

# Lakewood Local Schools



## District Profile

2008-2009

### **Mission Statement**

Lakewood School District, in a unified partnership with families and community, is committed to providing all students maximum opportunities to develop as life-long learners and productive citizens.

### **Lakewood Service Initiative**

Lakewood Community-Wide Learning, Service and Pride

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## **DISTRICT OVERVIEW**

The Lakewood Local School District is located in southern Licking County approximately 25 miles east of Columbus, the state capital. The district encompasses approximately 115 square miles. The district is a consolidation serving several small agricultural, recreational, and residential communities. The principle communities are the Village of Hebron, the Village of Buckeye Lake, Jacksontown, and the surrounding farming townships.

Hebron, laid out in 1827, is one of Ohio's oldest communities and has seen many changes. The “Crossroads of Ohio” at one time was even considered as an ideal location for the State Capital due to the National Road (Rt. 40) and the Erie Canal crisscrossing in the center of town. Today, located at the intersection of U.S. Route 40 and State Route 79, and adjacent to Interstate 70, the community is in a strategic location to serve commercial and industrial investors. The village of Hebron offers a state of the art infrastructure that is very attractive to both large and small industry. Two major industrial parks supply plentiful employment to Lakewood residents as well as *provide tax relief for homeowners to operate the schools.*

The newest village in Ohio, Buckeye Lake, was incorporated July 9, 1980. The lake on which the village is situated is Ohio's largest inland lake and provides fishing, boating, and camping for residents of the Lakewood School District and central Ohio. In the 1800's the water from the Lake helped “feed” the Erie Canal. Starting in the 1920's and into the early 70's, Buckeye Lake Amusement Park was known as the “Playground of Ohio.” It was the Cedar Point of its day. The famous Cranberry Bog, located in the waters of Buckeye Lake, is one of a kind. The last few years have brought about significant change in population and use in the Buckeye Lake area. New “upscale” residential developments and work on a residential water system will bring even more change to the lakefront.

Good schools are important to the quality of life in the Villages of Hebron, Buckeye Lake, and the Jacksontown area, and help maintain property values in the district. But beyond these considerations, the educational program itself is of primary importance. The Lakewood Local School district continuously strives to provide students with a quality education.

Lakewood Schools offers comprehensive academic curriculum to its students through the following: advanced placement courses, gifted education, college preparatory and Tech Prep, as well as special education and general studies. Qualifying juniors and seniors may also attend C-TEC for specialized career and technology offerings. The nearby Newark Campus of The Ohio State University offers supplemental (Post Secondary Options) and advanced placement opportunities for students and graduate level courses for teachers.

The district has a statewide reputation for its innovative performing arts program, acknowledged as a statewide leader in marching and concert bands, as well as, for its emerging drama program and theater productions.

Lakewood students are introduced to technology in kindergarten and encouraged to use technology to advance their learning potential. Students at every grade are linked to the Internet. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the use of technology into their classrooms and enable students to use technology to help facilitate life-long learning.

The district, long known as a baseball powerhouse with three state championships, has begun to build a reputation for continuous academic improvement being named in 2002 as "*Ohio's Most Improved School District*" by the State of Ohio. The changing dynamics of agricultural Licking County are requiring Lakewood students to acquire new and varied skills by the time they reach graduation. Each school building staff has established Belief Statements, a Vision Statement, and a Mission Statement that help guide the implementation of the District Goals.

The District employs 172 certificated personnel, including administrative positions. The administrative staff includes the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Services, Treasurer, Supervisor of Special Education, 4 Principals, 3 Assistant Principals, and 1 Athletic Director.

The District's facilities includes 1 elementary school (grades K-2), 1 intermediate school (grades 3-5), 1 middle school (grades 6-8), 1 high school (grades 9-12), a bus garage, the administrative building, and an athletic complex. Commencing with the 2007-2008 school year, grades K-5 were realigned district wide. All K-2 students are in the same building, Hebron Elementary. Grades 3, 4, and 5 are housed at the Jackson Intermediate campus. This realignment brought all students and staff of the same grades together under one roof or on the same campus. This will further ensure that Lakewood Schools will be able to offer the best academic opportunities to all children of the district.

