



Delphos City Schools

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Dear Delphos Community,

Delphos City Schools has been sending students to Vantage Career Center for decades. Over this time, DCS has paid for all Delphos students (both Jefferson and St. John's) to attend Vantage Career Center out of the general fund. Delphos is a contracted school district, not a member school like a majority of the public school districts in Ohio. Of Ohio's 600+ public school districts, less than a handful continue to operate in this fashion. The overwhelming majority of Ohio school district communities levy this cost through local property tax.

Over the years, the contract has continued to increase. This was due to the fact that Delphos was paying considerably less than the member schools at one time. A new facility and new equipment also attributed the amount owed. This increase started years ago with smaller increments which escalated each year and has now reached 100% of the total cost due. Currently, DCS is responsible to pay approximately nearly \$700K in total.

The amount of property tax potentially passed on to the property owners of Delphos would be 3.14 effective mills. This is the same millage rate each Vantage member school district pays (ex. Ottoville, Ft. Jennings, Van Wert, Lincolnview, etc.). Millage is the rate at which property taxes are levied on property. A mill is 1/1,000 of a dollar. Property taxes are computed by multiplying the taxable, or assessed value of the property, by the number of mills levied. It is important to note the difference between the terms "appraised value" and "assessed value." Appraised value is the estimated market value of a property; assessed value is the value at which the property is taxed, which is 35 percent of the property's appraised value. Here is a simplified example. If Bill's appraised value of his home is \$100,000 with 3.14 additional mills, his property tax would increase by \$109.90. $\$100,000 \times .35 = \$35,000$. $\$35,000 \times .00314 = \109.90 . Thus, Bill would pay \$9.16 more per month.

In this process, we have also considered Apollo Career Center in Lima. Apollo's effective millage rate is 3.00 mills. Delphos City Schools believes that with such a small difference between the two schools millage rates, it may not be wise to uproot students, add a new bus

route, and end a very positive relationship where Delphos students have been successful over several decades.

Vantage Career Center is a great vocational institution where Delphos students have found success which has led to successful careers. We would, in no way, want to limit the number of students that could attend Vantage because we could not afford it. Just the opposite. We want to promote and advocate for Delphos students to attend Vantage if that's what's best for them.

We ask for the community of Delphos to support Delphos City Schools to become a Vantage member school district. **Strong Schools, Strong Community!**

Thank you for your support,

Douglas Westrick
Superintendent