



**MARGARETTA SPONSORSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**



**TOWNSEND NORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL
207 LOWELL STREET
CASTALIA, OH
44824**

Townsend North Community School (TCS) is a conversion community school established in 2011. TCS is sponsored by the Margaretta Local School District. TCS accommodates at-risk students in grades 9-12. TCS offers college credit plus opportunities for all students. TCS maintains a safe and innovative learning environment in a modern facility. TCS allows each student to learn at their own individual pace.

As the sponsor of Townsend North Community School, the Margaretta Local School District (MLSD) provides resources to support the school. Our relationship with TCS is a partnership to enhance an alternative educational delivery system targeted to improve student achievement. Our commitment is to offer "managed growth" to meet the needs for each student to be successful.

SPONSOR MISSION STATEMENT

As a sponsor, the MLSD seeks to provide quality sponsoring practices for developing innovative education options that provide choices for Ohio students who are seeking a public education in an alternative learning setting.

VALUES AND GOALS

1. Provide quality and proactive monitoring oversight and technical assistance to TCS.
2. Conduct all sponsorship activities pursuant to Ohio law fulfilling the sponsorship/TCS contract.
3. Develop clear operating standards.
4. Develop clear standards that are consistent with the Margaretta Local School District's Sponsor Mission Statement.

Townsend North Community School Graduates



Since 2012, Townsend Community School has been enhancing the lives of its students through a flexible and alternative education. Townsend's highly qualified instructors and staff, their specialized curriculum, and their modern facility allows each student to succeed in his or her unique way. TCS believes that students come first. Furthermore, that they know what is important to their education.

TCS provides a safe and innovative learning environment that is designed to shape positive experiences for all students. Their accommodating and caring model not only motivates students to learn, but also allows students to access their education at their own pace, which in turn fosters the best version of themselves.



Townsend North Community School is a conversion community school that provides a high quality education to its students. It contributes significantly to Ohio's effort to provide quality education options to at-risk children through vigorous, creative community-school programs that prepare students for the 21st century.

At Townsend North Community School, the student body makeup is 2.8% African-American, 0.1% Asian, 11.9% Hispanic/Latino, 1.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 8.2% Multiracial, 76.0% White, 23.8% Students with Disabilities, and 79.8% who are Economically Disadvantaged.

Summary of Academic Performance

Due to COVID-19, Townsend’s State Report Card for the 2019-2020 school year included graduation rates, but no ratings were designated. If the reported graduation rates from 2019-2020 would have been measured by the standards used for the 2018-2019 school year, Townsend would have received “Exceeded Standards” for *Combined Graduation, 6-Year Graduation Rate, 7-Year Graduation Rate, and 8-Year Graduation Rate*. Townsend would have “Met Standards” for their the *4-Year Graduation Rate and 5-Year Graduation Rate*. The 2019-2020 Report Card did not include any data or ratings in the areas of *Achievement Component, Progress or Gap Closing*. No overall school rating was given for the 2019-2020 school year. Townsend North Community School has 1,686 graduates since it began and 399 graduates in 2019-2020. Below is the number of Townsend Community School graduates by school year.

- 2019-2020 Graduates: 399
- 2018-2019 Graduates: 290
- 2017-2018 Graduates: 253
- 2016-2017 Graduates: 209
- 2015-2016 Graduates: 182
- 2014-2015 Graduates: 186
- 2013-2014 Graduates: 70
- 2012-2013 Graduates: 62
- 2011-2012 Graduates: 35

Overall, Margareta rates Townsend as Meets Standards in Academic Performance for the 2019-20 School Year.

Fiscal Performance

Townsend Community School fiscal performance since its origin – 2011-2012 School Year – has afforded the School the opportunity to expand services to a great number of students. Townsend started in October 2011 with 27 students enrolled and a staff of three. At the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, Townsend had graduated 1,686 students since its origin. As of November 16, 2020 there are 830 students enrolled at Townsend. Margareta reviews the financial reports monthly with the Treasurer of Townsend Community School and reports its findings to the Margareta Board and TCS on a monthly basis. The financial review includes a review of cash statements, budgetary ledgers, check registers, revenue reports, enrollment reports, and the results are compared to the current forecasted results. The monthly reviews and associated financial reports are intended to provide internal financial controls and support for the financial position of the community school. Margareta also participates in the annual audit performed by the Auditor of State. The financial review process includes following up with recommendations of the Auditor of State and to address any deficiencies or citations. This is important to ensure fiscal stability and being able to meet the needs of the students. Total Margin of Operating Funds and Total Margin measurements are reviewed. This measurement evaluates Townsend on the

relationship of revenue to expenses to determine if the School can sustain the educational program. Townsend has met the Cash Flow standards for the One-Year and Multi-Year analysis. This measurement evaluates the Cash position of the School. The 5-year forecast was approved at the November 2020 TCS Board and will be submitted by the Sponsor to the Epicenter.

TCS' financials are stable at this time, with the completed settlement agreement with the Ohio Department of Education.

Overall Currently, Margaretta rates Townsend as Meets Standards in the area of Fiscal Performance for the 2019- 2020 school year.

