

CH-UH City Schools Quality Profile 2022



CLEVELAND
UNIVERSITY
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEIGHTS

DEAR CH-UH COMMUNITY

From the Superintendent

The 2021-2022 school year brought a long-awaited sense of normalcy to our school communities after two years marked by remote and hybrid learning. I want to thank all of our staff, families, and community members for their ongoing support and collaboration as we've navigated these transitions together. We are all forever changed by the events of the last several years, but the determination to ensure our children achieve academic success is stronger than ever.

The 2026 strategic plan continues to serve as the blueprint of our mission for the district. As outlined in that plan, and as you will see in this Quality Profile, it is our intention to further collaborate with our community stakeholders and foster positive staff-family interactions that support meaningful engagement. Our District Mission is brought to life through the achievements of each graduating class: Our schools provide a challenging and engaging education to prepare all of our students to become responsible citizens and succeed in college and career. I am so proud to share that the Heights High Class of 2022 earned a phenomenal \$17.3 million in college scholarships.

Truly, the most important milestones from the school year are the student accomplishments. From academic awards to athletic triumphs to artistic endeavors and everything in between, I hope you enjoy reading about the students who continue to make CH-UH and Tiger Nation so incredible, no matter the obstacles.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kirby Superintendent



From the Board President



As I look back on this past year, I am filled with pride in our community for its resilience in the face of multiple uncertainties. No matter the challenge, Tiger Nation always rebounds with tenacity and a renewed commitment to our students.

Advocacy seems to be in our DNA here in CH-UH. Throughout the year, we continued to challenge the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher program alongside more than 130 Ohio school districts which joined the Vouchers Hurt Ohio movement to file its lawsuit against the state in January. We also worked against potentially disastrous legislation in Columbus intended to strip away equity in education. Supporters of educational equity made trips to Columbus, wrote letters and made phone calls to lawmakers in defense of fair, honest, and high-quality public education. I am proud of Tiger Nation for standing up for what is right.

The determination of our students despite so many obstacles continues to amaze me. Our graduating class of 2022 earned more than \$17 million in scholarship offers and

have headed out into the world prepared for any challenges they may face. There are so many good stories that came out of this year, and I'm honored to share them with you in this year's Quality Profile.

Sincerely,

Malia Lewis 2022 Board of Education President

EDUCATORS ARE MASTER TEACHERS

Three educators in the CH-UH City School District successfully renewed their Ohio Department of Education Master Teacher designation in 2022. Those educators are **Melissa Garcar**, **Leslie Garrett**, and **Joyce Bukovac**, all Instructional Specialists for the District.

A Master Teacher demonstrates excellence through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning. Candidates, who have worked at least seven years under a teaching contract, apply to earn this designation through a portfolio they develop throughout the school year.



MELISSA GARCAR



LESLIE GARRETT



JOYCE BUKOVAC

FULL-DAY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM INCORPORATES ARTS AND STEM

Gearity Elementary School's related arts team - those who teach music, art, physical education, Spanish and STEM - now offer those same classes to the full-day preschool students at Gearity, Noble and Oxford for 40 minutes each week. Students take nature walks, use artifacts from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to compare fur and feathers, and incorporate music and chants to remember concepts.



5-STAR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



The preschool programs at Gearity, Noble, and Oxford elementary schools each have been awarded five-star ratings by the Ohio Department of Education's Step up to Quality Division, the highest possible rating. Gearity Preschool received its most recent five-star rating in April 2020, Noble received its in October 2019, and Oxford in November 2022.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022



The Heights High School Class of 2022 walked the stage of the Wolstein Center, named for Heights High alumni and Hall of Fame members Bert and Iris Wolstein, on June 1.

Heights High welcomed 14 additional members to the Class of 2022 in late August. Their achievements were celebrated during the Summer Commencement Ceremony.

HEIGHTS GRADS ARE GOING PLACES

The Class of 2022 are attending the following institutions or have enlisted in the U.S. military.

 **\$17 MILLION**

The Heights High School Class of 2022 combined to earn more than **\$17.3 million in college scholarships**, alongside acceptance letters from **nearly 200 post-secondary institutions**. The Guidance Department has a dedicated College Scholarship Office to help students secure funds that offset the cost of attending college.

