



Octorara Area School District



Measuring Success in the Home of the Braves

Annual
Report

2021-22

“Maximizing Every Learner’s
Opportunities for Success”



Welcome to the Octorara Area School District's Annual Report

2021-22

Octorara Area School District

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Annual Report

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Celebrating Success in the **FACE OF CHALLENGES**

Message from the Board of School Directors

The Octorara Area School District 2021-22 Annual Report reflects successes across the many educational and extracurricular opportunities that our community provides for our students. We take pride in our District, our programs and our student achievement. With the unprecedented challenges that our students, teachers and administration have faced over the past two years, we know that significant work lies ahead to restore the level and pace of student learning and engagement. In meeting these past challenges, our District has built new capabilities that we can now leverage to advance opportunities for our students.

We're well equipped with resources, staff and facilities, and we are excited for the future of our students and our community.



2021-22 Board Members



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Brian Fox | President |
| Samuel Ganow | Vice-President |
| R. Matthew Hurley | Treasurer |
| Lisa Bowman | |
| Anthony Falgiatore | |
| Charles Koennecker, Jr. | |
| Brian Norris | |
| Lisa Yelovich | |
| Jere Zimmerman | |



Measuring Success in the **HOME OF THE BRAVES**

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Octorara School Community,

On behalf of the students, board of directors and staff, I am proud to present "Measuring Success in the Home of the Braves," the Octorara Area School District's 2021-22 Annual Report. While this publication contains many elements of a typical annual report, it also celebrates the District's progress toward realizing its vision of "maximizing every learner's opportunities for success."



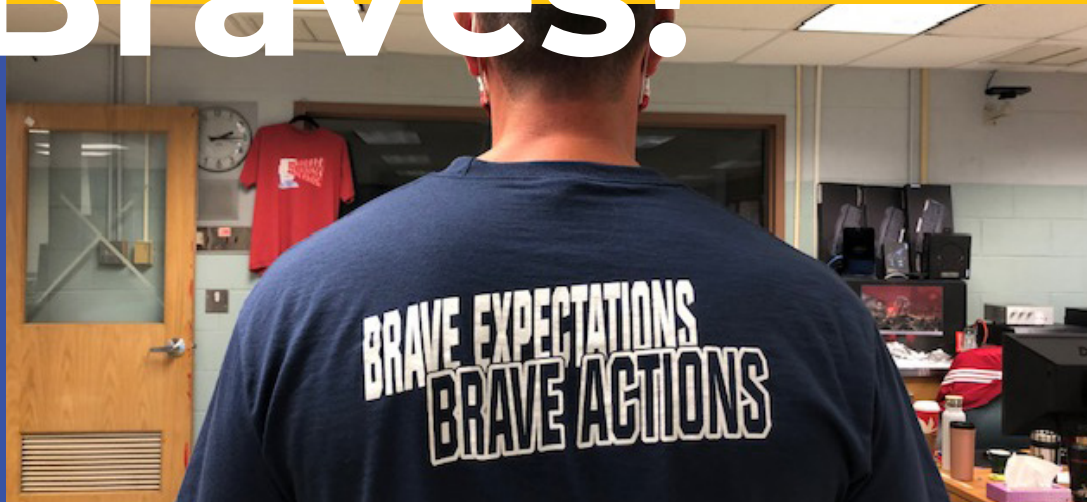
The 2021-22 school year ushered in a more normal experience for all of us in spite of the stress that came with almost two years of pandemic isolation. As the school year progressed, we learned how important it was for our students to be physically present in school every day. There is certainly no substitute for in-person learning to develop friendships, cultivate interests and achieve goals. With this in mind, the District leveraged its Health and Safety Plan to restore routine and structure, provide mental health and behavior support, and focus on the academic and social-emotional growth of each individual student. In doing so, we ensured that every student acquired the skills necessary to achieve their career goals as **bold, responsible, ambitious, virtuous, energetic** and **selfless** members of society.

I am excited to share this publication, as it reflects the culture of high expectations that exists in the Octorara Area School District. Under the guidance of a talented, hardworking and caring staff, our resilient students continued to excel in academics, arts and athletics, while also committing their time and energy to making their school community a better place.

