

GEARING UP FOR FUTURE SUCCESS



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

In Avon Grove School District (AGSD), our mission is to foster a learning environment in which all students are exceptionally well prepared to succeed and lead full and meaningful lives. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, AGSD focused on defining what that means for our students through many of our major initiatives. We developed the Profile of a Future Ready Avon Grove Graduate, which provides a framework for our curriculum planning and establishes clear outcomes for students that are aligned with the needs of the 21st century workforce. We updated our three-year Comprehensive Plan for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and used it to create Accelerating Growth Plans for each of our schools. In addition, we prepared for the opening of the new Avon Grove High School (AGHS), a state-of-the-art facility that provides dynamic learning spaces for our students. I am pleased to share our 2021-2022 annual report to the community, which highlights these initiatives and other achievements that showcase our AG pride. Thank you for your partnership in support of our vision: that all Avon Grove students are well prepared to create their futures.

Respectfully,

M. Christopher Marchese, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



AGHS Construction Milestones



Summer 2021



- Prepared construction site
- Built structural frame
- Determined traffic flow logistics

Fall 2021



- Installed roof
- Installed drywall and windows
- Prepared athletic fields

Facilities Strategic Initiative

The Facilities Strategic Initiative includes the construction of the new Avon Grove High School (AGHS) and the renovation of the former high school to become a new middle school for students in grades 6-8.

The 2021-2022 school year ended earlier than usual to allow adequate time for the District to prepare for the opening of the new high school in September.

Throughout the summer of 2022, contractors continued to work diligently at the new AGHS. They finalized classrooms with the installation of built-in cabinetry, vinyl floor tiles and ceiling grids. Furniture was delivered and installed. Exterior landscaping began to take shape and hardscaping, including parking lots, driveways, curbing and paving, was completed.

The former high school, which is currently being renovated, will open as a middle school at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.



Winter 2022



- Installed white boards in classrooms
- Installed network cabling
- Poured exterior asphalt
- Installed metal siding

Spring 2022



- Installed doors, fixtures and ceiling tiles
- Cleaned and primed classrooms
- Completed landscaping and seeding
- Framed tennis courts, sidewalks and parking lots

Gearing up for Future Success

Academic Performance

Future Ready PA Index 2021-22 Act 13 Building Level Score	
Avon Grove High School	89.6
Fred S. Engle Middle School	84.1
Avon Grove Intermediate School	85.4

The Act 13 Building Level Score for evaluating educator effectiveness is comprised of student growth and assessment data, as well as attendance rate and graduation rate data, and is adjusted based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in a school.

According to the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System for measuring student growth, AGSD students in grades 4-11 achieved “meets” or “exceeds” in 15 of the 17 areas tested. In addition, student scores were well above the state growth standards in 13 of the areas tested.

Exact Path assessments, used to determine K-8 student benchmarks in math and reading, showed that over 70% of AGSD's students scored in the 75th-99th percentile for

the year-end assessments when compared to other students nationally.

Teaching and Learning Initiatives



In 2021-2022, AGSD updated its three-year Comprehensive Plan for PDE, providing a pathway for the District to best support its students through shared practices and resources. The Plan contains three overarching goals: to focus on high-quality academics, to foster supportive learning environments and to establish healthy systems conditions. In line with the Comprehensive Plan, AGSD developed its own Accelerating Growth Plan, tailored for learning at each school. The plan represents the goals AGSD has for its students and is intended to support students academically, so that they can achieve at their highest level. To further strengthen student supports, AGSD designed the Profile of a Future Ready Avon Grove Graduate. The Profile highlights the characteristics and competencies that AGSD graduates should possess to be best prepared for future success. These competencies are aligned with the needs of the AGSD community as well as the 21st century workforce.

Advancing Education with Technology

Connected to Learning



AGSD's Technology Department provides students and staff with technical services that support the teaching and learning process. Last year, AGSD offered portable hotspot devices to any student in need of home internet service. This ensured that students were able to stay connected to learning while inside and outside of school.

To help ensure equitable access for our Latinx students, the technology team provided digital literacy sessions to parents and caregivers during the District's Padres Latinos meetings. Parents learned how to receive text messages from AGSD and download the Avon Grove SD app on their mobile phones. Other topics included how to change

the default language on an internet browser and configure electronic device settings in multiple languages.

