

# Southwest Local Schools

## Quality Profile Report, 2017-2018



### **Academic and Social Growth for ALL students, EVERY DAY!**

A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This profile helps characterize the overall educational value of your school district in areas that matter most to our community.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:**

The mission for the Southwest Local School District is “Academic and Social Growth for ALL students, every day!” Living this mission with intentionality takes much time and effort – by many folks. From pre-school through college and career, our 390+ staff members and 10,000 parents / guardians help us to graduate our students ready for their next phase in life.

The Quality Profile (QP) is published by school districts throughout the state of Ohio, often in unison with the State of Ohio local report card. The purpose of the Quality Profile is to provide a more thorough depiction of both the academic AND social growth taking place in our schools on an annual basis. The QP is supported by the Alliance for High Quality Education, an ongoing consortium that works to improve educational opportunities for students and represents member districts on both educational policy issues and funding initiatives.

This profile demonstrates first hand the overall educational value of Southwest Local Schools in areas that extend beyond standardized and state-mandated assessments to include areas that matter most to the SLSD community: Academics, Fine Arts, Visual Arts, Parent / Community



Involvement, Student Leadership, Community Outreach, Student Services, Fiscal Stewardship, and staff / district recognitions. This truly is “...the rest of the story” – of which, we are extremely proud!

**JOHN C. HAMSTRA,**

**SUPERINTENDENT**





# Academics

Our district's academic program provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

- Nearly 200 academic, athletic, and military scholarships were awarded to members of the class of 2018 totaling \$1,250,000.
- Wm. Henry Harrison High School was named by *Newsweek Magazine* as one of America's Top Public High Schools for 2105, 2016 and 2017.
- 311 students enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses in 2017-18 (a 50% increase in AP Participation since 2014).
- 17 courses offered for College Credit Plus. Our students accumulated 2,186 college credits last year, saving our district families a total of approximately \$1.3 million.
- Unique Pipelines Program with specialized course tracks available for college and career readiness in S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, robotics, arts, mathematics), business, medical and health professions, human services (law, education, public safety, social work, military, cosmetology, etc.), arts/design, and manufacturing/construction
- 9 high school credit opportunities for advanced middle school students
- Talented and Gifted Services in grades 4-8 reading/math.
- 19 Advanced Placement Opportunities: AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP Capstone: Seminar, AP Capstone: Research, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1, AP Physics C: Mechanics, AP Psychology, AP US History, AP Government, AP World History, AP Human Geography, AP Music Theory, AP Art History, AP Computer Science Principles
- World languages offered - Spanish and French in grades 7-12
- STEAM Curriculum in place for grades K-12
- 1:1 Computing in all schools
- Differentiated instruction provided to meet the needs of *all* learners in grades K-12.
- ACT : 242 students took the ACT in 2017-18. Although this year's averages have not yet been published, this data is current as of August 2017:
  - Average Composite: 21.5
  - Average English: 20.5
  - Average Mathematics: 21.3
  - Average Reading: 22.0
  - Average Science: 22.0
- Our ACT averages have held steady over the past three years with Composite Scores of 21.5 in 2015, 21.7 in 2016, and 21.5 again in 2017.



# Our Core Values:

## TRUST



## RESPECT



## OWNERSHIP



## LEADERSHIP





## Arts

Participation in performing and visual arts inspires students' creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

- Band programs begin in elementary through high school, with opportunities available at the secondary level for Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Pep Band with contest opportunities through the Ohio Music Education Association and the Mid-States Band Association.
- Elementary chorus and secondary choir opportunities available with specialized programs at the secondary level for Concert Choir, A Capella, Women's Choir, Junior School A Capella with contest opportunities available through OMEA.
- Art programs available for K-12 with advanced opportunities in high school specializing in Digital Arts and Design, Drawing and Painting, AP Art History, Advanced Portfolio, Digital Photography, and Ceramics.
- Performance and display opportunities are provided throughout the community with special events like Showcase, Coffee Peddler art exhibitions, Harrison tree lighting ceremony, and of course, our famous school musicals!







## **Student Leadership and Activities**

A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities for all students.

