

# Black River Local Schools is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent



Application deadline: April 25, 2024

[www.blackriverschools.org](http://www.blackriverschools.org)

## The search

The **Black River Local School District** Board of Education has undertaken a search for a new superintendent, using the services of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). OSBA's Teri Morgan is assisting the board with this important task.



## The district

Black River Local Schools is a comprehensive K-12 school district that serves approximately 1,000 students. Located in North Central Ohio, the school district is situated between three counties: Ashland, Lorain and Medina. Students are served in two buildings; one holding the elementary and middle grades and one housing the high school students. They recently completed an update to their strategic plan during the past school year with focuses on upgrading facilities, curriculum alignment, community outreach, positive messaging, mental health and district finances and operations. The goal for district finances and operations included "champion fiscal responsibilities and transparency, strive to find and implement financial efficiency, work



**OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

Division of Board and Management Services  
[www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org)

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to secure additional funding sources, such as state and federal grants, and be good stewards of local funding.”

The school district currently offers dual enrollment courses through the University of Akron and Ashland University for College Credit Plus and is associated with the Medina County Career Center for career technical pathways for students. A variety of athletic, academic, and performing arts groups as well as FFA and FCCLA are extended as extracurricular activities to the student body by a supportive faculty and staff.

**Vision statement**

Honoring our tradition  
Supporting our community  
Educating our future

**Mission statement**

Through unique and diverse opportunities, academic excellence, community engagement and a safe mentoring environment, we build a strong foundation for families and future leaders.

**Core values**

- W** Welcoming
- E** Engaged and encouraging
- A** Accountable
- R** Revealing integrity
- E** Enrolled, enlisted, employed
- B** Balanced
- R** Resourceful and responsible

The voters of the Black River Local School District passed an emergency operating levy in 2013 that collects \$1.6 million annually in tax revenue for five years. It has been renewed twice in 2017 and 2022. Additionally, the voters greenlit a permanent improvements levy for five years in the fall of 2018 which brings in \$313,000 yearly for facilities and maintenance.

**The community**

The Black River Local School District is rural in nature and home to the second largest Amish population in the state of Ohio. The school campus sits in Sullivan Township and is the largest employer in Northern Ashland County.

With Interstate 71 close to the campus grounds, the school district is within a half hour of the city of



Board of education	
Member	Years on the board
Chuck Stiver, president	12
Daniel Sexton, vice president	12
Michele Powers-Neeld	1
Cathie Morlock	3
Robin Blake	1



Ashland, 45 minutes from the cities of Akron and Mansfield and south Cleveland is located under an hour away.

Ashland University sits 25 minutes away from campus and a handful of universities are approximately one hour from the school district.

The Ruritans, a club for community service within small towns across the United States that sponsors youth activity groups such as boy or girl scouts and 4H, is active within the area.

## Qualifications

The Black River Local Board of Education invites applicants who have a commitment to strong, positive board/superintendent relations and wholeheartedly supports hiring a person of integrity who has high standards of honesty, ethics and personal conduct.

In addition, the new superintendent must provide evidence of accomplishment as:

- A decisive educational leader with a strong background in student achievement who, after considering staff and community input, can make and defend decisions in a positive manner.
- A chief executive who keeps the Board fully informed and current with matters of the district; one who will forge a strong partnership based on mutual trust and respect.
- An articulate, straightforward communicator with strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work tactfully, creatively and visibly with board members; administration; teachers and staff; students; parents; and community and elected officials.
- An educational team leader able to develop, supervise and support teaching and administrative talent, who inspires high performance standards with accountability, and finds satisfaction in the success of others.
- A child-centered decision-maker with a comprehensive view of education, a working knowledge of curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to the development of all children.

## Students and staff at a glance

<b>Enrollment</b>	940
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<b>Number of employees</b>	
Certificated	88
Non-certificated	64
Administrators	11

<b>Average teacher salary</b>	\$65,475
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Bachelor's Degree	28%
Master's Degree	62%
Average years of experience	16



- An experienced administrator with a high degree of success in facilities planning, utilization and new construction, as well as a sound fiscal manager who effectively balances legal, judicial and financial requirements.

## Terms of employment and compensation

The successful candidate will be offered a multi-year contract with a competitive compensation and benefits package. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications for the position.

## Application process

Visit OSBA's secure, online application system at <https://osba.myrevelus.com> to apply. Application materials are subject to Ohio's public records laws.

Note: Applicants should not make personal contact with board of education members. For information about the search, contact the OSBA search consultant.

## Tentative search timetable

Application deadline	<b>April 25</b>
First round interviews	<b>May 6 and 7</b>
Second round interviews	<b>May 20</b>
Employment begins	<b>As negotiated</b>

## Questions

**For questions about the search, contact:**

**Teri Morgan**  
Ohio School Boards Association  
(614) 540-4000 | [tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:tmorgan@ohioschoolboards.org)

**For questions about the application process, contact:**

**Gwen Samet**  
Ohio School Boards Association  
(614) 540-4000 | [gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org](mailto:gsamet@ohioschoolboards.org)

## District financial information

<b>Total valuation</b>	\$324,441,900
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<b>Mills</b>	
Inside	3.6
Outside (voted)	46.4
Outside (effective)	26.12
Permanent improvement (voted)	1.02

<b>Appropriations</b>	
General fund	\$17,000,000
Total — all funds	\$20,000,000

<b>Expenditures per pupil</b>	\$17,335
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Receipts	General fund	All funds
Local taxes	47%	43%
Local other	3%	11%
State	50%	38%
Federal		8%

