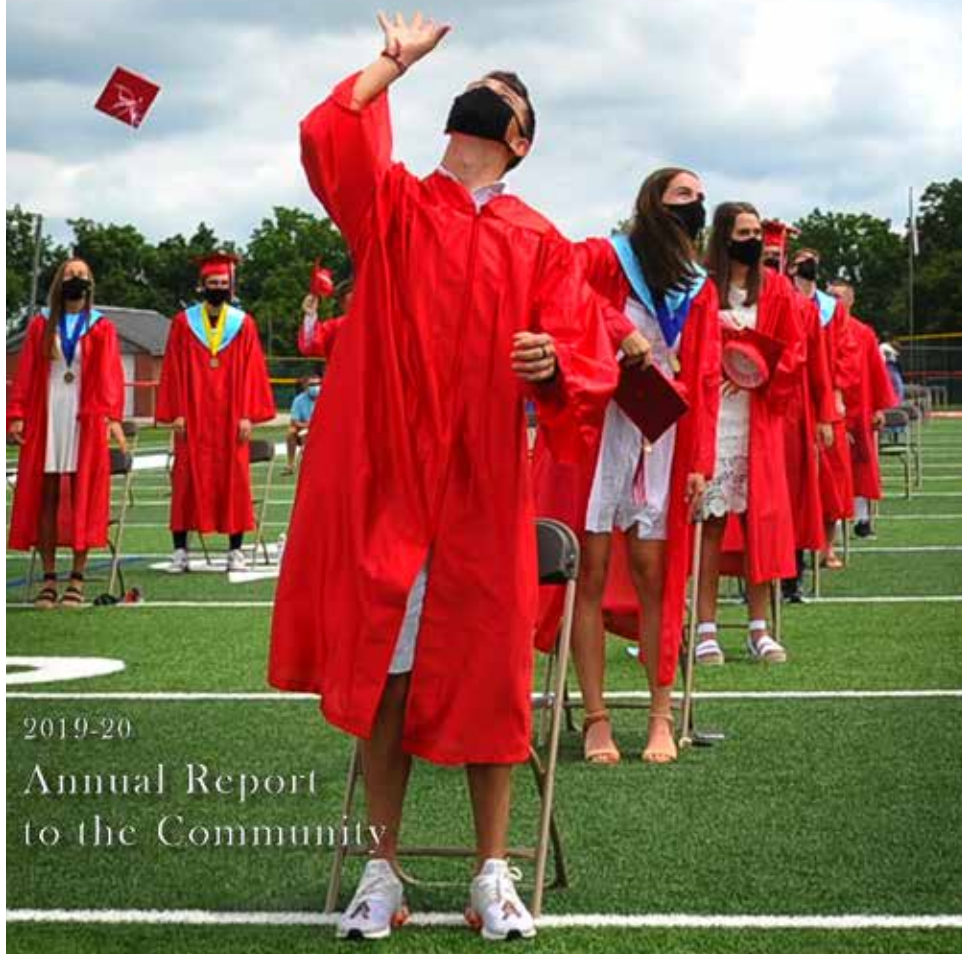




Southern York County
School District

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



2019-20

Annual Report
to the Community

SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

In order to empower our students to reach their full potential, we believe in encouraging passion, expressing voice and choice, developing problem solving skills, allowing risk taking and permission to fail, and teamwork and collaboration. We are committed to providing an environment in which all students will develop skills to benefit them in their futures and develop their lifelong love of learning.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Front row: Ron Groncki, Vice President James Holley, President Robert Schefter, and Danielle Weaver-Watts.

Back row: John Dorr Jr. , Treasurer Bruce Bauman, Kelly Jarvis, Deborah Kalina, and Judi Fisher.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Southern York County Community:

I am pleased to present the 2019-20 Southern York County School District Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to communicate to you how well our School District is performing, as well as to highlight many of our student accomplishments, both inside and outside the classroom.

The end of our 2019-20 school year found us adjusting to the world being turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. With little time to prepare, we were suddenly navigating a virtual learning environment and educating our students in a completely different model.

I want to thank our students and their parents, and our school board, faculty, and staff for their great work and resiliency during these challenging times. We all had to come together very quickly and the amount of hard work and dedication was nothing short of incredible.

Even though school looks different, we remain committed to the success and growth of each and every student in the Southern York County School District. We are all here to work together so all students feel valued, respected, and may reach their greatest potential. We embrace open and honest dialogue with all stakeholders as we work in partnership to support our students and families.