Allegheny College
Bowling Green State University
Capital University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Central State University
Clark Atlanta University
Cleveland State University
College of Wooster
Columbia College Chicago
Cuyahoga Community College
Defiance College
DePaul University
Drexel University
Eastern Michigan University
Erie Community College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida Memorial University
Garden City Community College
Hampton University
Hondros College of Nursing
Howard University
Independence Community College
Indiana State University

Indiana University Bloomington
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Kentucky State University
Lake Forest College
Lakeland Community College
Lorenzo de'Medici Institute
Loyola University Chicago
Mercyhurst University
Michigan State University
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Niagara University
Norfolk State University
Notre Dame College
Occidental College
Ohio Dominican University
Ohio Media School - Valley View
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Purdue University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
South Carolina State University
Southern University Shreveport

Tennessee State University
The College of William & Mary
The Ohio State University
Tiffin University
Tuskegee University
United States Army
United States Navy
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Mount Union
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Toledo
Ursuline College
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Wells College
West Virginia University
Wilberforce University
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

AP[®]



51

AP Scholars

More than **51 members of the Heights High School Classes** of 2022, 2023, and 2024 have been recognized by the College Board for their outstanding performance in Advanced Placement classes.

The College Board, which administers Advanced Placement tests, honors students across the country who score at a consistently high level on the annual exams. Heights High had 30 students named as AP Scholars for earning **scores of 3 or higher** on three or more exams.

AP Scholars with Honor

An additional 14 students were recognized as AP Scholars with Honor for earning an average **score of at least 3.25** on all AP exams taken, and **scores of 3 or higher** on four or more exams.

14

7

AP Scholars with Distinction

Seven students were named AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an **average score of 3.5 or higher** on all exams taken, and **scores of 3 or higher** on five or more exams.

STUDENT SHARES PERSONAL AVID SUCCESS STORY WITH THOUSANDS



Heights High School sophomore **Eric Jones** represented the District on the national stage in the summer of 2022, when he was a student speaker at the AVID Summer Institute in Denver. Eric spoke about how the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program and teachers in CH-UH helped him believe in himself and his ability to succeed, both in school and in life.

DISTRICT EARNS AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD WITH DISTINCTION

The District was one of only eight school districts in Ohio to receive the 2022 Auditor of State Award with Distinction. The award is given to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a clean financial audit. In fall of 2021, the finance department was also awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.



ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT



In 2022, 15 Heights senior athletes from seven different sports earned nearly \$700,000 in college scholarships and signed letters of intent to 15 different colleges and universities. The seniors helped lead three school sports teams to take the title of Lake Erie League Conference Champion.

STUDENTS, EDUCATOR RECOGNIZED WITH EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Two students and one educator from CH-UH were selected as recipients of the 2022 Excellence in Education Awards, presented by the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio and State Support Team Region 3.



Gearity Preschool student **Teddy Griffith** received the Outstanding Student Achievement Award, which acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with special needs in Northeast Ohio. Fellow Gearity Preschool student

Cambria Headma received the Outstanding Peer Achievement Award, which recognizes students without disabilities who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models.

Monticello Middle School Intervention Specialist **Patricia Smith** received the Outstanding Educator Achievement Award, which honors educators who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs.

HEIGHTS HIGH JUNIOR PUBLISHES INSPIRING BOOKS



Tyla Sullivan began her entrepreneurial journey by publishing her first coloring book which highlights Black women in the nursing field. She then went on to publish a journal full of affirmations and two handwriting practice books.

The inspiration behind Tyla's coloring book stemmed from wanting to expose minority groups to more career opportunities. Her hope is that they would not feel limited but will continue to see themselves as future nurses, doctors, lawyers, and more.

CTE STUDENTS EARN SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS



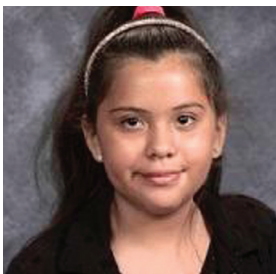
Alyana Cunningham, a 2022 graduate and student in the Heights CTE Clinical Health Careers track, earned a full scholarship to attend the Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing as part of the ASPIRE Nurse Scholars Program. Clinical Health Careers instructor Nancy Ballou introduced Alyana to the program.



Heights High Senior **Jachae Powers** was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts as a result of her placement in the High School Virtual Culinary Scholarship Competition. Her winning dish featured grilled steak, roasted potatoes, and maple glazed carrots.

CH-UH TEACHER, STUDENT WIN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CIVIC AWARDS

Heights High School Teacher **O'Dasha Blue** was named the University Heights Educator of the Year for 2021, and Gearity Elementary School fifth grader **Sofia Mejia** received a Good Neighbor Award for her exceptional character. Mrs. Blue was nominated by a colleague, who wrote that she “radiates positivity in all circumstances, which overflows to her students’ attitudes.” Sofia was nominated by Gearity Principal Patrick McNichols, who said that Sofia is a good student, worked her way through the English Learners program, and volunteers on Tiger Council.



