

## The Search

The Valley Local Schools Board of Education is seeking a visionary leader to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Eugene Thomas, who accepted the position of Superintendent at his home district in Pennsylvania. Mr. Lowell Howard, Superintendent of SCOESC, is assisting the board with the search.

## The School District

The Valley Local School District has an average student enrollment of 1,100 students. Forty-two percent of these students are considered economically disadvantaged and approximately 13% are students with disabilities. The district's attendance rate on the 2008 state report card was 94.1% and the graduation rate was 97.8%, well above similar district and state rates. According to the School Facilities Eligibility Ranking List, Valley Local School District ranks 17 of 613 in the state.

The district employs 85 full-time professional staff members and 12 administrative staff members, including the superintendent. The administrative staff includes three principals, three guidance counselors, a treasurer, an assistant treasurer, a curriculum director, a literacy specialist and a technology coordinator.

The facilities in the district are exceptional. The elementary and high school buildings were constructed 18 years ago, while the middle school is housed in the beautifully renovated previous high school building. Each building houses a library staffed by its own certified librarian/media specialist.

There are two computer labs in each building and wireless labs in the high school and middle school, as well as additional computers in many classrooms.



Valley High School is rated “excellent” by the Ohio Department of Education and provides varied opportunities for students, including Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment credit, postsecondary options, college prep and general track courses. The elementary school gives the children of the community a solid foundation in reading and mathematics and is currently rated “effective” by the state. The middle school is involved in a school improvement initiative and has undertaken several changes this year to better reach economically disadvantaged and special needs students. For example, intervention specialists are actively working to improve inclusion techniques and practicing co-teaching. Tutoring programs are also active both after-school and during-school hours.

## The Community

The Valley Local School District is located 50 miles west of Huntington, WV and 76 miles south of Columbus, OH in the beautiful hills of south central Ohio in Scioto County. Residents can enjoy Boneyfiddle, a historic area on the Ohio River in nearby Portsmouth that features a restored shopping area and a floodwall covered by picturesque murals depicting the rich history of the area.

The Valley community is part of a rural area rich in forested land and waterways. Shawnee State Park and the Wayne National Forest are within a short drive of Valley Township. The Ohio and Scioto Rivers are additional natural resources available to the residents of our community. This Appalachian valley is truly a beautiful place in which to reside.

Primary employers in the area include the Southern Ohio Medical Center, Shawnee State University, Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and the local school systems.

- District median household income is \$28,418.
- Assessed property valuation per student in Valley School District is \$58,958.94.
- Revenue raised by one mill property tax was \$29,292.65.

## Qualifications

The district is seeking a superintendent who can sustain the initiatives implemented to date and continue to lead the schools in a positive direction toward excellence. The Valley Local School Board of Education has identified the following important characteristics for the candidate selected as superintendent:

- An articulate, straightforward communicator with strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work tactfully, creatively and visibly with board members, administrators, staff, students, parents, community and state elected officials; a spokesperson who can publicly celebrate and effectively market the successes of the school system.

- An administrator with excellent analytical, planning, and organizational skills who will maintain a strategic direction.
- A CEO with excellent understanding of school law.
- An energetic visionary leader; a risk-taker who will challenge the status-quo.
- A contributing member of the school community who is comfortable with high visibility and accessibility.
- A sound decision maker who is willing to firmly support issues that affect the school community and supports the implementation of board decisions.
- A fiscal manager who effectively balances the legal, judicial and financial requirements of the district with the needs of the students and desires of the community.
- An executive who holds high expectations for self and others, especially in accountability, honesty, integrity, accessibility, involvement and commitment to the school.
- A child-centered superintendent with a comprehensive view of education; a working knowledge of curriculum and instruction; and a commitment to the development of all children.
- An innovative visionary, who has the ability to create and facilitate strategic plans for ongoing school improvement and student success.

**District Financial Information**

<b>Total valuation</b>	\$64,854,830
<b>Mills</b>	
Inside	4.21
Outside (voted)	21.0
Outside (effective)	20.0
Bond (voted)	5.0
Permanent improvement (voted)	n/a
School income tax	n/a

**Appropriations**

General Fund	\$11,152,338
Total – all funds	\$13,966,250

**Expenditure per pupil** \$9,128

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>General Funds</b>	<b>All Funds</b>
Local Taxes	13%	12%
Local Other	16%	13%
State	71%	68%
Federal	0%	7%

**Enrollment** 1,158

**Number of employees**

Certified	85
Classified	52
Administrators	12

**Average Teacher Salary** \$50,381

**Bachelor’s Degree** 42%

**Master’s Degree** 58%

**Average Years of Experience** 14

**Funds**

Governmental and similar fiduciary funds: general, federal and state, special revenue, bond retirement, permanent improvement, athletic, student activity, debt service

Proprietary funds: food service, uniform school supplies

**Salary and Contract**

The board will provide a competitive compensation package. This would include a multiyear contract with provisions for annual review and evaluation. The actual salary and fringe benefits will be commensurate with the education and experience of the selected candidate.

**Board of Education**

Troy A. Gahm, R.Ph., President	3 yrs
Carl W. Crabtree, Vice President	43 yrs
Jerry L. Buckler, Esq.	7 yrs
Kathy Goins	5 yrs
Charles Turner	5 yrs

**Tentative Timetable**

Announce vacancy	February 19
Application deadline	March 22
Interviews begin	April 19
Act to employ	May
Superintendent on-site	June



**The Application Process**

Nominations and applications by qualified candidates are encouraged. All candidates are asked to visit the Valley Local Schools web site in order to review submission requirements for the Superintendency position. All applications should include:

- A letter emphasizing qualifications and reasons for interest;
- The completed Valley Local School District Superintendent application form, downloaded from [www.valleyls.org](http://www.valleyls.org);
- An up-to-date resume;
- A copy of current Ohio Superintendent Certificate/License or evidence that one is obtainable;
- Credentials and transcripts.

*Note:*  
*Applicants should not make personal contact with board of education members*

**Direct all inquiries and applications to:**

Mr. Lowell Howard, Superintendent  
 South Central Ohio ESC  
 411 Court St., Room 105  
 Portsmouth, OH 45662  
 740-354-0266  
[lhoward@scoesc.org](mailto:lhoward@scoesc.org)

*Employment opportunities are offered without regard to age, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, gender, handicap or status as a Vietnam era or special disabled veteran. Qualified applicants who are disabled and require special assistance to respond to this employment announcement should contact South Central Ohio Educational Service Center.*

**Valley  
Local Schools**  
  
is seeking qualified applicants  
for the  
position of  
  
**Superintendent**



*The mission of the  
Valley Local School District  
is to foster lifelong learning  
by embracing the  
challenges of change.*

**[www.valleyls.org](http://www.valleyls.org)**

**Application deadline  
March 22, 2010**