Thank you for your continued support of the Octorara Area School District. Go Braves!

Michele M. Orner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Go Braves!



About the

OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Octorara Area School District (OASD) is a rural, public school district located in Chester and Lancaster counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. Known as the Home of the Braves, the District was founded in 1956 and serves students from Atglen Borough, Christiana Borough, Sadsbury Township, Parkesburg Borough, Highland Township, Londonderry Township, West Fallowfield Township and West Sadsbury Township. Octorara covers 79.9 square miles and is centrally located within 30 miles of Lancaster, Reading and Wilmington, Delaware.

The Octorara Area School District's educational program is offered on one campus and organized into four age appropriate levels: Octorara Primary Learning Center (grades K-2), Octorara Elementary School (grades 3-4), Octorara Intermediate School (grades 5-6) and Octorara Junior-Senior High School (grades 7-12). High school students can participate in dual enrollment classes, take advanced placement courses, attend the Technical College High School (TCHS) for career training, or participate in one of the District's 11 approved in-house career and technical education programs. The District also operates a virtual academy and offers a wide variety of art, music, athletic and extracurricular opportunities.

Nearly 2,100 students are enrolled in the Octorara Area School District. Students are recognized for their outstanding achievement in academics, music, athletics and the arts. The District is committed to preparing students for life after high school by supporting every learner's academic, technical and social-emotional growth for students.

2021-22 District Statistics



79.9 miles
District Size Square Miles



18,408
District Population



Millage Rate:



40.82
Chester County



25.55
Lancaster County

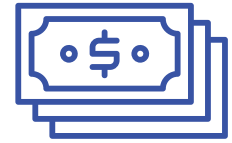
2021-
22

District Statistics



8 Municipalities Served

\$58,096,796
Budgeted Expenses



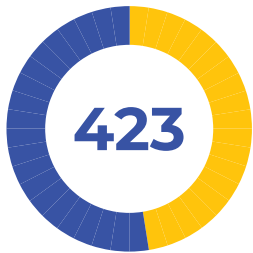
57.64%
Personnel and Benefits as % of Budget



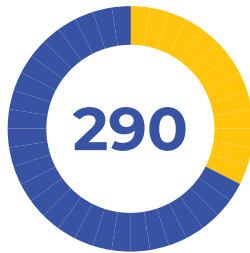
4+ Maintenance Facility and Storage Garage
Buildings

Total Enrollment (as of June 30, 2022)

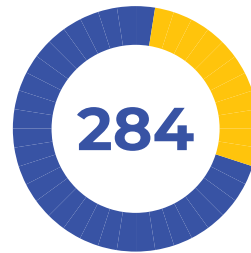
2,089



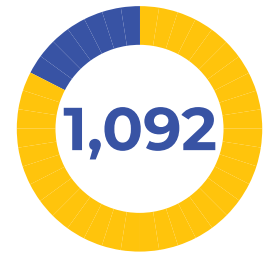
Octorara Primary Learning Center



Octorara Elementary School

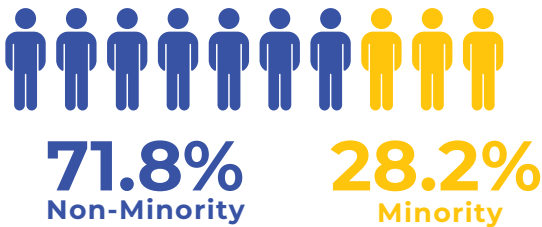


Octorara Intermediate School



Octorara Junior-Senior High School

Ethnic Composition of Enrollment



15.4%
Special Education Enrollment



4%
Gifted Enrollment



44.1%
Economically Disadvantaged

Participation in Career and Technical Education



173
Octorara Programs



73
Chester County Technical College High School



STAFF OVERVIEW

Administrative Staff: 17

Professional Staff: 166

Support Staff: 106

Contracted Staff: 29

Custodial Staff: 6

Maintenance Staff: 4



PROFESSIONAL STAFF OVERVIEW

Average Experience: 14.75 years

Starting Salary: \$53,267

Average Salary: \$73,434

Level of Teacher Education:

Bachelor's Degree - 25

Master's Degree - 137

Doctorate Degree - 4

Professional Staff with Emergency Certification - 8

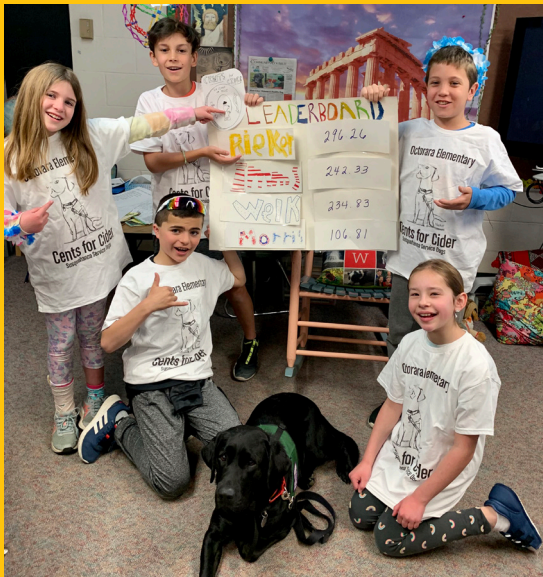
Student SUCCESS

Focusing on student success to establish a culture of high expectations in the Octorara school community.

GOAL: The Octorara Area School District will use assessment data, standards-aligned curricula, intervention strategies, instructional delivery methods and educational technology to improve the academic, technical, social and emotional achievement levels of all students.

2021-22 Highlights

Octorara welcomed Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD) **Cider** to the Home of the Braves. Although his homebase is Octorara Elementary School, he welcomed every opportunity to visit with all K-12 students. The District's long-term goal is to have a service animal available in every school.



The District's **girls volleyball team** and the **boys track and field team** each earned their first Lancaster-Lebanon (LL) League Section 3 championship. Three students signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the college level: **Mike Trainor** committed to Shippensburg University for wrestling, **Kayden King** committed

to Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology for football and **Emma Milligan**, who also was presented with the E. Gene Davis Award, committed to Allegheny College for soccer.

The 2022 Octorara Athlete of the Year Award was well deserved by **Mike Trainor** and **Devon Carroll**. Mike competed in football, wrestling and track and field. Mike's accomplishments in wrestling earned him a PIAA State Championship qualification. Devon's impressive athletics seasons earned an achievement of her letters in basketball, field hockey and cross country.



2021-22 Highlights Continued

The E. Jerry Brooks Academic Excellence Award was given by the District to four student athletes who maintained a 3.8 GPA and participated in two varsity sports during their senior year. **Chase Decker, Devon Carroll, Kieran Lomboy** and **Mike Trainor** were the award recipients for the Class of 2022.



Elijah Hamilton was selected as a class 5A Second Team All-State basketball player. Additionally, Elijah was chosen as a First Team Section 4 All-Star and Lancaster-Lebanon League Section MVP.

Stephanie Pepe and **Anna Rainelli** were each recognized for girls volleyball as Second Team All-Stars members, along with **Seneca McCaw** selected for the Lancaster-Lebanon League First Team.



The Positive Action curriculum continued to serve as the foundation for grades K-6 during Braves Time. OASD maintained its certification as a Common Sense Media school district. Digital citizenship was instructed to all students by utilizing the Common Sense Media program.

Octorara's students displayed their art in a professional gallery sponsored by the Chester County Art Association. Senior **Serenity Shoemaker** was awarded an honorable mention for her work.



Professional development, in the form of a math workshop, continued with the support of a math coach provided by the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU). Many of the District's teachers continued to improve their instructional technology skills by using a challenge-based coaching model led by **Dr. Chris Shultz**, K-12 technology integration specialist.

