



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | www.talawanda.org

Talawanda School District EMPOWERS Every Learner Every Day!

FQA12 Report Card and Why NOW

Question 1: What has happened with TSD's report card?

TSD has shared how biased the State of Ohio report card is during the Board of Education meetings as well as to local legislators. The state assessments used to assess our progress are conducted on 1 to 2 days per test. The tests often are biased against those students who do not test well, those who are from disadvantaged backgrounds, and students with disabilities. TSD continues to advocate to provide a real picture of what is and what is not happening in each district and not how wealthy or poor a district is.

Talawanda rates in the top 31% in Ohio (report card). We are in the top third of all Ohio districts. TSD also has a very high graduation rate (96.6%) which is key to understanding where we are. Please note students with disabilities who extend their learning (because it is the right thing to do) through age 21 are counted against the graduation rate. This is a federal and state requirement that does not allow those students to be included in the graduation rate. It is imperative that TSD students graduate from high school and meet the school district's and state's standards. TSD rates three stars or higher in almost every area. TSD has made gains in our report card ratings. Our district report card rates 3 Stars (meets benchmarks to 4 Stars (exceeds benchmarks) to 5 Stars (significantly exceeds benchmarks). You may find the district or building's report card information at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>.

There is a new star rating system. Three stars means that area meets state standards. Four and five star ratings means the area assessed exceeds (4 Stars) or significantly exceeds (5 Stars) the state standards and benchmarks. Other areas receive a yes or no or a check or no check. Financial information is also published through the state report card. The letter grading system has been eliminated.

TSD continues to evaluate our students' progression. TSD offers many opportunities for students to grow and achieve. Some students shine in extracurricular or athletic activities which are important to maintain. TSD students need many opportunities to grow and become future leaders. The report card is only one measure and does not measure these additional qualities.

Some students need additional assistance with mental health, learning, and social emotional needs. Again, the report card does not measure or take these needs into consideration. In fact, the report card penalizes schools and students who have these needs.

TSD has a great school district that uses many varied data points to drive instruction for students. Using data and holding ourselves accountable is ongoing and key to Talawanda excellence. Continuing to use different data points to make educational decisions is better than using one data point such as the report card. Formative and summative data points are used to drive

instruction. While the district does not agree with all of the report card elements, we do incorporate that data as well as other data to truly understand and provide education, mental health, social emotional, wellness, and other curricular and extracurricular programs to meet the unique needs of each child.

These are not excuses to the report card data. TSD is trying to provide context for the report cards. The report card data is only one data point and should not be used solely to judge the effectiveness of a district. The report card data and assessments are also 5 months old when we receive the data. Using multiple measures (formative and summative) in real time must continue to be evaluated to drive instruction forward while meeting the needs of all.

We know Talawanda still has work to do. The work continues to change with each new group of students as well as our current group of students. TSD wants all of our students to be successful and prepared for life. TSD is accountable for programs, data, spending, and outcomes. TSD will continue to address the needs and change as needed.

TSD is fortunate to have a community who has supported educational endeavors and excellence, while providing the best education to all of our students. Thank you.

Question 2: Why now especially during high inflation and possible recession?

TSD has provided additional FQA's to answer this question as well as other questions. While the district continues to monitor spending with the new student funding formula, TSD is not keeping pace with the rising cost of items. We are deficit spending in order to continue our current services and programs. TSD also continues to provide Talawanda excellence that wraps services around students so that each student is successful.

TSD can no longer extend the bottom line. Cutting programs, staff, and education to balance the budget will affect the Talawanda excellence. TSD will not be able to provide current services such as: K-12 busing, remediation, support and resources, social and emotional supports, mental health supports, a myriad of academic and extracurricular programs and activities, SROs, alternative school, elementary counselors, social workers, school psychologist in each building, SAP coordinators, STEM, Gifted, intervention staff including teachers and EAs (paraprofessionals), alternative to suspension and expulsion programs, Advanced Placement classes with less than 20 students, CCP, No Pay to Play fees, Extra Time Extra Help, FFA/FCLA, 1:1 technology and support, and a high graduation rate without additional funding. If TSD waits, there could be a need to ask for a higher millage (higher taxes) and make difficult decisions regarding the services it provides to our students and community.

We know that the timing is not perfect. High inflation and a possible looming recession are affecting everyone. We continue to evaluate our programs, services, and hirings. We have eliminated positions as well as reduced costs. Even with these changes, we are in deficit spending.

There have been many questions regarding how much this proposed Talawanda levy will cost. Please go to www.butlercountyauditor.org and then Click on Property SEARCH and then click on the Levy tab on the left hand side for the amount the Talawanda levy will cost you.

TSD hopes these FQA's have provided you with information and facts to answer your questions and concerns. Our goal is to provide you with information. As always, thank you for your support!

Additional Information may be found at:

*<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/>

**www.talawanda.org or

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/treasurer---finance-42/understanding-school-finance-395>

***AG Audit at:

<https://www.talawanda.org/media/treasurer/TSD-%20Audit%20March%202020.pdf>