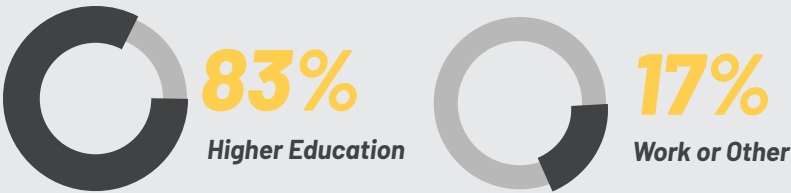
Access to Information

AGSD's Technology Department also provides information technology services to support District operations. The team facilitated the installation of the computer network system, interactive projectors, digital signage, phones, printers, security cameras and vape detectors for the new Avon Grove High School. Throughout the year, the Technology team also planned for the installation of networking and safety and security equipment for the middle school renovation project.

Class of 2022

AGHS Graduates

The Avon Grove High School class of 2022 consisted of 439 graduates. Of those students, 83% went on to pursue higher education and 17% chose to enter the workforce or pursue other options.



Financial Performance

Total Budget

\$104,057,891

The AGSD General Fund budget supports the educational, administrative and facilities operations of the District. The 2021-2022 budget was \$104,057,891 and included a real estate tax increase of 2.48%. This increase was used to support the third year of debt service millage for the high school construction project (1.77%), continued increases in the required Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System contribution rate (0.46%) and operational costs (0.25%).

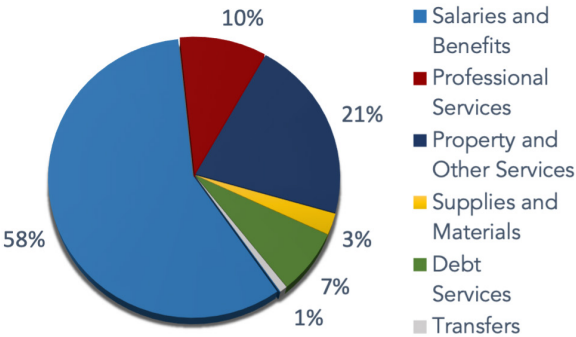
A key component of the budget was the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funding, which supported the District's ongoing pandemic response and its Accelerating Growth Plan. Over \$3 million of ESSER funding was included in the budget to support the District's focus on providing high-quality academics, supportive learning environments and healthy systems conditions.

Throughout 2021-2022, the District was fortunate to realize stronger tax collections and other revenue sources, such

as PlanCon reimbursements, which, when combined with careful spending practices, resulted in an increase in fund balance in the General Fund of approximately \$3.7 million. The District once again received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion from its independent auditor, and the auditor did not identify any findings or recommendations during the course of the audit.

Total Expenditures

\$ 98,281,950





Representatives from Citadel selected AGHS social studies teacher Michael Kowalski (shown above) as the 2022 Citadel Heart of Learning Award finalist for AGSD. In his nominations, Mr. Kowalski was described as "a caring, flexible, understanding and supportive teacher," as well as "an exemplary role model for each of his students." As a finalist, Mr. Kowalski received \$500 for classroom supplies and was honored at an awards reception in Philadelphia.

Community Engagement

Special Education EMPOWER Program



Aurora Pizzeria Owner Jim DelVescovo, student Luke Kelley, Saladworks Owner Nick DiBello, Aurora Manager Amelia Winters, Aurora Manager Mackenzie Adair and AGSD EMPOWER Coordinator Christa Schoen at the appreciation breakfast.

In 2021-2022, AGSD piloted EMPOWER, a work-based instructional program for students with special needs. EMPOWER, an acronym for explore meaningful partnership opportunities and work environment readiness, helps students transition to adult life by obtaining practical work experience at local businesses. In the spring, AGSD hosted an appreciation breakfast for its community partners.

Senior Citizen Volunteer Tax Relief Program



Volunteers Carole Ulmer and Dolores Lybeert, AGSD School Board Member Mike Woodin, and volunteers Elaine Weber and Ellen Foley at the appreciation breakfast.

AGSD's Senior Citizen Volunteer Tax Relief program provides residents, who are age 60 years or older and pay school taxes, an opportunity to earn a tax rebate of up to \$500 for volunteering in AGSD schools. Last spring, the District hosted an appreciation breakfast for participants in the program.

AGSD **Pride**

Penn London Elementary School

- To help incoming students acclimate, Penn London Elementary School (PLES) hosted Camp Kindergarten. Young learners toured the school, played at the playground, ate in the cafeteria and rode on a school bus.
- PLES participated in the Adopt-a-Family program and made holiday wishes come true for over 440 children across AGSD.
- Second grade students participated in the Youth Bluebird Project, a 4-H Club school enrichment program and community service project. Students learned about the importance of bluebirds in nature and assembled bluebird houses for the London Grove open spaces initiative.



