

WE ARE
THE
Future



“A SCASD education is about developing every student as a learner and person.”

Dear Community Residents:

Thank you for your interest in and support of State College Area School District schools. The District serves a diverse community united in a strong commitment to excellence in education. We appreciate you taking some time to understand this annual report, a reflection on our district’s work during 2014-2015.

The value of a SCASD education goes beyond high academic performance and extraordinary acceptance rates at post-secondary institutions. A SCASD education is about engaging the "whole" student – caring for and helping each student to grow, explore, achieve and develop skills for life. This includes

experiences within our vast array of curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular programs.

The citizens of tomorrow will live in a society that will no doubt be very different from our own. Consequently our mission of preparing students for lifelong success remains critically important.

On behalf of our district, I appreciate your time, as well as your support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob J. O'Donnell".

Robert J. O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools



State College Area School District Annual Report 2014-2015

2014-2017 Strategic Plan

At the State College Area School District, we exhibit a passion for empowering every student – every day – with individualized opportunities for growth and success in a connected world.

Our central mission is to prepare students for lifelong success through excellence in education. Our goals are clear:

- Significant academic and personal growth for every student
- College- and career-ready graduates
- Achievement in arts, sports, clubs, and activities
- Safe and supported learners
- Demonstrated commitment to self, community, and global citizenship

Vital Signs of Student Progress

- A. Student perseverance, determination, and passion for learning
- B. Student critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving
- C. Student “voice” and reflectiveness
- D. Closing the “achievement gap” and enhancing growth for all students
- E. Successful transitions (across learning experiences and environments, including grade-to-grade, levels, newness to school/district, post secondary, etc.)



Our School District

Situated in the heart of Pennsylvania, the State College Area School District is a reflection of the thriving, dynamic community it serves. The district draws its students from a 150-mile attendance area, encompassing the Borough of State College and the surrounding townships of College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, and Patton. It had a total enrollment of 6,776, as of May 1, 2015.

The organizational structure of the school district includes nine elementary schools (K-5); two middle schools (6-8); and one high school (9-12). High school students (9-12) may also attend the Delta Program, an alternative, democratic school, which allows for a greater variety of choices offered to the student, for all or part of their yearly instructional program. For the 2014-2015 school year, Delta introduced the Delta Middle Level for grades 5 to 8 with 80 students.

Vocational programs are offered to students at the high school through the Career and Technical Center Program. It includes an array of school-to-career training programs combining academic and technical skill preparation with work-based learning experiences.

Throughout our district, instruction is provided at a teacher to student ratio that is developmentally appropriate to the needs of students and based on the nature of the course(s). Current class size averages for K-5 are 21, Grades 6-8 are 23, and the high school varies due to the breadth of our core and elective courses offerings.

Guiding Principles

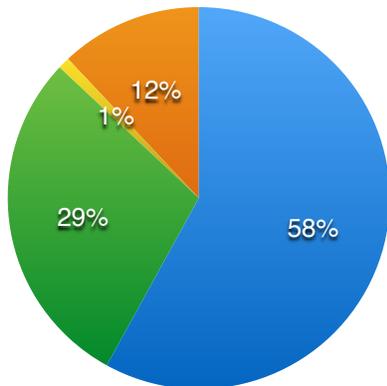
- ◆ Culture of trust, relationships and collaboration
 - ◆ Responsive teaching and learning
 - ◆ High expectations for all
 - ◆ Welcoming and safe climate for learning and work
-

District Finances

2014-2015

Expenses

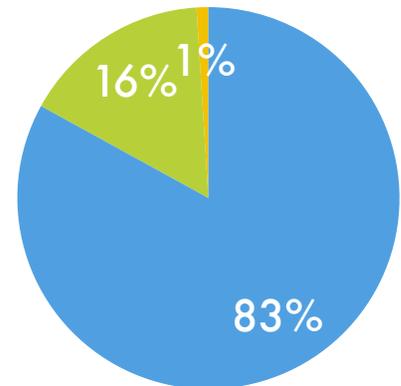
\$126,791,664



- Instruction \$73,097,214
- Support Services \$37,277,630
- Operation of Non-Instructional Services \$668,494
- Debt, Financing Uses, and Other Expenditures \$15,748,326
- Facilities Acquisition, Construction and Improvement Services* \$0

Revenue Sources

\$125,926,243



- Local Tax Dollars \$104,376,200
- State Government \$20,505,043
- Federal Government \$1,045,000

Over half of budgeted expenses consist of direct contact with students through instruction.