HEIGHTS HIGH SWIMMERS ARE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS



Six Heights seniors ('22) were named Academic All-Americans by the National High School Coaches Association: **Helen Barr, Patricia Chen, Emmet Fluharty, James Huff, Noah Pereira, and Andrew Teets**. This is a national award for varsity athletes who have among the highest cumulative grade point averages in the country.

The girls and boys squads both were named All-American Scholar Teams. The boys team received the silver award and the girls team received the gold award.



CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY **HEIGHTS**
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDES THE WAY

With the District’s Five Year Strategic Plan in full implementation, CH-UH held breakfast events over the summer at which **Superintendent Kirby** shared key points of the plan and brainstormed with partners on how they can help the District achieve those goals. The key targets for 2026 are as follows:



- **95% of students** will graduate in 4 years.
- **100% of 3rd grade students** reading at or above identified grade level.
- **80% of students** will show proficiency on state assessments.
- **90% of students** will have course success in Algebra by the end of 9th grade.
- **90% of students** will pursue college or a viable career pathway.

Scan the QR code to find the complete 2026 Strategic Plan booklet.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER LAUNCH

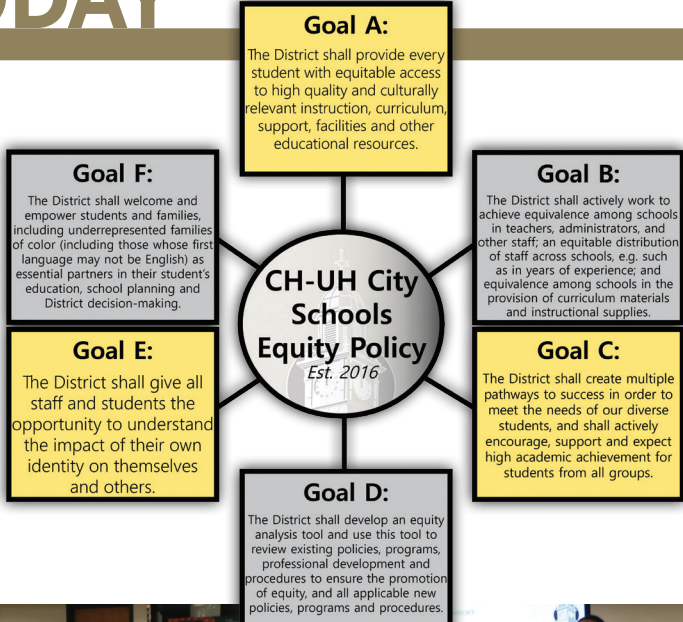


A Community Learning Center is a strategy in which schools partner with community agencies and allocate resources to integrate a focus on academics, health and social services, and community engagement. The creation of a CLC in the District is a component of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, and the pilot program launched at Noble Elementary. CLC organizer **Kristiaun Copez-Minor** and her team conducted a Community Needs Assessment and focus groups to guide the work. Many respondents asked for more community-building opportunities. The CLC hosted a series of summer events featuring food, games, group exercise classes and more, attended by about 700 people in total.

EQUITY WORK IN HEIGHTS SCHOOLS TODAY

In 2016, CH-UH implemented an Educational Equity Policy, the first of its kind in Cuyahoga County. Educational equity addresses the policies, practices, programs, personnel and resources required to ensure access to educational opportunity and achievement for all students. The CH-UH Equity Policy serves as the bedrock for the district's Strategic Plan and brings together many efforts that had been happening in silos for years.

In the 2021-2022 school year, District staff participated in implicit bias training, facilitated by our Equity Task Force leaders and the Kirwan Institute.



DISTRICT EXCEEDS STATE STANDARDS IN CLOSING GAPS



The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is showing notable progress in the Ohio state report card data for 2021-2022, especially in closing educational gaps for students.

This report card is the first that Ohio schools and districts have received since 2019. It includes performance information such as academic, financial, and student opportunities. The data is then combined into six components that receive star ratings from 1-5 (previously letter grades) to indicate the level of performance for the school and district. The District earned a 4-star rating in the Gap Closing component, which measures the reduction in educational gaps for student groups.

