

Deactivation Q & A

New Questions (as of 3/12/2025)

1. **What happens after the 2 year agreement with the receiving districts and can the receiving districts simply refuse to accept the OHS students after two years?**
 - If OHS is deactivated, it is in good faith that the contract will continue beyond the 2 years with the expectation that the tuition cost is the only negotiated change.
2. **What are the High School District's fund balances and annual cost to operate the school?**
 - This information is presented at the monthly board meeting, the budget is posted on the school website and all information is available by contacting the district office.
3. **If a student has an educational learning plan (IEP), what will happen in a different school District?**
 - A student's IEP follows them wherever they attend school and that school must implement the IEP.
4. **Can the State close OHS because of low enrollment?**
 - The State can close any school at any time, but there is no indication that the State is currently considering closing OHS.
 - If a school is closed by the State, the Regional Office of Education (ROE) makes the decision where the students will attend school.
 - The ROE is not required to send all of the students to the same school.
 - New district lines will be established, and the tax base will follow the kids and new district lines.
5. **Does Ohio High School offer Dual credit courses?**
 - Yes, OHS teachers are certified to teach dual credit English, History and Math.
 - OHS students may also take Sauk Community Classes and receive high school credit.
6. **If only 1 high school student wants to take a class at Ohio, are they offered that class?**
 - Yes, if there is a certified teacher to teach the requested course, the student may enroll in that course. Or, the student may enroll in an on-line course.
7. **Does Ohio High School offer band and/or chorus?**
 - Yes, OHS has a certified music teacher and students may elect to take band and/or chorus.
8. **Will Ohio High School send an employee to Amboy and BV to assist with the transition?**
 - No, The current OHS teaching staff will either go to either Amboy or BV, no other staff will be employed by either school district.

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- 9. If the community votes to keep our high school active, is there a plan for creating more opportunities for high school students?**
- Yes, if the HS students remain in Ohio, a committee will be formed that will include students, parents, teachers and administrators to create a vision and plan to increase student engagement.
- 10. How are Amboy and BV students able to earn 7 credits per year (28 credits to graduate)?**
- Both Amboy and BV are an 8 period day, plus a lunch
 - Students take at least 7 classes a semester and receive .5 credits per class.
 - Students may take 1 study hall per semester and do not receive any credit for the class.
- 11. Is driver's education offered during the school year at Ohio High School?**
- No, currently driver's education is offered during the summer and credit is awarded.
- 12. Can an Ohio High School student take a class that is not offered?**
- Yes, the student can take an on-line high school or Sauk class for credit.
- 13. Does Ohio High School offer foreign languages?**
- Yes, students are currently taking on-line Spanish with support from a Spanish speaking paraprofessional.

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Previous Questions (from 2/25/25)

1. How much will it cost to tuition Ohio students to Amboy or BV?

- This cost is negotiated between the Ohio Board and both Amboy and BV Boards.
- The tuition rate will be near or below the receiving school's per pupil expenditure rate.
- 2023 Amboy per pupil expenditure rate was approximately \$15,900 and BV per pupil expenditure rate was approximately \$15,500.
- Other than the negotiated tuition rate, neither Amboy or BV School Districts will receive any of Ohio High School District's revenue or fund balances.
- Ohio families will be responsible for paying registration fees in the same manner they have when registering for school in Ohio.
- Ohio families will be responsible for paying for any extracurricular fees at either Amboy or BV.

2. How can Ohio Grade School continue to stay open if the High School is deactivated?

- 2023 Grade School District levy rate is 2.9385 (which amounts to \$1,917,652 tax revenue).
- 2023 High School District levy rate is 2.4230 (which amounts to \$1,620,646 tax revenue).
- 2023 combined levy rate for the two Ohio Districts is 5.36 (which totals \$3,538,298 tax revenue).
- The High School Board will levy for less dollars and the Grade School Board will levy for more dollars. This will allow the Grade School to cover any increased costs.
- The Grade School and High School Boards will continue to work together to keep the tax rate as low as possible.

3. How will deactivation impact Whiteside Area Career Center and dual credit students?

- All schools have a limited number of reserved spots at Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC). Those Ohio students interested in a WACC course will select their 1st and 2nd choices and submit their request to WACC. The students will be notified about their course acceptance, and their spot will be reserved no matter which school they attend.
- Amboy or BV will transport Ohio students to afternoon Whiteside classes & back to Amboy or BV.
- The Ohio tuition payment to Amboy or BV will cover the cost for Ohio students attending a Whiteside course.
- If a Whiteside course has an additional fee, the student **might** be responsible for paying that fee.
- Ohio dual enrolled students may continue their dual enrollment at Amboy or BV.
- Dual enrollment costs for students will be negotiated between the Ohio Board, Amboy and BV.

4. Who is responsible for transporting Ohio students to Amboy or BV?

- The HS Board will provide transportation to school and from school to either Amboy or BV.
- One AM bus route will collect all high school students who live in the country and bring them to Ohio school. Once at the Ohio school, the students will get on either a bus to Amboy or BV.
- All students who live in town will meet at the school and be transported to either Amboy or BV.
- If preferred, students/families may drive themselves to Amboy or BV.
- Parents will be responsible for transporting their student(s) home from extracurricular activities.
- It is anticipated that a second route will run in the morning for Grade School students.
- Between the two Ohio Districts, we own/lease 2 large buses, 1 small bus, 1 white bus and 1 Traverse. If the April 1 vote is to deactivate, the total number and type of buses will be evaluated.

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5. How were the average test scores determined?

- The test scores are the average of the last 3 years of data for juniors in high school.
- Amboy and BV test data was taken from the Illinois School Report Card website and Ohio test data was taken from the SAT school report.
- Score averages are dependent upon the total number of students who take the exam and will fluctuate year to year.
- 3 year average number of Amboy juniors is approximately 47
- 3 year average number of BV juniors is approximately 74
- 3 year average number of Ohio juniors is 6

6. How will Ohio students be able to graduate on time from Amboy or BV?

- Ohio student transcripts will be evaluated and students will be given credit for the courses that they have passed.
- Ohio students who have passed all of their required Ohio courses will receive transfer credits to keep them on track with the credits required at either Amboy or BV.
- Ohio students who have failed Ohio classes will need to retake those courses at either Amboy or BV.

7. Can the Regional Office of Education or State close the HS because of low enrollment?

- There is no current indication that the ROE or State will close the HS due to low enrollment.

8. If the community vote is to deactivate, what is the process for reactivating?

- The school board of the district seeking to reactivate a school facility must, by proper resolution, submit a proposition to the voters in a regularly scheduled election.
- In order to reactivate a school facility, a majority of those voting in the reactivating district must vote in favor of the proposition.