The District employs 106 classified and exempted staff including food service, secretarial, transportation, custodial, maintenance, health and safety monitors, and supervisory positions.

Lakewood serves an average of 1625 lunches per day and provides breakfast programs at all four facilities.

Crisscrossing the District's 87 square miles daily, 26 bus routes, shuttles and numerous van rides, carry approximately 1,600 of Lakewood's 2,135 students to school. Additionally, district non-public students ride to numerous schools throughout the county each day on district busses. The transportation department maintains 35 busses and 3 vans.

## **STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

Of Lakewood's 2,135 students, 1.9% are minorities. Teaching students about diversity is essential for the children who are rarely exposed to other cultures and customs.

The most recent data has the median household income in the Lakewood District at \$29,798 with 23% of the adult population having administrative or professional occupations. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services listed the county unemployment rate in June 2008 at 6.1%. While only 2.8% of Lakewood's students receive Aid to Dependent Children, 40% are considered economically disadvantaged.

The overall student enrollment at Lakewood had been steadily rising until 1998 when it peaked with 2,436 students. After 1998 the enrollment gradually began to fall. [2,338 students in 2000, 2,272 in 2002, 2,274 in 2003, 2,265 in 2004, 2,270 in 2005, 2,250 in 2006, 2,217 in 2007, and 2,135 students in 2008.]

Due to the fact that several housing developments are under construction and many more are on the drawing boards, it is just a matter of time before the Columbus suburbs push closer to the Lakewood School District. The district is anticipating that in the near future enrollment will start to increase again.

## STATE REPORT CARD PERFORMANCE

In 1998 the State of Ohio began reporting school districts' performance on State Report Cards. Although the content of the Report Card has been in a constant state of flux, the report card shares districts' progress in meeting standards set forth by the State of Ohio. Traditionally, the state had required that students in grades 4, 6, 9 and 12 take tests in the areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Citizenship, and Science. Now achievement tests are administered in reading and math in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and in 10<sup>th</sup>. (OGT, Ohio Graduation Tests starts in 10th) Writing, Science and Social Studies tests are given in some grades but not all. The State reports "standards met" yearly for each public school district in Ohio. To meet the requirements of a standard, 75% of the students taking a test must pass. Attendance and graduation rates are used as 2 additional standards. Driven by federal requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, the State has recently modified the number of standards being measured. The number of standards has changed from 27 to 22, to 18, to 25, and presently 30. The 2008 Report Card will include a new State measure called "Value Added". With the Value Added Rating, a district rating can improve one level if the district exceeds expected gains for two consecutive years.

When the State Report Card was first introduced in 1998, Lakewood's performance was poor. Over the next few years, the Lakewood staff established a focus on Academic Improvement. The efforts proved fruitful as Lakewood's scores on the state mandated tests began to rise. In 2002, Lakewood was named, "**Ohio's Most Improved District**" for the 2001-2002 school year. District academic goals have been focusing on improving literacy, the key component of learning ever since.

The number of standards met in recent years are listed below. The current Lakewood District Report card may be found by going to The Ohio Department of Education's web page at: [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Standards Met</u>	<u>District Designation</u>	<u>Annual Yearly Progress</u>
1999	Met 7 of 18 standards	Academic Watch	
2000	Met 8 of 27 standards	Academic Emergency	
<b>2001</b>	<b>Met 19 of 27 standards</b>	<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	
2002	Met 14 of 22 standards	Continuous Improvement	
2002-03	Met 15 of 22 standards	Continuous Improvement	AYP-Not Met
2003-04	Met 11 of 18 standards	Effective	AYP-Not Met
2004-05	Met 15 of 23 standards	Effective	Met AYP
2005-06	Met 19 of 25 standards	Effective	Met AYP
2006-07	Met 24 of 30 standards	Effective	AYP-Not Met
2007-08	Met 22 of 30 standards	<b>Excellent</b> (Due to Value Added)	AYP-Not Met

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

In January 2000, the District submitted a three-year Continuous Improvement Plan to the Ohio Department of Education. The district-wide comprehensive plan focused on four areas of improvement:

1. Improved student achievement scores in all areas of proficiency testing.
2. Increased parental and community involvement.
3. Team building amongst district staff.
4. Improved and increased use of technology.