Please enjoy reading through the information in our annual report. I am proud to share the academic success of our students and the success of our District. We continue to commit ourselves to our students and we thank you for your support as we build the best school district possible.



Sincerely Yours,

Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Sandra Lemmon, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Robert Bryson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Susan Green, CPA, Chief Financial & Operations Officer, Board Secretary

VIRTUAL LEARNING AND THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19

The beginning of 2020 delivered an unexpected challenge. As March began and spring break was on the horizon, COVID-19 was suddenly upon us and the year was turned upside down. Almost overnight, students were learning from home and our buildings were quiet. Our District came together very quickly as we moved from traditional classroom learning to virtual education for all students. Thank you to everyone for their great collaboration in distributing technology for online learning, student meals, communication, and the numerous responsibilities, which were handled quickly and efficiently.

In addition to working through the daily challenges of organizing virtual learning for all students, graduation was right around the corner. Our District wanted the graduates to experience this very important rite of passage, so with the help of senior class representatives, we decided to delay the ceremony to August for everyone's safety.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

We focus on social emotional learning in our schools, and continue to ensure our students are thriving academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. We are creating a district culture which provides an equitable, supportive, and welcoming environment for all individuals to reach their potential and to be prepared when they enter the world beyond Southern York County School District.

BLENDED LEARNING

DIGITAL ACADEMY

Southern York County School District recognizes that some students learn better in environments outside of the traditional school setting. We support blended learning environments and offer students choices to fit their educational needs, including our online Digital Academy and Dual Enrollment programs.

Our Southern York Digital Academy implements a quality, personalized online learning environment that challenges students to achieve their potential. Students have an educational choice where they are able to enjoy a flexible schedule with access to learning 24/7, participate in co-curricular or extracurricular school activities, and are taught by Southern's staff of highly qualified teachers.

