



Sherwood Schools. **Sherwood Leadership.** **Sherwood Decisions.**

Findings of the Proposed Sherwood School District Feasibility Study

Sherwood, Arkansas



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Who Is the Sherwood Public Education Foundation?

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, formed by community members in 2013 and granted federal nonprofit status in July 2014. The Foundation's charge: commission an independent feasibility study to determine whether a proposed Sherwood School District could afford to detach from PCSSD — and whether that detachment would harm the remaining district.

THE VALUE OF EACH — DIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE

- **Educators** have the knowledge of educational needs
- **Business professionals** are finance people who ask questions that help us dig deeper
- **Parents & grandparents** keep us focused on the family perspective

FOUNDATION BOARD

Linda George

Retired PCSSD Educator/School Administrator,
Arkansas State Department of Education

Steve Cobb

Sherwood City Attorney, graduate of SHHS

Noah Treat

Business Professional, graduate of SHHS

Leonard Smith

Business Professional, Parent of children in
Sherwood schools

Beverly Williams

Retired PCSSD Educator, PCSSD District
Administrator, Assistant Commissioner of Education,
Arkansas State Department of Education

Joanne Filiatreau

Retired Business Professional

Linda Remele

Retired PCSSD Educator/School Administrator,
former PCSSD Deputy Superintendent, Arkansas
State Department of Education, former President of
PCSSD School Board

Steve Deere

Business Professional

Don Childers

Retired State of Arkansas Assistant Controller and
Certified Public Manager

Charlotte Watson

Sherwood City Clerk, Parent of a student in a
Sherwood school

Mike Sanders

Business Professional, Community Leader,
Grandparent of 2 students in a Sherwood school

Shelby Thomas

Former PCSSD School Board Member, Business
Professional, Parent of a child in a Sherwood school



The Foundation's Mission

The Sherwood Public Education Foundation was created with one charge, carried out in three parts:

1

Investigate

Tasked with investigating whether Sherwood could have a school district of its own.



2

Commission the Study

The Foundation commissioned an independent feasibility study to answer that question with data — first in 2014, updated in 2026.



3

Share the Findings

Present the findings with the public — through townhalls, this presentation, and [SherwoodEducation.org](https://www.sherwoodeducation.org).

That mission is why we are here today.



A Century in the Making

- 1926** ● Sherwood-area residents vote to create their own school district — ruled illegal because petitions “failed to have the required number of qualified electors.”
- 1927** ● Act 152 joins 38 independent districts into the Pulaski County Special School District.
- 2004** ● Sherwood's mayor appoints an ad hoc committee to explore options for the city's school patrons.
- 2013** ● A City Council resolution creates the committee that becomes the Sherwood Public Education Foundation.
- 2014** ● The Foundation earns 501(c)(3) status and completes the first feasibility study. The federal court permits Jacksonville — but not Sherwood — to detach at that time.
- 2016** ● Jacksonville North Pulaski School District forms, becoming the most recent district created in Arkansas.
- 2026** ● On February 26, the court releases PCSSD from federal supervision. The Foundation commissions this updated study.



What Would Have to Happen Next

This effort is a relay. The Foundation runs the first leg — then the baton passes:

LEG 1

The Foundation

Commissions the study, shares the findings, and seeks a PCSSD Board resolution and Arkansas State Board of Education approval. The Foundation's race ends here.

LEG 2

The State Board

The Arkansas State Board of Education declares an election, placing the formation of a Sherwood School District before the voters.



What Would Have to Happen Next

After the State Board declares an election, the baton passes again:

LEG 3

An Election Committee

A separate election committee takes the baton to lead the election campaign through voter approval.

LEG 4

An Interim School Board

After a positive result from the election, the State Department of Education appoints an interim school board. The interim school board hires the superintendent — and the school district work begins.

THE PROCESS



What Would Have to Happen Next

And when the work is done, it all comes back to Sherwood voters:

THE FINISH LINE

An Elected School Board

At the next school election, the Interim School Board will be replaced when all voters in the Sherwood School District will have the opportunity to elect a new school board.

