

State College Area School District Annual Report 2015-16



Dear community residents:

Thank you for your interest in and strong support of State College Area School District schools. The district serves a diverse community united in a strong commitment to striving for excellence in education. The value of a SCASD education goes beyond high test scores and extraordinary acceptance rates at post-secondary institutions. A SCASD education is about engaging the whole student—building relationships and enabling and encouraging our students to grow, explore, achieve and develop skills for life. This includes experiences within our broad 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.

We're proud of what we offer and invite you to call a school for a personal tour. In the months and years ahead, we look forward to getting to know you better.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools



We are the Future





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, Centre County's Centre Region, encompassing the Borough of State College and the surrounding townships of College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, and Patton.

As of May 1, 2016, the district had a total enrollment of 6,787 students. The district operates nine elementary schools (seven K-5; Lemont and Houserville sister schools split K-2 and 3-5, respectively); three middle schools (6-8); and two high schools (9-12). Secondary students (9-12) also can 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 second year, Delta offered the Delta Middle Level for grades 5 to 8 with 83 students.

Vocational programs are available to students at the high school through the Career and Technical Center Program (CTC). 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 course offerings.

2015-2016 Quick Facts

- ◆ 9 elementary schools
- ◆ 3 middle schools (including alternative Delta Middle Level)
- ◆ 2 high schools (including alternative Delta Program)
- ◆ 2,927 elementary students
- ◆ 1,577 middle school students (including Delta Middle Level)
- ◆ 2,283 high school students (including Delta Program)
- ◆ 132 Delta Program students 9-12
- ◆ 1,809 employees
- ◆ 626 teachers
- ◆ \$137,552,316 budget
- ◆ 20 National Merit finalists





Statement of Purpose

The State College Area School District believes that the education of youth is a shared task involving parents, community groups, the schools, and the students themselves. As a primary member of that education team, the district serves both directly in the instruction and guidance of its students and indirectly in assisting and supporting the efforts of the other members of the team.

In fulfilling its responsibility, the district asserts an uncompromising commitment to striving for educational excellence. This is reflected in the content, materials, activities, and methods employed in the classroom; in the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals within the school system; and in the maintenance of a flexible and responsive school system organization.

Excellence cannot be attained unless the ideals of equality and human dignity are honored and promoted. Thus, the quest for educational excellence is complemented by a corresponding commitment to the fundamental principles of our democratic society. Finally, in carrying out these functions, the district seeks to develop effective partnerships with parents, citizens, and the community, businesses, vocational training institutions, and the university to enrich the total education of its students.

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

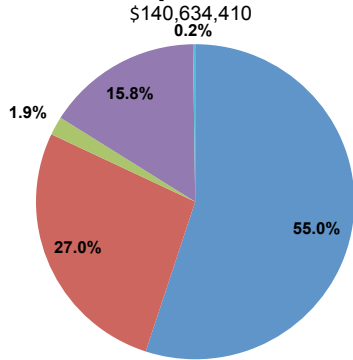
- A. Student perseverance, determination, and passion for learning
- B. Student critical thinking, collaboration, and problem solving
- C. Student “voice” and reflectiveness
- D. Closing the “achievement gap” and enhancing growth for all students
- E. Successful transitions (across learning experiences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

Guiding Principles

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

2015-2016 District Finances

Expenses

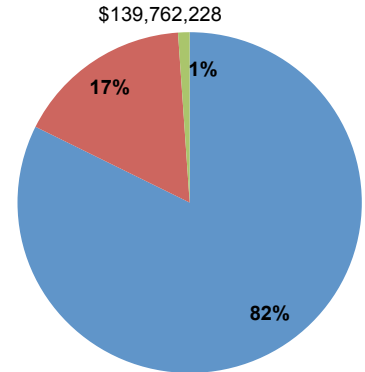


■ Instruction	\$77,392,846
■ Support Services	\$37,987,379
■ Non-Instructional Services	\$2,682,331
■ Debt, Financing Uses, and other Expenditures	\$306,892
■ Facilities Acquisition, Construction and Improvement Services *	

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

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

Revenue Sources



■ Local Tax Dollars	\$115,076,626
■ State Government	\$23,174,708
■ Federal Government	\$1,510,894

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 striving for educational excellence along with its concern for fiscal responsibility. The district is committed to using its resources wisely and to delivering quality educational programs.

During the 2015-16 school year, the district provided schooling for 6,787 students at a total cost of over \$140 million. Instructional costs, including staff salaries and materials such as textbooks, library books and supplies, accounted for the largest part of expenses. The majority of facility construction and improvement costs are paid for from the district's capital fund. In 2015-16, the school district was the third largest employer in Centre County, providing more than 1,800 full-time and part-time jobs.

Historically, the local community has supplied the bulk of the district's financial support. In 2015-16, local revenue mostly from real estate tax supplied 82 percent of the district's funds. The state supplied 17 percent, and 1 percent came from the Federal Government.

For the 2015-16 year, the real estate tax rate was 41.6740 mills, an increase of \$156 from the previous year for the average residential taxpayer.

The rate increased 5.49 percent from 2014-15, but 3.59 percent went to payments for debt approved through the 2014 referendum for the State High Project.

The district received approval from the PA Department of Education for an exception for funding High School referendum debt to go above its 1.9 percent Act 1 Index limit. Overall, the district has the lowest real estate tax in the county.

In its debut, the district's Supplemental Property Tax Rebate Program issued 206 rebates for a total of \$61,778, with an average of \$300. The maximum per household is \$650. Of the 2015-16 rebates:

- 144 were for \$250
- 31 were for \$500
- 26 were issued to property owners with assessed values of more than \$71,300
- 70 were issued to property owners with assessed values between \$40,000 and \$54,999

For the 2016-17 year, \$100,000 was allocated to the program.

Under the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) and the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act, approximately \$109 in property tax relief went to each approved homestead and farmstead in the district.

Additional district business and finance information is available on the district's website:

www.scasd.org/finance



State High Project

During the fall of 2015, the State High Project team of Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, Massaro Construction Management Services and the district Physical Plant department refined building designs for the north and south sides of the new campus.

On Nov. 30, 2015, the State College Area School District Board of Directors approved the lowest base bids and bid alternates for construction. These amounted to \$117,023,100 in base bids and \$3,479,100 in bid alternates.

The board rejected \$15,066,700 in bid alternates.

With soft costs and \$3,935,393 in secured state grants factored in, the district's total cost came in at \$137,249,182. Included in the total were the expenses for site preparation and the construction of a loop road from O'Bryan Lane to Westerly Parkway done before the bid awarding.

Site grading, utility installation and foundation and masonry work for the four main classroom units began in January 2016 and continued throughout the spring. The project remained on schedule to be completed in the summer of 2019.



Elementary School Projects

In the spring of 2016, the district began a facilities master plan review focused on elementary schools, specifically updates to the aging Corl Street, Houserville and Radio Park buildings to equalize facilities for student learning.

By doing so, the previous calendar for updating the 2014 District-wide Facilities Master Plan was accelerated by several months. The district wished to take advantage of significant state funding that would save money for local taxpayers, and it needed to meet application deadlines of April 1 for state Department of Community and Economic Development grants and May 15 for PlanCon reimbursement before that program's moratorium on new projects took effect. About \$6 million between the two opportunities was at stake.

The district identified Houserville and Radio Park for the DCED grants, which reimburse school projects by 10 percent up to \$2 million, because their renovations or new construction were projected to receive the most financial benefit.

Led by the firms of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates and Massaro Construction Management Services, the facilities master plan review explored eight options for renovations and/or new construction. All of the options incorporated closing Lemont Elementary and merging with its sister school, Houserville, which had been a plan since 1999. As part of the review, the district held four forums in May and June for public feedback and commissioned a demographic analysis of attendance areas to help assess the options. The review continued into the summer toward a November 2016 final decision.



Panorama Village Administrative Center

In March, the district awarded about \$1.4 million in construction bids to finish the final renovations for converting the former Panorama Village Elementary School into the Panorama Village Administrative Center.

Work continued during the spring and summer in preparation of moving district administrative and support offices from the Nittany Avenue Building at 131 West Nittany Ave. in State College. The final transition was expected to happen in the fall.

Memorial Field Renovations

In support of future renovations for Memorial Field, the SCASD Board of Directors on Nov. 9 approved a resolution stating its intention to dispose of the Nittany Avenue Building at 131 W. Nittany Ave.

The building, a former schoolhouse built in 1924, became the district's administrative center in 1965. Earlier in the fall, the Board received a structural analysis of the building that revealed substantial accessibility problems and indicated that renovating it for instructional purposes or needed locker rooms would be prohibitively expensive. Moreover, in 2010, the district's Community Advisory Committee for Facilities had recommended the building's removal.



According to the resolution, the footprint of the building would impinge on renovations of bleachers and other facilities on the stadium's east side. The resolution further stated the building would be offered to the Borough of State College for reuse, provided that the structure was relocated.

In the spring of 2016, the borough declined to take ownership.

After the district issued a Request for Proposal for Phase 2 of the field's renovations in 2015, the architectural firm of Weber Murphy Fox was hired on May 23, 2016. Subsequently, Weber Murphy Fox's design team reviewed conditions at the field and talked with administrators, coaches, parents, and other stakeholders for input in order to prepare design concepts for Board consideration in the fall of 2016. The design team explored choices for updated locker rooms, restrooms, concessions, bleachers, spectator plazas, and/or concourses.



Athletics

Capping a successful year in athletics, the State high boys' track and field team won the program's first state title in May by edging Downingtown West, 54-53. Individual titles went to **Griffin Thompson** in the pole vault and **Alex Milligan** in the 1,600-meter race. The 3,200-meter relay team consisting of **Owen Wing, Nick Feffer, Tony Degleris, and Alex Milligan** also won gold.

Coach **Steve Shisler** garnered the Pennsylvania Boys' High School Coach of the Year from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country, Coaches Association. During the season, senior **Isaac Messner**, a cancer survivor, donated 36 new uniforms to the team for his Make-A-Wish Foundation request.

In addition to boys' track and field, boys' cross country, girls' cross country, boys' golf, girls' volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, girls' swimming, and boys' swimming won district titles. Several athletes received first-team Mid Penn Conference Commonwealth Division honors.

For the second straight year, basketball player **Kyla Irwin** was named to the Pennsylvania Sports Writers All-State first team. After leading the state's Class AAAA players

in scoring, she finished her career with school records of 2,032 points and 1,188 rebounds, and committed to play for the University of Connecticut. Team coach **Bethany Irwin** retired after the season with a 399-187 record at State High, eight District 6 titles, five league titles, and two PIAA semifinal appearances, and more than 30 players sent to college programs.

At the middle school level, the district offered football, soccer, basketball, field hockey, softball, and track and field programs.



Music



State College Area High School's Cecilian Singers, Master Singers, String Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band all received Gold performance ratings from adjudicators representing American and Canadian universities at the Worldstrides Heritage Performance Program in Toronto, Canada. State High's Only Men Aloud choir received a Silver performance award. Schools from five states and Montreal participated in the festival.

The Master Singers received the festival's Best Overall Choir award, and the Symphonic Band was named Best Overall Band. The groups were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

In addition to the group awards, State College students **Anna Hirsch, Dana Hiyajneh, Maxima Kumara, Nathan McKinstry, and Justin Shondeck** took home five of the six Soloist Awards given.

During the year, State High was one of 119 schools nationwide recognized as a GRAMMY Signature Schools semifinalist for its commitment to music education. For the 11th time, the district's music department received National Association of Music Merchants Best Communities for Music Education award for its elementary and secondary programs, including the Partners in Music collaboration with Penn State.

Overall Achievement

State High student **Lachlan Campbell** was the Pennsylvania 5th Congressional District winner in the 2015 Congressional App Challenge. Campbell designed and crated “Noodles,” an app for easily storing and retrieving recipes.

State High student **Dina Kim** received the national President’s Volunteer Service Award for completing about 300 hours of community service teaching English to refugee children and translating South Korean children’s letters for an international nonprofit child advocacy organization.

Park Forest Elementary was one of 47 schools nationwide chosen as U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools for innovative environmental practices and efforts to promote sustainability.

Ferguson Township Elementary kindergarten teacher **Lisa Harrington**, Radio Park Elementary second grade teacher **Mary Robert**, and State High chemistry teacher **Mary Hershey** were featured as three of four local Teachers of the Year by State College Magazine.

State High health education teacher **Melanie Lynch** received the SHAPE America National Health Education Teacher of the Year Award at SHAPE America’s National Convention and Expo in Minneapolis, Minn. SHAPE America, the Society of Health and Physical Educators, honored six teachers out of 24 district winners with Teacher of the Year awards in different categories.

Radio Park Elementary fifth grade teacher **Eve Evans** was named the 2015 Gilder Lehrman Pennsylvania History Teacher of the Year for the state by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

State High received a Top Global Learning School Award from AFS-USA, a nonprofit that promotes international student exchange through scholarships, financial aid and volunteer support, and the National Society of High School Scholars. Nationwide, 74 schools were honored with the award for promoting global citizenship through intercultural learning in and out of the classroom.

Easterly Parkway Elementary teacher **Maria Terneus-Hayes’** third grade class organized a school drive to raise more than \$1,500 for victims of a powerful earthquake in Ecuador, Terneus-Hayes’ native country.

Math and Science

State High student **Vincent Liu** was chosen for the five-member U.S. Physics Team squad that placed fifth in the point count and seventh in the medal count at the 47th International Physics Olympiad in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The team notched two gold medals and three silver medals, including one Liu garnered. He was among 20 students out of 4,300 who qualified for the team based on a rigorous exam, only the second ever from State High to do so.

The Park Forest Middle School Tech Bowl team of **Max Krasilnikov, Jack Harris, and Jack Erickson** won third in the state at the Technology Student Association Tech Bowl.

Park Forest Middle School student **Jupiter Ding** took first place in the written portion of the Mathcounts state competition, earning a spot on the state team competing nationally. The PFMS Mathcounts team of **Ding, Kyle Hynes, Silu Shen, Emily Wang, Toby Ma, and Ananya Tadigadapa** placed second in the state.

The Park Forest Middle School Integrative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) team of **Bill Hughes, Jeff Seamans, Greg Wilson, Karianne Smith, Lynn Mona, Mike Bierly, Heath Stout, Steve McAninch, and Bryan Brightbill** were the 2016 recipients of the national Gerhard Salinger Award for Enhancing STEM Education Through Technological/ Engineering Design-Based Instruction.



Recognition

State High students **Salman Alhabib** and **Izaiah Bokunewicz** created an indoor vertical farming system in their school with the assistance of a \$1,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program. For World Water Day, the students demonstrated their garden for growing lettuce and spinach using LED lighting and pockets irrigated by an automated watering system.

The Arts/Writing

State High students **Jessica Ding** (music, harp) and **Rachel Zhang** (visual arts) were chosen as 2016 Young Arts national award winners. They were among 850 winners from a pool of 12,000 applicants.

Zhang and State High student **Drew Spielvogel** won regional awards in the 2016 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. Zhang received Silver and Gold Keys for her artwork, and Spielvogel did the same for his writing.

Delta Program student **Ulysses Yarber** was selected as one of five Pennsylvania finalists at the Harrisburg Poetry Out Loud competition.



State High student **Kendall Allen** won first place in the critical essay division of the Brigham Young University English Department's Re: Writing Contest for high school students.



State High student **Mahima Kumara** won the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition and played a Grieg piano concerto as a soloist with the orchestra.

The **State High Thespians** received 10 Isaac Award nominations for their performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Isaac Awards are Central Pennsylvania's high school musical theatre awards. Thespians received nominations for Design, Actor in a Leading Role, two for Actress in a Supporting Role, Actor in a Supporting Role, two for Actress in a Featured role, two for Best Featured Dancer, and Best Production. **Cole Harris** won an Isaac for Actor in a Leading Role for his performance as Tevye.

Career and Technical Center

State High's HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) state competition team won the most gold medals and most overall medals per school/program. Fifteen of the 22 students placing in the top three in their category were from State High. State High placed in 13 of the 18 categories in which they competed. Three freshmen, **Supryia Kumar**, **Sanjana Kuchipudi**, and **Roshni Raj**, won first in the state in their categories and two seniors, **Catherine Campbell** and **Alice Lin**, placed first for the fourth year in a row with each year in a new challenging category. First place winners: **Alice Lin**, **Caylan Kowalski**, **Catherine Campbell**, **Zishma Rana**, **Katherine Kim**, **Laura Hildebrand**, **Lylian Wang**, **Oliver Rose**, **Roshni Raj**, and **Sanjana Kuchipudi**. Second place winners: **Supriya Kumar**, **Alli Henderson**, **Jesse Torbic**, **Needi Sharma**, and **Blaine Hoak**.

The State High DECA chapter captured first-place awards in four categories at the 2016 Pennsylvania DECA Conference. First-place winners were **Naseem Memari**, **Tejas Wein**, **Melinda Breon**, **Alexandra Moore**, **Kendall Allen**, and **Emma Lee**. In addition, the chapter won the PA DECA Cup for being the top chapter in the state by virtue of its work through community service, outreach programs and charity fundraising. An international organization, DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges.

Student Achievement

State College Area School District students continue to perform very well at all grade levels. Throughout the school year, teachers continually assess student learning to ensure students are supported and challenged, including using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) math and reading assessments administered three times per year to all students in grades 3-6.

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 including classroom support from paraprofessionals and specialists.

In addition to the core curriculum, middle schools 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

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	86.80%
Biology	89.26%
English	87.57%

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.

2016 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in English Language Arts						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	74.9%	77.4%	83.1%	79.1%	77.7%	73.8%
State	60.9%	58.7%	61.5%	61.7%	61.5%	58.4%

2016 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in Math						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	71.0%	65.2%	63.6%	65.3%	54.5%	52.6%
State	54.4%	46.6%	44.4%	41.1%	37.0%	31.2%

2016 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in Science		
	Grade 4	Grade 8
District	89.1%	72.2%
State	76.2%	57.7%



High School Student Achievement

97 Students Tested American College Test (ACT) Data										
Year	English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2015	25.7	22.5	26.3	22.8	26.0	23.2	25.0	22.5	25.9	22.9
2016	24.7	22.6	25.8	23.0	25.8	23.6	25.0	22.8	25.5	23.1

Advanced Placement (AP) Data			
Percentage of students who took the test with one or more scores of 3 or higher (scale of 1-5)			
	District	State	Global
2015	88.7%	68.3%	61.3%
2016	87.9%	67.7%	60.3%

AP students in 2015-2016: 387
Total exams:779

Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)									
Year	Critical Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	District	State	Nation	District	State	Nation	District	State	Nation
2015	549	499	495	563	504	511	530	482	484
2016	553	500	494	570	506	508	523	481	482

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, State College Area High School's SAT scores **ranked 24th out of 650 public high schools statewide.**

With a four-year cohort graduation rate of 91.1 percent, the Class of 2016 numbered 547 graduates. Four-year cohort graduation rates encompass students who graduate four years from their ninth grade start date, but do not include students who graduate in five or six years.

At SCASD, the majority of students extending their high school experience are in special education. They begin ninth grade with their cohort but remain in the district for extra years to benefit from the life transition program LifeLink before graduating. SCASD is committed to the success of every student by providing programs such as LifeLink, which pairs students with special needs with Penn State mentors and secures employment opportunities.

About 81 percent of the class continued their post-high school education at colleges or post-secondary schools. Universities that accepted SCASD graduates included Penn State, Pittsburgh, Temple, Pennsylvania, Cornell, North Carolina, Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Michigan State and Carnegie Mellon.

Three percent of the class planned to join the military, and 3 percent said they were entering the workforce.



Community Education and SCASD Education Foundation

Community Education

In 2015-16, the third year for the Community Education Extended Learning (CEEL) program, three schools were added (Ferguson, Gray's Woods, and Mount Nittany Elementary Schools), making the before-and after-school program available to students in every district elementary school.

Lincoln Caverns, Soccer Shots, and Adam Swartz Puppets all debuted exciting classes in the areas of STEM, physical activity, and art. They joined a dynamic team of providers including Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Bricks4Kidz, Discovery Space, and Central PA Mixed Martial Arts.

The Community Education office also oversaw In-Car Driver Education, Summer Camp Offerings and Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Tutoring Center programs.



- CEEL participants - 387 (vs. 165 during the 2014-2015 school year)
- In-Car Driver Education participants - 211
- Summer camp offerings (elementary) participants - 836
- Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Tutoring Center participants - 114

SCASD Education Foundation

During the school year, the district launched the SCASD Education Foundation to enhance the educational experience of students by providing financial support for innovative learning opportunities. The foundation seeks community donations, following its vision of “an enriching educational experience that challenges and inspires every student to reach his or her full potential.”

Paul Olivett was hired as executive director, and plans began to enlist community members to serve on a Board of Directors. Partnering with Affinity Connection in State College, the foundation created a website, www.scasdfoundation.org, and started publishing a newsletter and magazine with stories about district teachers, students, programs and alumni.

The foundation was approved to receive contributions through Pennsylvania’s Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. EITC allows PA-based businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for charitable giving to approved entities.



Special Education and Learning Enrichment

Special Education

The district provides a full continuum of service and support options for students with disabilities. In 2015-2016, the district continued to implement the highly successful Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII) in grades K-3, which has proven to provide success to our most at-risk populations in the area of reading. Our application to continue this procedure has been extended for the next six years.

The district continued to expand Integrated Mental Health supports to students and families with increased outpatient service, and expanded the implementation of Read 180/System 44 to include fourth and fifth grades, helping students close their reading gap and achieve grade-level proficiency.

At the middle level, the district implemented Math 180 for students receiving special education support, and into the high school math seminar classes (general education class) to help close their math gap and achieve proficiency.

SCASD continued with a full-time behavior specialist to support school teams and students experiencing significant behavioral challenges and to support classroom-based programs for students with autism via the CLM (Competent Learner Model) curriculum.



Learning Enrichment Services

The State College Area School District provides challenging learning opportunities for all students that build on their individual strengths and optimize their abilities. Gifted and Learning Enrichment services, in concert with SCASD's core program, ensure that the district supports the development of advanced learners to achieve their full potential as students and individuals.

During the school year, the district responded to a Pennsylvania Department of Education audit of the Gifted/Learning Enrichment program by implementing a universal screening process to determine students who may be gifted. As a result of the screening, more than 50 students in grades K-8 were recommended for a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) to determine their eligibility and need for gifted services.

In addition to providing services for identified gifted students, the district also offered learning enrichment experiences to elementary and middle school students who scored in the top 15 percent of assessments administered at their grade level.

Enrichment courses provided elementary and middle school students exposure to content, methods, and instructional techniques that developed higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills. Over 1,000 elementary and middle school students, excluding kindergarten, qualified for learning enrichment services during the school year.

At the high school level, the Learning Enrichment program is flexible enough to meet the needs of students who have different interests, skills, and educational goals. During the year, LE students spent their day at the high school taking required and elective courses for graduation, while also working with staff to develop independent contracts that outlined learning objectives and enrichment goals. A select number of high school students also participated in Learning Enrichment ARTsmART. This extension of learning enrichment is for students with interests or gifts in music, visual, and/or performing arts. More than 400 State High students participated in learning enrichment during the school year.

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: 239

Easterly Parkway Elementary School

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Michael Maclay, principal, (814) 231-1170
Enrollment: 346

Ferguson Township Elementary School

215 West Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868
Charlotte Zmyslo, principal, (814) 231-4119
Enrollment: 367

Gray's Woods Elementary School

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870
Kristen Dewitt, principal, (814) 235-6100
Enrollment: 410

Houserville Elementary School

217 Scholl Street
State College, PA 16801
Todd Dishong, principal, (814) 231-5026
Enrollment: 178



Lemont Elementary School

675 Elmwood Street
Lemont, PA 16801
Todd Dishong, principal, (814) 231-5034
Enrollment: 173

Mount Nittany Elementary School

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA 16801
Debra Latta, principal, (814) 272-5970
Enrollment: 347

Park Forest Elementary School

2181 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Donnan Stoicovy, principal, (814) 231-5010
Enrollment: 488

Radio Park Elementary School

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA 16803
Zachary Wynkoop, principal, (814) 231-4115
Enrollment: 368

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Delta Middle Level (Grades 5-8)

154 West Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 83

The Delta Middle Level 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: 718

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Karen Wiser, principal, (814) 237-5301
Enrollment: 787



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



State College Area High School/Delta Program

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: 1051

South Building - Grades 9 and 10

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal, (814) 231-5020
Enrollment: 1067

Delta Program

154 West Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 132

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, Delta follows a primary goal of being a strong community that provides a safe, nurturing environment for all stakeholders.

State College Virtual School

154 West 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, though students also participate in SCASD activities.

Career and Technical Center (CTC)

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% of students take at least one CTC course in a school year.

Profile of the Class of 2016

- ◆ 574 total graduates
- ◆ 155 Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 weighted or 3.75 unweighted)
- ◆ 20 National Merit finalists (22 semi-finalists, 19 commended)
- ◆ 22 National AP Scholars
- ◆ 387 students took 778 AP tests, with 86% of the tests scoring a 3 or higher (out of 5).
- ◆ 251 students scored a 5 on an AP test (32% of tests taken at SCASD).
- ◆ 81 percent of students are pursuing a college education (77% 4-year colleges, 4% 2-year colleges).
- ◆ Mahima Kumara (Yale University) was the valedictorian. Jessica Ding (Harvard University) was the salutatorian.
- ◆ 19 students enlisted in the military or entered ROTC programs, and 5 students enrolled in service academies.

State High 2015-16 Quick Facts

- ◆ 57 Advanced Placement and advanced courses were offered. Delta Program offered 16 advanced courses, and the Career and Technical Center offered 9 advanced courses.
- ◆ 76 activities and clubs
- ◆ 20 bands, orchestras, choirs, string ensembles, and rock ensembles.
- ◆ 26 high school athletic teams
- ◆ 89.4 Building Level Academic Score
- ◆ 2,289 enrollment
- ◆ 51.6% male; 48.4% female
- ◆ 12.1% economically disadvantaged students
- ◆ 1.6% English language learners
- ◆ 10.3% special education students
- ◆ 83% white; 6.9% Asian; 3.4% Hispanic; 3.4% Multi-Racial; 2.7% African American.
- ◆ 16.3 average years of experience for teachers.
- ◆ Four-year cohort graduation rate of 91.1%. Four-year cohort rates reflect students who graduated four years from their 9th grade start date. They do not include students with disabilities who start 9th grade with their cohort but participate in life transition programs and graduate in five or six years.

(Academic Score and demographic data from Pennsylvania Department of Education).

2016-17

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Ms. Jeanne Knouse
Director of Student Services

Ms. Jacqueline Wynkoop
Director of Gifted and Learning Enrichment

2015-16 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

- ◆ **Sharon Salter** succeeded **Patrick Moore** at the end of the school year.
- ◆ **Michael Hardy** retired as Assistant Superintendent 9-12.
- ◆ **Vernon Bock** was hired at the end of the school year.
- ◆ **Jason Perrin's** responsibility changed from K-8 to 9-12.
- ◆ **Jacqueline Wynkoop** was hired at the end of the school year.



Message from the SCASD Board of Directors President

Dear community residents,

Thank you for your support of our public schools and our students, and for investing in the future of our community. We are so fortunate to have a community with high expectations for its public schools, and where so many of you give of your time, talent, and resources to support our students.

During the school year, the new State College Area High School began to take shape. The campus at Westerly Parkway was transformed, with the new building's shell rising on the south side of the street. Thanks to overwhelming community support for this project, all students will benefit as they spend high school years in a new building.

But the most important work in our district came from students and teachers in our classrooms and programs. To support them, the SCASD Board of Directors authorized a District-wide Facilities Master Plan focused on updating the final three elementary schools in the District that have not been renovated for the 21st century. The Board also approved resources to support the development of a new English Language Arts program, including classroom libraries.

Our nine board members passionately believe in robust public education. We are deeply committed to making our school district the best it can be and serving as responsible stewards of your tax dollars. In support of that, the Board helped to start the SCASD Education Foundation to foster community engagement and giving in support of innovative public education.

In December 2015, we said farewell to three dedicated board members, as they completed their tenure: Ann McGlaughlin, Jim Pawelczyk, and Dorothea Stahl. We welcomed new colleagues Amy Bader, Gretchen Brandt, and Dan Duffy. Like their predecessors, they've embraced the challenges of guiding our large and dynamic district, helping it grow and flourish.

As a Board, we sometimes face tough choices and decisions, but our work is always worth the effort - because of the value you continually place on education.

Sincerely,

Amber Concepcion
Board President



Administrative Offices
240 Villa Crest Drive
State College, PA 16801
Tel: 814-231-1011
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StateCollegeSchoolDistrict
 @StateCollegeSD
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