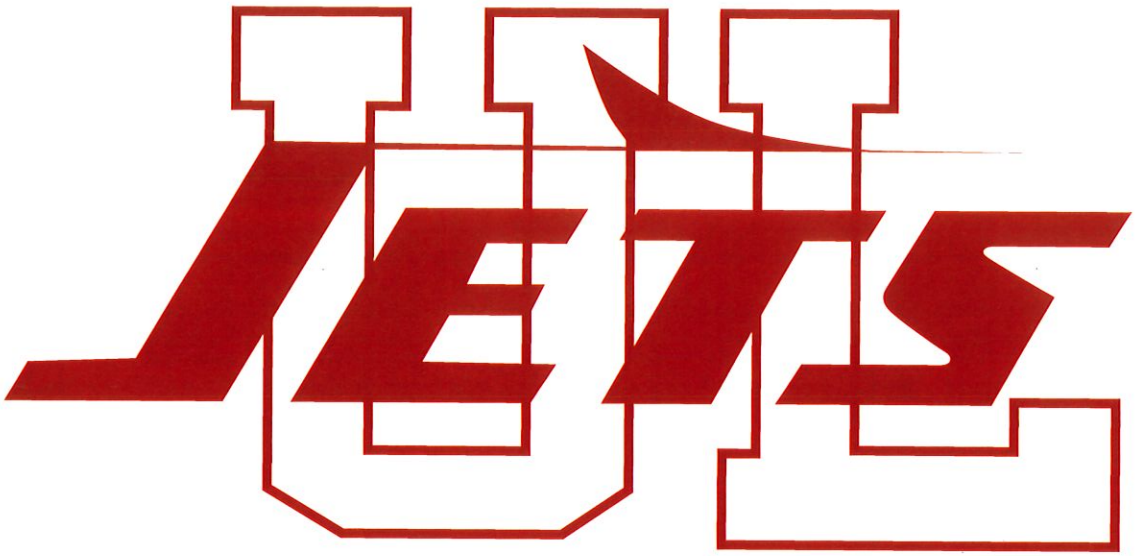
Union Local School District

Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan 2018-2028



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Preface

In 2018, the Union Local School District Board of Education (BOE) felt the need to create a Comprehensive Educational Facility Plan for the school district. The school district did not have a long range planning document in place. Therefore, it was determined that the community and the school district as a leader in the community needed an instrument to help guide the district through curricular and facility improvements that better prepare students for college and/or job opportunities coming to the area, region and State of Ohio in the future. It was also determined that 21st Century students required 21st Century learning opportunities in order to compete for jobs that currently exist or will exist in the future.

The Union Local School District (ULSD) staff and student population are committed to creating a school environment that provides the greatest opportunity for success in the classroom and in life after students graduate from high school. The district Board of Education and administrative staff realize that despite their best efforts in the past, future students will require a more rigorous curriculum to be successful in a four year college, two year community college/technical school training or for direct entry into the job markets of the future. With this goal in mind, the ULSD BOE directed the administrative staff to create a comprehensive educational facility plan (CEFP) that addresses the goals established by the BOE for the district.

To accomplish this task, the district first performed a comprehensive building assessment and later an educational performance audit for all schools. To guide this process, a CEFP advisory committee consisting of school administration and staff, students and parents, and community and business leaders was created and a very rigorous districtwide planning process began in the fall of 2018. An executive committee was also created to guide this process and to report progress to the BOE. Additionally, several committees and subcommittees were also created to provide more in depth research in areas of core curriculum, career/technical education, special needs education, technology integration, student support, facilities and school health and safety. These committees and subcommittees have spent many hours over the past 12 months providing input into the planning process. The educational performance audit performed in 2018 provided valuable input from all levels of the district staff and student body. This information will be used to address deficiencies noted in the audit, the facility assessment and the comprehensive planning process.

As a result, this CEFP has been developed with the input from all stakeholders that will benefit from the success of the plan in the future. It will be imperative for the school district to present the plan to parents and the community at large in the near future to allow everyone to understand the need for change but most importantly the mandate for change to allow each student passing through the district in coming years the same opportunity afforded students in other school districts, other states and other countries.

No longer will ULSD students be competing with students from their local area for high paying jobs that are coming to the Belmont County community and the surrounding regions of Ohio and West Virginia. The competitive job markets of the future will be filled with well trained workers from all over the world. It is the responsibility of the ULSD community to prepare our students for these opportunities

and anything less than our best effort will not be enough to prepare these future leaders for future jobs coming to the area and around the world. This CEFP attempts to address all of the issues that will help our students succeed in a global community that did not exist 20 years ago when the current facilities were constructed. The ULSD curriculum and facilities to support this curriculum must be addressed in the future to accomplish these goals.

New business and industry are planned for our area in the near future. As educators, parents and business and industry leaders prepare for these proposed changes, it will be critical for the school district to be an active partner if our students are to benefit from these exciting opportunities that are planned for Belmont County and surrounding communities. The school district understands that we must all work together in order to maximize the opportunities for our students and community. The BOE and administrative staff are committed to this effort and look forward to working with the parents and the community to implement this Comprehensive Educational Facility Plan.

The ULSD Board of Education and staff would like to thank those who participated in this planning process. Your dedication and support in this current planning process and in future efforts to implement this important plan will be a vital part of changing the culture of our schools and community. The Union Local School District Board of Education and administrative staff are committed to creating a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff in facilities that are capable of delivering 21st century curriculum. It is our desire to use this comprehensive study of our district's strengths and weaknesses to create a road map for positive and productive change in the future. With the support of the community and business leaders within the school district, we would like to provide our teaching professionals every tool possible to inspire our students to become highly motivated and well prepared learners and future leaders as they build their life after graduation.

With these goals driving the creation of this plan for the future of the school district, this 10 year Comprehensive Educational Facility Plan will be presented to the parents and community at large over the next several months for review and comment. We hope to immediately begin addressing priority improvements to the extent possible through current operating funds. It is the desire of the District Board of Education and administrative staff to begin implementing all phases of the curriculum and instruction plan over the next 5 years beginning in the 2019-2020 school term and to provide facility improvements necessary to support all phases of the facility planning improvements as capital improvement funding becomes available in the future.