RISE

For the 2021-2022 school year, CH-UH adopted the theme of **RISE - Reunite, Inspire, Support, and Excel.** Those four words were embedded into our work as we returned to fully in-person learning and made our way back into an educational landscape that was forever changed by the pandemic.

CH-UH held its second annual Tiger Summer Camp in 2022. Children engaged in academic skill building, socialization, and hands-on lessons, all while having a blast. Thanks to partnerships with local organizations, unique enrichment activities included swimming lessons, yoga, African drumming, science projects, and art. The camp experience was facilitated by the district's before and after care partner, Right at School. The entire program was provided at no cost to families.



A FOCUS ON COLLEGE READINESS

Research has shown over and over again that the earlier a student starts on the road to college, the more successful that journey will be. That's why CH-UH has strengthened its partnership with College Now of Greater Cleveland through the GEAR UP and Educational Talent Search grants. Both grant programs are designed to assist low income or disadvantaged students with applying to and affording college.

Programming includes planning for college or career, visiting college campuses, identifying students' strengths, challenges, and interests, preparing for the SAT or ACT, filling out the FAFSA, and applying for scholarships. Both GEAR UP and Educational Talent Search leaders put a major focus on ensuring that students and their families fully understand the cost of post-secondary education and how to maximize college and career experiences that will lead to future success.



METROHEALTH, DISTRICT CONTINUE STRONG PARTNERSHIP



The MetroHealth Clinic at Heights High School and MetroHealth mobile unit saw a combined total of 553 visits from K-12 students during the 2021-2022 school year. The weekly clinic provides physicals, care for chronic conditions, mental/behavioral health services and more. There is never a co-pay or any out-of-pocket expenses for these services. MetroHealth provides on-site care at CH-UH elementary and middle schools via its mobile unit.

The MetroHealth System and the CH-UH City School District also held two COVID-19 vaccine clinics on the CH-UH campus for children 5-18 years old.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021-2022

NHS Inducts 63 New Members



The Heights High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 63 sophomores and juniors into the organization in May of 2022. Students with a 3.5 GPA or above are invited to apply for

membership, having also demonstrated achievement in the area of scholarship, service, leadership, and character

Murals Celebrate Past, Honor Present



Created by the Heights Schools Foundation via a special gift from the Class of June 1952, the new "H-E-I-G-H-T-S" mural across from the media center contains more than 200 scanned photos from Caldron yearbooks dating back to 1924. The letters are four feet tall and together the word is 22 feet long.



Down the hall near the auditorium is another new piece, "Together We Rise." The Heights Schools Foundation

commissioned the mural by art teacher and recent Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee **Jerome White '88**.

Fairfax Students Compete In Neighborhood Clean Up



Sponsored by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairfax fourth graders completed a neighborhood clean-up that consisted of photographing and documenting every piece of trash they collected using the Literati app. Before the students headed out to complete their challenge, each class met with a representative of the Soil

& Water Conservation District, learning about the danger that litter poses to birds, animals and the water system.

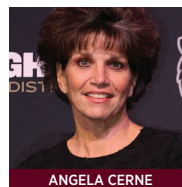
Celebrating Staff Achievement

District employees celebrated a year of perseverance, dedication, and strength at the Annual Staff Awards Ceremony in the spring of 2022.

Each building selected a Teacher of the Year and Helping Hand of the Year, and finalists were then selected through district-wide voting. The Teacher of the Year and Helping Hand of the Year overall winners were determined following panel interviews. The Administrator of the Year finalists and winner were selected by the Superintendent's Cabinet.



DESI STEWART



ANGELA CERNE



SCOTT SMITH

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Desi Stewart: Dean of Students, Monticello Middle School

HELPING HAND OF THE YEAR

Angela Cerne: Classroom Paraprofessional, Noble Elem. School

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Scott Smith: District Supervisor of Transportation

Boulevard Grant From Laura Bush Foundation



Boulevard Elementary School was one of 300 U.S. schools to receive a \$5,000 grant in 2022 through the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. Boulevard will use the funds to update and diversify its library media collections. According to library media

ancillary Ms. Rachel Gray, the new books will include stories of Indigenous People, Black History, Latinx culture, LGBTQ people, Arab Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, and Jewish Americans.

Monticello Students Research, Take On Community Projects



Monticello eighth graders capped off their middle school International Baccalaureate experience by engaging in multi-week community projects. Students

identified a problem in their community and then performed volunteer service in order to meet the need, conducting research along the way. They focused on small but manageable issues, like litter and a lack of school volunteers. Students in **Kristie Marbury's** advisory period volunteered in Oxford Elementary classrooms, helping kindergarteners and 1st graders with their reading and writing.

