



# Loveland City School District Town Hall Report February Recap

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## Fact Card #1

Loveland High School Students have the opportunity to take College Credit Plus classes on and off campus. Semester credit hours earned in CCP classes on the Loveland High School campus has risen from 395 hours in 2019 to 1060 hours in 2023.

Do you feel like Loveland offers enough advanced opportunities to students?

- Positive responses indicating satisfaction with the current advanced opportunities offered by Loveland High School, particularly appreciating the availability of both College Credit Plus (CCP) and Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

Are there any specific new opportunities you think students should have? If so, what are your ideas?

- Responses show a desire to broaden students' opportunities beyond traditional academic paths, such as exploring vocational training, internships in various sectors, and co-op programs.
- One response highlights a discussion about the current internships available to students and suggests exploring more sectors for internships, including industrial settings like factories.
- Avocation for diversifying opportunities beyond college, addressing the stigma associated with non-college paths.

**Overall, the responses demonstrate a positive view of Loveland High School's current advanced opportunities while also highlighting areas for potential expansion and improvement, particularly in diversifying career pathways and providing comprehensive career guidance.**

## Fact Card #2

Loveland City School District provides a great return on investment for the community by scoring above average on the Ohio Department of Education's Performance Index and below average on per-student educational costs. When compared to other school districts in Hamilton and Clermont counties, almost no district performs better while spending less per student. Cost per pupil for a Loveland student is \$11,741.06, while the average cost per student in Hamilton and Clermont counties is \$12,599.73.

Do you feel like Loveland School District is effective in terms of spending money on students? Explain why or why not.

- One response seeks clarification on the classes offered and the performance metrics used for ratings. It also mentions a positive aspect of Loveland related to property values and community offerings, indicating personal satisfaction with the town and potentially linking it to the quality of the school district.

What questions or concerns do you have about school finance?

- One response expresses a desire for a detailed breakdown of school finances, indicating a need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.
- Mention of feeling satisfied with the value received but raises concerns about state funding rules that may put Loveland at a disadvantage.

**Overall, the responses indicate a mix of satisfaction with the perceived value of education in Loveland School District, a desire for transparency and clarity in financial reporting, and concerns about external factors such as state funding rules that may affect the district's financial position. These insights can be valuable for the district's administration in addressing concerns and improving communication regarding school finance.**

Career exploration and the development of real-world skills are goals of the Loveland City School District's #beLOVEland Strategic Vision. Loveland City School District provides real-world learning opportunities for students through our growing Loveland Tiger Pathways program. The program connects students with internships through local businesses and organizations and provides them an opportunity to earn pre-apprenticeship credentials that will prepare them for formal apprenticeship programs in the future.

*Do you believe Loveland City School District is working to prepare students for lifelong success?*

- Both responses are straightforward affirmations that Loveland City School District is working to prepare students for lifelong success through its real-world learning opportunities, internships, and pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Responses indicate a positive perception of the district's efforts in aligning education with career readiness and lifelong skills development, as outlined in the #beLOVEland Strategic Vision.

*What other additional opportunities do you think should be incorporated into outside the classroom learning?*

- Importance of adapting to a rapidly changing world by immersing students in real-world applications of technology (AI) and fostering innovation through exposure to thriving start-up communities.
- The suggestion to place students in new start-ups aligns with the goal of providing diverse and relevant learning experiences that prepare students for the complexities of the modern workforce.
- One response underscores the importance of understanding existing initiatives and offerings before making recommendations, emphasizing the need for transparency and communication regarding outside-the-classroom learning opportunities.

**Overall, the responses indicate support for Loveland City School District's efforts in preparing students for lifelong success through real-world learning experiences. They also highlight the value of innovation, technology integration, and exposure to dynamic industry environments in enhancing students' educational experiences and career readiness.**

Loveland City School District is partnered with Great Oaks to provide vocational education opportunities for students. The number of Loveland students attending Great Oaks has risen from 48 in 2019 to 62 in 2023.

Do you believe Loveland City School District connects students with vocational education opportunities?

- Response 1 mentions the process of getting into programs at Live Oaks (part of Great Oaks) through a lottery system, indicating a competitive demand for vocational education opportunities. It also touches on the resurgence of interest in trades.
- Response 2 acknowledges the increasing numbers of Loveland students attending Great Oaks, reflecting the district's efforts to connect students with vocational education options. Response emphasizes the importance of vocational skills and mentions that Loveland City School District serves as a valuable option for vocational education within the community.
- Both responses show awareness of the vocational education landscape and the benefits of providing students with opportunities to learn trades or take college-level courses.

**Overall, the responses indicate that Loveland City School District is actively connecting students with vocational education opportunities and that there is a positive sentiment regarding the value of vocational skills alongside traditional academic education.**

#### **Fact Card #6**

We want your feedback...

