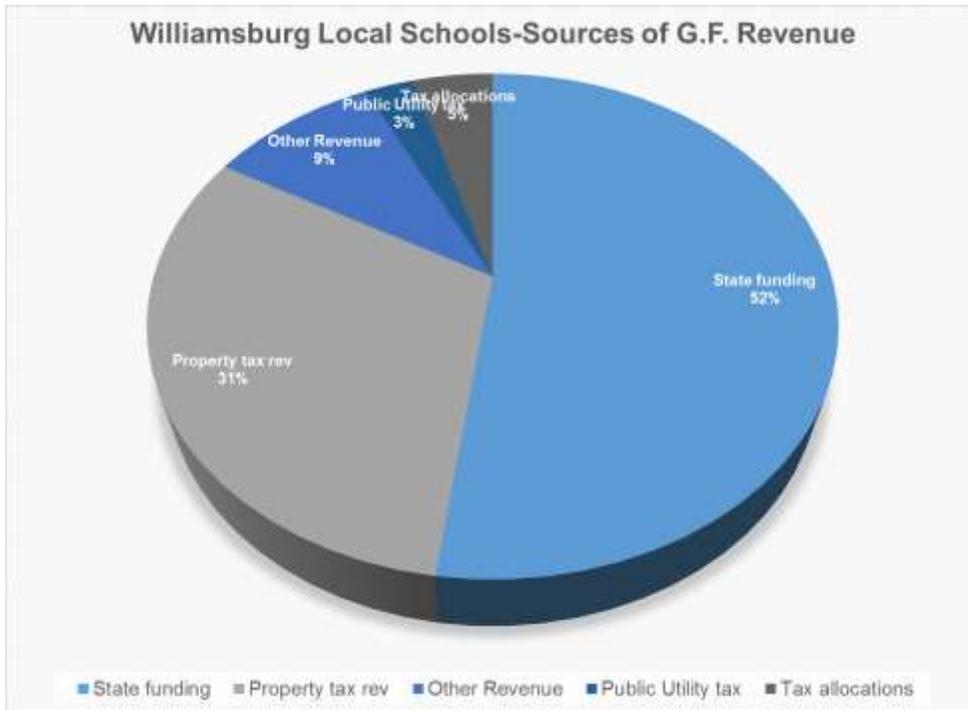


Financial Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Williamsburg Local Schools

- Where does Williamsburg Local School's revenue come from?

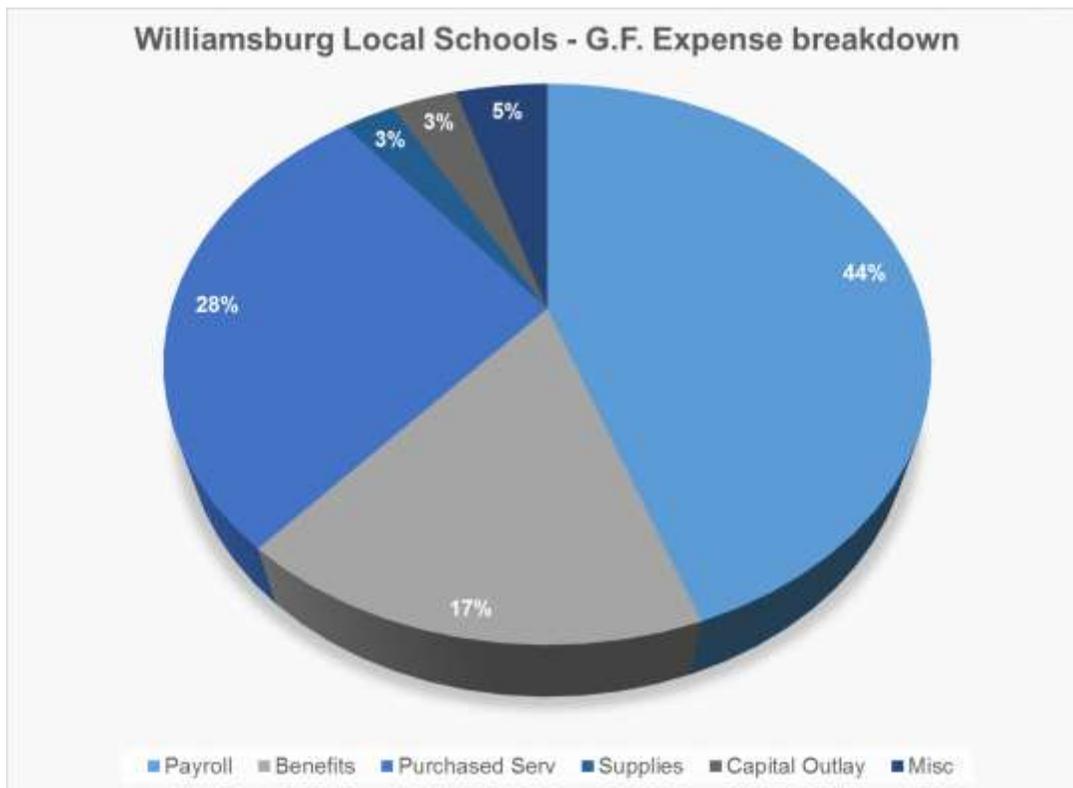
In Ohio, funding of public schools is a shared state and local partnership. The level of support is largely dependent upon the value of the local property tax base. In school year 2015-2016, Williamsburg's operating revenue for the general fund was \$10,357,789. The local residential and business taxpayer make up 31% of the district's general fund revenue. Another major source of revenue is State funding (based on student counts) at 52% of total revenue. Utility businesses in the district pay public utility taxes at 3% of our total revenue. The State of Ohio also gives us tax allocations (reimbursement for forgiven property tax revenue like homestead and rollback) at 5% of total general fund revenue. The remaining 9% of revenue is reimbursements for student placements (like open enrollment funding) from other districts, interest income, building rental fees and miscellaneous refunds.