We will be able to elect local leadership to make local decisions.



THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

An Independent Study Built to Answer Two Questions

Commissioned by the Sherwood Public Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and conducted by independent consultant Norman J. Hill. The study was first completed in April 2014 and fully updated in April 2026 with current enrollment, assessment, and facilities data.

Data sources include: the Arkansas Department of Education, the Pulaski and Faulkner County Assessors' Offices, Pulaski County Special School District records, and Stephens Inc.

QUESTION 1

Could a Sherwood School District financially support itself?

YES

The study concludes the proposed district would have sufficient funds to operate its own schools.

QUESTION 2

Would detachment harm the remaining Pulaski County Special School District?

NO

The study concludes detachment would cause no harm to the remaining PCSSD.



SECTION 01

The Proposed District

Nine campuses, one community — the schools Sherwood families already know.

THE PROPOSED DISTRICT

Sherwood is the largest city in Arkansas without a school district of its own.

1	Little Rock	203,436	9	Bentonville	58,249
2	Fayetteville	99,319	10	Pine Bluff	39,743
3	Fort Smith	89,805	11	Hot Springs	37,920
4	Springdale	88,160	12	Benton	36,595
5	Jonesboro	80,137	13	SHERWOOD	33,070
6	Rogers	72,981	14	Bella Vista	31,697
7	Conway	67,642	15	Paragould	30,215
8	North Little Rock	64,538	16	Jacksonville	29,221

Every city above Sherwood on this list operates its own school district.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2024 American Community Survey population estimates.



The District at a Glance

4,659

projected students
enrolled as of October
1, 2025

9

school campuses, all
operating today

16th

would be largest district
in Arkansas — bigger
than 224 others

NINE SCHOOLS, ALREADY SERVING SHERWOOD

Elementary (Pre-K–5)

Cato • Clinton • Harris • Oakbrooke • Sherwood • Sylvan Hills

Middle School (6–7)

Sylvan Hills Middle School

Junior High (8–9)