CREATED IN 2011

OPTION TO ATTEND
CLASSES
ON CAMPUS

PERSONALIZED ONLINE
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

ENROLLMENT

11

2011-12

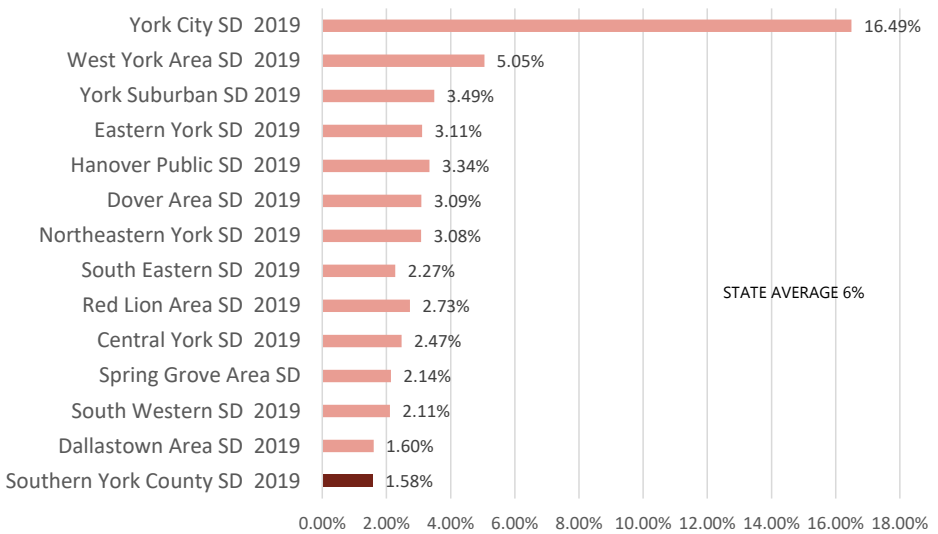
32

2019-20

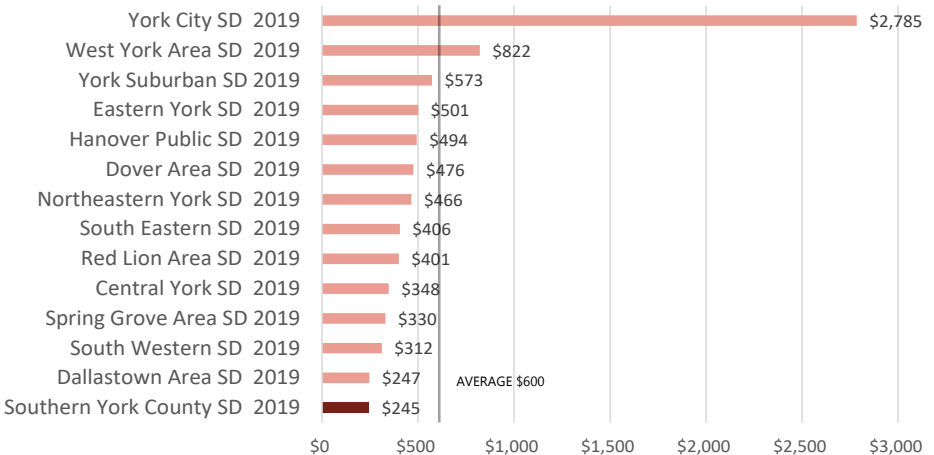
COST FOR CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS

Despite the District's success with the Southern York Digital Academy, cyber charter school costs continue to rise both in the amount and as a percentage of the overall budget. While the District pays approximately 1.6% of the budget to outside cyber charter schools, the Pennsylvania district average is close to 6%. These are funds, mostly local tax dollars, that are leaving the district to fund cyber charter schools. The District will continue its efforts to provide alternatives to cyber charter schools to provide a quality education to all students and keep the money at the district.

Percent of Budget Spent on Outside Charter School



Dollars Lost from Each Student to Fund Charter School



HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

"We believe in using real world experiences to prepare our students from Kindergarten through their senior year to be career, college, and life ready."

Dr. Lemmon

2020 SAT SCORES

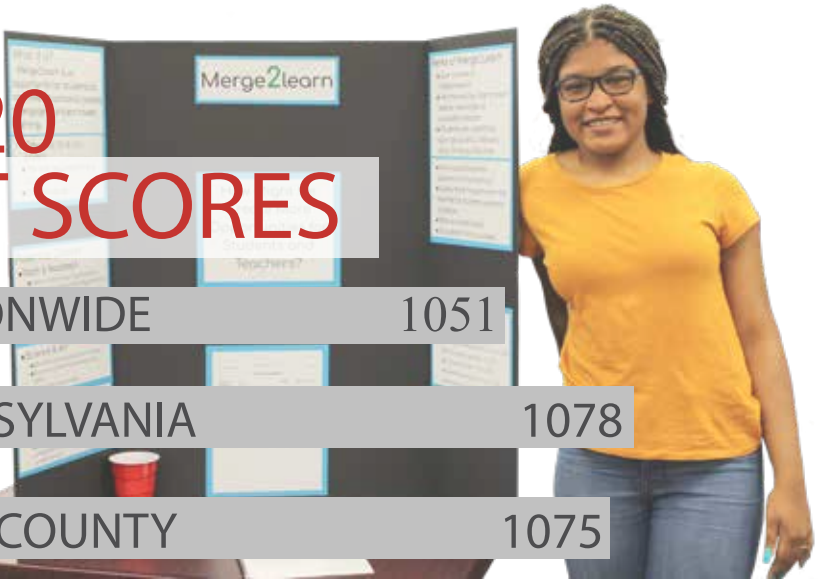
NATIONWIDE 1051

PENNSYLVANIA 1078

YORK COUNTY 1075

SUSQUEHANNOCK 1135

We do not believe test scores in isolation quantify our students' success. Our goal is to ensure students are passionate about learning, have opportunity to create and develop meaningful student-initiated projects, and are immersed in solving authentic and complex problems while collaborating together. We encourage students to take risks, and find their strengths, in order to reach their greatest potential. These lifelong skills prepare our students to be career, college, and life ready.



HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Susquehannock's Advanced Placement (AP) program had another successful year with 309 high school students participating in AP Testing in 2020. Students can earn college and university credits in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CLASS OF 2020:

84%

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

10%

EMPLOYMENT

3%

ARMED FORCES

3%

APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAMS

309 SHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AP TESTING.

68% OF SHS GRADUATES SCORED 3 OR HIGHER ON AP EXAMS AND EARNED COLLEGE CREDIT.

17 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED AS AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

8 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED AS AP SCHOLARDS WITH HONOR

22 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED AS AP SCHOLARS

SYCSD FOUNDATION

The Southern York County School District Foundation, an organization led by a group of dedicated community volunteers, has a unique partnership with the District, that has been very beneficial for students. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides giving opportunities for scholarships, projects, equipment, supplies, and other purposes for the benefit of our students.