Legal Compliance

Townsend Community School contracts with Dickinson & Wright for legal support. Margaretta Local Schools contracts with Pepple and Waggoner for legal support. As part of its sponsorship of Townsend Community School, Margaretta conducted site visits and reviewed Townsend compliance with 279 items. Based on this review, it was determined that Townsend is only non-compliant with 9 items for the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, Townsend Community School's compliance percentage is 96.06%. Margaretta will work with Townsend to resolve the remaining areas of non-compliance this school year and continues to work with Townsend to reach clarity regarding its program operations moving forward. As the sponsor, Margaretta is proud to report that it received a '4/4' rating in Compliance. A '4' is the highest rating a sponsor can receive.

Overall, Margaretta rates Townsend as Meets Standards in the area of Legal Compliance for the 2019-2020 school year.

Organization and Operation

Townsend Community School was opened under the Sponsorship of Margaretta Local School District on October 3, 2011. As of November 18, 2020, Townsend Community School's Governing Authority is composed of five members, Jean Smith (President), Kent Edwards (Vice President), Dora Grant (Member), Juan Israel Palomo (Member), and Jacquelyn Sallee (Member). The Governing Authority has employed Jeff Thompson as Superintendent of Public Instruction and Mike Limberios as Treasurer.

Townsend Community School operates as a Dropout Prevention/Credit Recovery Community School designed to serve students in grade levels 9 through 12 to attain a Tier I High School Diploma. Townsend assigns subject matter for a student based upon the student's capacity to earn credits. Often they limit the student to one or two courses at a time. The student is provided the curriculum and assigned the task of independently completing tests for each subject. The student will have the opportunity to discuss with a teacher of record and meet with the assigned teacher (in person or virtually) to assist the student in comprehension of the material. The student is to complete and pass the tests of the subject matter. Thus determining that the student has demonstrated mastery of the subject and achieves a course credit toward the goal of graduation. Students are bound by the Department of Education rules for testing and accountability of

instruction time. Instruction time is monitored by requiring the student to log their learning time. Course work completed online is recorded through the school's Virtual Learning Academy platform through the Jefferson County ESC. Logs for offline learning are submitted to the teacher of record to confirm the attendance. Offline learning hours are then uploaded into the Virtual Learning Academy platform by the teacher of record. Statewide testing is administered by the School and offered in their facilities or at locations established by the School. Townsend has relationships with communities to provide for areas for learning. The most commonly used alternate areas are local libraries. Teachers meet with their students at prearranged times made available by the community facilities. Townsend leases space on the Margaretta High School campus for staffing and to foster meetings with students.

In the 2019-2020 school year, 79.8% of Townsend North Community School students were determined to be economically disadvantaged while 23.8% were identified with special needs. TCS offers Intervention Specialist services who are licensed plus highly qualified instructors who are available for individual academic assistance. The school works to provide each student with a customized Individualized Learning Plan (ILP), a plan designed by the student, parent/guardian and instructor so the student can obtain their diploma. Included in the plan may be the utilization of the services provided by school psychologists, therapists and other related services. Students may choose the educational plan they will follow to obtain their high school diploma. Students choose TCS for a variety of reasons. The school provides these students and their families with educational alternatives. The school offers the student the opportunity to work at an accelerated and individualized pace, thus giving them every opportunity to succeed in their academic pursuits. Each student must meet the mandatory requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education to earn their high school diploma. TCS has received a rating of a Tier 1 diploma from the United States Armed Forces. Due to the COVID pandemic, the most recent data TCS has is that 4% of graduates enlisted in the United States Armed forces. The TCS charter was previously statewide, however an agreement with the Ohio Department of Education and Margaretta Local Schools now defines their enrollment boundary as students who reside in school districts located within Erie, Huron, Lorain, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties, effective October 1, 2020. The school has and will continue to be available to students from surrounding schools to offer an educational solution that would be best served in the alternative setting that Townsend Community School provides.

The majority of the students work independently and may seek assistance at any time from their instructional teacher. To meet the attendance requirements, all students are required to communicate with their assigned teacher on a regular basis. In addition, the students are also required to document the hours of instructional opportunities needed to complete their studies. TCS also employs a CBI Coordinator and to assist students in earning credit for documented gainful employment and/or volunteer work. Physical education credit is garnered through an independent study course implemented by the school's Physical Education instructor. TCS will continue to investigate, evaluate and establish educational programs designed to best serve their unique student demographic. TCS strives to offer and maintain a safe learning environment conducive to learning for all students.

TCS continues to enroll new students on a weekly basis who are attempting to reach graduation. The school has grown simply by referrals from area schools, parents, students, and community members. The school works to promote high standards of education for all students. In addition, TCS encourages parent or guardian involvement. It is the ultimate goal of the school to increase

student achievement in preparation for post-secondary education or career readiness. TCS employs a Student Services advisor to help students prepare for life after high school. Due to the COVID pandemic, the most recent data states 54% of graduates are engaged in a post-secondary education. TCS works with other community organizations such as Goodwill Industries, Job and Family Services, and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership to create job opportunities and work experiences for the students of TCS. It is the mission of TCS School to be an integral part of a valuable partnership with their students, their families and the surrounding communities. The school held a virtual graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 10th, which was viewable from the TCS website at townsendcs.org.