### **Examples of some highlights from the 2017-18 school year:**

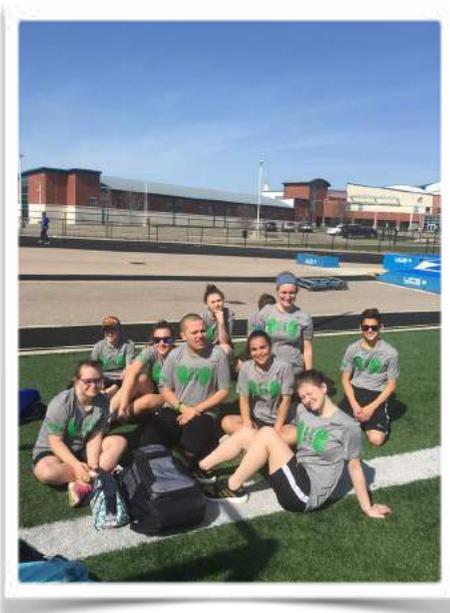
- Secondary Athletic Opportunities in: football, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, volleyball, cheerleading, dance team, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls golf, wrestling, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track, baseball, softball, academic team, swimming, bowling, and Special Olympics
- In the 2017-18 school year, there were 478 total High School athletes, representing nearly 45% of the total school population. Harrison High School has led the Southwest Ohio Conference in the highest number of students-athletes taking their athletic talents to the collegiate level with 64 college-bound athletes over the last four years. Additionally, 19 of the Top 25 graduating seniors from 2018 were student-athletes. Our athletic department is proud to say that our high school athletes have maintained a 3.6 GPA as an athletic department, earning a ranking of ALL-ACADEMIC for the Southwest Ohio Conference!
- Activities/clubs by school:
  - Crosby Elementary: Unicycle Club, Boys/girls Volleyball Club, Walking Club, Green Team, Starting Artists. Lego Club, and Craft Club. Crosby's Unicycle Team was invited to participate in the Reds Opening Day parade last Spring!
  - Whitewater Valley Elementary: Girls on the Run, Drama Club, Starting Artists, Tech Crew, PTA Walk-a-Thon, Safety Patrol, News Crew, and Service Leaders.
  - Harrison Elementary: Walking Club, Third Grade Game Club, Art Club, HART Club (working with animals), Chess Club, First Grade Game Club, Girls on the Run, Recycling Club, Dance, Baton, Karate, and Kind Kids Club.
  - Miamitown Elementary: Running Club, Kinects Club, Volleyball Club, Craft Club, and the Service Leaders group.
- Junior School: 19 total Sports teams: Football (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), Cross Country (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> girls/boys), Volleyball (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), Cheerleading, Dance, Basketball (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> girls/boys), Wrestling, and Track (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> girls/boys) ; 12 Clubs: Drama, Choir, Chess, Pep, Principal's Leadership Council, Honor Society, Girls on the Run, Robotics, Rock Climbing, Running, Math, French and Spanish Clubs, and Writing Club.

- High School: Academic Team, Artitude Club, Book Club, Chess Club, Class Officers, Creative Writing Club, D.E.C.A., Drama Club, Ecology Club, Flag Club, Flag Corps, French Club, French Honor Society, First Generation College Group, H.O.S.A., J.R.O.T.C., Key Club, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Robotics, S.A.F.E. For Southwest Group, Song Writers Club, Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, National Tech Honor Society, Student Council, and Yearbook.
- **Currently, 85-90% of our entire student body participates in a school-sponsored extra-curricular or co-curricular activity through the school district or through a community or faith-based organization.**

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*Our goal is 100% student participation in a club, after school activity, or athletic team!*