Other projects that the Foundation has partnered with the District on include providing students with school supplies, clothes, lunches, and eyeglasses through the welfare program. The Foundation also sponsored both the Thank You Card contest and Green Thumb Club which provided students with authentic learning.

The Foundation's goal is to continue to add programs to help meet the needs of the community's students. The Innovative Grant Program provides teachers with funds to sponsor projects that extend learning beyond written academic standards and develop additional opportunities for District students.

158 SCHOLARSHIPS TO 110 STUDENTS

\$191,827 IN CONTRIBUTIONS

44 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

OVER \$1 MILLION IN CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

OVER \$900,000 IN NET ASSETS

\$3,044 FOR SEVEN SYCSD INNOVATIVE GRANTS

EXCELLENCE IN **ACHIEVEMENT**

BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

- SHS engineering students finished in first, and second place and took four of the top five spots in the Pennsylvania Society for Professional Engineers (PSPE) Bridge Building Competition

PUNKIN' CHUNKIN' COMPETITION

- SHS engineering student teams placed first in the York County High School Punkin' Chunkin' competition

PA GOVERNOR'S STEM COMPETITION

- SHS engineering team placed second in the Governor's LIU#12 Regional STEM Competition

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT BIZTOWN

- Elementary students participated in Junior Achievement's Biztown

HIGH SCHOOL STEM SUMMIT

- SHS freshmen participated in Junior Achievement's STEM Summit

GET REAL DAYS / REALITY CHECK

- Sophomore students participated in Get Real Days



SHS freshman participated in Junior Achievement Stem Summit

YORK COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING

- 41 SHS students participated in Career Exploration Programs
- One SHS student was chosen to participate in the Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program
- 11 SHS students attended the Career Readiness Education Workshop (CREW)

KINSLEY PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

- Two SHS students were chosen to participate in the Kinsley Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program

ENVIROTHON

- SMS students participated in Envirothon and prepared for the annual competition held in May

MATH COUNTS

- SMS students competed in the Math Counts County and Regional competitions

YOUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS (YES!)

- Middle School students participated in activities to help students gain an appreciation for the importance of financial and career decisions



Christopher Moss, Andrew Beamesderfer, Eric Schwanke, and Andrew Roberts compete in the AP Governor's STEM Challenge.

EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

BAND, ELEMENTARY

- Sixth Grade Band and Orchestra held a December concert
- Ten Fifth and Sixth Grade Students were nominated to attend PMEA String Fest

BAND, SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- The band was scheduled to participate in the High Note Festival in Allentown
- Nine students were scheduled to participate in the York County Middle School Honors Band Festival
- Six SMS students were members of the SHS Warrior Marching Band
- SMS students performed at the SMS Student Council's Veteran's Appreciation Day

BAND, SUSQUEHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL

- The Marching Band finished second in the American Class Open at the Cavalcade of Bands Championships
- The Marching Band color guard won high guard at the Cavalcade of Bands Championships
- The Marching Band percussion section won high percussion at the Cavalcade of Bands Championships

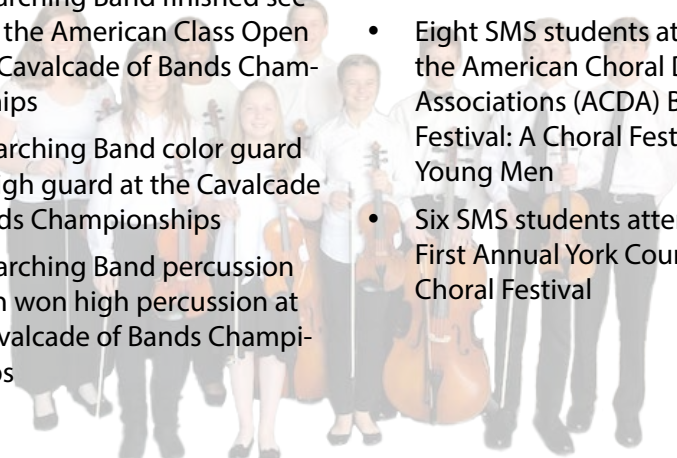
- Nine students participated in the York County High School Honors Band Festival
- Three students participated in the PMEA All-State Band Festival
- Two students qualified in the (PMEA) All-State Band Festival
- One student participated in the NAFME All-National Concert Band Festival