The District's leadership team participated in an executive coaching program called 'Leadership Under Fire' guided by **Dr. Mike McGough**. Administrators also worked with the National Center for Education and Economy to apply the design principles of Systems Design Benchmarking to the district's Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programs. This collaborative effort will be extended to teachers and principals during the 2022-23 school year.



2021-22 Highlights Continued

Students participated in the Special Olympics hosted at Coatesville High School. Octorara Area High School senior, **Gianna Belmonte**, designed the t-shirt that was worn by the participants of the Special Olympics event.

Octorara Intermediate School and Octorara Junior-Senior High School students excelled in the STEM competitions sponsored by the Chester County Intermediate Unit.



The Octorara Virtual Academy (OVA), in partnership with Lancaster Lebanon Virtual Solutions, continued to provide personalized education opportunities so K-12 students could own their futures. **Mr. Peticca** and **Mrs. Agen** presented at CAOLA's statewide conference.

The District's bus contractor, Althouse Transportation was awarded the "Bus Stops Here" award at the annual Pennsylvania School Bus Association Convention at Seven Springs Resort. The award is presented to an individual who has had a significant impact on the school bus industry. **Larry Althouse** is one of only 10 school bus contractors to have ever received this recognition.

OASD became a member of the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century learning community. The program provided funding to support

academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities, in addition to the District's after-school and summer programs.

Students participated in the first-ever Octorara Area Career and Technical Education Program (OACTEP) signing day, confirming their intent to either continue their education at a college or trade school, or to join the workforce.



The Octorara Primary Learning Center welcomed its new mascot. Appropriately named **Oliver Phillip Love Cuddles** by student **Emmeline Wagner**, he is often referred to by his nickname, **Opie**.



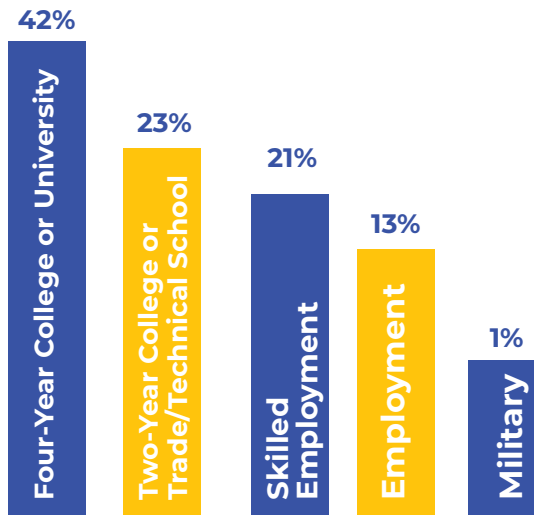
Octorara's Esports Team earned the title of Spring Champions from the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League.

Kieran Lomboy and **Taylor Strayer** qualified for PMEA District 12 Chorus.

Lenfest Scholarship winners included **Johanna Cupp**, **Christina Keating**, **Kieran Lomboy**, and **Carly Maxwell**.

Class of 2022 PROFILE

Total Graduates
173



Post-Graduation Plans for Class of 2022



57

Senior Awards Night Recipients

Class of 2022 Distinguished Accomplishments



35

Seniors who Participated in Dual Enrollment



14

Seniors who Participated in Work-Based Learning

Notable College Destinations for Class of 2022



Berklee School of Music



Bucknell University



Columbia University



Franklin Pierce University



Iowa State University



Ithaca College



James Madison University



Lehigh University



Morgan State University



PA College of Health Sciences



Penn State University



St. Joseph's University



Syracuse University



Temple University



Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology



The Ohio State University



University of Delaware



University of Rhode Island



University of Rochester



Virginia Tech

Participation in

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND HONORS COURSES

The Octorara Area School District offers opportunities for students to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Through Advanced Placement, students can earn college credits by succeeding in subject-specific AP exams.

Advanced Placement: SAT and ACT Overview



**Number of AP
Courses Offered**



**Number of Students
Enrolled in AP Courses**



Average SAT Score



Average ACT Score

Braves are Career Ready and **FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE**

During the 2021-22 school year, 173 students in grades 10-12 participated in the Octorara Area Career and Technical Education Program (OACTEP). Over 70 students also attended the Chester County Intermediate Unit's (CCIU) Technical College High School (TCHS) for programs not offered at Octorara Junior-Senior High School.