Avon Grove Intermediate School

- Proceeds from the PTA Boosterthon fundraiser provided new playground equipment for Avon Grove Intermediate School (AGIS) students.
- The sixth grade orchestra and Antiphonos choir performed at the High Note Festival in Hershey, PA. Each group earned a superior rating.
- Every student attending AGIS had artwork on display at a schoolwide Arts and Humanities exhibit.

Fred S. Engle Middle School

- According to PDE's School Performance Profile, Fred S. Engle Middle School (FSEMS) students had the second-highest growth and achievement scores out of the 17 Chester County middle schools.
- Nearly 60 talented FSEMS students showcased their musical, theatrical and dance skills in the spring production of The Little Mermaid.
- Participation in school sports increased to 510 student athletes, who demonstrated outstanding teamwork, effort and sportsmanship throughout the year.



Avon Grove High School

- *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Avon Grove High School (AGHS) as #49 in the best Philadelphia, PA, metro area high schools.
- Seven AGHS students received the distinction of Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship program.
- Class of 2022 graduates went on to attend the Automotive Training Center in Exton, Bucknell University, Delaware County Community College, Lehigh University, Millersville University, Penn State University, Seton Hall University, Temple University, Thaddeus Stevens College, The Julliard School, University of Delaware and Virginia Tech, among other postsecondary institutions.





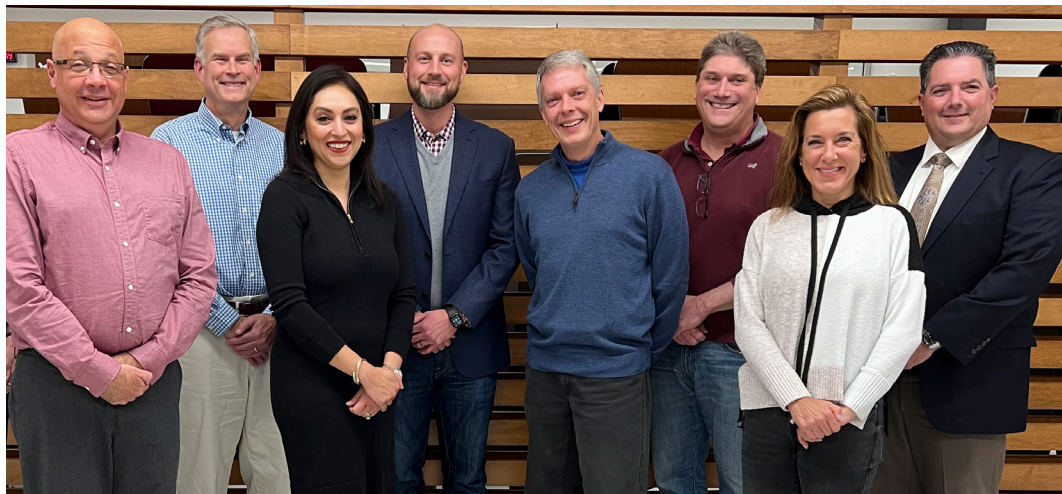
AVON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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610.869.2441 | www.avongrove.org



AGSD Board of School Directors



Shown in photo on left (left to right): Bonnie Wolff (Vice President) and Dorothy Linn, Ed.D. (President).

Shown in photo on right (left to right): Herman Engel, Richard Dumont, Ruchira Singh, Mike Woodin, William Wood, Jeffrey Billig, Tracy Lisi and Superintendent of Schools M. Christopher Marchese, Ed.D.

Our Students

AGSD serves more than 5,000 students from: Franklin, London Britain, London Grove, New London and Penn Townships, and Avondale and West Grove Boroughs. We are proud of our diverse community of learners and aim for every student to feel connected, accepted and valued in AGSD.

Student Ethnicity	% of Students
American Indian	0.08%
Asian	2.01%
Black	1.55%
Hispanic	26.96%
Multi-Racial	1.87%
Pacific Islander	0.02%
White	67.50%

School	Enrollment
PLES (K-2)	1,038
AGIS (3-6)	1,429
FSEMS (7-8)	818
AGHS (9-12)	1,735
Total	5,020

Data as of October 1, 2021.

Our Faculty

In 2021-2022, AGSD employed 335 educators and 37 guidance counselors, school psychologists and nurses, totaling 372 faculty members.



Regarding level of education, 22% of faculty members have earned a bachelor's degree; 76% have earned a master's degree; and 2% have earned a doctoral degree. Regarding tenure, 51% of faculty members have worked in AGSD for over 15 years.