



# MEASURING WHAT **MATTERS**

Dayton Public Schools  
Annual Report

**2024  
-  
2025**



# About Dayton Public Schools

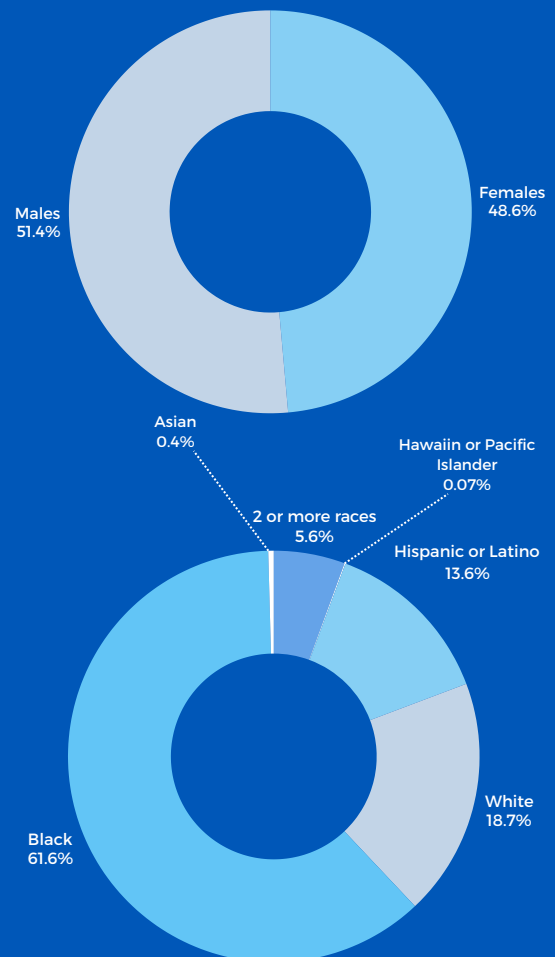
The Dayton Public School District is dedicated to providing a high-quality education to approximately 13,000 students across 27 buildings every day.

With a focus on academic excellence, DPS offers a variety of programs that cater to students' unique interests and needs, while providing a rigorous academic curriculum that prepares students for their futures. Offerings include:

- 5-star free preschools
- 1-to-1 technology
- College Credit Plus
- Advanced Placement courses
- 2 Career-Technical Schools and dozens of career pathways
- STEM School
- Arts Magnet School
- International School
- Montessori Programs
- Full-service special education services
- Gifted programming

DPS is home to a diverse and vibrant community of learners who are empowered to do their best and shape their futures. In addition, caring and dedicated staff provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment designed to help all students reach their full potential.

## Student Demographics



DaytonPublic.com

# A Message from the Superintendent



**David E. Lawrence, Ph.D.**  
*Superintendent*

“Dayton Public Schools is more than just a collection of schools — it’s a thriving, dynamic community where every student has the opportunity to succeed.”

Dayton Public Schools is more than just a collection of schools — it’s a thriving, dynamic community where every student has the opportunity to succeed. Dayton Public Schools is leading the way in academic innovation with a future-focused approach. We introduced a comprehensive Academic Action Plan in 2023 designed to elevate student learning and close achievement gaps, and since its implementation, we have seen significant academic gains.

Our focus on high-quality instruction, a rigorous curriculum, personalized learning experiences, postsecondary success, and professional development for educators, ensures that each student is prepared for their next steps, whether that is pursuing higher education, a career, entering the military, or forging a new path.

Financial stewardship is another cornerstone of our success. By managing our resources wisely, we continue to invest in classrooms, technology, facilities, and programs that directly benefit our students. This sound financial planning allows us to innovate and expand educational opportunities without compromising the quality of our students' experiences.

Throughout this publication, you'll learn more about our academic advancements, fiscal responsibility, and the diverse community of learners that encompasses Dayton Public Schools.

We invite you to explore and celebrate what makes DPS a cornerstone of pride in our community.

We are DPS!

# 2024 Ohio Report Card

The District made significant academic gains on the 2024 Ohio Report Card. The gains reflected in this report card were achieved while Dr. Lawrence served as Interim Superintendent and was still assembling his senior leadership team. Now that this team is fully in place, the District expects rapid acceleration on these results.