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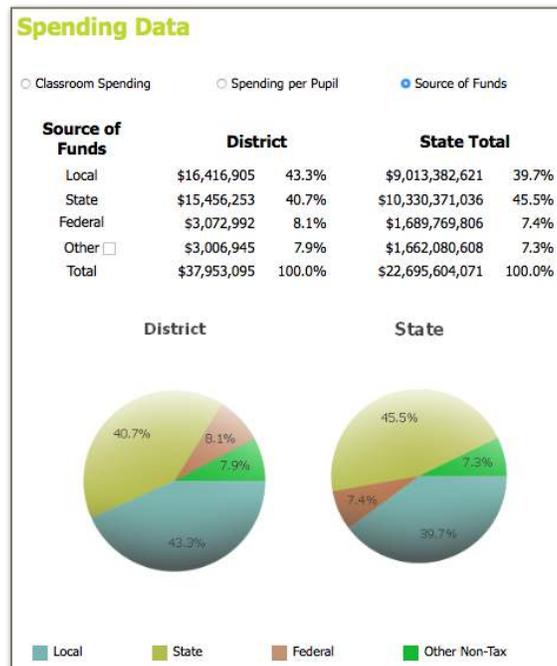
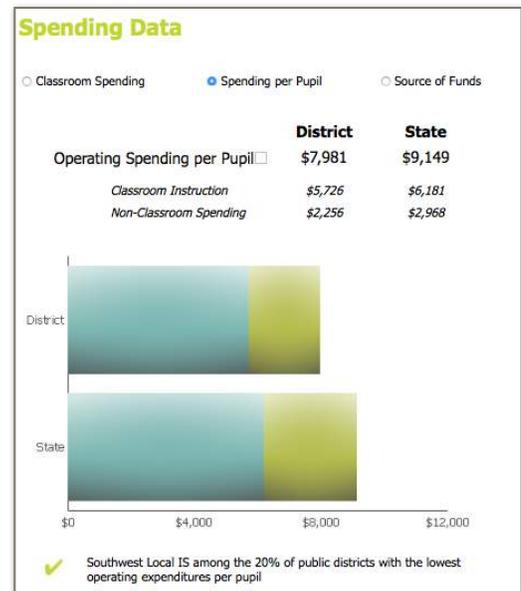
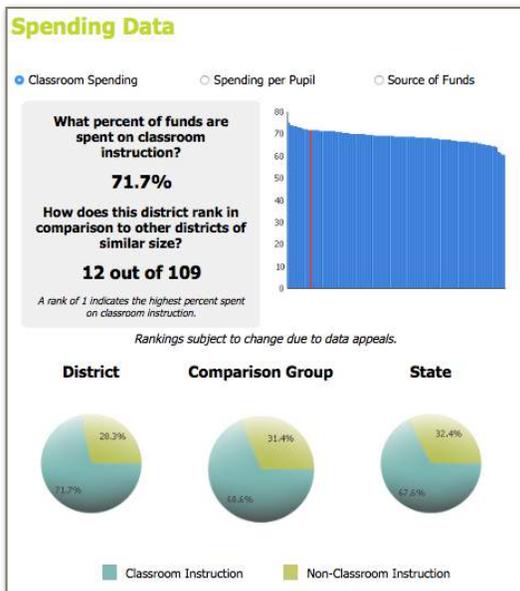
## Fiscal Stewardship

Financial responsibility ensures that the majority of funding is spent on classroom instruction.

*Southwest Local School District works diligently to manage District funds in a fiscally responsible manner.*

**We are proud that in 2017, the District once again received the Ohio Auditor of State Award for exemplary financial reporting.**

- Spending per pupil: \$7,981 (2nd lowest in Hamilton County in 2017)
- Percentage spent on instruction: 71.7%; SLSD is ranked 12th out of the 109 districts in our enrollment category of school districts with 2500-4999 students.
- [FY 2016-17 State Report Card](#)





## **Parent & Community Involvement**

Educational experiences are enhanced by partnerships between the school district and community.

***Southwest Local students are excellent citizens. While instilling our core values: TRUST, RESPECT, OWNERSHIP, and LEADERSHIP, we also teach our students the importance of serving our community and those in need.***

- Each of our elementary schools have the Leadership Lunch Bunch or Service Leaders group - community service groups that participate in a variety of community service activities such as the Mayor's Fund canned food drive, Veteran's Day community presentations, visits to Shawnee Springs, and, community-wide maintenance and beautification projects.
- Southwest Local students and staff organized the collection of supplies and sent a bus full of household items and non-perishables to aid the victims of the late summer hurricanes in Puerto Rico.
- Harrison Junior School raised \$2500 through a Police vs. Fire volleyball game to support our local Police and Fire programs, and also implemented the #HustleKindness Program to promote random acts of kindness in our schools and our community.



- During the 2017-18 school year, Harrison High School students spent a total of over 6,000 hours performing community service. They donated their time to organizations such as Soles for Souls, the Ronald McDonald House, and Volley for the Cure, and the elementary schools joined in to support organizations such as Pediatric Cancer Research, St. Jude's, the American Red Cross, and the Harrison Mayor's fund among many others. The Student Council of WHHHS also donated money as a community give-back project to Dunkin' Donuts' "Joy in Childhood" Foundation.
- Our athletic department donated old sports uniforms and worked with Life Spring Community Christian Church to deliver to students at the Kosovo School in Kenya.
- WHHHS freshmen and sophomores participate in a voluntary service-learning experience at Shawnee Spring helping and spending time with the elderly. This is the eighth year that

students have participated in this wonderful program.