When it comes to academic excellence at Loveland School District, what are the changes that you want to see?

- Response 1 identifies specific areas for improvement, such as enhancing gifted services, streamlining administrative processes like WEPs to allow more time for student-focused work, and improving communication with parents regarding services.
- Response 2 indicates satisfaction with the current state of academic excellence at Loveland School District and a belief that no changes are needed.

What are the particular struggles you think Loveland students face to achieving academic success?

- Responses highlight potential challenges related to staffing and professional development, suggesting that these factors impact teachers' abilities to provide enriching classroom experiences for students.
- The mention of global competitiveness underscores the need for a broader educational outlook to prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Do you think Loveland School District should focus more on providing core education (math, reading, writing, etc.) or additional programming to prepare students for the technological changes happening in the world? Or both?

- Responses express support for a balanced approach of focusing on core education while also incorporating innovative and engaging programming to address technological advancements.
- One response highlights concerns about ideological influences in education and the importance of teaching practical life skills alongside academic subjects.

**Overall, the responses reflect a range of perspectives on academic excellence, challenges facing students, and the direction of education in Loveland School District. They underscore the complexity of educational priorities and the need for continuous assessment and improvement to meet the evolving needs of students.**

#### **Fact Card # 7**

Voters in the Loveland City School District approved a 4.9 mill operating levy in May 2023 - the first new operating levy in 9 years.

The levy provides funds to maintain the current level of operations for Loveland City Schools.

*Do you feel like Loveland School District is focused on fiscal responsibility? Why or why not?*

- One response provides a nuanced view, mentioning past trust issues due to high levies but expressing confidence in current fiscal responsibility efforts, transparency, and trust-building initiatives. It also suggests areas for improvement, such as clarifying fundraising activities' financial impact.
- One answer is straightforward and asserts confidence in the Loveland School District's focus on fiscal responsibility without further elaboration.

*Do you feel like Loveland School District displays transparency when it comes to school finance? Why or why not?*

- Responses indicate a positive perception of transparency in Loveland School District's financial practices, citing the availability of published information and the willingness of officials to address questions and concerns.

**Overall, the responses suggest a generally positive view of the Loveland School District's focus on fiscal responsibility and transparency in school finance. Response 1 in the first question provides more context about past challenges and improvements, while Response 2 offers a straightforward affirmation. Similarly, Response 1 in the second question confirms the perceived transparency in financial matters.**

#### **Fact Card #8**

Most property taxes in Ohio are structured in a way that ensures homeowners do not pay more when the value of their properties increases. The exception to this are unvoted levies, or "inside mills." This portion of property taxes does increase when property values rise during the reappraisal and revaluation process conducted by County Auditors.

Rising property values are projected to increase Loveland City School District's revenue by approximately \$1.4 million.

What questions or concerns do you have when it comes to how schools in Ohio are funded?

- One response raises valid concerns about the fairness and constitutionality of the property tax system in Ohio, especially regarding unvoted levies and their implications for homeowners.
- The mention of this issue existing for 40 years highlights a longstanding concern that may require policy changes or reforms at the state level.

What criticism or praise do you have for Loveland School District on the school finance front?

- One response expresses recognition of the challenges of school finance, including rising costs, and proposes a potential solution involving homeowner advocacy for changes in the state's funding approach.
- This response did not provide specific criticisms or praise for Loveland School District but rather focused on the broader issue of school finance in Ohio.

**Overall, the responses reflect concerns about the funding structure for schools in Ohio, particularly regarding property taxes and levies. They highlight the need for potential reforms or changes at the state level to address fairness, constitutionality, and the impact on homeowners.**

#### **Fact Card #9**

State Report Card data shows Loveland City School District exceeds state standards in every category and provides a high-quality education for students. State data also shows that nearly every public school district in Ohio has a better student-to-teacher ratio than Loveland City School. According to the 2021 Cupp Report Data, Loveland ranks 594 out of 609 public school districts for our student-to-teacher ratio. That means 98% of Ohio public school districts provide more teacher support for every student they serve.

Do you find this information to be positive or negative to the district? Why or why not?

- One response viewed the situation positively, seeing the district's ability to exceed state standards and provide high-quality education despite a lower student-to-teacher ratio as a positive achievement. The response reflects a belief in the efficiency and effectiveness of the district's educational approach.

What are some possible changes you can think of to address teacher to student ratio?

- Response focuses on strategies to address the teacher-to-student ratio issue, emphasizing the importance of supporting teachers, both administratively and within the community. The response also highlights concerns about potential negative effects of reduced positions on teacher workload and stress levels.

