QUALITY PROFILE
2016-2017
Yellow Springs Schools have historically scored relatively well on mandated assessments, but the metrics, expectations for proficiency, and content for these tests continue to change from year to year. Constant changes make it impossible for public schools to demonstrate progress on these ever-shifting and questionable metrics and continue to be a source of frustration for students, schools, and families.

It is our belief that Ohio’s standardized tests do not represent current best practice and continue to rely on an antiquated assessment model that focuses on rote memorization and regurgitation of information instead of deeper learning and the socio-emotional skills needed for success beyond high school.

Yellow Springs Schools will continue to use forms of assessment and methods that allow our students to demonstrate mastery of academic content over a period of time and through critical thinking and application of skills.

In order to begin holding ourselves to a higher standard of accountability and one that better reflects the skills and knowledge kids need for success after high school, we have started creating our own holistic assessment of our schools. The Quality Profile is an annual report to the community with quantitative and qualitative data included and was first introduced in 2016. We think it better measures the values and priorities our community believes in and supports.

We hope you find this evaluation of Yellow Springs Schools to be an informative and comprehensive resource. Thanks for helping us chart a better course in public education.

Sincerely,

Mario Basora
Superintendent

Visit our website
Like our Facebook page
Subscribe to our e-newsletter
Follow us on Twitter
Make Sure Our Students Succeed
YSS will 1) raise the academic achievement of all students to ensure graduation from high school and success in careers or post-secondary education; 2) prepare students for their civic responsibilities to community and society; and 3) develop self-directed learners that will succeed in a competitive and global world.

ACADEMICS

- 2017 marked Yellow Springs High School’s fourth appearance in the last five years on the Best High Schools List (U.S. News and World Report). YSHS ranked #1 in Greene County, #2 in the Miami Valley, #25 in Ohio, and in the top 3 percent in the nation.

- In 2017, YSHS was named to the College Board’s AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP for underrepresented minority students while also improving AP performance levels overall. We were one of 32 Ohio school districts to receive this honor.

- 76 percent of seniors have taken at least one AP exam while in HS; 61% have passed at least one AP exam.

- The average ACT score for YSHS students was 24.9, compared to the state average of 22.

- Mills Lawn students grew an average of 1.2 years in reading and 1.3 years in math. In most grades, students finished the year above grade level.

- The district’s preschool program at Friends Care Center earned a 5-star Step Up to Quality Award from the State of Ohio in 2017.

- Just 6 percent of Yellow Springs grads required remedial English or Math classes in college. The state average was 31 percent in 2016.

100% of the Class of 2016 graduated in four years

89% of the student body pursues college after graduation

College Remediation Rates

- The percentage of students who do not require remediation in college.
Make Sure Our Students Succeed
YSS will strengthen the curriculum, increase student choice, develop creative programs, and increase opportunities for experiential learning through an innovative approach to education.

Our district is a leader in a student-centered approach to learning, educating the whole student through project-based learning (PBL). We are one of few districts in the state to provide PBL for all students, kindergarten through high school.

WHY PBL in YS?

PBL is an essential component of Fearless Thinking. Students are not only engaged in the classroom, but learning important skills for future success, like critical thinking, teamwork, and communication – the skills employers value and the qualities that make a leader.

PBL Impact on Community

Through project-based learning, students are given the opportunity to make meaningful change both locally and globally.

Some highlights from 2016-17 include:

- YSHS students held an event for YS police and students to interact in a positive way.
- HS French students raised funds to support student tuition to the Byimana School in Rwanda.
- MS students helped to increase the local population of nesting birds through Operation Bluebird.
- Mills Lawn students made blankets and educational games to give as gifts to children at St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter in Dayton.

PBL Impact on School Culture

- 71 percent of McKinney/YSHS students feel that their school is a safe place for students of all races, genders, income levels, sexual orientations, religions and abilities.
- 73 percent of McKinney/YSHS students are satisfied with the amount of technology and tools available to students.
- 79 percent of Mills Lawn students agree that their school offers projects, trips and other hands-on learning opportunities that interest them.
- 78 percent of Mills Lawn students agree that their teachers make learning interesting.

YSHS students feel challenged to meet high expectations at school

2 out of 3

85% of Mills Lawn students feel welcome at school
Develop High Performing and Diverse Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

The YSS workforce values intellectual curiosity and imaginative approaches to learning. Therefore, we will retain, recruit, develop, and recognize diverse faculty, staff, and administrators.