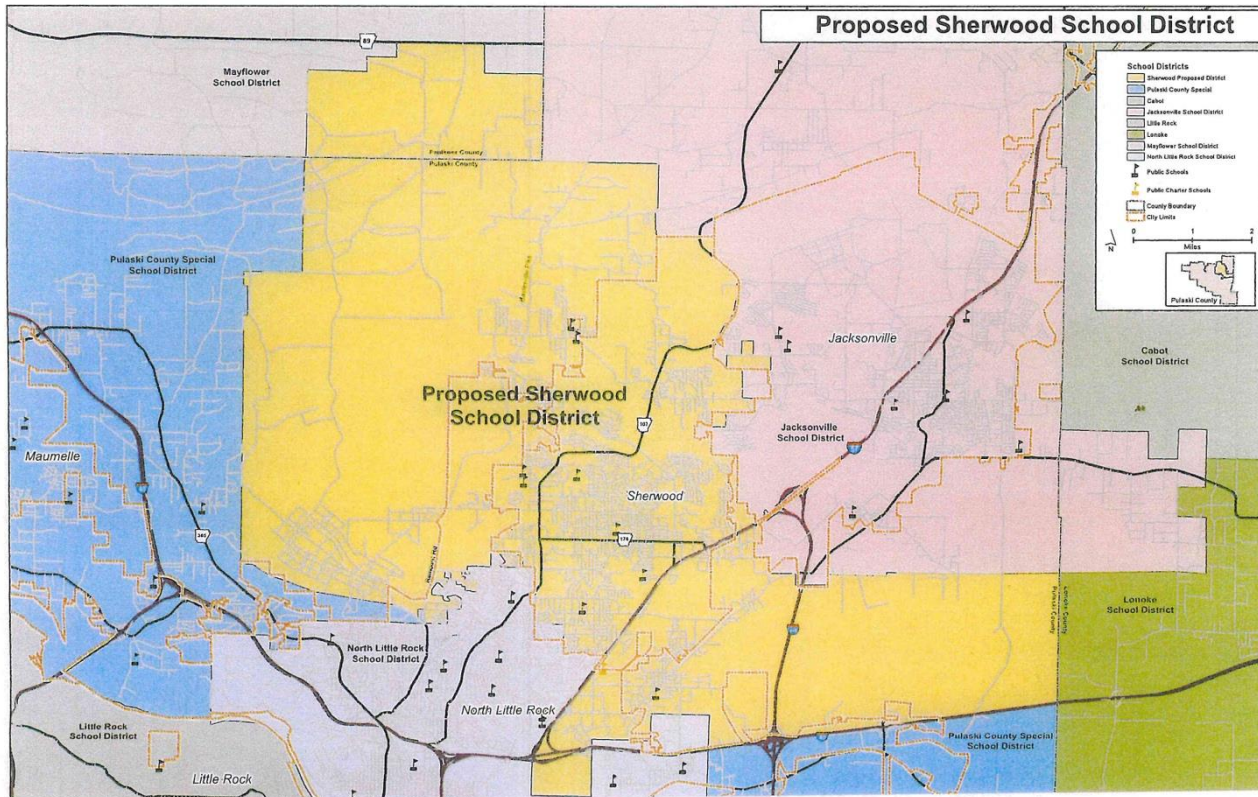
Sylvan Hills Junior High School

High School (10–12)

Sylvan Hills High School



The Proposed Boundaries



The proposed district (shown in yellow) covers the City of Sherwood and adjacent unincorporated communities currently served by PCSSD schools.

It borders the Jacksonville, North Little Rock, Little Rock, and Cabot districts — and mirrors the attendance zones of the nine schools on the previous slide.



SECTION 02

What the Study Found

Three findings: a strong tax base, a funded budget, and no harm to the remaining PCSSD.



A Tax Base That Can Stand on Its Own

\$960,290,966

total property assessment in the proposed district —
larger than four of the five Arkansas districts closest to
it in size

\$8,037

per-student foundation funding,
guaranteed by the State of
Arkansas on the first 25 mills of
local tax

REVENUE PROJECTED AT THE CURRENT RATE: 40.7 MILLS

25.0

Maintenance & Operations (uniform rate
required statewide)

14.8

Debt Service

0.9

Technology

*All projections in the study are modeled on the 40.7-mill rate
already in place today — the same rate and structure
Sherwood residents currently pay.*

