



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | www.talawanda.org

Educate and Prepare!

Community Member Questions FQA 3: Ohio School Funding/History

*We do not monitor social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, TickTok, etc. where questions are posed. Please use the contact information below if you have any questions:

Contact: Shaunna Tafelski, Treasurer/CFO tafelskis@talawanda.org
Ed Theroux, Superintendent/CEO theroux@talawanda.org OR
levyinformation@talawanda.org

Question 1: The student to teacher ratio is 19:1. Is that a district average and how is this number determined?

Yes, the 19:1 is a district average from the Ohio Department of Education. It is an average for the district. According to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and ODE the following must occur: "Except as otherwise provided in rules 3301-35-03, 3301-35-09, 3301-51-09, and 3301-51-15 of the Administrative Code, the ratio of teachers to students school district-wide shall be at least **one full-time equivalent classroom teacher for each twenty-five students.**" Remember, this is the district average and not the average in each grade level or building.

It is important to note there are exceptions, and an example is a special education self contained classroom. There are limits to how many students per teacher and how many students in different grade levels can be in those classes. Nurses and Educational Assistants or Paraprofessionals may also be required. A second example is PreK. The number of students allowed in PreK are also limited...much lower than the 19:1 district ratio.

The district ratio includes all certified staff as found below. This district average does not include classified staff such as educational assistants, food workers, Additional information may be found at <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/EMIS/EMIS-Documentation/2005-EMIS-Report-Explanation/FY05-Pupil-Teacher-Ratio-Oct-Reporting.pdf.aspx>

ODE determines the number of students who attends the district. Information can be found at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports/FY-2021-District-Profile> . ODE determines the number of students who attended the district for the year. It is an average as some students will move and some will move out. There used to be count weeks in October and February. Those count weeks determined the number of students in the district. While ODE is trying to move more to a real time number of students in a district, it is still using fall enrollment similar to the October count weeks (<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Enrollment-Data>). Not only is that

important for density per square mile (determining we are rural) but also state funding. This number is also used (and reported through EMIS which is ODE's software to report information) to determine the number of students in the district. Then the number of teachers is determined (again through EMIS and in all areas). The two numbers are divided to get the district student to staff district average...which has been 19:1. Probably more information than what you asked, but knowing the process helps understand why ODE uses a district and not a building or grade level average.

Next, there are service provider ratios and workload calculations that must also occur. Information may be found at

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Service-Provider-Ratio-and-Workload-Calculation>

This form or calculation is recommended to help districts make decisions about staffing classrooms for students with disabilities. Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Nurse, Speech and Language, and other required staff have caseloads and workloads. In order to ensure these staff can complete their work and not have an excessive caseload or too small of a caseload, this calculation sheet helps districts. Again, a 19:1 district average may not apply. A nurse who works 1:1 would have a lower ratio while a Speech and Language Therapist could have 30 students on his or her caseload. IEPs direct the services to be administered. Special Education tends to be more complicated when determining averages as it is based on individual student needs. This helps us determine if we need additional teachers or have too many teachers. Again, we have to follow caseloads established by the state and federal government.

The data for this school year (per building) is my own calculations and is a draft. It is a draft because we could possibly hire additional teachers during the year if needed. I also used the complicated formula that I described above. Even though I think I have followed it exactly, I could miss something. An example of this is the CUPP report versus the Report Card Financial data. Every year, the ODE CUPP financial (\$13,519.14 per pupil spending) is different from the Report Card financial (\$11,650 per pupil spending). I do know that I am close to being very accurate.

Question 2: What are the building student to teacher ratios for this year?

Taking the current enrollment on September 7, 2022 and the process to determine student to teacher ratios (listed above), this is the current estimate of teacher to student ratio as of September 7, 2022.

Bogan

436 students 25 teachers = 17.4:1 ratio

Kramer

543 students 32 teachers = 17.1:1 ratio

Marshall

373 Students. 21 teachers = 17.8:1 ratio

TMS

691 Students. 34 teachers = 20.3:1 ratio

THS

970 Students 46 teachers = 21.1:1 ratio

Overall District Average Student to Teacher

3,013 Students. 158 teachers. = 19.1:1 ratio

As you can see, it is a complicated formula and process. Last school year's data should be posted soon. This school year's data (which I am using) won't be available until next year around this time. The data is almost always a year behind and in some instances until it is published (usually September) two years behind. I hope this helps answer your questions.

Resources

Per Pupil EMIS

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/EMIS/EMIS-Documentation/2005-EMIS-Report-Explanation/FY05-Pupil-Teacher-Ratio-Oct-Reporting.pdf.aspx>

District Profile Information

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports/FY-2021-District-Profile>

Enrollment Data

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Enrollment-Data>

WorkLoad Recommended Calculations

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Service-Provider-Ratio-and-Workload-Calculation>

CUPP Report November 2021

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports>

Report Cards

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/> Type in school or Talawanda