CHORUS, ELEMENTARY

- Three SES students participated in the National OAKE Honors Choir and Concert in Portland, Oregon
- Four SES students earned a spot in the PMEA District 7 Elementary Songfest

CHORUS, SOUTHERN MIDDLE

- 13 SMS students attended the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Sweet Soundsations: A Choral Festival for Young Women
- Eight SMS students attended the American Choral Directors Associations (ACDA) Boyz Noyz Festival: A Choral Festival for Young Men
- Six SMS students attended the First Annual York County Jr. High Choral Festival



CHORUS, SUSQUEHANNOCK HIGH SCHOOL

- Two SHS students attended the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Sweet Soundations: A Choral Festival for Young Women
- One SHS student attended the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Boyz Noyz Festival: A Choral Festival for Young Men
- Two SHS students earned a spot in the PMEA District 7 Chorus Festival
- The Concert Choir earned the top rating of Superior in the High Note Music Festival
- Chanticleer Performed at the PA Christmas Show in Harrisburg, PA

ORCHESTRA

- Third through Twelfth Grade Orchestra held a district-wide concert in February
- One FES student participated in the York Junior Symphony
- FES, SES, and ShES all held a Beginner Orchestra Night with a total of 96 third graders involved across all schools

THEATRE

- SHS Theatre presented Puffs for its fall play
- Puffs was performed for a sell-out crowd at the PA Thespian Festival at York College
- SHS Theatre presented its first student-directed one act for young audiences "The Brave Little Tailor"
- Three students received "Hall of Fame" awards for their involvement with the International Thespian Society at the PA Thespian Festival
- Two students were awarded "Superior" schools for the entries into the International Thespian Society "Thespy" Awards
- One student presented their superior "Thespy" entry at the National Thespian Festival
- One student received the All-Star cast member award for their role in Puffs at the PA Thespian Festival

EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS

- Forty-two student athletes earned the York Adams Academic All-League Award
- Thirty-one student athletes earned the District III E. Jerry Brooks Academic Excellence Award

BASKETBALL, GIRLS

- Earned YAIAA Sportsmanship Award

BASKETBALL, BOYS

- Earned YAIAA Sportsmanship Award
- Qualified for the District III Championships

CROSS COUNTRY

- Earned YAIAA Sportsmanship Award
- Boys Cross Country Team finished third at the District III Championships
- Boys Cross Country placed eleventh at the PIAA State Championships

FIELD HOCKEY

- Qualified for District III Championships

GOLF

- YAIAA Division II Runner Up
- One student qualified for the PIAA State Championships



SOCCER, BOYS

- YAIAA Division II Champions
- YAIAA County Runner Up
- Qualified for the PIAA State Championships
- One student named YAIAA Division II Player of the Year
- One student named All-State

SOCCER, GIRLS

- YAIAA Division II Champions
- Qualified for the PIAA District III Championships

SWIMMING AND DIVING

- One student named PIAA District III Diving Champion
- One student named to All-State
- One student named PIAA District III Champion in the 200 Individual Medley and the 500 Freestyle
- One student named PIAA State Champion in the 200 Individual Medley and PIAA State Runner Up in the 500 Freestyle
- Four swimmers made up the PIAA State Champion relay team in the 200 Freestyle Relay

WRESTLING

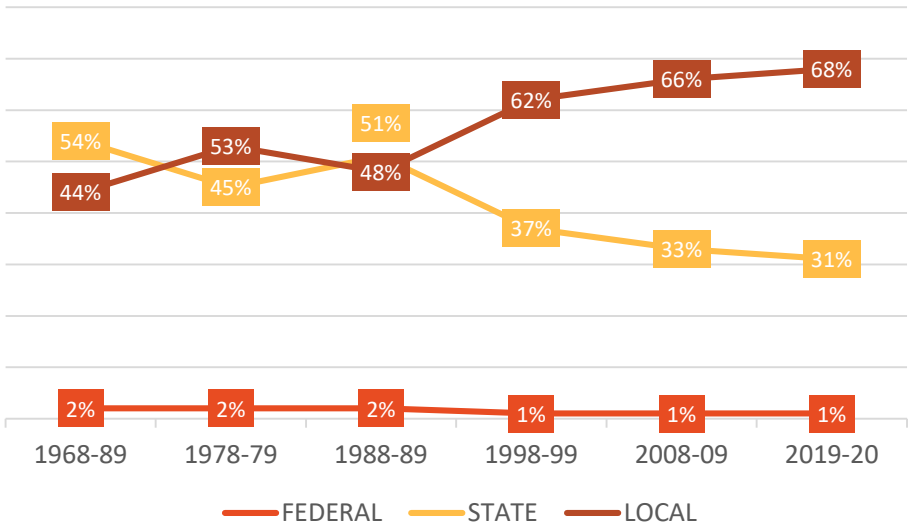
- YAIAA Division II Champions
- One student placed eighth at the PIAA State Championships
- One student named All-State