## OVERALL IMPROVEMENT

Ten schools increased their overall star rating.



## GRADUATION RATE

The 4-year graduation rate increased, with the 4-year CTE (Career-Technical Education) graduation rate increasing to 94.2%.



## PROGRESS

Four schools increased their overall star rating in Progress, which measures year-over-year growth.



## EARLY LITERACY

Four schools increased their star rating in Early Literacy, and the District increased the number of students considered on track in early literacy in 1st-3rd grade.



## GAP CLOSING

Nine schools increased their star rating in Gap Closing.



## GIFTED IMPROVEMENTS

The District met the value-added goal in Gifted and also improved in the Gifted performance index.



## ENGLISH LEARNERS

Despite having more English Learner (EL) students, the number of EL students considered proficient increased, along with those who met their growth targets.

# 21st Century Education

Dayton Public Schools prides itself on preparing students for tomorrow.

All high schools offer Advanced Placement Courses, College Credit Plus, and opportunities to train for and experience career pathways. There are more than two dozen Career-Technical pathways that allow students to earn industry-recognized credentials and certifications in a variety of fields.

As part of the District's Academic Action Plan, all students in grades 7-12 receive a Postsecondary Success Plan that guides them toward their future goals. DPS works to ensure all students graduate high school ready to excel in college, career, the military, or any other path they choose. Through a new partnership with Ford NGL (Next Generation Learning), the District is currently in the early phases of ensuring that 100% of students graduate high school and have postsecondary options aligned with their future goals.

✓ 25 Career-Technical Programs

✓ College Credit Plus\*

✓ Advanced Placement Courses

✓ Specialty Schools Available to All

*\*College Credit Plus allows students to earn college credits for free in place of, or in addition to, regular high school courses. Upon graduation, those credits can be transferred to any Ohio public college or university.*



# Achievement for All

The District's Academic Action Plan was implemented in 2023. Since then, the plan has served as a guide to improve academic achievement for all students. A few key tenants of the plan are listed below.



## Kindergarten & 9th Grade

*The District provides programs and support to ensure all kindergarten and 9th grade students begin the year with a strong foundation for success.*

## Improved Attendance

*The District has provided extra support and additional employees to ensure improving student attendance is a top priority. The goal is 95% attendance for staff and students.*



## Academic Achievement

*Strong academic achievement is a critical component of the plan. The goal is for 3rd grade students to be proficient in reading and math to lay a strong foundation for achievement later on.*

## College & Career Readiness

*As part of the plan, DPS implemented Postsecondary Success Plans for all 7-12 students. This serves as a guide and ensures all students graduate ready to enter college, career, or the military.*



