

OCTOBER 17, 2022

In the East Troy Community School District, we continue to live by our motto of being **“A Great Place to Learn and a Great Place to Work.”** To make this happen, we focus each day on supporting conditions for learner empowerment while cultivating a healthy culture through relationships and trust, communication, commitments, ongoing learning, voice, joy, compassion, gratitude, self-reflection, feedback, accountability, and results.

We aim to maximize the value of our educational institution via the families attending ETCSO, along with the greater East Troy community through increased communication and engagement. We also work to ensure our district is a good steward of its resources toward fostering and supporting our strategic priorities and goals.

We’re doing this important work while facing financial challenges that make it difficult to maintain programs and services, attract and retain high-quality staff in a competitive labor market, and address our facility needs. Despite \$10.2 million worth of budget-balancing efforts over the past 16 years, our projections indicate a growing revenue gap this year and well into the future.

In mid-November, we will ask families and community members to provide their input and feedback on the direction of ETCSO through a survey. Before that, I encourage everyone to visit our website (www.easttroy.k12.wi.us), follow us on social media, and/or watch an upcoming or previous school board meeting on YouTube. By doing so, you will see all the positive things happening in our schools and the critical work taking place to improve the educational experience for students.

Through our July 2022 family satisfaction survey, we learned that:

- 93% of our parents/guardians agree or strongly agree that ETCSO is right to focus on the 6 Cs for learning (creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, content, and curiosity).
- 94% agree or strongly agree that ETCSO should always provide resources and proper staffing toward attaining district goals.
- 84% agree or strongly agree with supporting additional funding to support the district’s staffing and operational needs, while 81% agree or strongly agree that they would support additional funding to support the district’s facility needs.
- 94% rate the district’s communications as great, good, or fair—with 80% saying they are great or good.

There are a number of additional facts our entire community should know and understand.

Over the last six years, school taxes have gone up an average of just 1.2% per year. In 2021-22, East Troy’s mill rate was \$8.34 per \$1,000 of home value, well below the state average of \$8.67.

Little Prairie Primary offers instruction in math, language arts, science, and social studies while structuring math and literacy instruction in blocks. In addition, students experience regular rotations of art, music, physical education, SmartLab – mechanics and structures; robotics; circuitry; computer graphics; etc., and visiting the library weekly.

Prairie View offers instruction in math, language arts, science, and social studies. In addition, all students experience music, art, physical education, SmartLab – mechanics and structures; robotics; circuitry computer graphics; etc., weekly library, and keyboarding on a rotational schedule.

East Troy Middle School offers core classes in math, language arts, social studies, science, and physical education. Each grade level also has electives, including world language, business education, agriculture, band/choir, computer science, robotics, SmartLab, technology education, and East Troy Alternative Learning (ETAL).

East Troy High School offers agriculture, art, AVID, band, business education, computer science, English, family and consumer science, math, music, physical education/health, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), science, social studies, technology and engineering, world languages, skills academy, ETAL, and East Troy Career Institute (ETCI).

Additionally, our high school career and technical education department received Regional Career Pathway certifications in construction, digital technology, and business administration/finance. ETHS has also gained a lab specifically designed to help students earn their Certified Nursing Assistant certifications through Start College Now which is offered at East Troy High School.

Beyond these points of pride, the services provided to our students day in and day out make a significant impact. For example, our food service department served 106,404 breakfast meals and 108,555 lunch meals during the 2021-22 school year. Our technology department oversees approximately 1,600 Chromebooks, provides wireless coverage in every classroom, sees approximately 800 gigabytes of traffic pass through our firewall daily, supports our staff on daily technology needs, and has already repaired over 100 Chromebooks since the start of this school year.

If you have a chance to thank a teacher or school staff member, I encourage you to do so. They are working hard to empower our learners, maintain a strong culture of learning, and make ETCSD a great place to learn and a great place to work.

With that, I wish to express my gratitude to the entire community for your support of ETCSD and the students we serve. It is a true blessing to be your superintendent. I look forward to celebrating our accomplishments and tackling our challenges together.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Hibner
District Administrator