**Teacher Training Center**

Yellow Springs Schools provides professional development to educators from other school districts through our [Deeper Learning Training Center](#). Our talented staff utilizes their own experience and depth of knowledge to assist other educators on their path to deeper learning for all students.

In 2016-17, more than 175 educators from 30 Ohio schools/districts attended our fee-based “PBL in YS” tours to get a first-hand look at PBL in action. And our teachers developed and delivered PBL workshops to other Ohio educators through a partnership with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.

**Awards & Recognition**

- Mills Lawn Teacher Jody Pettiford received the 2017 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Excellence in Teaching Diversity Award.
- The 7th and 8th grade McKinney Middle School teachers were named the 2017 Team of the Year by the Ohio Middle Level Association.

“You are an amazing resource. Thank you for helping me broaden my view of what PBL is and looks like day to day.”

— Visiting Educator

**Staff Satisfaction**

Since the transition to PBL, staff satisfaction and confidence in YS Schools has steadily increased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

87% of staff feel inspired to do their best work.

96% of staff rate PBL as an effective instructional approach.
Better Together
Yellow Springs Schools are strengthened by a strong community, both in and outside of the classroom. Our supportive and generous community sets and example of the meaning of being stronger together.

Student Activities

Yellow Springs Schools offers a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities, clubs and athletics to meet every student’s interests and talents.

- The McKinney Power of the Pen team earned 1st place overall at the Regional tournament (7th grade) and also won the prestigious “Sweepstakes Trophy” for the best combined scores for 7th and 8th grades.

- Mills Lawn introduced Girls on the Move, in 2016, which focuses on enhancing self esteem, physical fitness, and problem-solving skills for girls in 4th-6th grade.

- Mills Lawn also launched FIRST LEGO League teams in 2016 to introduce science and technology concepts to students. The teams design, build, and program robots.

- Dedicated to conservation, forestry, and the environment, School Forest members have been learning about nature and growing Christmas trees for 70 years.

- The McKinney/YSHS drama students were invited to the 2017 Ohio Thespian State Conference in Columbus to present a shortened version of their fall play, The Three Musketeers.

- McKinney 8th grade students took a detour from DC to see the Tony award-winning play “Oslo” at Lincoln Center in NYC.

- Senior Julian Roberts and Junior James Browning competed at the state track and field championships at The Ohio State University. Browning finished 13th in the high jump, and Roberts finished fourth in the 300 meter hurdles.

- Senior Elizabeth Smith scored her 1,500th career point in basketball.

- The YSHS Softball Team won the 2017 Metro Buckeye Conference championship for the first time in school history.

The Yellow Springs Community Foundation (YSCF)

The YSCF maintains several funds that provide financial support to students and teachers of Yellow Springs Schools, including the Yellow Springs Endowment for Education (YSEE) fund and the Yellow Springs Public Schools Fund (YSPSF). These funds are made possible through the contributions of community members, organizations and businesses. Visit www.yscf.org to learn more.
**Fiscal Stewardship: Funding the Future**

Yellow Springs Schools will continue to be fiscally responsible by diversifying funding sources to achieve long term sustainability and to support and fulfill the District’s mission and strategic objectives.

---

**Expenditures:** Where does Yellow Springs Schools spend its money?

The majority of every dollar spent goes to **classroom instruction**. In fact, Yellow Springs Schools spends nearly $1,500 less per student than other Top 25 districts in Ohio, providing a world-class **education with value** for our community.

---

**Revenues:** Where does Yellow Springs Schools funding originate?

![Revenue by Type](chart)

**Open Enrollment**

Open enrollment supports Yellow Springs Schools through state funding that follows students who choose YS Schools. In 2016-17, open enrollment **brought $1.126 million** in to YS Schools.

---

**Grants**

The **Advancement & Community Relations** department brings financial (and other) resources to the district to help advance our mission. Some highlights from 2016-17 include:

- A grant from the **Lowe’s Charitable and Education Foundation** that funded the Mills Lawn outdoor classroom project ($13,699).
- An **Ohio Department of Higher Education** grant ($149,999) that will fund a 2-year engineering internship program at YSHS.
- More than $7,500 in teacher grants from the **Yellow Springs Endowment for Education** fund (administered by the YSCF) to support innovative classroom projects.
- Over $18,000 in donations to our first **Annual Campaign** in 2016-17.