**Overall, the responses show a positive outlook on the district's ability to deliver high-quality education despite the student-to-teacher ratio challenge. They also highlight the importance of supporting teachers and considering strategies to maintain educational standards and teacher well-being.**

#### **Fact Card #10**

Loveland City School District has a strong partnership with the City of Loveland. The District and the City split the cost of our School Resource Officers (SROs) fifty-fifty, which allows the district to have three SROs covering our four campuses.

How do you think Loveland School District does at providing security to students and staff?

- Response 1 highlights positive relationships with SROs and raises valid questions about emergency preparedness and the effectiveness of security measures, especially in case of emergencies like swatting calls or locked perimeter doors.
- Response 2 acknowledges the presence of an SRO as a positive but suggests that more schools should have police officers present daily for improved security.

How do you think Loveland School Districts compares to other school districts when it comes to school safety?

- Response 1 indicates a belief that Loveland School District could improve its school safety measures by having a dedicated SRO for each building, highlighting concerns about safety and emergency response.

**Overall, the responses reflect a mix of positive sentiments regarding the presence of SROs and concerns about the adequacy of security measures, particularly in emergencies. They also suggest a desire for improved safety measures, such as having a 1-to-1 ratio of SROs to buildings for enhanced security.**

#### **Fact Card #11**

The last major renovation to school buildings in Loveland City School District took place in 2000. In the decades that followed, investments have been made in security features like doors, keycard systems, and cameras, but safety standards for schools and buildings have changed significantly since school buildings in the Loveland City School District were last renovated.

Currently, trailers are used as music classrooms at Loveland Primary and Elementary Schools because of limited space in the buildings. Trailers are used for art and music classes at Loveland Early Childhood Center.

Do you believe Loveland City School District has sufficient facilities for students?

- Response 1 focuses on the importance of teacher quality over the physical facilities, particularly for early childhood and elementary education.

How can Loveland School District better utilize their facilities to provide students with a positive educational experience?

- Response 1 highlights the need for enhanced security measures in facilities to provide a positive educational experience for students. It emphasizes the importance of technological solutions to maintain student safety.

**Overall, the responses indicate a focus on different aspects of facility utilization and student experience. Response 1 in both questions underscores considerations such as teacher quality and security measures as crucial elements in providing a positive learning environment for students**

#### **Fact Card #12**

Loveland City School District has expanded efforts to provide mental health services and support for students. School Counselors and School Psychologists serve each building. Professional therapists from Best Point are available to work with students on-site. Staff receive training to recognize warning signs of students in a mental health crisis, and students are active in the peer-to-peer suicide prevention program, Hope Squad and Jr. Hope Squad.

Do you feel like Loveland School District has made mental health of students and staff a priority? Discuss.

- Responses 1, 2, and 3 generally agree that Loveland School District has made mental health a priority, citing various programs and services that support students' mental well-being and encourage open discussions about mental health issues.

What kind of mental health challenges do you think our students face? Our staff?

- Responses 1 and 2 recognize the impact of technology and social media on students' mental health, with Response 2 also acknowledging the role of staff in addressing these challenges.
- Response 3 emphasizes the importance of communication and maintaining an open-door policy to address mental health concerns among students.

What do you think Loveland should do to address these challenges?

- Responses provide various suggestions, including assessing mental health support capacities, implementing stricter technology policies, and fostering open communication channels to address mental health challenges effectively.

**Overall, the responses highlight a recognition of mental health as a priority in Loveland School District and suggest strategies to address challenges such as technology's impact and the need for continuous support and communication**



**Fact Card #13**

Loveland City School District received \$5.2 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. These federal funds were earmarked to improve the health and safety of students and assist with pandemic-related learning loss.

Loveland City School District used ESSER funds to supplant existing salaries wherever possible rather than increasing salaries or providing “hero pay” to staff.

Currently, 2.5 teacher positions and 5 aide positions are funded by ESSER through the end of the 2023-24 school year. When those funds run out, Loveland City School District will either need to eliminate those positions or find the necessary funding.

Do you believe that Loveland City School District has used federal ESSER funding appropriately?

- Response 1 indicates a positive assessment of the use of ESSER funds, especially regarding the addition of reading intervention teachers and paras. The response seeks to understand the impact of losing these positions and whether the funds aligned with the intended purpose of improving health and safety.
- Response 2 expresses some skepticism about the use of ESSER funds to hire teachers and mentions a broader benefit of free meals for students. However, it acknowledges that the issue is no longer relevant since the funds have been expended.

What factors should Loveland City School District use to determine whether to continue those positions?

- Response 1 provides factors such as reading score improvements and ongoing progress as indicators for the district to consider when determining whether to continue the positions funded by ESSER funds. It also acknowledges the impact of the pandemic on student learning.