- Our incredible parent booster groups provided hundreds of volunteer hours with organizations like PTA, After Prom, Athletic Boosters, Drama Boosters, and Music Boosters to ensure that our students have the best possible educational experience in Southwest Schools.
- Our community and business partners support our schools and organizations. They include: Life Spring Church, Church on Fire, Legacy Christian Church, JTM Food Group, Whitewater Community Credit Union, Remke, State Farm Insurance, Home Depot, FCN Bank, the Bier Haus, Grey Oak, the Coffee Peddler, Adopt-A-Plant, Nationwide Insurance, Back's Drive-Thru, Acra Landscaping, Harrison McDonald's, Cheviot Savings, F&M Mafco, Steve's BP, Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, Walgreens, Main Source Bank, Lake's Sporting Goods, 4D, Cincinnati Savings, Cronin Ford, Hubert Distributing, Harrison Building and Loan, Brater Funeral Home, Crosby Township Senior Center, Skyline, Miami Savings & Loan, Hamilton County Parks, Super Cuts, PCS Phosphates, Nease Chemical Co., Mercy Hospital, SHP, Skanska-Megen, and Dunkin' Donuts.





## Student Services

A variety of services provide options to ensure all students receive individualized instruction, enrichment and support.

- Gifted students served: 239 in grades 4-8.
- Special education students receiving services: 700 in grades K-12.
- Students are served along a continuum to address individual needs and within the regular curriculum.
- Highlights from Gifted Program:
  - 4th and 5th grade Talented and Gifted students each wrote and published a novel as part of the NaNoWriMo program, a year-long project in which students pre-write, draft, revise, and publish a completed novel. The group published 44 novels, and they will be on display in the Harrison Branch Public Library during the month of November, 2018.
  - HJS students Utilized many different digital tools with our 1:1 technology to demonstrate analysis and synthesis of information; completed a banned/challenged book study that culminated in projects that included an essay, debate, and a visual presentation; and met the challenge of independently reading 40+ books.
  - As part of the painted rock initiative, HJS students painted personal focus words on their own rocks for the year, and for class novels, they designed a geometric analysis that included applicable quotes and characterization. Students could also demonstrate higher level thinking by creating songs, dances, artwork, masks, videos, writings, puzzles, montages, or other items that showed analysis of theme, characterization, application, etc.
  - Talented and Gifted students in grades 4-8 participated in the Design Lab project, a 16-week engineering and design project. Each group was partnered with an expert in the field and worked to design and build a food space that focused on aspects of sustainability. One project from each school/group was submitted for judging at the Design Lab Exhibit in downtown Cincinnati. A fifth grade group from Harrison Elementary that included Will Farris, Devin Fliter, and Brad Kyle won first place in the Sustainability Surveyor Category in their grade level. Also, a fifth grade group from Whitewater Valley Elementary consisting of Kayla Morris, Gaven Johnson, and Lauren Leurck received the Polished Professional Award for their project. This award was only given to one group out of hundreds of projects at the exhibit.





## Summary

In Southwest Local Schools, we take pride in the outstanding opportunities that we make available to our students. We live our mission of helping our students to grow academically and socially every single day through our core values: trust, respect, ownership and leadership.

Our staff is passionate about empowering our students to become innovative global citizens and life-long learners, and we are committed to ensuring excellence through our academic programming, leadership opportunities, arts, athletics, extracurriculars, student support, community outreach, and fiscal stewardship.

All of these elements combined together are truly what makes a school district successful in providing a well-rounded educational experience to our children for college and career readiness, as well as ensuring that they are equipped to participate in a global society as leaders, ready to make a difference in the world.



Southwest Local School District  
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Harrison, Ohio, 45030  
513-367-4139  
www.southwestschools.org

Superintendent: John C. Hamstra  
Treasurer: Thomas Lowe

Southwest Schools Directory	
District Office .....	513-367-4139
Harrison High School .....	513-367-4169
Harrison Junior School.....	513-367-4831
Harrison Elementary School.....	513-367-4161
Crosby Elementary School.....	513-738-1717
Miamitown Elementary School.....	513-353-1416
Whitewater Valley Elementary School.....	513-367-5577