Courses offered by OACTEP and TCHS allow students to combine both college preparation and real-world workforce skills development into one customized education program. Students explored and prepared for careers in business, woodworking, construction, engineering, childhood education, graphic design and illustration, culinary and baking/pastry arts, law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical services, computer technology, animal science and plant science, agriculture, engine repair, welding, health careers, cosmetology and more. OACTEP has over 237 expert industry professionals to support employer engagement with students.



Industry Certifications, Scholarships and Awards

- ▶ 1,093 Industry Certifications Earned by OACTEP Students
- ▶ 24 OACTEP Seniors Received the PA Skills Certificate
- ▶ 4 OACTEP Seniors Received Scholarships
- ▶ 56 OACTEP Students Received Student of the Quarter Awards
- ▶ 4 OACTEP Students Received State FFA Keystone Degree
- ▶ 12 OACTEP Students Received FFA State Competition Awards
- ▶ 3 OACTEP Students Received Octorara Homeland Security (OHSPSA) Cadet of the Year Awards
- ▶ 3 OACTEP Seniors Participated in Dual Enrollment and Earned College Credits While in High School
- ▶ 2 OACTEP Students Participated in the Dutchland, Inc. Apprenticeship Program

The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) is an American certifying body that tests students enrolled in career and technical education programs on their abilities to perform the skills needed in a career.

- ▶ 83% of the OACTEP seniors received Competent or Advanced on the written portion of the NOCTI
- ▶ 92% of the OACTEP seniors received Competent or Advanced on the performance portion of the NOCTI

Community

ENGAGEMENT

Focusing on communication and engagement to promote a culture of high expectations in the Octorara Area School District school community.

GOAL: The Octorara Area School District will fully ensure that each member of the school community promotes, enhances and sustains a shared vision of positioning Octorara as a school of choice that meets the academic, technical, social and emotional needs of all students.

Food Service Fast Facts

Food is love at Octorara Area School District. By providing nutritious meals, OASD created a foundation of social and emotional well-being for students so they could focus on their educational goals.

During the 2021-22 school year, the OASD Food Service team served nearly 264,000 meals to students. Student lunch participation was 42.77% (up 5% from the 2017-18 school year) and breakfast was 29.5% (up 15.5% from the 2017-18 school year).

		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Participation Average	Lunch	876	822	739	445	903
Participation Average	Breakfast	324	320	400	388	623
Enrollment		2,313	2,272	2,258	2,145	2,110
Participation Percentage	Lunch	37.87%	36.16%	32.74%	20.75%	42.77%
Participation Percentage	Breakfast	14.01%	14.09%	17.72%	18.10%	29.51%

The OASD Food Service team served over 100,000 more meals during 2021-22 (on campus) than during the 2020-21 school year (off-site including “meal boxes”) and over 53,000 more meals since the 2017-18 school year.

Lunch	157,648	147,892	133,065	80,113	162,454
Breakfast	52,838	52,179	65,232	63,293	101,491
Total	210,486	200,071	198,297	143,406	263,945

Highlighted totals indicate that free meals were available to all students for part of the school

Although supply chain issues created obstacles in fulfilling requests from students, the OASD Food Service team, with input from student council, offered over 25 different main menu items during the 2021-22 school year. The most popular menu items included: pizza, breaded chicken sandwich, Italian medley, chicken nuggets, street tacos and orange chicken with rice. Uncrustables and fresh salads were students’ favorite alternatives.

Community Engagement (Continued)

OASD's **Countdown to Kindergarten program** offered a variety of school readiness programs to incoming Kindergarten students, their families and area preschool providers. The first annual **"Literacy Under the Lights"** was a huge success.



Proceeds from staff dress-down days, student-led food drives and the Agriculture program's high tunnel greenhouse all benefited the **Octorara Food Pantry**.