The District has invested heavily in the Baldrige model of performance excellence. Administrators and teachers throughout the District have had Orientation Training, Quality Tools Training, Data Notebook Training, and Plan, Do, Study, Act Training (PDSA). Trainings focus on quality approaches towards problem solving and instruction.

In 2003, the District board, administrators and staff modified the Continuous Improvement Plan to include the Baldrige quality approach towards goal setting, problem solving and goal assessment. The revised plans established two goals each with two sub-components:

Goal #1

Improve student achievement in all areas of the State Report Card by:

- A) Improving collaboration amongst staff
- B) Using Quality Tools, technology, and research based practices

Goal #2

Improve the quality of family and community involvement in student achievement by:

- A) Improving collaboration amongst staff, families, and the community
- B) Using Quality Tools, technology, and research based practices

The Goals were revised again in 2005 to reflect the District's commitment to focusing on the area of "literacy across the curriculum". Goal #1's revision is listed. (Goal #2 did not change)

Goal #1

Improve student achievement in all areas of the State Report Card by:

- A) Focusing on literacy across the curriculum**
- B) Improving collaboration amongst staff
- C) Using Quality Tools, technology and research based practices

Both Hebron Elementary and Lakewood Intermediate Schools wrote and received Ohio Reads Grants for the 05-06 and 06-07 school years based on the literacy focus of Goal 2. The District goals are reviewed annually.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Locally provided staff development is an extremely important part of professional growth. The Superintendent, with the input from staff and building administrators, assesses staff needs and plans after school sessions, in-service days, and summer sessions for certified staff consistent with the District goals. The emphasis on these professional development activities is to provide the teaching staff with the knowledge base required for implementation of effective teaching strategies and enhances personal curriculum delivery. In addition to locally provided staff development, the Lakewood Local School District supports staff members who attend conferences outside of the district and continually encourages them to examine, understand, and implement best practices used in educational settings.

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

The Lakewood Local School District provides a comprehensive K-12 program: instruction, assessment, intervention, and special needs programming. The curriculum supports the Ohio Achievement (OAT) and Diagnostic Tests (K-8), as well as the Ohio Graduation Tests at the high school level (OGT).

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The administration, staff, board members, and community have identified that keeping current with today's educational methodology and utilizing updated student textbooks and materials are critical components necessary to provide students with a quality education.

## **INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Lakewood Local School District recognizes its responsibilities to offer academic instruction that is appropriate for every child. Student abilities and performance levels are measured and used to determine appropriate instruction. The RTI, 3-Tier Problem Solving model is being implemented during the 08-09 school year.

For those students requiring supplemental help or varied instructional methods, plans are developed and monitored by intervention assistance teams that include teachers, administrators and intervention specialists. Parental involvement is critical in the process of student needs and intervention plans.

## **GIFTED / TALENTED PROGRAMMING AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

Opportunities for more challenging work are available through the Gifted and Talented Program. This program serves identified students in grades four through eight.

The curriculum includes enrichment activities, independent research and project based learning with an emphasis on higher level thinking skills. Additionally, advanced placement courses in English and American History are offered at the high school level.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Currently there are approximately 350 students on Individualized Educational Plans within the Lakewood Local School District. This number represents approximately 15% of the total student population.

Program options and related services for students on Individualized Educational Plans are structured to provide a continuum of services based on individual needs. These options insure that all students are educated in the least restrictive environment possible. The Lakewood Local School District is committed to providing educational excellence for all students with disabilities, expanding their skills and aptitudes to be successful in the educational setting, in the community, and as adult contributors in society.