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Southern York County School District Board of Education and Administration understand that the resources for the community's schools are funded by our community. Since the Free School Act of 1834, a larger share of public education has been paid by local communities and that continues today. As shown in the graph below, 68% of the cost of education for 2019-20 was funded from local dollars, 31% from state, and only 1% from federal and other revenue.

REVENUE SOURCES BY PERCENT

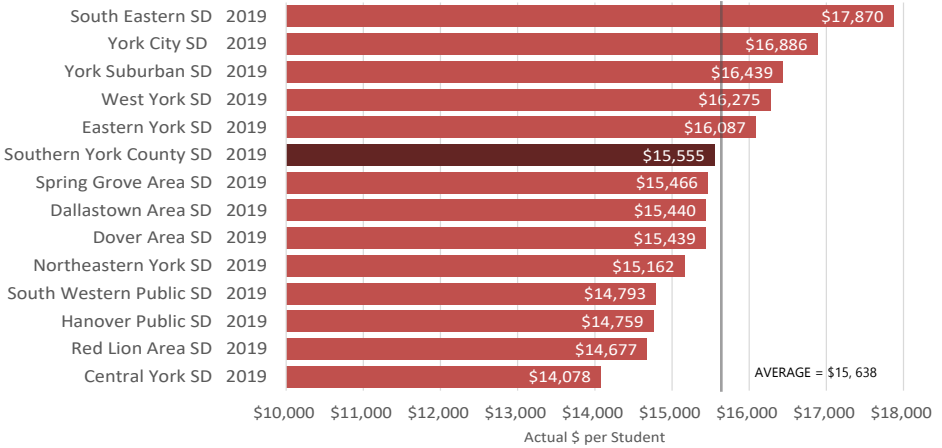


The District is proud of its sustained record of good stewardship of the community's funds as evidenced with the following:

- 2019-20 Audit
 - Unmodified opinion - best opinion an auditor can give
 - No findings in audit
- General Fund Unreserved Balance exceeds 5% of budget target - Necessary for cash flow in uncertain times
- Fund Balance reserved for future building renovations allowing slow phase in of millage for projects and reduced borrowing
- High quality educational program at a reasonable cost per student

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cost to Educate a Student



COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT

The chart shows the most recent information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which shows Southern is ranked just below average in costs per student for both the county and state. Southern prides itself on putting as many of our resources into the classroom as possible. As shown previously in this report, the District’s student achievement is well above the state and national averages.



2020-21 BUDGET

Southern York County School District works hard to provide a rigorous, high-quality education for each and every student while adhering to fiscally responsible ideals. When budgeting, the District looks at the impact of decisions on the current year, but also the impact to the community for the future.

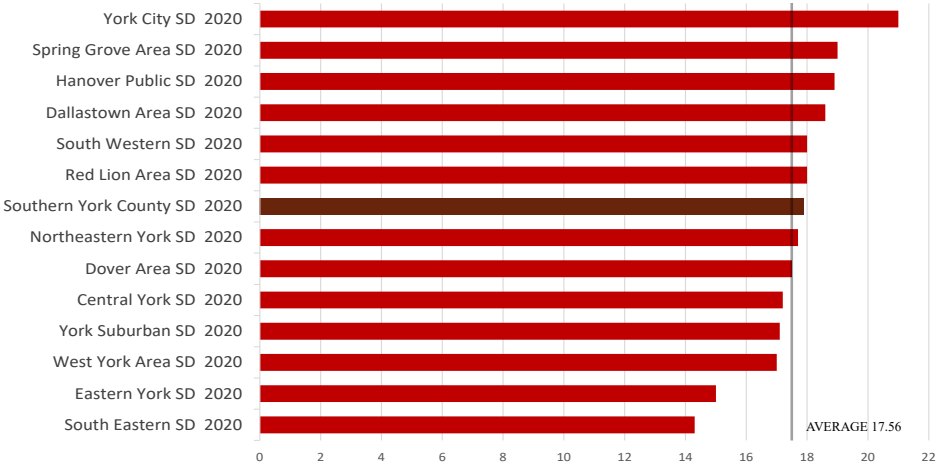
March 2020 changed the world drastically due to the major health and economic emergency that emerged as a result of COVID-19. The Southern York County School District Board and Administration quickly reacted to the emergency and completely revised the proposed 2020-21 budget. This revised budget was possible because the District salaried staff reopened approved contracts to accept a wage freeze for the 2020-21 school year. We would like to express our gratitude to our staff for making this decision to support our community during these difficult times.