Partnerships with community centers and organizations including: **The Point**, located in Parkesburg; **the Garage**, located in Kennett Square and West Grove; and **Kacie's Cause**, supported students' social and emotional growth.

With support from the **Parkesburg Lions Club**, the 2021-22 school year marked the return of the Octorara Junior **Senior High School (OJSHS) Leo Club**. In addition to the service members provided to the school community and events sponsored by the Lions Club, Leo Club members taught environmental lessons to **Octorara Intermediate School (OIS)** students on Earth Day and collected plastic caps that were recycled into benches for the courtyard. The Parkesburg Lions Club also provided a buddy bench to the students at Octorara Elementary School (OES).

OASD often 'took the show on the road' during the 2021-22 school year. Community members visited the district's tent at **Parkesburg's Final Fridays** and **Atglen's Community Days**.

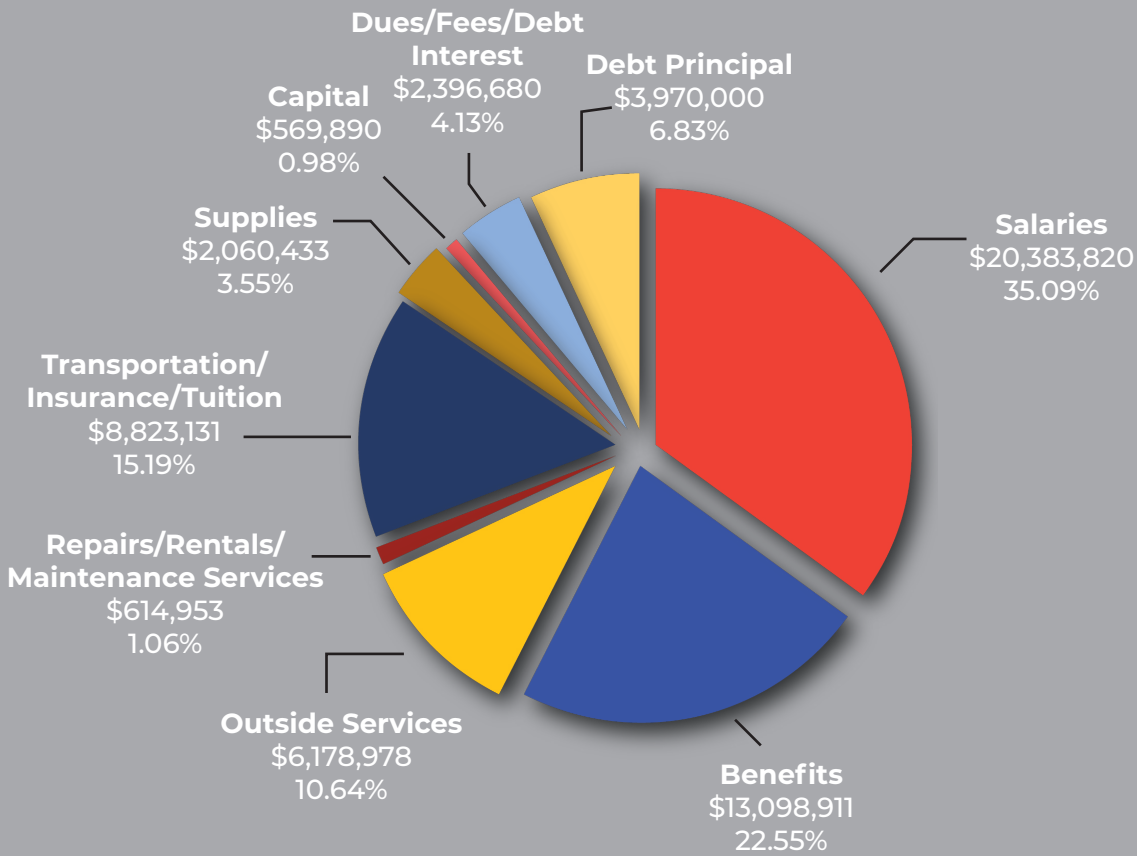


In 2022, the District had 17 students who earned the **"Heart of the Brave" award**. These individuals enthusiastically volunteered their time and talents to positively contribute to the OASD athletics program and their community.