**Overall, the responses reflect a mix of perspectives regarding the use of ESSER funds and factors to consider for decision-making regarding the continuation of positions funded by these federal funds.**

#### **Fact Card #14**

The number of students with special needs in the District has remained fairly steady at around 14%, ~580 students. We have seen an increase in the number of students requiring significant medical support (special transportation, medical equipment, nurse support, or even outside facilities). We have also experienced rising costs across the board on the materials and services needed to support our students. Many of the services provided to students are required by state and federal law. The ever changing and evolving needs and the increase in costs continue to be challenges we navigate.

What are your thoughts or experiences about how Loveland City School District serves students with special needs?

- All three responses generally indicate a positive view of how Loveland City School District serves students with special needs. They highlight aspects such as satisfaction, inclusivity, legal obligations, commitment, and investment.

What changes would you like to see when it comes to how Loveland City Schools serves special needs students?

- Response 1 indicates an interest in seeking external input and new ideas to improve the services provided to students with special needs.

**Overall, the responses reflect a positive perception of Loveland City School District's efforts in serving students with special needs, with a suggestion in Response 1 to explore additional resources and ideas for further improvement.**

#### **Fact Card #15**

Each day, Loveland City School District transports about 2,300 students to our schools. We also transport 275 students to private and parochial schools because we are required to provide services to those students at the same level as our students. Transportation is provided to students in preschool through grade 8, as high school busing was eliminated in 2020 as a cost-saving measure.

Hiring new bus drivers has been an ongoing challenge. Loveland City School District changed school hours beginning with the 2022-23 school year to ease transportation challenges. Because of driver shortages, the district's transportation director or the transportation department administrative assistant sometimes drive routes to cover absences.

What strategies could the District use to address transportation challenges?

- Both responses highlight the need to investigate the reasons for the bus driver shortage and propose solutions such as better pay, partnership strategies, and utilizing existing staff like coaches for driving buses.

Do you think the district provides effective and efficient transportation for students? What changes do you want to see be made?

- Responses indicate a generally positive perception of transportation services for K-8 students but highlight areas for improvement, such as route efficiency, competitive pay, and addressing potential disruptions in high school transportation.

Other comments

- These comments raise further considerations regarding the effects of school starting times on academics, management of student behavior on buses, and financial aspects related to private school bus services.

**Overall, the responses provide valuable insights and suggestions for addressing transportation challenges, improving efficiency, and ensuring effective services for students in Loveland City School District.**

#### **Fact Card #16**

There are currently more than 30 languages spoken in the homes of our Loveland City School District families. Loveland City School District has a rapidly growing population of students for whom English is not their native language. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, Ohio must identify English learners, annually assess their English language proficiency, provide reasonable accommodations, and implement accountability systems that include long-term goals and measures of progress. English Language Learners (ELL) receive support to ensure they are overcoming language barriers and finding success in the classroom.

Are you aware of this growing population in the Loveland City School District?

- Both responses show awareness of the ELL population in Loveland City School District, with Response 1 expressing a higher level of awareness.

Do you believe this population is being appropriately served by the District?

- Response 1 indicates some doubts about whether the ELL population is receiving adequate support, citing concerns about staffing levels and the scope of services provided. Response 2 doesn't provide a specific opinion on the matter.

**Overall, the responses highlight awareness of the ELL population in the district but also raise questions and concerns about the level of support and services being provided to these students.**

#### **Fact Card #17**

Loveland City School District is a high-performing district with a veteran staff. Because the District is a desirable place to work, and our veteran staff members are willing to mentor and develop new teachers, the District has been able to institute cost-saving hiring practices.

When long-serving staff members retire, Loveland City School District works to hire high-quality candidates with the least amount of experience possible. These hiring practices helped the district realize savings of more than \$600,000 in the 22-23 school year and more than \$800,000 for the 23-24 school year.

What are your thoughts on the District's hiring practices?

- Both responses acknowledge the benefits of the district's hiring practices, such as cost-saving and mentoring opportunities.
- Response 1 reflects a mixed view, considering the challenges of high turnover rates for new teachers but also recognizing the positive impact of mentoring.
- Response 2 highlights the importance of a balanced approach to hiring to ensure the retention of talent and a diverse mix of experienced and new teachers.

Do you feel like the District employs high quality teachers and educators?

- Both responses convey overall satisfaction with the teachers in Loveland City School District, although Response 2 notes some variability in quality.
- Response 1 emphasizes the importance of having a mix of new and experienced teachers for the school system's continuity.
- Response 2 provides a personal anecdote indicating a positive experience with the district's teachers.

**In summary, the responses show a generally positive perception of the district's hiring practices and teacher quality, with an acknowledgment of the importance of maintaining a balanced mix of experienced and new educators.**