



QUALITY PROFILE

2021-2022

Our Board of Education puts in countless hours so that Liberty-Benton Schools remain a top district and that our educational experience and extracurricular opportunities are reflective of our community. Thank you for your dedication!

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Brian Christiansen, member; Jim Mace, member; Steve Benson, vice president; Mark Badertscher, member; and A.J. Granger, president



Liberty-Benton Local Schools
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SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

DEAR RESIDENTS,

We are excited to share this Quality Profile with you, designed to highlight the achievements of the district throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Last year was an exciting one at Liberty-Benton as it marked the return of many traditional events we've been missing since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Additionally, it was a great year of progress in academics, athletics and the arts.

Some of our most important work last year revolved around our master facilities plan. We kicked off construction of our all-new PK-8 building, remodeled the high school, hosted the grand opening of the Eagle Field House, and made a number of improvements to our athletic facilities. Each one of these projects was aimed at providing our students with a high-quality experience.

In the area of academics, Liberty-Benton Elementary was named to the top 30% of elementary schools in the state by U.S. News and World Report. At the high school, we continued to develop innovative programs to build leadership skills through the Leader in Me program. Read more about one of the projects that developed as a result of this program. We also resumed field trips in the spring, which allowed students to expand their learning in a different environment.

We continued to excel in athletics. Our girl's soccer and volleyball teams were district champions. This marked the seventh consecutive title for the soccer team, and the volleyball team ended their season with a state championship, invitation and subsequent visit to the Ohio Statehouse. We were also excited to add bowling to our list of varsity sports!

Across all grade levels, our students performed multiple plays and musicals last year. Also, more than 1,200 of our student artists had their artwork displayed at the Liberty-Benton Arts Festival last May, while others had the privilege of having their work displayed at the Findlay Art Walk. Our performing arts staff also made us proud by earning awards.

We were also proud to have been awarded a Purple Star designation by the Ohio Department of Education. This shows our dedication to supporting military families. We finished the school year strong with many time-honored, in-person events, such as prom, and most importantly, graduation.

Our continued success would not be possible without the strong support of our community, so thank you. As always... GO EAGLES!

Mark Kowalski | Superintendent

ACADEMICS CLASS OF 2022 STATS

84%

are attending a two or four-year college, university, or trade school

\$2.8 MILLION

The class of 2022 accepted **\$835,812** in scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year and more than **\$2.8 million** over the next four years

14% 2%

joined the workforce

are serving in the U.S. military

2,296

The class of 2022 earned **2,296 college credit hours**, or **20.68 per person** while attending Liberty-Benton High School

44%

earned an Honors Diploma

4 students earned a 30 or higher on the ACT and 7 earned an Honors-level score of 27 or higher

92.8%

earned College Credit Plus credits, ranking Liberty-Benton **#7 in the state** for the percentage of students who earn college credit while in high school

ARTS

2,000+

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

Marissa Green won the prestigious **Rieck's Gallery Award** for her "Morocco" painting, which will now be on permanent display at the Hancock County Educational Service Center. Additionally, her painting was accepted into the **Governor's Youth Art Exhibition** in Columbus, Ohio. Only 342 pieces were selected from 6,280 entries.

Hancock County's fourth Advanced Student Art Exhibition was held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts in April. The **artwork of 18 Liberty-Benton High School** students was selected, including senior **Marissa Green's "Afghanistan" painting**, which earned second place, and senior **Jordan Snider's ceramic mug**, which earned him an honorable mention.

OUR INCREDIBLY TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT GAVE AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF "THE DROWSY CHAPERONE" LAST SPRING.

A group of 55 band/choir students, chaperones and directors **took a trip to New York City**. They saw two Broadway shows, visited several museums, attended a workshop with a Broadway actress and the choir performed in a church in Greenwich Village.

Fifth grade students learned from **visiting artist Ann Hymel** and visited the **Toledo Museum of Art** where they enjoyed a glass blowing demonstration.

Liberty-Benton Elementary students performed a **resounding rendition of "Pirates 2"** in March.