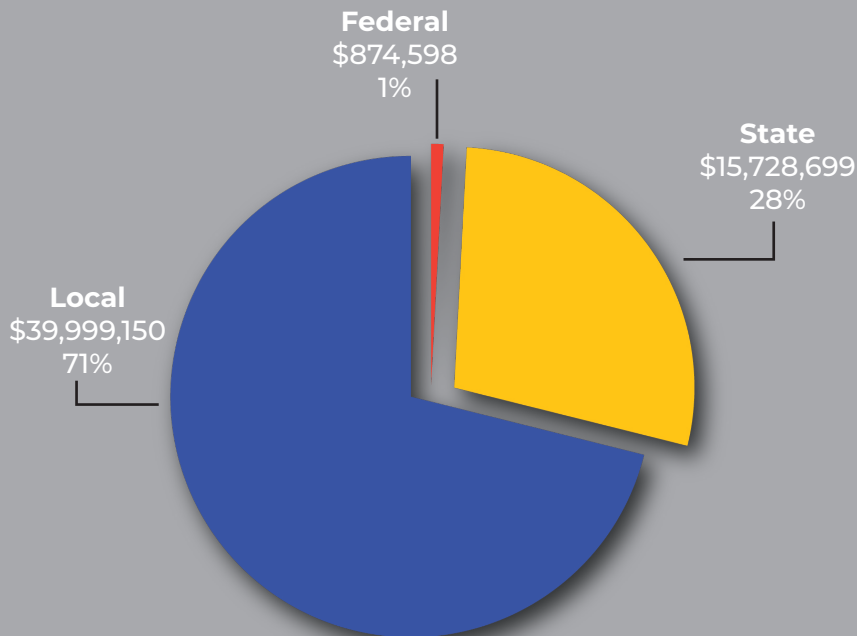


STEWARDSHIP

2021-22 Expenditures

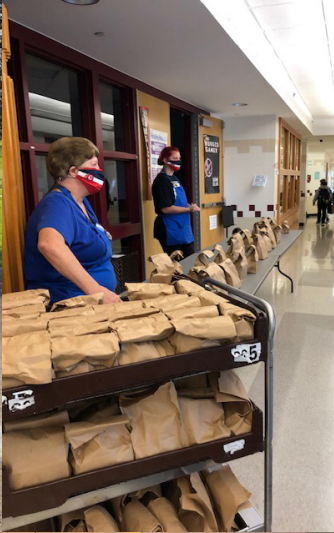


2021-22 District Revenue Breakdown



Octorara Area School District used ESSER funds to provide mental health services and behavioral support for K-12 students and their families. These positions included a social worker, a mental health therapist and two behavior coaches. Through a partnership with West Chester University, a social work intern provided assistance to families struggling with regular school attendance.







Octorara Area School District

2021-22

2021-22 District Administration

Dr. Michele M. Orner	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jeff Curtis	Business Manager
Mr. Matt Furlong	Assistant Business Manager
Mrs. Christine Marsala	Human Resource Supervisor
Dr. Elena Tachau	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Cale Hilbolt	Director of Student Services
Ms. Amanda Fraterman	Special Education Supervisor
Mr. Rob Czetli	Director of Technology
Dr. Chris Schultz	K-12 Technology Integration Specialist
Mr. Dorian Lobato	Director of Food Service

Octorara Junior-Senior High School

Dr. Jon Propper	Principal
Mr. Mark Peticca	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Melissa Andrews	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Lisa McNamara	Director of Career and Technical Education
Mr. Greg Fantazzi	Director of Athletics

Octorara Intermediate School

Dr. Christian Haller	Principal
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Octorara Elementary School

Mr. Brian Dikun	Principal
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Octorara Primary Learning Center

Mrs. Krista Lease	Principal
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Octorara Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex and handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights, grievance procedures, or services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Director of Student Services at the Octorara Area School District, 228 Highland Road, Atglen, Pennsylvania, 19310, tel. 610-593-8238, ext. 3519.