*The majority of our costs for facility construction and improvement are paid for from our capital fund.

Public education is one of the key investments a community makes in itself. State College taxpayers expect and receive good value for their dollars spent on education. The State College Area School District accepts the challenge of preparing an annual budget that reflects the community's historic commitment to educational excellence along with its concern for fiscal responsibility.

Due to the historical relative wealth of the district, the local community carries the major responsibility for the financial support of the educational programs of the school district. Local revenues provide 83% of the school district's total income. State College Area School District receives approximately 16% of its revenues from the state government and 1% from the federal government. SCASD has the lowest real estate tax in the county.

The State College Area School District is providing schooling for approximately 6,776 students at a total cost of over \$125 million during the 2014-2015 school year.

Instructional costs account for the largest part of the total cost. These costs include instructional materials, such as textbooks, library books, and supplies, as well

as instructional staff salaries. The school district was the fourth largest employer in the Centre region in 2014-15, providing more than 1,600 full-time and part-time positions.

Under the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) and the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act, homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for all approved parcels within the District. In 2014-15, and for the foreseeable future, this will result in approximately \$109 in property tax relief per approved property per year.

Additional District Business and Finance information is available on the district's website at www.scasd.org, click on Our District.



Student Achievement

State College Area School District students continue to perform very well at all grade levels.

At the elementary level, students are taught in an atmosphere that emphasizes respect for self and others, celebrates diversity, and provides a nurturing environment with active parent involvement while holding children to high academic and behavioral standards and providing an elementary failsafe support program.

In addition to the core curriculum, middle school students engage in exploratory courses in family and consumer sciences and technology education, world languages (German, Spanish, and French), with technology competencies integrated throughout the curriculum.

The secondary curriculum provides a variety of courses including technical, business, and agricultural subjects. A full complement of elective courses round out the curriculum, and students are encouraged to plan their high school programs to best fit their individual needs and goals.

Keystone/PSSA Exam Performance 2014-2015

Keystone assessments are state mandated end-of-course assessments that students take when completing Algebra I, Biology and Literature. The Algebra I and Biology assessments are taken by students in different grade levels depending on when they take that course. The Keystone literature assessment is taken as the end-of-course assessment for our 11th grade English course.

Keystone Exam	Advanced & Proficient
Algebra 1	85.16%
Biology	82.52%
English	83.86%
Based on PDE School Performance Profile.	

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standardized test administered to public schools in Pennsylvania. Students in grades 3-8 are assessed in English language arts skills and mathematics.

2015 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in English Language Arts						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	81.1%	80.5%	84.3%	75.5%	76.6%	74.1%
State	62%	58.6%	61.9%	60.7%	58.6%	58%

2015 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in Math						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	72.3%	67.8%	65.5%	56.5%	54.2%	51%
State	48.5%	44.4%	42.8%	39.7%	33%	29.8%

High School Student Achievement

American College Test (ACT) Data										
Year	English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2014	22.8	22.1	25.3	22.8	23.8	23.0	24.1	22.2	24.1	22.7
2015	25.7	22.5	26.3	22.8	26.0	23.2	25.0	22.5	25.9	22.9

Advanced Placement (AP) Data			
Percentage of students who took the test with one or more scores of 3 or higher.			
	District	State	Global
2014	94.8%	69.1%	61.3%
2015	88.7%	68.3%	60.7%

Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)									
Year	Critical Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	District	State	Nation	District	State	Nation	District	State	Nation
2014	550	497	497	568	504	513	526	480	487
2015	549	499	495	563	504	511	530	482	484

With a graduation rate of 97.55%, the class of 2015 numbered 594 graduating seniors. Approximately 82% continued their post-high school education and were accepted by universities including Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon University, Princeton University, Yale University, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, U.S. Naval Academy, and Harvard University.