## **ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK**

The District passed a five-year emergency operating levy on May 6, 2003. The total amount of additional revenue from this emergency-operating levy was \$2,058,646 per year. In March 2008, the voters renewed the emergency operating levy for five more years.

The current revenue, along with the District's cash balance, will provide the District with the necessary funds to meet its operating expenses in fiscal years 2008 through 2009. Beyond 2009, the District will face some decisions on obtaining additional funding sources or reducing expenses in order to maintain its educational programs.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Lakewood Local Schools earned an “**Excellent**” Rating on the 2008 State Report Card (2007-2008 school year). This is the highest rating that a school district may obtain in the State of Ohio. It should be noted that Lakewood has exceeded expected gains for two consecutive years in the areas of math and reading for grades four through eight. This is determined by the State’s Value Added Rating measure.

The 2007-2008 edition of the Lakewood Lady Lancers softball team captured the State title in Division III. With a record of 32 wins and 2 loses, they became the first girls’ sport in school history to capture a team state championship.

In 2002 Lakewood Local School Board approved the sponsorship of the Lakewood Digital Academy. The Academy launched operations in August of the 2003-2004 school year. The Lakewood Digital Academy is a community school that offers parents a choice of academic environments for their children. The LDA delivers educational services to children residing within the district. Commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, the Jefferson County Virtual Learning Academy will provide the curriculum for the Lakewood Digital Academy.

During the 2004-2005 school year, the Lakewood Service Initiative (LSI) was created. A group of staff members, administrators, school board members, and parents came together to develop a vision for Lakewood that was built on creating a culture of excellence. “**Lakewood Community-Wide Learning, Service and Pride**” became their theme. Building on this theme, 18 service standards were crafted. The goal of the LSI is to create a culture in the Lakewood Schools and community that daily meets the needs of our stakeholders. Satisfied customers are not “good enough.” The LSI is striving for “loyal” customers. This ongoing initiative is striving to create the culture that, “*great customer service is smart business*”.

In fiscal year 2007, the District received its fifth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Commencing with the 2007-2008 school year all grades K-5 district wide were realigned. Hebron and Jackson Elementary schools were changed from each being K-3 schools. With the new alignment Hebron Elementary houses all grades K-2 and the Jackson Intermediate campus houses Lakewood 3-5 children. Lakewood staff and parents are excited about the positive affects and future potential this new alignment will have on student achievement.

Due to the reorganization of the administrative team for the 07-08 school year, the District was able to add a full time technology coordinator. A district web page and a focused technology plan has become reality. Lakewood is on course to address a new era in the ever-changing world of technology for students and staff.

## **MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR THE FUTURE**

The district continues to seek improvement in the areas measured by the Local Report Card. An “Excellent” rating (30 out of 30 state indicators) on the Report Card is always the goal. Federal, State and Local grants will be pursued to assist the District financially to provide research-based programs and services to the students in the area of intervention.

With the approval of new federal legislation ESEA, "No Child Left Behind", the District will be working to meet all standards required to receive the federal funding. For fiscal year 2008, the District qualified for \$927,899 in federal funding for programs in Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance (Title I), Special Education (Part B-IDEA), Improving Teacher Quality (Title II-A), Technology (Title II-D), Safe and Drug Free Schools (Title IV-A), and Innovative Programs (Title V). For fiscal year 2009, Lakewood is projected to qualify for \$780,404.

### **For additional information about Lakewood Local Schools you may contact:**

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Treasurer - Glenna Plaisted, [gplaisted@laca.org](mailto:gplaisted@laca.org)

Director of Pupil Services – Arnie Ettenhofer, [aettenhofer@laca.org](mailto:aettenhofer@laca.org)

View the District Web Page at – [www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us](http://www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us)

View testing information released by the Ohio Department of Education – [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)