The Southern York County School District adopted a \$58.6 million budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The budget includes an assumption of no increased state funding, \$1.5 million use of fund balance, and for the second year in a row, no real estate tax increase. The budget is based upon the priorities of providing an excellent educational program to prepare our students to be career or college and life ready while maintaining our outstanding facilities at a level our community supports. While staffing still remains well below 2009-10 levels, this budget only includes one additional position, which was funded by a grant. Although the cuts necessary to balance the budget were difficult, the District will continue to provide a quality education to all the children of Southern York County School District.

As noted in the actual cost to educate a student, the priority in budgeting is to operate as efficiently as possible to drive dollars to areas that impact student achievement. This is balanced with also making sure that there is safe and efficient transportation, well-maintained, secure facilities for students to learn and thrive, technology for students and staff, and support services in place to meet the needs of every student.

The Board and administration seriously consider the impact an increase in taxes has on its community members and were able to balance this budget without any additional increase. The 2020-21 budgeted expenditures are \$634,000 or 1.1% higher than 2019-20. While the budget was balanced without a tax increase, it is important to note that the number of professional staff for 2020-21 is 228 compared to 256 in 2009-10. The chart shows the student to teacher ratio. Southern's ratio is just slightly above average, but is an area we are continuing to monitor.

STUDENTS PER TEACHER

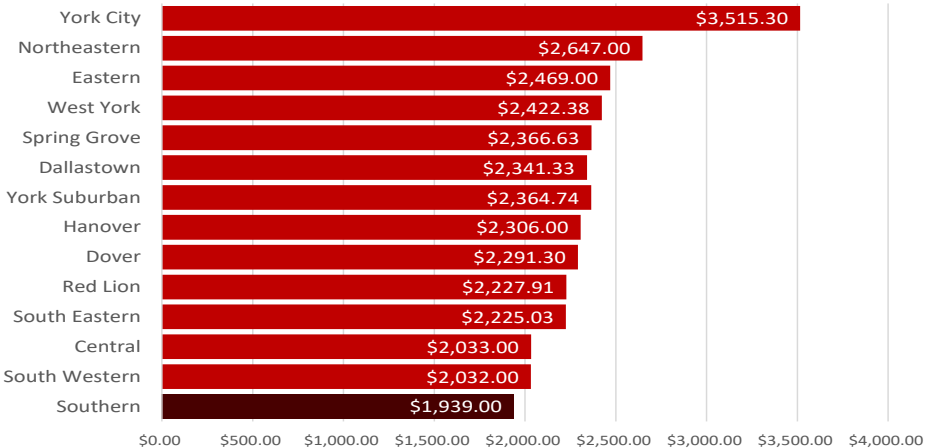


2020-21 MILLAGE RATES

A mill levy is the number of dollars a taxpayer pays for every \$1,000 of assessed value. The current 2020-21 real estate tax rate of 19.39 mills results in a tax bill of \$1,939 for a home assessed at \$100,000. The table below shows the real estate tax mills of the District in comparison to other York County districts in the Lincoln Intermediate Unit.

For more information on the District's budget, please visit our website at www.sycsd.org.

2020-21 SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES ON A \$100,000 HOME



EXCELLENCE IN ALTRUISM



SES STUDENTS 'GIVE FROM THE HEART' TO NEW FREEDOM LIONS CLUB



SMS STUDENTS HOST DINNER AND RECEPTION TO HONOR LOCAL VETERANS



SHES STUDENTS HOST BREAKFAST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Please contact the School District at 717-235-4811, ext. 7278 or susan.green@syicsd.org if you have any questions, concerns, or would like information related to our School District.