Selected Awards and Recognition

Overall Achievement

State High health education teacher **Melanie Lynch** received the Society of Health and Physical Educators America's 2015 Eastern District **Outstanding Professional Award**. She also became the president-elect of the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD), and published a book, "Comprehensive Health."



State High's **Kathy Pechtold** was selected as **Pennsylvania's 2014 Assistant Principal of the Year**. She received the **Robert E. Lavelly Award** from the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals.

State High English teacher **Kate Hoffman** was named the 2015 **Pennsylvania Secondary Teacher of Excellence** by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Director of Physical Plant **Ed Poprik** became vice president of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. He will be president-elect for 2016-2017 and president for 2017-2018.

The **Park Forest Middle School Quiz Masters team** won the **national Fall 2014 Questions Unlimited 3-2-1 competition**.

A **State High Knowledge Masters team** of **Mahima Kumara, Joey Feffer, Bruce McAninch and Noah Beattie-Moss** won the **9th Annual Harvard Fall Quiz Bowl Tournament**. **Kumara, Feffer, Lars De Lorenzi and Mia Cavener** won the annual **Mellon Bowl** competition at Carnegie Mellon University.

Ben Lee, a Gray's Woods Elementary fifth-grader, was selected as a finalist for the **2015 Scholastic 180 Awards**.

Teachers **Carol Grim, Andy Merritt and Kim Wilson** were named **2015 Teachers of the Year** by State College Magazine.

Math and Science

Sophomore **Alyssa Huff** was named a Top 5 finalist in the first **Genes in Space** competition, an effort sponsored by Boeing and the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space to place a student-designed experiment involving DNA analysis on the International Space Station.

The **Park Forest Middle School MathCounts team** finished first at the **2015 Pennsylvania MathCounts Competition** for the fourth time in five years.

The **Mount Nittany Middle School Technology Education program** was selected as **Middle School Program of the Year** by the Technology and Engineering Educators Association of Pennsylvania (TEEAP). Teachers are **Josh Price, Ron Shealer and Doug Arnold**.

Park Forest Middle School teacher **Jeff Seamans** was named the 2015 **Pennsylvania Technology Education Teacher of the Year** by TEEAP. He also received the **Michael Whitman Memorial Outstanding service award**.



Steven Krupa, Ignatius Liu and Gopal Jayakar were the first-place winners in the **Technology Bowl** at the Technology Student Association National Conference in Dallas, Texas. **Liu, Jayaker, Krupa, Wesley MacDougal and Mario Lestz** comprised the **national semifinalist team** in music production.

Ron and Michelle Shealer's article "Making It Real" was the cover story in 2014 October issue of the **Technology and Engineering Teacher** about their cooperative first grade class and eighth grade tech ed students designing and building an ideal "green" model community using 3D printers and solar collectors.

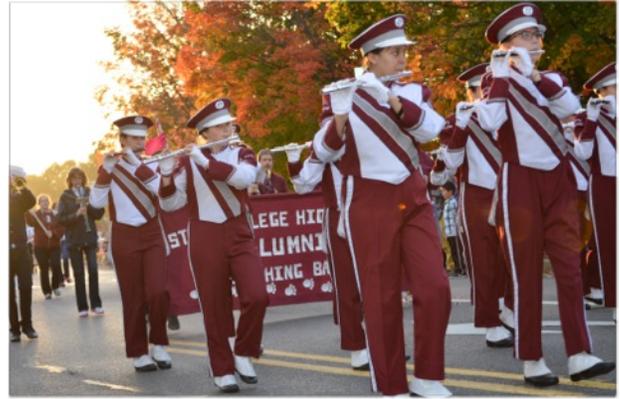


Fourteen State High students qualified to take the **American Invitational Math Exam**. **State High students** took first place in the **Pennsylvania Math League competition**. Senior **Jacob Van Hook** and freshman **Joseph Feffer** were two of the three students in the state with perfect scores for the entire season.

The Arts/Writing

Park Forest Middle School student **Emily Redmond** wrote the winning essay in the **national 2014-15 Walden Woods Live Deliberately Essay contest** in the 13- and 14-year-old category.

State High was selected as a **GRAMMY Foundation Signature Schools program semifinalist** for its commitment to excellent musical education programs.



State College Area School District was named a **"Best Communities for Music Education in America"** by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for the 11th time.

State High student **Eleanor Wing** won a **National Scholastic Gold Key award** for graphic design.

State High students **Rachel Zhang and Noah Beattie-Moss** were named **2015 National Winners by the National Young Arts Foundation**. Zhang submitted a portfolio of paintings, and Beattie-Moss, a violinist, was recognized for two original compositions.

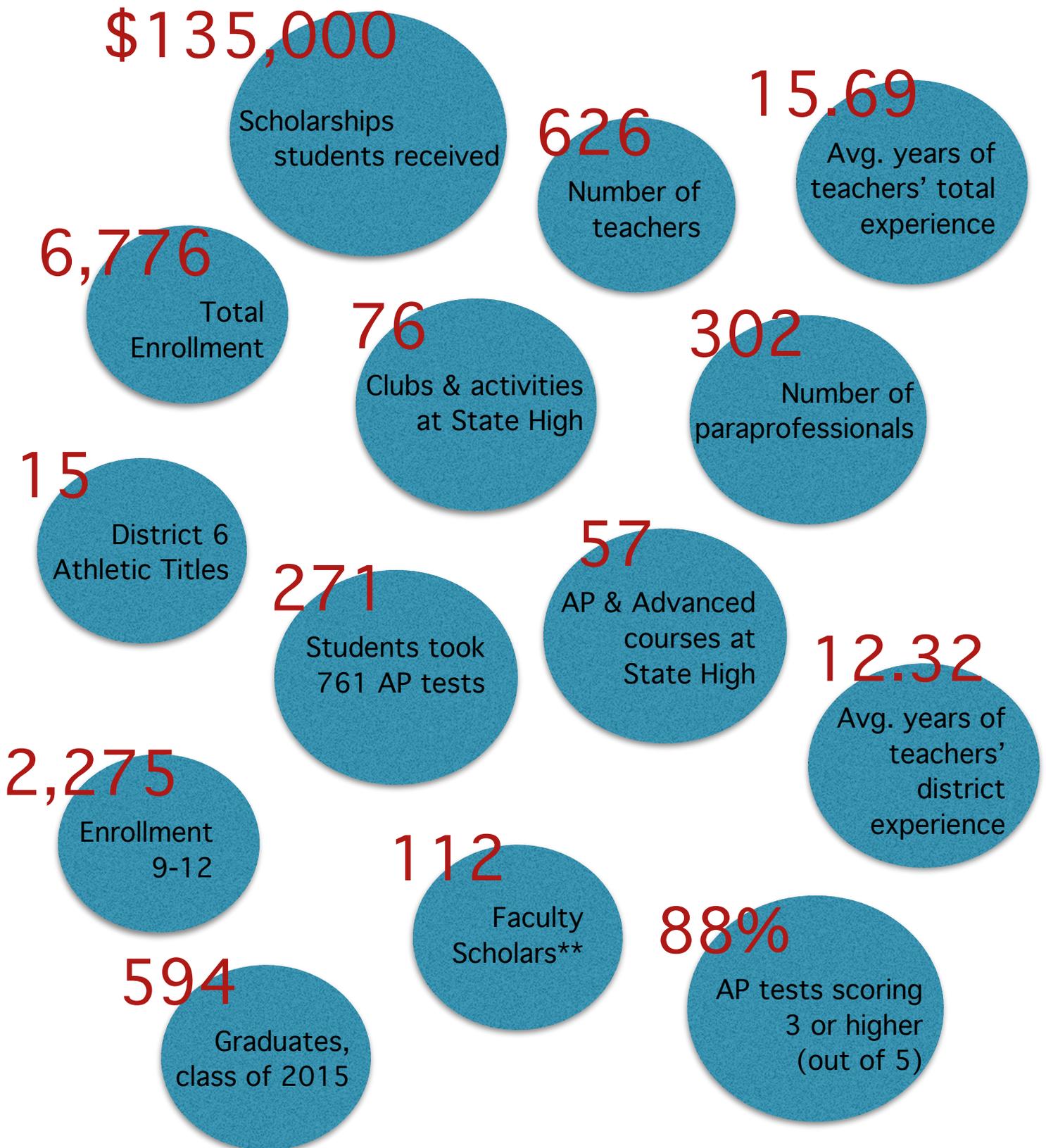
Career and Technical Center

The **State College FFA Little Lions** chapter received a **\$2,500 Food For All** grant from the National FFA Organization, one of only three FFA chapters in the state given the funds to help community food needs.

State High was chosen as the **March 2015 National Association of Home Builders Student Chapter of the Month**.



SCASD by the Numbers



**GPA of 4.00 weighted or 3.75 unweighted

District Facilities



Although the design wasn't complete, the district held a groundbreaking ceremony May 14, 2015, to initiate landscaping work and the construction of a back loop road around the South Building from O'Bryan Lane to Westerly Parkway. Pictured are (l-r) Bob O'Donnell, superintendent, board members Laurel Zydney, Jim Pawelczyk, Penni Fishbaine, Jim Leous, Reilly Epps, student representative, Amber Concepcion, Ann McGlaughlin, David Hutchinson, Dorothea Stahl, Scott Fozard and then State High principal Scott DeShong.

Panorama Village Building

Phase 2 of renovations to the former elementary school finished during the summer of 2015, setting the stage for Phase 3 in 2016. The building was converted to house district administrative offices, computer services, Community Education and the Board of School Directors meeting room. During Phase 3, offices for superintendent, assistant superintendents, human resources, business and communications will be added, completing the administration's shift from the Central Office Building at 131 W. Nittany Ave. The Board of School Directors commissioned structural assessment of the building and the Fairmount Avenue Building. Based in part on the reports, the Board passed a resolution that the Central Office Building would no longer be needed as plans move forward for renovations to Memorial Field locker rooms and spectator facilities.

State High Project

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates architectural firm, Massaro Construction Management Services and the district administration joined forces to form a design team for the State High Project.

In May 2014, the community overwhelmingly approved the construction of a new State College Area High School along Westerly Parkway by passing a referendum vote authorizing the district to borrow \$85 million for the project.

After the referendum vote, the design team began working on the construction plans, refining them along the way and adding the Delta Program to the North Building. At the 30 percent, 60 percent and 90 percent stages, the SCASD Board of School Directors reviewed and discussed the plans in detail before approving them. Throughout the process, the district held information forums to allow community members to ask questions and express opinions. Based on public input, the South Building physical education/athletics and performing arts sections were redesigned with extra space and features during the 60 percent stage.

Flashing pedestrian safety lights were added to the crosswalk across Westerly Parkway near Welch Community Pool, in anticipation of the crosswalk becoming part of the main student corridor between the North and South buildings later in the project.

The main project has been bid and is currently underway. The first phase, which includes completion and occupancy to the four main educational units (new construction) is planned for completion in January of 2018. The entire project is planned for completion during the summer of 2019.

District Elementary and Middle Schools

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Corl Street Elementary School

235 Corl Street
State College, PA 16801
Scott Mato, principal, (814) 231-1185
Enrollment: 228

Easterly Parkway Elementary School

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Michael Maclay, principal, (814) 231-1170
Enrollment: 310

Ferguson Township Elementary School

215 West Pine Grove Rd.
Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868
Charlotte Zmyslo, principal, (814) 231-4119
Enrollment: 360

Gray's Woods Elementary School

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870
Kristen Dewitt, principal,
(814) 235-6100
Enrollment: 387



Houserville/Lemont Elementary Schools

Todd Dishong, principal
Enrollment 331
Houserville: 217 Scholl Street
State College, PA 16801-7222
(814) 231-5026

Lemont: 675 Elmwood Street
Lemont, PA 16801
(814) 231-5034

For a map of enrollment areas for each school,
please see www.scasd.org/enrollmentmap

Mount Nittany Elementary School

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA 16801
Debra Latta, principal,
(814) 272-5970
Enrollment: 322



Park Forest Elementary School

2181 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Donnan Stoicovy, principal, (814) 231-5010
Enrollment: 440

Radio Park Elementary School

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA 16803
Zachary Wynkoop, principal, (814) 231-4115
Enrollment: 352

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Delta Middle Level (Grades 5 - 8)

154 W. Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 80

The Delta Middle Program is a democratic school of
choice available to SCASD students in grades 5 - 8.

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA 16801
Brian Ishler, principal, (814) 272-4050
Enrollment: 708

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Karen Wiser, principal, (814) 237-5301
Enrollment: 792

District High School

Delta Program

154 W. Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 121

The Delta Program is a democratic school of choice available to SCASD students in grades 9-12. Founded upon building strong relationships among the faculty, student body, and families, our primary goal is to be a strong community that provides a safe, nurturing environment for all stakeholders.

State College Area High School -- North Building - Grades 11 and 12

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal, (814) 231-1111
Enrollment: 1068

State College Area High School -- South Building - Grades 9 and 10

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal, (814) 231-5020
Enrollment: 1044

State College Virtual School

154 W. Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1002
Enrollment: 24

Offering virtual learning opportunities to our students, the virtual school is an independent learning environment, while also participating in SCASD activities.

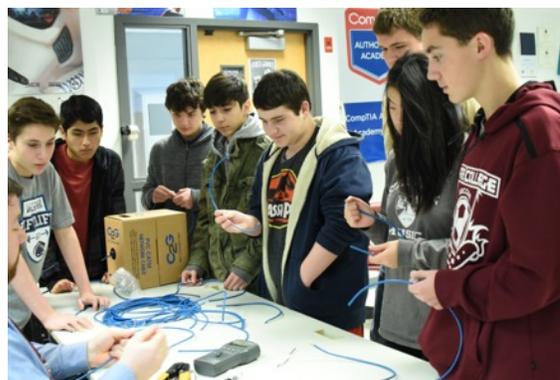


Profile of the Class of 2015

- ★ 594 - Total Graduates
- ★ 112 - Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 weighted or 3.75 unweighted)
- ★ 79.4 - School Performance Profile (SPP) score - The School Performance Profile is based on academic performance indicators, Keystone exam scores and other assessments.
- ★ 10 - National Merit finalists and 10 semi-finalists.
- ★ 27 - National AP Scholars - In 2015, 273 students took 761 AP tests with 88% of tests taken scoring a 3 or higher (out of 5).
- ★ 57 - Advanced Placement and advanced courses offered - Delta program offered 16 advanced courses, and the Career and Technical Center offered nine advanced courses.
- ★ 76 - Activities and clubs offered
- ★ 26 - High school athletic teams
- ★ 19 - Bands, orchestras, choirs, and rock ensembles
- ★ 82% of students are pursuing a college education.

Career and Technical Center

Taught by experts in their fields, CTC courses offer career exploration opportunities and preparation for post-secondary programs or workforce employment. Job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, work for credit and school enterprises such as the Roar Store give many students work-based learning experiences.



During 2014-15, the CTC received more than 2,000 course requests for the accounting and finance, agricultural science, automotive technology, building construction, culinary arts, Cisco Networking Academy, diversified occupations, architectural drafting and design, early childhood education, engineering, health professions, marketing and supply chain management programs. On average, about 85 percent of students take at least one CTC course in a school year.

Board of School Directors 2014-15

Ms. Amber Concepcion, President
Mr. Jim Leous, Vice President
Ms. Penni Fishbaine
Mr. David Hutchinson
Mr. Scott Fozard
Ms. Ann McGlaughlin
Dr. Jim Pawelczyk
Ms. Dorothea Stahl
Ms. Laurel Zydny

Administrative Staff

Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Hardy
Assist. Superintendent gr. 9-12

Mr. Jason Perrin
Assist. Superintendent gr. K-8

Mr. Randy Brown
Business Administrator

Ms. Linda Pierce
Director of Human Resources

Mr. Edward Poprik
Director of Physical Plant

Ms. Deirdre Bauer
Director of Curriculum K-6

Ms. Jacquelin Martin
Director of Curriculum 7-12

Dr. Jon Downs
Director of Educational Alternatives

Mr. Patrick Moore
Director of Special Education

Ms. Peg Pennepacker
Director of Athletics

Mr. Van Swauger
Director of Transportation

Dr. Sharon Perry
Director of the Career & Technical Center

Ms. Nicole Steele
Director of Computer Services & Telecommunications

Mr. Chris Rosenblum
Director of Communications

Ms. Megan Schaper
Director of Food Services

Ms. Jeanne Knouse
Director of Learning Enrichment/Gifted Support & Student Services

Learning Enrichment/Gifted Support

The district believes our most able learners may require acceleration and enrichment opportunities within the general education curriculum. We provide respectful experiences that encourage our most able students to learn and grow by being challenged in their areas of strength.

Professional Development School (PDS)

For the 17th year, the PDS partnership between the district and the Penn State College of Education paired select undergraduate students with mentor teachers in elementary classrooms. Fifty PDS interns co-taught for the entire year, creating lesson plans, participating in parent conferences and attending in-service day trainings.

Before and after school care

The Community Education Extended Learning (CEEL) before- and after-school program, established in 2013 at Park Forest and Radio Park elementary schools, began plans to expand to ensure all district K-5 students had access to the program. CEEL also added art, language and culture, physical activity and STEM classes.

Special Education

The district provides a full continuum of service and support options for students with disabilities. In 2014-2015, the district continued to implement the highly successful Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) K-3, which has helped our most at-risk populations with reading. Integrated Mental Health supports were expanded to

students and families with increased outpatient service. The Read 180/System 44 also was expanded to include fourth and fifth grades, helping students achieve grade-level reading proficiency. A full-time Behavior Specialist was introduced to support school teams, students with significant behavioral challenges, and classroom programs for students with autism.

Athletic Accomplishments

State High claimed District 6 titles in boys' cross country, girls' cross country, girls' golf, girls' tennis, girls' volleyball, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, football, boys' basketball, boys' swimming, girls' swimming, boys' tennis, baseball, boys' track and girls' track.

The boys' and girls' lacrosse teams were District 6-10 regional champions.

Mid Penn Conference division titles went to boys' cross country, boys' golf, girls' tennis and boys' tennis, with the tennis teams notching District 6 singles crowns and the golf team winning the Mid Penn Tournament.

Seed Change Program Grant

Led by Director of Food Services Megan Schaper, the District received a \$26,335 demonstration site grant under the Seed Change program, a state-level initiative of the National Farm to School Network, to support activities that bring local food into schools and elevate food education for children. Only two school districts in the state were designated demonstration sites. The grant provided funds for SCASD to host tours and trainings during the 2015-2016 school year.

SCASD ...

**Discover!
Pursue!
Excel!**



Administrative Offices
131 W. Nittany Ave.
State College, PA 16801
tel: 814-231-1011
www.scasd.org



StateCollegeSchoolDistrict
@StateCollegeSD
StateCollegeSchoolDistrict