- Where does Williamsburg's money go?

Williamsburg's money goes to fund the general operations of the school district. In the 2015-2016 school year, the general fund expenses were \$9,834,538. Of that, 62% of the general fund is spent on payroll and benefits. Education is a service related industry and our employees are our greatest asset.

The next largest category is purchased services at 28%. That category consists of utilities, repairs, contracted services for special education students, and the costs of school choice like community schools. Supplies at 3% consists of not only pencils and paper, but fuel for the buses, parts for repairs, software and textbooks. Capital outlay (purchase of equipment or major repair of buildings) comes to 3% also. Remaining costs at 4% go for audit costs, banking costs, debt payments, and advances out to other funds.



- Does the district have long range planning?

The district has a five year forecast that can be found on the Treasurer's web page along with detailed notes. The district is required to file a 5 year forecast every October and update it every May. The 5 Year Forecast allows the State to anticipate the current and future financial status of all of the public school districts. Williamsburg has a working forecast that ties back to actual budgets which are adhered to in order to preserve our financial status.

- When does our tax revenue increase?

New revenue is generated for Williamsburg schools whenever a new house or business is built in district. During the recession, Williamsburg Schools averaged less than ½ of 1% growth in new construction valuations. Since 2015, we have seen about 1.5% growth each year in new construction. That growth equates to less than \$10,000 per year in new revenue.

The county auditor completes a re-evaluation of property values every 3 years and taxes are adjusted in January of the following year. In Clermont County the next re-evaluation will occur in 2017 with tax bills adjusted in January 2018. Ohio law (HB 920) does not allow schools to receive additional monies from existing voted levies when the county auditor reevaluates property (inflationary growth). Some residents will see increases in their taxes and some residents will see a decrease. The district will see a property tax revenue increase only if there is new construction, reclassifications of property from exempt or abated to non-exempt or no longer abated.

- What is the rollback that is on my tax bill?

The property tax rollback is a reduction in the taxes charged against land and dwellings. The percentage equals 10% for land and dwellings and an additional 2.5% for owner-occupied residential property. The State reimburses public school districts for the amount of the rollback as mentioned in the questions about "where does the money come from". Another credit that may be on your tax bill is the Homestead (reduction). If the residential property owners meet certain age requirements they may apply for the credit between the first Monday in January and the first Monday in June of each year. The Clermont County Auditor website www.clermontauditor.org provides more detailed information on how to apply for this credit. The 2014-2015 Ohio biennium budget approved by Governor Kasich included language that changes the property tax Rollback and Homestead Exemption. Beginning in 2014 there will be an income limitation for the Homestead Exemption. If your income exceeds \$30,000, then you will not qualify for the Homestead Exemption. The income test will be determined by Ohio adjusted gross income, as defined on the Ohio income tax return. Note that this amount does not include taxable social security benefits from the federal return. Any homeowner that was eligible for the Homestead Exemption prior to 2014 will continue to receive the Homestead Exemption with no change in calculation. Effective 2014, the property tax Rollback reduction will no longer be allowed on any new operating levies approved by the community. All Rollback reductions will continue for operating levies approved prior to September, 2013.

- What does Williamsburg do to guarantee to the community that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently? Below are a few examples of district savings:

Medical insurance costs – Williamsburg Schools is a member of Clermont County Insurance Consortium (CCIC) and it provides all insurance products for our staff. CCIC has voted to join EPC, another education insurance consortium, and will be operating as a consortium within a consortium. It is CCIC's hopes that being part of a much larger consortium will stabilize our insurance premium rates and provide security to protect the value of our insurance products.

Transportation costs – Williamsburg Schools “Shares Services” with Batavia schools for transportation. Batavia’s transportation director supervises our bus drivers, coordinates our routes, and completes our transportation reporting. Batavia’s mechanics repair Williamsburg buses. Williamsburg and Batavia share sub bus drivers for efficiency. Williamsburg has seen great savings in shared services with Batavia and have avoided large potential costs like building a bus repair building and buying expensive tools.

Preschool – Williamsburg schools have recently doubled the size of our preschool. We were able to do so by sharing services with Child Focus, a nationally recognized preschool service. By doubling our preschool, we are seeing more students entering kindergarten ready to learn! In addition, our costs have declined on a per student basis!

The School District has seen over 25% savings in the past six years for electric usage from browning out, updating old equipment, and negotiating lower rates with electric suppliers.

After years of subsidizing cafeteria revenues with general fund education dollars, Williamsburg schools made the difficult decision to contract with Milford Schools to run our cafeteria starting in FY17. Milford manages the entire department now. The district taxpayer does not contribute to funding the cafeteria as it is now breaking even soon to be profitable.

The School District has seen sharp increases in contracted special education costs. (purchased services). Starting in FY17, we have hired additional staff to provide a more targeted education to our special education students, at the same time reducing special education contracted costs by nearly 7%.

The Williamsburg Board of Education and administration remain committed to being fiscally responsible and continue to adjust budgets and look for reductions in costs. Williamsburg Schools continues to stay within budget and the five-year forecast shows a balanced budget for the current year and the subsequent two years. The two following years of the forecast are not balanced due an emergency levy falling off the books. It is our plan, at this time, to renew the emergency levy.