The TCS Governing Board has approved a Code of Regulations, fulfills its meeting requirements, maintains proper board meeting minutes, and has complied with Ohio's Sunshine Law. The foregoing were determined based on Margaretta's review and attendance at Governing Authority meetings, which it attends on a regular basis.

Additionally, Margaretta has determined that operations are consistent with the Community School contract as determined through the following:

- A. Ongoing facility visits, and meetings with students, faculty and staff, TCS changes in statute are reviewed with Margaretta's legal counsel Pepple and Waggoner. Townsend meets with its legal counsel Dickinson and Wright. Margaretta provides quarterly legal updates. Furthermore, TCS and Margaretta meet monthly to review attendance information and fiscal performance;
- B. Townsend Superintendent participates in periodic management meetings with Margaretta leadership;
- C. Joint meetings with the Superintendents, Treasurers, other Administrators, Governing Authority members and Margaretta Board members to discuss facilities and other strategic decisions that involve Townsend and Margaretta;
- D. Margaretta's Local Professional Development Committee assist Townsend's certified employees obtain recertification, recommend and review professional development plans; and
- E. Margaretta leadership attends professional conferences on Community Schools to obtain a better understanding of the community school movement. Margaretta receives from Townsend agendas, meeting minutes, financial information, 5-year forecast, enrollment information and reports indicating the number of students enrolled who are defined as being "economically disadvantaged" and those who have been identified as having a learning disability.

Overall, Margaretta rates Townsend as Meets Standards in the area of Organization and Operation Governance for the 2019-2020 school year.



Back row (left to right): Brian Sutorius, Paul Schoenegge
Front row (left to right): Kent Miller, Andrew Warner (President)
Mandi Yetter (Vice-President)

District Mission

The MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will deliver an education that supports academic achievement, in a safe environment, that provides the knowledge and skills needed to be college and career ready.

Mr. Ed Kurt, Superintendent
Mrs. Diane Keegan, Treasurer
Mr. Steve Keller, Compliance Officer

Margaretta Board of Education
305 S. Washington St.
Castalia, OH 44824
Phone: (419) 684-5322
Fax: (419) 684-9003
www.margarettaschooldistrict.com

THE COMMUNITY

The Margaretta Local School District is located in scenic northwestern Ohio (Erie & Sandusky Counties) along the shores of Lake Erie; and just minutes from Cedar Point. Margaretta Schools is a hub of several villages and townships that comprise the district. A strong community workforce is made up of a mixture of manufacturing, farming and service industries. Residents take great pride in their community and school system. It is an excellent area to pursue a career, raise a family and enjoy life on the shores of Ohio's vacationland.

THE DISTRICT

The Margaretta Local School District serves approximately eleven hundred and sixty-five (1,165) students in grades pre-K through 12. It is comprised of two learning facilities: Margaretta Elementary which houses the students in grades preschool - grade 5. The Margaretta Middle/High School provides programs for students in grades 6-8 and 9-12.

The Margaretta Local School District sponsors Townsend North Community School (TCS). TCS provides a high quality education to its students. It contributes significantly to Ohio's effort to provide quality education options to at-risk children through a vigorous, creative community-school program that prepares students for the 21st century workplace.

MLSD would like to acknowledge the Governing Authority of Townsend Community School: Jacquelyn Sallee, Juan Israel Palomo, Dora Grant, Kent Edwards and Jean Smith, along with their staff, and leadership members for their commitment and efforts to the TCS students.

Thank you to Margaretta Board of Education members Mandi Yetter, Kent Miller, Paul Schoenegge, Andy Warner and Brian Sutorius for their involvement, support and guidance. We would also like to thank Ed Kurt and Carrie Keller for their professional contribution of knowledge and organizational role on behalf of the sponsor.

Also, we thank our colleagues, Brian DeSantis of Pepple and Waggoner Law Firm, attorney for Margaretta Local School District, Adam Schira, and Stephanie Teaford of Dickinson Wright, attorney for Townsend Community School Governing Authority, for their dedication, selflessness, attention to detail, and consistent availability.

Sponsor Leadership Team

**Ed Kurt, Superintendent of Margareta Local Schools
Steve Keller, Compliance Officer of Margareta Local Schools
Diane Keegan, Treasurer of Margareta Local Schools**

Margareta Board of Education

**Andrew Warner, President, 4 years of service
Kent Miller, 6 years of service
Paul Schoenegge, 6 years of service
Brian Sutorius, 4 years of service
Mandi Yetter, Vice President, 2 years of service**

Townsend Leadership Team

**Jeff Thompson, Superintendent
Ryan Bohn, Principal
Mike Limberios, Treasurer**

Townsend Governing Authority

**Dora Grant, 6 years of service
Kent Edwards, Vice President, 5 years of service
Juan Israel Palomo, 2 year of service
Jacquelyn Sallee, 1 years of service
Jean Smith, President, 9 years of service**