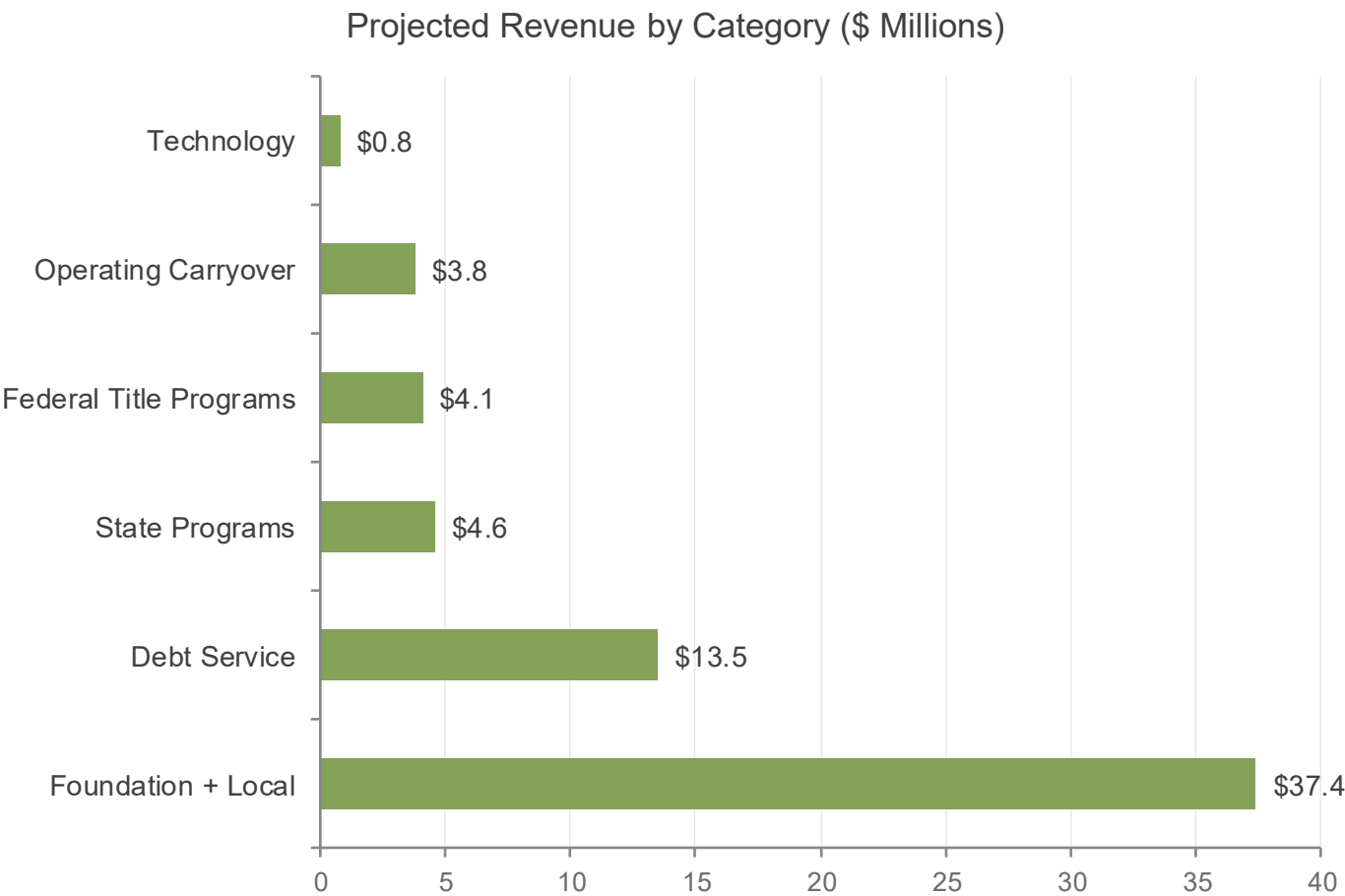


A Fully Funded First Budget

\$64.3 million

in total annual projected revenue for the proposed district.

The foundation of the budget — \$37.4M — comes from the state-guaranteed per-student allocation. The remainder flows from existing debt-service collections, state categorical programs, federal Title programs, and Sherwood's share of the PCSSD operating carryover.



Source: SPEF Addendum to Feasibility Study (July 2026), projections at a 95% tax collection rate. Projections vary with enrollment, census data, and funding levels.



No Harm to the Remaining PCSSD

$\pm 3.30\%$

Racial composition unchanged

The racial makeup of the remaining PCSSD stays within $\pm 3.30\%$ of today — inside the $\pm 5\%$ federal standard used to define a statistical difference. The study found no statistical impact.

