles needed to supervise students on a rotation model.
Music Education - K-12 (1 position)	Reduced opportunities for instruction in music performance at the elementary level. Impact on class sizes, course offerings in music programs at the secondary level.
Reading Specialists - Elementary (3 positions)	Reduced access to reading intervention for students. Increased caseload for remaining Reading Specialists.
Teaching Positions - Secondary (3 positions)	Increase in average class size for math, social studies and world language courses at both high schools. Some teachers will need to travel between AHS and THS to balance offerings.

Change in Arrival/Dismissal Times for Phase 2 (if necessary)

Secondary

Anderson & Turpin

Current: 8:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

New: 7:35 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Nagel

Current: 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

New: 8:10 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Elementary

Early (Sherwood*, Summit, Wilson)

Current: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

New: 8:55 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.

Late (Ayer, Maddux, Mercer)

Current: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

New: 9:25 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

**Arrival/dismissal times for FHSD Preschool at Sherwood are TBD.*

Note: These times are based on tentative adjustments to bus routes and could change minimally based on actual implementation.

Resources

- Cupp Report
 - <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports>
- Cash Balance Reports
 - <https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/finance-cash-balance-analytics>
- Report Card
 - <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>