

Treasurer News

Treasurer Shares the 'Word'

Alex Binger, Treasurer

English philosopher John Locke, one of the most influential thinkers of the Age of Enlightenment, stated, "The great art of learning is to understand but little at a time."

As I entered the Van Buren Local School District in the fall of 2016, I came with an admittedly limited understanding of the district and the community that supports it. I had done a great deal of research on Van Buren to prepare for the interview process, but was limited to reports available from the Ohio Department of Education. So I sought to learn; to understand a "little at a time." In 2017 the Board of Education accepted my recommendation to commission a collection of data, with which a trend analysis report was created by K-12 Business Consulting, Inc. This study, compiled with data through the 2016 fiscal year, has helped me develop a much greater understanding of the very unique and wonderful community in which our district operates. Beginning with this issue of the *Knightly News*, the trend analysis report will add another function to its worth, serving as the basis for a recurring series on school financial and educational data.

This first installment will serve as the introduction to the several groups that it will be necessary to know to understand this data. The first group will be called "SIMILAR" and is composed of twenty (20) districts selected in 2016 that are believed by the Ohio Department of Education to be most similar in the state to us here at Van Buren. Our SIMILAR group is shown in Figure I-2 below. The second group will be called "PEER" and consists of ten (10) districts selected by myself and Superintendent Tim Myers as districts that we are most commonly compared to locally. Our PEER group is shown in Figure I-2 below. The third and final group, labeled as "OHIO", consists of every public school district in the state of Ohio. These three groups will be compared to us here at Van Buren in this series.

In future installments of this series I will begin taking a deeper dive into how our District compares to these other groups, but to conclude this introduction, I will simply ask you to take some time to explore the two figures below, notice the interesting group of SIMILAR district selected by ODE, form your own ideas of how we compare, and keep these charts for when you read the future installments.

Figure I-2: VAN BUREN LSD - 2016 SIMILAR DISTRICTS PER ODE

IRN	District	County	Average Daily Membership (ADM)	Poverty as % of ADM	% of Population Administrative or Professional Occupations	Median Income	% of Population with College Degree or More	% Agricultural Property	Population Density	Non-Residential & Non-Agricultural Per Pupil	% Minority Students
47464	VAN BUREN LSD	HANCOCK	1,018	19	39.8	\$49,672	30.1	18.8	135.2	91,593	6
45997	ST. CLAIRSVILLE-RICHLAND CSD	BELMONT	1,718	28	33.9	\$41,135	19.4	8.9	208.3	75,042	8
47902	PERRY LSD (LAKE CO.)	LAKE	1,764	26	36.1	\$43,501	22.6	5.1	384.3	125,870	11
46722	NORTHEASTERN LSD (DEFIANCE CO.)	DEFIANCE	1,083	21	29.7	\$41,343	17	32.1	58.5	84,053	12
47217	NEWBURY LSD	GEAUGA	486	31	33.1	\$42,501	27.3	20.1	194.9	55,489	8
48926	BENTON-CARROLL-SALEM LSD	OTTAWA	1,612	34	29	\$40,786	15.8	19.5	88.8	104,576	8
48934	DANBURY LSD	OTTAWA	541	40	34.5	\$39,231	22.8	1.5	264	89,083	7
50468	WAYNE LSD	WARREN	1,484	22	35.2	\$44,442	26	11.8	175.8	34,323	5
47399	THREE RIVERS LSD	HAMILTON	1,937	40	33.8	\$48,445	26.9	0.7	669.2	54,915	6
46284	CLARK-SHAWNEE LSD	CLARK	2,099	33	30.7	\$37,931	20.8	10.1	319.8	63,943	10
44131	HURON CSD	ERIE	1,422	30	40.7	\$42,781	32	2.3	478.6	32,789	7
45948	MINSTER LSD	AUGLAIZE	865	9	33.6	\$46,053	27.1	16.5	139.8	34,486	3
139303	MONROE LSD	BUTLER	2,539	29	36.4	\$46,471	27.2	3.3	742.2	55,532	13
46813	PERKINS LSD	ERIE	2,300	33	33.6	\$38,542	23.7	5.1	276.5	76,040	14
47167	BERKSHIRE LSD	GEAUGA	927	23	28.9	\$40,346	18.3	25.9	139.8	40,459	3
50203	LORDSTOWN LSD	TRUMBULL	520	33	26.1	\$38,342	12.8	15.9	144.8	83,015	6
46565	INDEPENDENCE LSD	CUYAHOGA	1,021	12	39.9	\$49,757	31.6	0.1	732.4	212,822	2
46151	TALAWANDA CSD	BUTLER	3,016	35	34.9	\$38,280	34.5	12.8	261	58,251	7
43521	ATHENS CSD	ATHENS	2,746	39	43.4	\$30,641	44	5.2	393.1	65,112	10
50187	LAKEVIEW LSD	TRUMBULL	1,812	28	36	\$39,345	25	5	440.6	33,929	5
48348	POLAND LSD	MAHONING	2,105	15	39.6	\$45,350	37.9	1.1	830.6	33,379	5
930000	SIMILAR DISTRICTS AVERAGE		1,572	28	35	\$42,138	26	11	337	71,652	7

Figure I-2: VAN BUREN LSD - 2016 PEER DISTRICTS

IRN	District	County	Average Daily Membership (ADM)	Poverty as % of ADM	% of Population Administrative or Professional Occupations	Median Income	% of Population with College Degree or More	% Agricultural Property	Population Density	Non-Residential & Non-Agricultural Per Pupil	% Minority Students
47464	VAN BUREN LSD	HANCOCK	1,018	19	39.8	\$49,672	30.1	18.8	135.2	91,593	6
43984	FINDLAY CSD	HANCOCK	5,518	44	32.8	\$33,681	25.8	1.7	1,327.00	36,079	16
47415	ARCADIA LSD	HANCOCK	556	35	24.7	\$39,496	21.9	49.4	52.1	37,918	9
47423	ARLINGTON LSD	HANCOCK	534	28	29.1	\$40,632	21.9	46.9	61	10,813	2
47431	CORY-RAWSON LSD	HANCOCK	629	46	30.6	\$40,265	17.1	57.9	39	23,481	5
47449	LIBERTY BENTON LSD	HANCOCK	1,301	23	32.1	\$43,274	27.6	20.7	134.4	27,527	8
47456	MC COMB LSD	HANCOCK	664	39	29.3	\$36,835	19.2	57.5	39	12,542	14
47472	VANLUE LSD	HANCOCK	254	32	28.5	\$40,701	16.6	62.2	32.8	7,318	9
50708	NORTH BALTIMORE LSD	WOOD	673	53	25.3	\$32,457	13.1	25.6	118.6	52,485	11
47514	RIVERDALE LSD	HARDIN	984	45	26.2	\$37,314	11.8	57.8	39.9	8,380	3
45260	CAREY EVSD	WYANDOT	836	37	14.6	\$34,576	9.2	32.8	106.3	16,130	6
940000	PEER DISTRICTS AVERAGE		1,179	36	28	\$38,991	19	39	190	29,479	8