20

In the spring of 2022, **20 students** in grades K-8 had artwork on display at the Findlay Art Walk in the Hancock County Public Library.



Mr. Ray Wolfe, choral director for grades 6-12, was named the **Findlay Rotary Club's Golden Apple Award recipient** for the middle school division.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

BRINGS NEW OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE



Last school year, Liberty-Benton introduced a campus-wide program, Leader in Me. Students learned leadership concepts by reading and studying Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Then, what's a good lesson without some practical application?

High school students joined one of 18 Action Teams, the largest of which was the Exterior Development Action Team. Their goal? Create an outdoor learning area. The students put their newfound skills to use by meeting with local landscaping companies to investigate the cost and time it would take to accomplish their vision; hosting fundraisers; writing grant proposals; and making presentations to district leadership.

The project was completed in time for the 2022-2023 school year and is providing a breath of fresh air for staff and students alike. Thank you to the many businesses and families who donated to the project. Without you, this would not have been possible.



WHEN LESSONS ARE HELD OUTDOORS, STUDENTS PAY MORE ATTENTION, FEEL LESS STRESSED, ARE HAPPIER, AND ARE MORE INTERESTED IN DOING THEIR WORK.

— **Lauree Miller** | Intervention Teacher

ATHLETICS



2 Athletes offered College Athletic Scholarships

LEAGUE CHAMPS

- Baseball
- Girls Track
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling
- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Golf



2021 STATE CHAMPIONS

STATE LEVEL INDIVIDUALS

- **Lauren Gerken** All-Ohio Girls Basketball
- **Chloe Dorn** All-Ohio Softball
- **Brooke Deeter** All-Ohio Soccer
- **Izzy Granger** All-Ohio Volleyball + Track
- **Karis Willow** All-Ohio Volleyball + Track

STATE LEVEL TEAMS

- **Girls Cross Country**
- **Girls Volleyball (State Champs)**



63%

of HS students participated in athletics in the 2021-2022 school year



AVAILABLE SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Track
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Track
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



LIBERTY-BENTON CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF FIELD HOUSE

A 28,000-square-foot Eagle Field House now adorns the Liberty-Benton campus. The doors opened in April of 2022, just in time for our spring sports teams to begin training with the use of new and better equipment.

Complete with in-floor heating, a turf field, and wall padding and netting, the facility is providing a better overall experience to our student-athletes and serving our community in new ways. This project would not have been possible without the support of our Board of Education, Boosters and donors, so thank you!

FINANCES

98.4%

Graduation rate

\$9,130

Cost per pupil

69.6%

of the district budget is spent directly on classroom instruction

20%

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



12TH

for the 12th consecutive year, the district received the Auditor of State Award

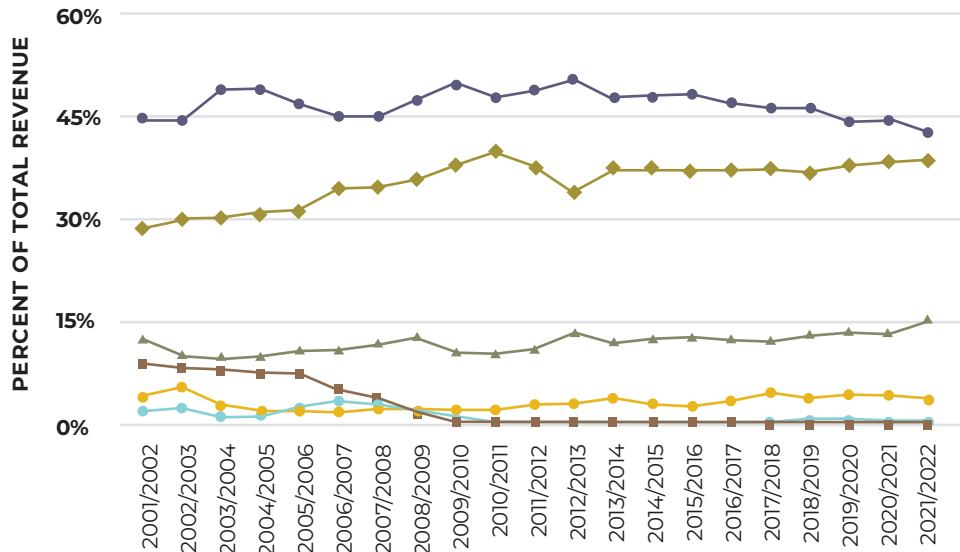
The district continued to benefit from COVID-19 relief dollars throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Liberty-Benton spent \$778,100 in federal monies to help address technology and transportation needs, social and emotional needs, and close the learning gap created by the pandemic, among other things. Additional short-term relief dollars are no longer being offered, however, we are dedicated to seeking alternative funding to make the best use of our taxpayer dollars and provide our students with the best education possible.