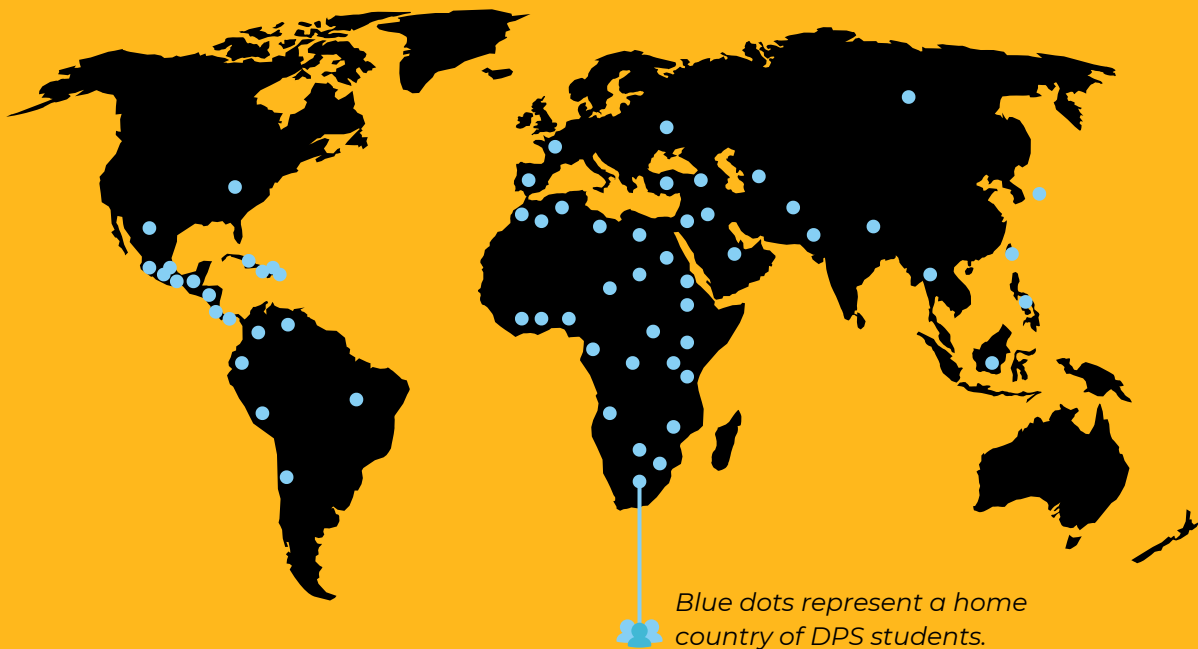
# A Diverse Community of Learners

Dayton Public Schools prides itself on having rich cultural diversity throughout the organization. Overall, there are more than **2,600 English Learners** across all schools.

**60+ COUNTRIES**

**40+ LANGUAGES**

**2,600+ EL STUDENTS**



## Support for Newcomers

The International School at Residence Park welcomes PreK-12th grade students who are new to the United States. The school is equipped with knowledgeable staff and multiple translators on-site.

With a focus on learning English, American customs, and the American education system, the International School is designed to help students smoothly transition into American life and succeed in their academics. Once students have a sufficient grasp of the English language, they transfer to their home school.

# Student & School Awards

Individual schools, students, and the District have received multiple awards and recognitions for their work. Learn about student and school awards here, and District-level awards on pages 17 and 18.



## POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

### Silver Award

Ruskin Elementary

*Ruskin is the first school in the District to be awarded a Silver award for its PBIS implementation. Schools that achieve a Silver Award have met all criteria for the Bronze Award, and have also included additional supports for students, have shown a 1% decrease in poor student behavior, along with improvements in Restraint and Seclusion data and Chronic Absenteeism.*

### Bronze Award

Belle Haven Elementary  
Eastmont Elementary  
Edwin Joel Brown Middle School  
Fairview Elementary  
Kemp Elementary  
Kiser Elementary  
Louise Troy Elementary  
Westwood Elementary  
Wogaman Middle School

*Bronze Award winners have shown commitment through a Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) score of 70% or higher, have a walkthrough tool, and staff and students can articulate PBIS expectations. In addition, 90% of staff give acknowledgments, and at least 50% of students receive them, along with other items.*



## CAREER-TECH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional Competition

#### David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center

Human Resource Management, 1st Place  
Business Law and Ethics, 1st Place  
Banking and Finance, 1st Place  
Intermediate Word Processing, 1st Place & 2nd Place  
Fundamentals of Word, 1st Place & 3rd Place  
Payroll Accounting, 3rd Place

**Business Professionals of America (BPA)  
State Competition**

**David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center**  
Fundamentals of Word, Top 10

**Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)  
Regional Conference**

**Meadowdale Career Technology Center**

Phlebotomy, Top 10  
First Aid CPR, Top 10  
Clinical Nursing, Top 10  
Creative Problem Solving, 4th Place  
Medical Terminology, 2nd Place & Top 10

**David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center**

Dental Terminology, 1st Place & 4th Place  
Medical Spelling, 1st Place & 3rd Place  
Family Medical Physician, 2nd Place  
Personal Care, 3rd Place  
Nursing Assisting, 3rd Place  
Pharmacy Science, 2nd Place, 3rd Place & 4th Place  
Extemporaneous Writing, 1st Place  
Interviewing Skills, 1st Place  
Job Seeking Skills, 3rd Place  
Creative Problem Solving, 2nd Place

**Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)  
State Leadership Conference**

**Meadowdale Career Technology Center**

Creative Problem Solving, 3rd Place

**David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center**

Interviewing Skills, 1st Place  
Pharmacy Science, 8th Place

**TechPrep Showcase**

**Meadowdale Career Technology Center**

Manufacturing Operations, 1st Place  
Network Systems, 1st Place  
Podcasting, 2nd Place

**David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center**

Visual Design and Imaging, Best in Show, 1st Place & 2nd Place  
Podcasting, 1st Place  
Allied Health and Nursing, 1st Place & 2nd Place  
Cosmetology, 1st Place & 2nd Place

# Education in Action





# Meet the Board of Education

The Board of Education includes seven members who approve policies and recommendations from the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Business Manager. Recommendations might include District purchases, contracts, and formal partnerships.



