



RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN

2026 - 2030

Leadership

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lori Krenisky
Board President

Belinda Grassi
Vice President

MEMBERS

Joseph Audino

Denise Brewster

Jimmielee Vires

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr. Christopher J. Rateno, Superintendent

Dr. Stephen Thompson, Treasurer/CFO

Dr. Melissa Mlakar, Assistant Superintendent
(through July 2026)

David Leone, Assistant Superintendent (starting
August 2026)

Mallory Aliff, Human Resources Director

Nick Carrabine, Director of Marketing and
Communications

Michael Patrizi, Assistant Treasurer

Camille Ritt, Executive Director of Student Services



Strategic Plan Engagement Process

2

SWOT ANALYSES

Board of Education and District Leadership Team

23

FOCUS GROUPS

8 Elementary, Middle, and High School Students
11 Staff
4 Parent and Community

5

1:1 INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

SURVEYS

536 Parent and Community Responses
149 Staff Member Responses



WITH GRATITUDE

Riverside Schools extends sincere gratitude to the many students, staff, families, community members, local leaders, district administrators, principals, and Board of Education members who contributed their time, voices, and perspectives to the development of the district's new strategic plan.

This comprehensive, community-driven process was made stronger by the thoughtful participation of our school community. Through focus groups, interviews, surveys, and collaborative SWOT analysis sessions, participants shared honest feedback, meaningful experiences, and important aspirations for the future of Riverside Schools.

The input gathered throughout this process has provided a strong foundation for a strategic plan that reflects our shared values, collective goals, and commitment to continuous improvement. Together, we are building a plan that honors the voices of our community and supports the future success of every student.

Thank you to all who participated and helped shape the future direction of Riverside Schools.

Sincerely,

The Riverside Leadership Team and Board of Education



Mission & Vision



MISSION

Educating Excellence

VISION

*One Community, Pursuing Greatness,
and Getting Better Every Day*

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Riverside Community,

It is with tremendous pride and gratitude that I share this Strategic Plan, created through the joint effort of our students, staff, families, Board, and community members. From classroom conversations with students to candid feedback from staff and thoughtful input from families and residents, your voices, ideas, and hopes are woven into every page of this plan.

A strategic plan is more than a document; it is a dynamic tool we will use to build a successful future together. It will serve as a reference for decision-making to ensure we stay true to our mission, and as a guidepost for navigating change and uncertainty.

As part of this work, we also took a fresh look at our mission and vision statements to make sure they truly reflect who we are and where we are headed. Our new mission, *Educating Excellence*, is the belief that every student deserves our full commitment, every day. We will achieve this mission by living our vision, *One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day*, working together as one team, holding high expectations for ourselves, and refusing to settle for the status quo.

This process has reaffirmed what I have always known: this community is deeply committed to the success of our students, and for that, I am truly grateful. I am proud of how far we have come and am eager to move forward with purpose. Thank you for believing in Riverside, for engaging in this process, and for continuing to walk alongside us as we pursue greatness together.

With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead,

Dr. Christopher Rateno
Superintendent



STRATEGIC GOALS

2026 - 2030



GOAL 1:

Student Learning

Prepare every Riverside student for their success through high-quality personalized learning, meaningful relationships, and a strong sense of belonging.



GOAL 2:

High Quality Staff

Empower and invest in a thriving, dedicated staff through meaningful professional growth and a supportive workplace culture.



GOAL 3:

Facilities

Develop and maintain modern, equitable facilities that inspire community pride and meet the evolving needs of our learners.



GOAL 4:

Community Engagement

Increase community engagement through clear, collaborative communication.



GOAL 5:

Financial Stewardship

Strengthen Riverside's long-term sustainability through fiscal stewardship, community engagement, community partnerships, and proactive advocacy.

We are **RIVERSIDE!**

One Community, Pursuing Greatness, and Getting Better Every Day



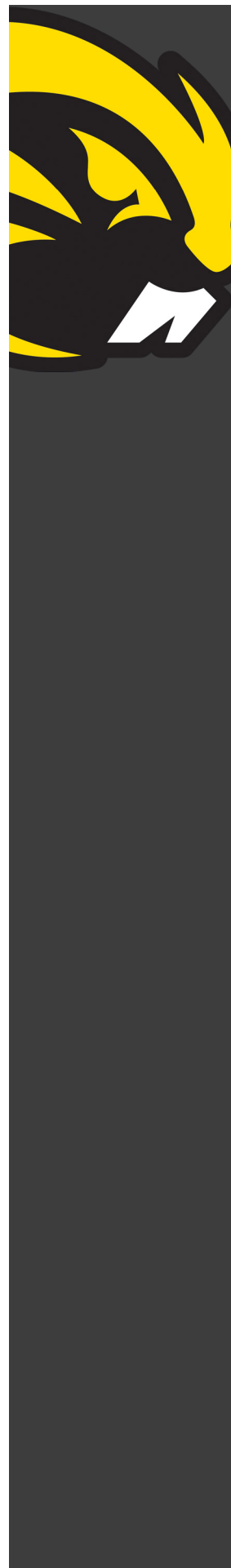


Goal 1

STUDENT LEARNING

Prepare every Riverside student for success.

**The school leadership team will establish measurable KPIs and progress monitoring for each objective to track and communicate progress.*





Goal 2

HIGH QUALITY STAFF

Empower and invest in a thriving, dedicated staff through meaningful professional growth and a supportive workplace culture.

**The school leadership team will establish measurable KPIs and progress monitoring for each objective to track and communicate progress.*





Goal 3

FACILITIES

Develop and maintain modern, equitable facilities that inspire community pride and meet the evolving needs of our learners.

**The school leadership team will establish measurable KPIs and progress monitoring for each objective to track and communicate progress.*





Goal 4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Increase community engagement through clear, collaborative communication.

**The school leadership team will establish measurable KPIs and progress monitoring for each objective to track and communicate progress.*





Goal 5

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Strengthen Riverside's long-term sustainability through fiscal stewardship, community engagement, community partnerships, and proactive advocacy.

**The school leadership team will establish measurable KPIs and progress monitoring for each objective to track and communicate progress.*





RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOLS

585 Riverside Drive
Painesville, Ohio 44077
440.352.0668

www.riversidelocalschools.com

Prepared By:

