



April 24, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Loveland City School District was notified on March 9, 2023 that we did not meet the Maintenance of Equity (MOEquity) requirements for the 2021-2022 school year. Maintenance of Equity is a requirement of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) that helps to ensure that schools serving large proportions of underserved groups of students receive an equitable share of state and local funds. MOEquity looks at the ratio of students to staff in a building as compared to the district, as well as reductions/increases in staff at the building level as compared to the district from one year to the next. The MOEquity is calculated for the two most impoverished buildings in the district. For Loveland Schools, this includes Loveland Primary School and Loveland Elementary School. For the 2020/21 to 2021/22 school year, Loveland Primary School did not pass the MOEquity calculation.

For Loveland Primary School, the number of staff for each student was .11 for the 2020-2021 school year and .10 for the 2021-2022 school year, showing a -0.01 reduction in number of staff for each student. In comparison to district numbers, the number of staff for each student was 0.13 for the 2020-2021 school year and 0.18 for the 2021-2022 school year, showing an increase of 0.05 in the number of staff for each student. Because the district staff per student ratio increased, and the Loveland Primary School's staff per student ratio decreased, Loveland Primary School did not meet the MOEquity requirements for the 2020/21 to 2021/22 school years. During the 2020-2021 school year, both Loveland Early Childhood Center and Loveland Primary School housed 1st grade classrooms. The following summer (prior to the 2021-2022 school year), all 1st grade classrooms at Loveland Early Childhood Center were moved to Loveland Primary School. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all 1st grade classrooms were housed at Loveland Primary School. This change was made due to equity concerns. Prior to moving all 1st grade classrooms to Loveland Primary School, 1st grade building assignments were made based on where a student lived in the district. The way the boundaries were determined were based on counties for 1st grade only. The county that was assigned to Loveland Early Childhood Center had a significantly higher average household income than the county assigned to Loveland Primary School. In an effort to be more equitable and responsive to all of our students, the 1st grade classrooms were all combined in one building where students would not be separated based on the county they lived in. With this move between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 school year, there was a lot of shifting of staff and students. Once all the 1st grade classrooms were combined into one building, class sizes were more evenly distributed, which resulted in a 0.01 reduction in number of staff members per student.

As this letter is required to be posted on Loveland's website, we want to provide further explanation for our community. It is important to note that the MOEquity requirements for the 2020/21 to 2021/22 school year were not released until June 8, 2022. Hence, districts were being retroactively held to a requirement for the previous school years that did not exist until after the school years were over. Additionally, there are exemptions and exceptions for meeting MOEquity requirements available to districts who meet certain criteria. One of the exemptions is if an entire grade level is in one building only and not split between multiple buildings. After the move of all 1st grade classrooms to Loveland Primary School, Loveland Schools now meets the exception rule. However, this change was not properly reflected in our state reporting software. The correction has now been made and all grade levels are properly reflected in our software reporting system. However, the Ohio Department of Education does not allow districts to make the correction and be exempt from the MOEquity requirements retroactively. For that reason, this letter is a requirement of the Ohio Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Mike Broadwater  
Superintendent, Loveland Schools

---

Mike Broadwater - Superintendent

---