FUNDING	AWARDED	SPENT
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) ESSER II*	\$322,664.71	\$267,724.30
American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER III	\$725,173.82	\$434,058.56
ARP IDEA Special Education	\$71,059.05	\$71,059.05
ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education	\$5,258.15	\$5,258.15
TOTAL	\$1,124,155.73	\$778,100.06

*July 1, 2020–June 30, 2022

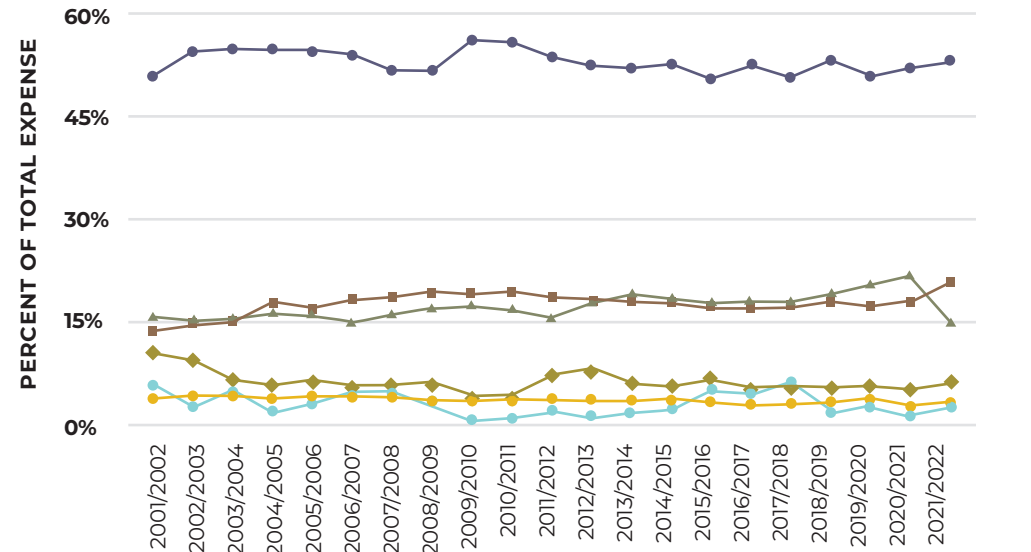
WHERE EACH DOLLAR OF REVENUE COMES FROM

Real Estate Personal Property Income Tax State Investments Other



WHERE EACH DOLLAR GOES

Salaries Fringe Benefits Purchased Services Supplies & Materials Capital Outlay Other



LIBERTY-BENTON

REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

RECEIVED 24 OF A POSSIBLE 25 STARS
ON OHIO'S 2022 STATE REPORT CARD

Achievement	★★★★★
Progress	★★★★★
Gap Closing	★★★★★
Graduation	★★★★★
Early Literacy	★★★★

RECEIVED A- FROM NICHE, WHICH REVIEWS
K-12 SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT AMERICA

#57 of 608 for best school districts for athletes in Ohio

#58 of 607 for districts with the best teachers in Ohio

#87 of 607 for best school districts in Ohio

#13

in the state of
607 districts