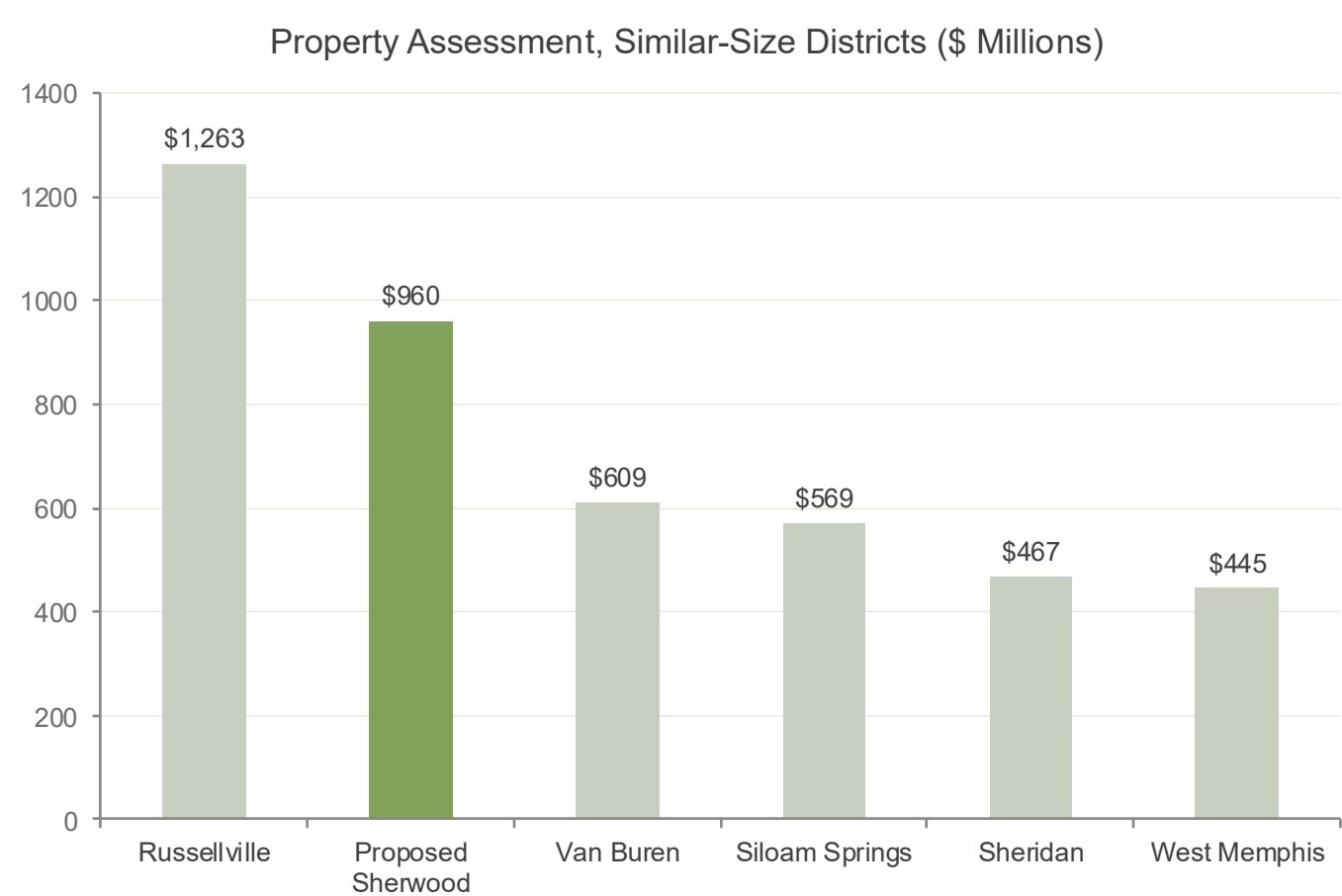
7.63%

Debt ratio unchanged

PCSSD's bonded-debt ratio stays exactly where it is today.



How Sherwood Compares to Similar Districts



Among the five districts closest in enrollment:

2nd largest tax base

Only Russellville assesses higher.

2nd in funds per student

Ahead of Van Buren, West Memphis, Siloam Springs, and Sheridan.

Mid-range millage — 40.7

Below Siloam Springs and Van Buren; above West Memphis and Sheridan.

Source: Feasibility Study Tables 7, 10, and 11; Arkansas Department of Education Annual Statistical Report.