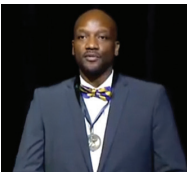
AVID Seniors Announce Destinations



The Heights High AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Signing Day Ceremony in

spring of 2022 celebrated the 61 AVID graduates. Each student announced their next steps for the Fall of 2022, including college, military, trade school, and the workforce. Throughout the year, AVID students focus on college essays, scholarship applications, financial aid, and virtual college visits.

Hall of Fame Inducts Ten



In October 2021, the Heights Schools Foundation hosted the 41st induction of the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame by honoring ten extraordinary alumni. The group may be remembered as the class

that was inducted in a hybrid format - some in person and others virtually. The ceremony included honoree speeches followed by a lively after-show.

Bequest Begins New Era of Scholarships for Heights Seniors

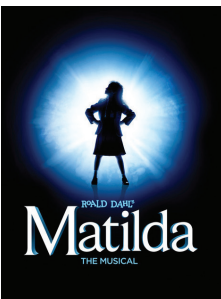


It was after **Dr. Ita Kaiserman-Abramof's** death in 2020 that the Heights Schools Foundation learned she had made a bequest of \$200,000 to support scholarships for Heights High seniors. Dr.

Kaiserman-Abramof was a respected Professor of Anatomy at Case Western Reserve University from 1971-2015. She was also a Heights High parent.

Dr. Kaiserman-Abramof's donation was designated for scholarships and given in honor of her son, Heights alumnus Sergio Abramof, who passed away in 2012. Locals knew Sergio, Class of 1975, as a nationally-acclaimed chef and restaurateur.

Fall Musical Returns with *Matilda*



After a year without a musical due to the pandemic, Heights High performers, stage crew and directors made a triumphant return in 2021 with four sold-out performances of Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*.

Rox Mid Girls Become Engineers for a Day



To celebrate Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day in February, eighth grade girls from Roxboro Middle School attended a virtual field trip through Parks College

of Engineering, Aviation, and Technology at St. Louis University. The students participated in a webinar with current college engineering students to learn about different kinds of engineers, as well as supporting hands-on activities that mimicked some of the areas of study from the college. Students collaborated to create water filters, crab robots, and "prosthetic" hands.

Educators Earn Doctoral Degrees



When the COVID pandemic hit, Heights High math teacher **Melissa Strouth** was halfway done with her doctoral dissertation research. She decided to switch gears, focusing instead on teaching math in an online classroom. It all paid off as the now-Dr. Strouth was honored in 2022 with the Excellent Doctoral Dissertation

Award for Research in Education, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Business from CSU.

Assistant Superintendent **Felisha Gould** recently earned her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Concordia University-Chicago, and Assistant High School Principal **Brandon Towns** earned his Ph.D. in Urban Education with a specialization in Policy Studies from CSU.

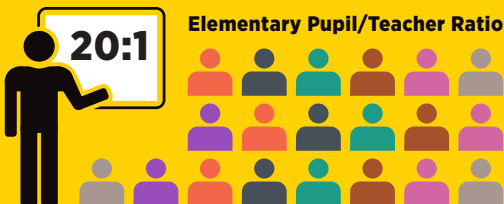
Grant Helps Staff Achieve Dreams

The district's Human Resources Department has committed to increasing the pool of diverse, qualified applicants. That's why the HR team is utilizing a portion of its \$50,000 Human Capital Strategies Grant from the Ohio Department of Education to "grow its own."

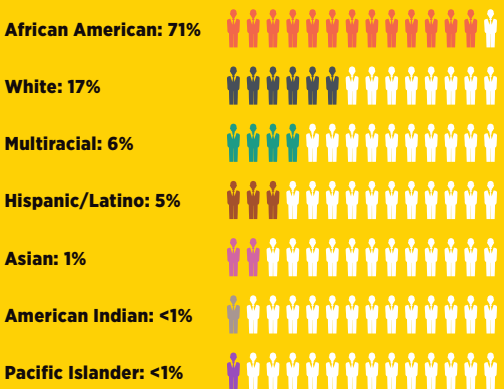
The goal of the Grow Your Own program is to identify current classified employees who are interested in pursuing teacher certification and providing them with scholarships to Cleveland State University, who is partnering with the district on the project. Classified staff include bus drivers, cleaners, secretaries/assistants, lunch aides, and paraprofessionals. In '21 - '22, eight employees enrolled in courses at CSU using the grant.