**William Smith**

*Term expires: 2028*



**Karen Wick**

*Term expires: 2026*



**Chrisondra Goodwine, J.D.**

*Term expires: 2026*



**William Bailey, Ph.D.**

*Term expires: 2028*



**Joseph Lacey**

*Term expires: 2026*



**Jocelyn Rhynard**

*Term expires: 2026*



**Eric Walker**

*Term expires: 2028*



Scan to read more about  
each Board Member.



# Preparing All Students for their Futures

Dayton Public Schools provides several transition programs for students with special needs. These programs prepare students for careers and life after high school by providing hands-on training.

## Adult Transition Unit (ATU)

ATU is a workforce development vocational training program for students with disabilities in grades 9-12 and 23. Goodwill Industries houses ATU Goodwill at 660 South Main Street. Students in this program have met all of their graduation requirements and are adult workers who volunteer three days a week at Sinclair Community College, the University of Dayton, and Gospel Mission. The student workers learn work skills and soft skills for future employment.

ATU Goodwill students work with on-site Job Developers who assess their skills and help students find a job once they finish the program. It is expected that students spend one year in the program before entering the workforce. The program follows the DPS calendar.

## Project Search

Project Search is a unique, business-led, one-year, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at Kettering Health Dayton.

The program provides real-life work experience, combined with training in employability and independent living skills, to help young adults with disabilities in their last year of high school successfully transition from school to a productive adult life. The interns participate in unpaid work rotations throughout the year with guided support from job skill trainers. Adult support fades as the student becomes more independent.

These rotations allow the intern to participate in a variety of training experiences on-site at departments located within Kettering Health. The ultimate goal, upon program completion, is to gain competitive employment utilizing the skills learned during the internships.

## Project Life

Project Life is a post-high school transition unit for students with disabilities. Students on IEPs can choose to defer their diploma and continue to receive services until their 22nd birthday.

In Project Life, students, called interns, learn employability skills and then put those skills into practice through several work-based learning experiences in the community. Current partners include Woodman Bowl, the Learning Tree Farm, Boonshoft Museum, Innovative Plastics Molders, and Dayton Metro Parks.



# A Message from the Treasurer



**Hiwot Abraha**

*Treasurer/CFO*

“We are committed to aligning our resources to educational priorities while ensuring financial stability.”

We continue to expand our learning opportunities to prepare our students to meet the demands of life after graduation, and we are committed to aligning our resources to educational priorities while ensuring financial stability.

- We continue to be good stewards of our residents' tax dollars by operating a strategically aligned and efficient budget;
- We continue to monitor spending and prioritize dollars to enhance personalized student learning;
- We will prioritize as much as we can to put our resources toward instruction, pupil support, and instructional support;
- We will continue to provide financial transparency to our community through annual publications like the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Monthly Financial Reports.

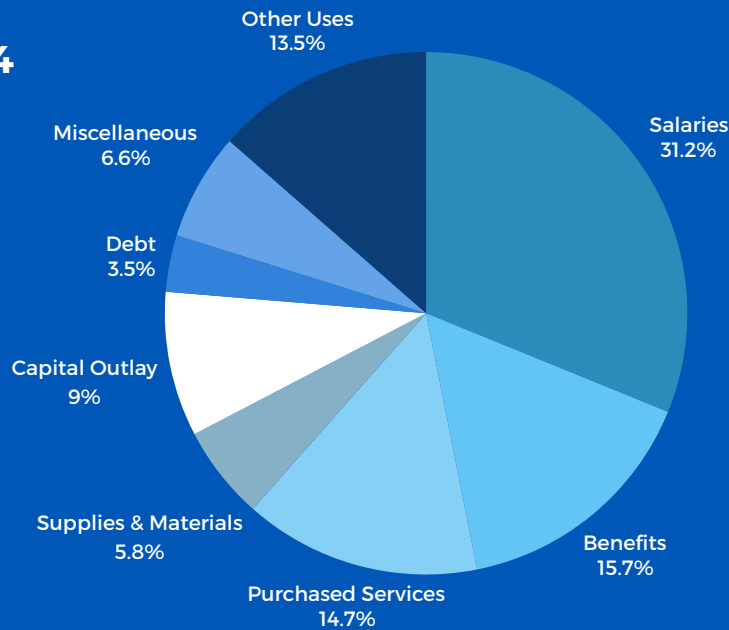
District awards include the following items:

1. **Auditor of State Award with Distinction;**  
Less than 5% of all government entities that are audited annually in Ohio earn the Auditor of State Award with Distinction and our district has received this honor for the last three years. To receive the award, the District must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Completed an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report within six months of fiscal year end;
  - b. Had a “clean audit” with no findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or questioned costs; and
  - c. Had no other financial concerns.
2. **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)**
3. **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)**

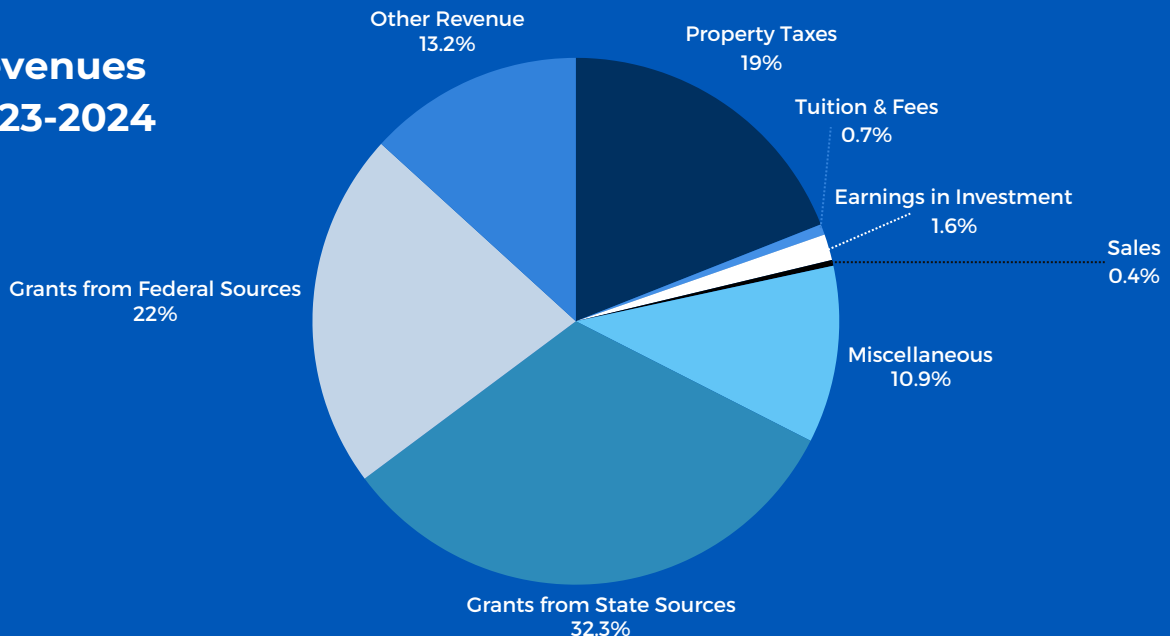
# Fiscal Responsibility

Dayton Public Schools is committed to financial transparency and fiscal responsibility. On average, the District spends **\$14,843 per student**, which is more than \$2,400 higher than average in the state of Ohio. DPS places critical importance on adequately funding each child's education and being responsible with all funds.

## Expenses 2023-2024



## Revenues 2023-2024



# Make a Difference at Dayton Public Schools

Dayton Public Schools is committed to hiring the best employees to educate and support students. Join a team dedicated to empowering the next generation and making a lasting impact on our community.

## Questions? Contact the Human Resources Department

Phone: (937) 542-3126

Email: [dpshr@daytonpublic.com](mailto:dpshr@daytonpublic.com)

Scan to view open positions and apply!