Sherwood Starts Stronger Than the Last District to Form



Jacksonville North Pulaski detached from PCSSD in 2016 — the closest and most recent comparison. At formation, the proposed Sherwood district compares as follows:

	PROPOSED SHERWOOD (2026)	JACKSONVILLE NP (2014)
Projected K–12 enrollment	4,659	4,704*
Millage rate	40.7	40.7
Property assessment	\$960.3M	\$337.4M
Student demographics	49.2% Black / 50.8% non-Black	47.5% Black / 52.5% non-Black

Nearly 3× the tax base. The proposed Sherwood district would begin with almost three times the assessed property value Jacksonville North Pulaski had at its formation — at the identical millage rate.

**Jacksonville's 2014 enrollment included Pre-K. Source: Feasibility Study Summary and Jacksonville Comparison.*



Six Findings, One Bottom Line

1

No statistical impact on the racial composition of the remaining PCSSD

2

Would be the 16th largest school district in Arkansas

3

An assessment greater than four of five similar-size districts

4

No change to PCSSD's debt ratio after detachment

5

A Sherwood debt ratio of 7.63% — lower than two comparable districts

6

Per-student funds greater than four of five similar-size districts



Why the Foundation Is Raising Funds

Bringing a proposed school district from study to ballot takes real resources. Contributions to the Foundation support four areas of work:

Feasibility Study

Commissioning and updating the independent study that documents whether a Sherwood district is viable.

Legal Fees

Legal counsel through the resolution, approval, and detachment process.

Educational Consulting Fees

Guidance from experienced educators and administrators on district formation.

Marketing & Communications Fees

Keeping Sherwood residents informed through events, materials, and outreach.

SUPPORT THE WORK

How to Donate



SCAN TO DONATE ONLINE



Scan to Give Online

Point your phone's camera at the code.

Cash & Check Accepted

At the sign-up table or by mail.

Tax Deductible — 501(c)(3)

All donations are tax deductible to the Sherwood Public Education Foundation.

SherwoodEducation.org

COMMON QUESTIONS



Teacher Pay Today: The PCSSD Salary Schedule

Step	BA	BA + 12	BA + 24	MA	MA + 15	MA + 30	MA + 45	Doctorate
1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$52,033
2	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,752	\$53,264
3	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$51,941	\$54,504
4	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,629	\$53,140	\$55,754
5	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$51,787	\$54,350	\$57,016
6	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,445	\$52,957	\$55,570	\$58,287
7	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$51,572	\$54,135	\$56,801	\$59,568
8	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,198	\$52,710	\$55,324	\$58,041	\$60,860
9	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$51,295	\$53,858	\$56,524	\$59,291	\$62,162
10	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$52,402	\$55,017	\$57,733	\$60,553	\$63,474
11	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,957	\$53,520	\$56,185	\$58,953	\$61,823	\$64,797
12	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$52,033	\$54,647	\$57,364	\$60,183	\$63,105	\$66,129
13	\$50,000	\$50,557	\$53,120	\$55,786	\$58,553	\$61,423	\$64,397	\$67,472
14	\$50,000	\$51,603	\$54,217	\$56,934	\$59,753	\$62,675	\$65,699	\$68,826
15	\$50,096	\$52,659	\$55,324	\$58,092	\$60,963	\$63,935	\$67,011	\$70,189
16	\$51,111	\$53,725	\$56,442	\$59,261	\$62,183	\$65,207	\$68,334	\$71,563
17	\$52,136	\$54,802	\$57,569	\$60,440	\$63,413	\$66,489	\$69,667	\$72,946
18	\$52,986	\$55,652	\$58,419	\$61,290	\$64,263	\$67,339	\$70,517	\$73,796



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1

Can Sherwood tax dollars really support finances at the current rate?

Q2

Will there be an increase in Sherwood's taxes?

Have a question that isn't listed? Ask us anytime at [SherwoodEducation.org](https://www.SherwoodEducation.org).

JOIN US



Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY EVENT

Tuesday, September 1 • 6:00 PM

The Ridge Assembly of God

8013 Jacksonville-Cato Rd, Sherwood, AR 72120

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 15 • 6:30 PM

Sylvan Hills First Baptist Church

9008 AR-107, Sherwood, AR 72120

Both events are open to the public. • SherwoodEducation.org