TIGER NATION BY THE NUMBERS

CH-UH STUDENTS



4,919 TOTAL STUDENTS



HEIGHTS GRADS

87.7% Graduation Rate 4-Year Class of 2021

90.6% Graduation Rate 5-Year Class of 2020

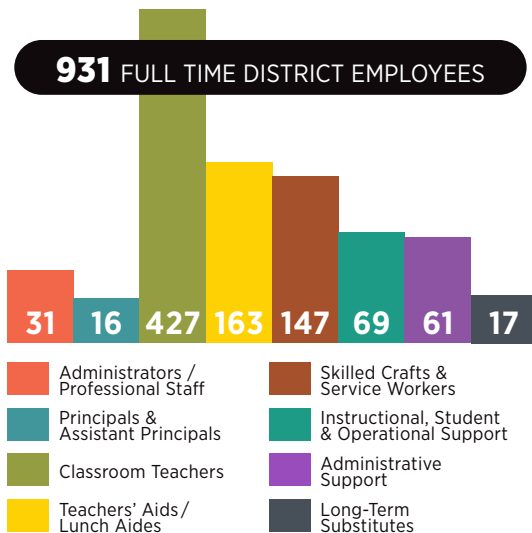
341 Class of 2022 Graduates

\$17.3 MILLION Scholarships Earned Class of 2022



CH-UH STAFF

931 FULL TIME DISTRICT EMPLOYEES



TEACHER SALARY RANGE

\$45,873 → 99,594

BARGAINING UNITS

Bargaining units represent teachers and professional staff, administrative support staff, security staff, cleaners, cafeteria employees, paraprofessionals/lunchroom non-paraprofessionals, custodial and maintenance staff, transportation staff and technology staff.

FACILITIES



1,048,709 SQ. FT.
Active School Building Space

7

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Gearity, Noble, Oxford, Roxboro

2

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Monticello
Roxboro

2

HIGH SCHOOLS

Heights High
Delisle Options Center

130 ACRES

School District Property

FUNDING

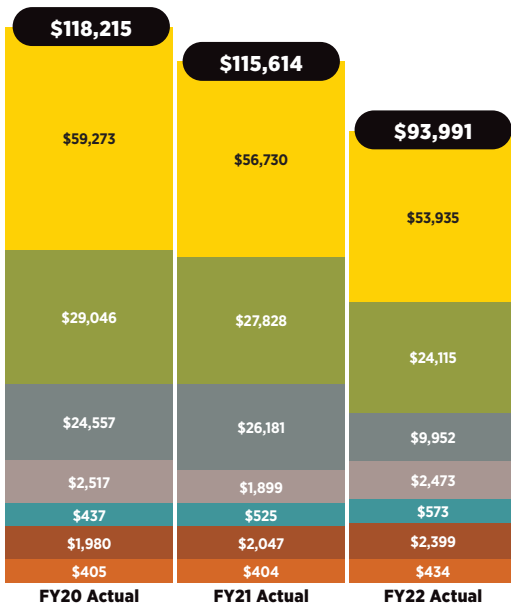
DISTRICT ANNUAL BUDGET



\$93,881 TOTAL (FY2022)

TOTAL SHOWN IN THOUSANDS

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS & SERVICES



TRANSPORTATION



59 VEHICLES

Transport **1,862** CH-UH, special education, non-public & community school students in grades K-8 traveling to **46** educational and training sites.

28 YELLOW BUSES

Transport students to and from **35** school and training locations, traveling **1,128** miles daily, **203,040** miles yearly.

31 VANS

29 contracted vans and **2** district vans transport students to and from **24** school and training locations, traveling **2,155** miles daily, **387,900** miles yearly.

\$926

**AVERAGE COST PER
REGULAR EDUCATION
STUDENT** During 2021-2022

\$7,462

**AVERAGE COST PER
SPECIAL EDUCATION
STUDENT** During 2021-2022

NUTRITION

In 2021-2022, the District operated under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows all students to eat for free each school day. The District also served free meals during the pandemic through the USDA.



Breakfast	412,160
Lunch	516,962
Snack	41,958
Dinner	15,558



986,638 MEALS SERVED IN 2021-2022



CH-UH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Malia Lewis, President (2022) ▪ Beverly Wright, Vice President (2022)
Dan Heintz ▪ James Posch ▪ Jodi Sourini
Elizabeth Kirby, Superintendent ▪ A. Scott Gainer, CFO/Treasurer

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