## Positions Available Now

*Bus drivers, clericals, skilled trades, nutrition services, coaches, teachers, administrators, and more!*

## Excellent Benefits for All

- Medical, dental & vision insurance
- Employer-paid life insurance
- Pension retirement system
- Paid time off, holidays & more!



## Make an Impact

*Dayton Public Schools employees have the opportunity to positively influence the lives of students and help create a stronger community.*

# Focus on Professional Learning

The Dayton Public School District values professional learning and development. All staff members are adequately trained and receive ongoing training as employees.

The District opted to provide 10 Professional Development Days for teachers in the 2024-2025 school year — more than any other surrounding district — due to this commitment to providing students with the best educational experience possible.

Professional Development days are organized by the Curriculum Department, ensuring a wide array of offerings that allow teachers to choose training sessions that are best suited to their needs.



**10 Professional Development Days**



**Choose Sessions that Suit Your Needs**



**Stipends Offered for Select PD Sessions**



# District Awards



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

*Awards for 2023-2024*

### **Auditor of State Award with Distinction**

Less than 5% of all government entities that are audited annually in Ohio earn the Auditor of State Award with Distinction and our district has received this honor for the last three years. To receive the award, the District must meet the following criteria:

- Completed an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report within six months of fiscal year end;
- Had a “clean audit” with no findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, single audit findings or questioned costs; and
- Had no other financial concerns.

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

Awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

### **Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting**

Awarded by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)





## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

*Awards for 2023-2024*

### **National School Public Relations Association**

Award of Excellence, News Release - Board of Education selects Dr. David Lawrence as Superintendent  
Award of Excellence, E-Newsletter (external) - DPS Connection Newsletter  
Award of Excellence, Newsletter (printed) - Community Connection Newsletter  
Award of Excellence, Calendar - DPS Monthly Calendar  
Award of Excellence, Video - Edwin Joel Brown Middle School Spotlight  
Award of Excellence, Writing - From Classroom to Cosmos: Challenger Learning Center Provides Hands-On Math and Science Education  
Award of Excellence, Marketing Materials - Thurgood Marshall STEM High School Postcard  
Award of Excellence, Marketing Materials - International School at Residence Park Montessori Postcard  
Award of Merit, E-Newsletter (internal) - PIO News Briefs (weekly staff newsletter)  
Award of Merit, Handbook - DPS Communication Manual  
Award of Merit, Social Media Campaign - Black History Month  
Award of Merit, Video - Stivers Teacher Publishes Book with Stories from 51-Year Career  
Award of Merit, Video - Mr. C Visits Dayton Public Schools  
Award of Merit, Video - Building our Future - We Are DPS

### **Ohio School Public Relations Association**

**Best of the Best, Video\*** - Building Our Future - We Are DPS  
**Best of the Best, Podcast\*** - DPS: The Next Level Podcast  
Mark of Distinction, Video - Edwin Joel Brown Middle School Spotlight  
Mark of Distinction, Video - Mr. C Visits Dayton Public Schools  
Mark of Distinction, Video - Stivers Teacher Publishes Book with Stories From 51-Year Career  
Mark of Distinction, Calendar - DPS Monthly Calendar  
Mark of Distinction, Marketing Materials - Thurgood Marshall STEM High School Postcard  
Mark of Distinction, Social Media - Dayton Public Schools Facebook Page  
Mark of Distinction, Special Purpose Publication - Community Connection Newsletter  
Mark of Distinction, Special Purpose Publication - DPS Communication Manual  
Mark of Excellence, E-Newsletter (external) - DPS Connection Newsletter  
Mark of Excellence, E-Newsletter (internal) - PIO News Briefs (weekly staff newsletter)  
Mark of Excellence, Marketing Materials - International School at Residence Park Montessori Postcard

*\*Best of the Best designations are awarded to only one district in the state.*

# STAY CONNECTED



DaytonPublic.com



937-542-3000



infoedaytonpublic.com

## MISSION:

Inspire. Educate. Empower!

## VISION:

To inspire, educate and empower scholars for a lasting impact.

## PURPOSE:

To cultivate a supportive and engaging educational experience.

## Enroll Your Student Today!



Scan to learn more and start the enrollment process!

## 5 Core Values of Dayton Public Schools



Culture  
Customer Service  
Communication  
Collaboration  
Commitment



DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS