

Preparing Students For Lifelong Success



State College Area School District The Year in Review

Annual Report 2016-2017

Welcome from the Superintendent

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 that enable and encourage 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. Accordingly, 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 having your family be a part of our community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert J. O'Donnell
Superintendent of Schools



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 Nov. 1, 2016, the district had a total enrollment of 6,808 students. The district operates nine elementary schools (seven K-5; Lemont and Houserville sister schools split K-2 and 3-5, respectively); two middle schools (6-8); and one high school. Students also may attend the Delta Program, which is divided into a middle school for grades 5-8 and a high school for grades 9-12. The Delta Program is an alternative democratic school which allows for a greater variety of choices offered to students, for all or part of their yearly instructional program. In its third year, Delta Middle Level had 102 students.

At the high school, vocational programs are available to students through the Career and Technical Center (CTC) 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 courses. Current class size averages are 20 for K-5, 23 for grades 6-8, and vary in high school due to the breadth of our core and elective course offerings.

2016-2017 Quick Facts

- 9 elementary schools
- 2 middle schools
- One high school
- Alternative Delta Program (both middle and high schools)
- 2,897 elementary students
- 1,617 middle school students (including Delta)
- 2,294 high school students (including Delta)
- 102 Delta middle school students 5-8
- 160 Delta high school students 9-12
- 632 teachers
- 1,844 people employed
- \$149,444,213 budget
- 13 National Merit scholarship finalists
- 1 National Merit scholarship recipient
- 1 U.S. Presidential Scholar

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, teachers 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 strive 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 organization system.

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, the community, businesses, vocational training institutions, and Penn State University to enrich the total education of its students.



Inclusive Excellence Policy

On Jan. 9, 2017, the SCASD Board of Directors approved a new School Climate/Inclusive Excellence Policy.

According to the policy:

“Each District school and program should support and promote teaching and learning environments in which all students can succeed, both academically and socially; have a strong and meaningful voice; and are prepared for democratic life and successful transition into the 21st century workplace.”

“A positive school climate is an essential element of achieving these goals. The Board of School Directors developed this policy to ensure that every school community member **1**) is treated with dignity; **2**) has the opportunity to learn, work, interact, and socialize in physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe, respectful, and positive school environments; **3**) has the opportunity to experience high quality relationships. Each school and program, therefore, has the responsibility to promote conditions designed to create, maintain and nurture a positive school climate.”

2018-2023 Educational Strategic Plan

In November of 2016, the district began drafting a new five-year strategic plan to replace the 2014-2017 plan.

Assisted by Performance Fact, Inc., from Oakland, Calif., a 72-member steering committee consisting of students, alumni, parents, teachers, support staff members, administrators, business/higher education partners, community representatives, district-level leaders, and every school board member met to consider student achievement data and survey data toward identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, especially with promoting inclusivity and closing achievement and opportunity gaps. To help, Dr. Ed Fuller, Director of Penn State’s Center for Evaluation and Education Policy Analysis (CEEPA), provided a summary of his study of several years’ worth of surveys completed by students, parents and faculty members.

From discussions, the team decided upon five goals with corresponding measures of progress and benchmarks. The selected goals were:

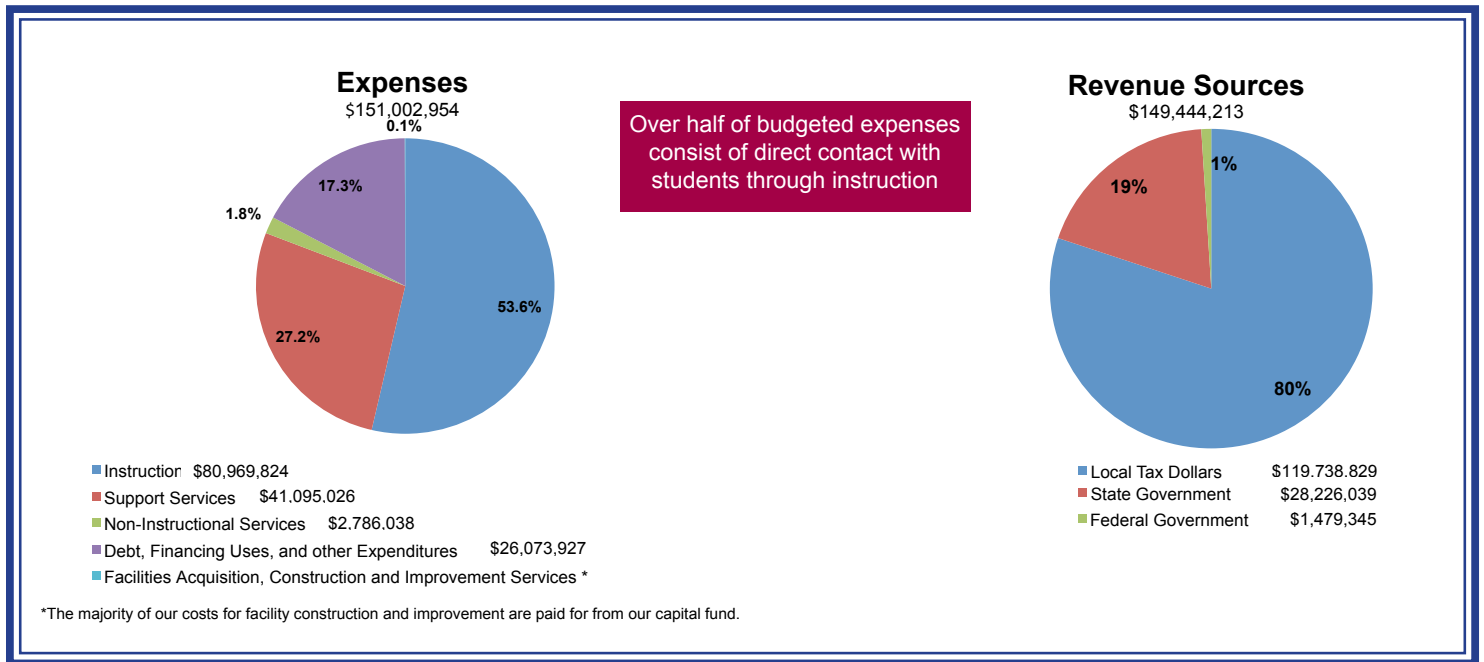
- **Encouragement and Support For the Whole Student**
- **Continuous Growth for Every Student**
- **Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Problem-Solving**
- **Closing Individual Achievement and Opportunity Gaps**
- **Successful Transitions and Readiness for A Purposeful Life**

To accomplish these goals, the district devised an instructional focus, or road map, based on the district’s Four Pillars, its prime objectives:

- **Culture of Trust, Relationships, and Collaboration**
- **Responsive Teaching and Learning**
- **High Expectations for All**
- **Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive Climate for Learning and Work**

Fine-tuning the plan, the steering committee met again in the spring and the Board held a work session, in anticipation of a SCASD Board of Directors approval vote by the end of 2017.

2016-2017 District Finances



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. The district is committed to using its resources wisely and to delivering exceptional educational programs.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the district provided schooling for about 6,800 students at a total cost of over \$149 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 2016-2017, the school district was the fourth largest employer in Centre County, providing more than 1,800 full-time and part-time jobs.

Because of its relative affluence, the local community historically has supplied the bulk of the district's financial support. In 2016-2017, local revenue, mostly from real estate taxes, supplied 80 percent of the district's funds, with 19 percent from the state and 1 percent from the federal government.

For the year, the real estate tax rate was 43.473 mills (\$4.3473 per \$100 of assessed value), with taxes increasing \$130 for the average residential taxpayer. The rate increased 4.32 percent from 2015-16, but 1.92 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 to exceed its 2.4 percent Act 1 Index limit. The index annually sets maximum tax increases for school districts.

The district's required payment of \$6.3 million to charter schools, an increase of \$871,000 from 2015-2016, represented 4.3 percent of the budget. The amount paid to charter schools is based on a state formula, which is calculated using the district's actual costs.

In its second year, the district's Supplemental Property Tax Rebate Program issued 270 rebates for a total of \$82,584 out of a \$100,000 budget, as of April 26, 2017. The average rebate per household was \$300; the maximum possible was \$650. Of the 2016-2017 rebates:

- 186 were for \$250
- 28 were for \$300
- 56 were between \$301 and \$500
- 38 went to property owners with assessed values of more than \$71,300
- 150 went to property owners with assessed values between \$40,000 and \$71,300
- 82 went to property owners with assessed values of less than \$40,000

For the 2017-2018 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

At the start of the 2016-17 year, workers were busy pouring concrete slabs and constructing foundation walls for the A, B, C and D classroom pods. The lower South Building was completely demolished, with the first structural steel installed in Pod A and work started on initial mechanical systems. Modular classrooms near the North and South buildings replaced lost instructional space.



Throughout the fall, work continued in different stages across the four pods on foundation slabs, masonry walls, structural steel, underground utility tunnels and rock excavation. The front entrance and main entry staircase began taking shape; interior wall framing, mechanical piping and ductwork were set in place; and the mechanical room pad was poured. By December, some pods and connecting corridor walls had reached their full heights of three stories, allowing for roofs to be installed and enabling temporary heating systems that helped interior work to start.

Despite challenging weather, the project maintained steady progress over the winter and workers completed walls and roofs, erected mechanical room and auxiliary gym walls, started on the large group instruction classroom over the main entrance, began installing brick and stone veneer panels, and placed ground face concrete masonry unit facades.

Warmer spring weather accelerated veneer work, insulation installation in preparation for exterior metal panels, and construction of the main entrance, mechanical room and auxiliary gym. In April, the first windows went into place. The loop road from O'Bryan Lane was closed to traffic for one month at the Westerly Parkway end to reconstruct that intersection.

June brought great strides with interior finishes, exterior facades, equipment in the mechanical room, the large group instruction classroom, and the interior courtyard behind Pod C, working toward the goal of students moving into the four classroom pods in January 2018. Most of the remaining South Building will be demolished to make way for the new performing arts and gymnasium wings. The North Building, save the existing gym and natatorium, also will be torn down to build the new Delta Program building. The four-year State High Project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2019.

Elementary School Projects

On Aug. 31, 2016, the Board of Directors held a work session that continued the District-wide Facilities Master Plan update started in the spring of 2016. The district administration studied options for updating Corl Street, Houserville and Radio Park elementary schools that included: **A)** Closing Corl Street and moving students to four-classroom-per-grade configurations at Houserville and Radio Park. **B)** Closing Corl Street and moving students to a three-classroom-per-grade configuration at Houserville and a four-classroom-per-grade configuration at Radio Park. **C)** Renovating Corl Street, Houserville and Radio Park to three-classroom-per-grade configurations. All of the considered options included Lemont Elementary closing and merging with Houserville, its sister school.



As the Board studied enrollment projections and reviewed the options, the district administration solicited public feedback at community forums on Sept. 19 and Oct. 17 at Mount Nittany Middle School. On Sept. 26, the Board decided to keep Corl Street open by eliminating the four original master plan elementary update options that called for the school's closing. Based on elementary enrollment projections and other demographic data, the district had recommended the Board consider an elementary capacity of 3,500 students and school sizes of 400 to 550 students when evaluating building projects. The eliminated options would not have satisfied those preferences.

The four remaining options presented combinations of addition/renovation and new construction projects for the three schools. On Nov. 14, 2016, the Board voted for new construction for Houserville and addition/renovation for Corl Street and Radio Park, all with three classrooms per grade. The Board also voted for a Radio Park bid alternate of four classrooms per grade.

Subsequently, architectural firm Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates began working on site and floor designs, with the Board approving 30 percent plans on Feb. 27, 2017 and after a required ACT 34 Public Hearing, 60 percent plans on June 26, 2017.

The 60 percent estimates were:

- Corl Street (addition/renovations, 64,086 sq. feet) - \$17,444,987
- Houserville (new construction, 71,342 sq. feet) - \$20,628,506
- Radio Park (additions/renovations, 80,173 sq. feet) - \$21,107,701
- Radio Park w/alternate bid (four classrooms per grade, 8.865 more sq. feet of classroom space) - \$22,583,035



Memorial Field Renovations

Progress continued on the Phase 2 renovations for the stadium, a Works Project Administration project finished in 1937.

After consulting for months with administrators, coaches, parents and other stakeholders, the architectural firm of Weber Murphy Fox presented the SCASD Board of Directors with two design choices on Nov. 28, 2016. Option A proposed to keep the Nittany Avenue Building, a former schoolhouse and district administrative center built in 1924, and fully renovate the interior for locker rooms, public restrooms and coaches' offices. Option B called for razing the building and replacing it with a new facility, including

a field entrance and concession plaza. Both options included new home bleachers and a southern end zone concourse linking the home and visitor sides.

On Jan. 9, 2017, the Board unanimously selected Option B, estimated at \$8.7 million. In February, the district held a community forum for input on design, then followed in the spring with evaluating Option B2, a plan to keep the Nittany Avenue Building stone basement as a shell and build the field entrance and plaza on top.

The Board chose Option B2 on May 8, 2017, gaining an additional 1,200 square feet of storage and as much as 2,500 square feet of unfinished space for use later, for only slightly more than Option B. Locker room facilities will be beneath the home bleachers and in the basement interior. In addition, the option provides the flexibility of adding a classroom as a bid alternate, in a location farther from a natural sinkhole than under Option B. As part of the Option B2 design, about 700 seats with backs will be added to the home bleachers on the east side, to make them comparable to visitor seats on the west side.

Initial plans projected a Board vote on the final design in February 2018 and the project's completion in 2020. The Nittany Avenue Building is slated for demolition in the summer of 2018.

Music

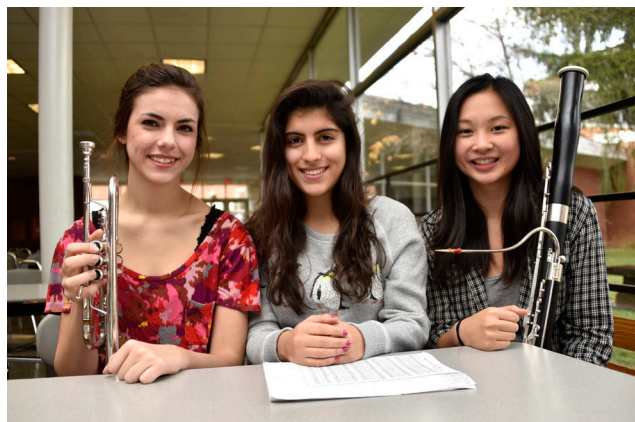
For the 13th year, the district's stellar K-12 music education program earned the National Association of Music Merchants Best Communities for Music Education award. The music department and the Penn State School of Music, for the 11th time, collaborated to offer the Partners in Music Program, in which prospective music teachers conduct fifth-graders through a series of fall rehearsals leading to a concert.

State College Area High School music ensembles excelled in adjudicated competition at the Worldstrides Onstage Heritage Festival in Boston, Mass. on April 29-30, 2017. By collecting 15 awards, including several gold and silver ratings, the music program won the sweepstakes Best Overall Program Award among all participating schools. In addition to the program receiving the Best Orchestra, Best Concert Band and Best Choir awards, the jazz band was selected for Best Overall Instrumental honors and the Master Singers Ensemble was awarded Best Overall Choir.

Adjudicators from the Berklee College of Music, the Boston Conservatory at the Berklee College of Music, and the New England Conservatory gave special recognition to State High students **Brian Curtin**, **Shane McCandless**, **Nathan McKinstry** and **Justin Shondeck** for outstanding solo performances.

State College Area High School students **Grace Gilpatrick**, **Mariana Corichi** and **Annie Liu** (pictured above left to right) were chosen for All-Eastern Honors Ensembles drawn from the Eastern Division of the National Association for Music Education. The division comprises 11 states and the District of Columbia.

Corichi (mixed choir), Gilpatrick (orchestra, on trumpet), and Liu (band, on bassoon) performed at the division conference April 5-8, 2017, in Atlantic City, N.J. They were among about 600 students chosen through their own All-State selections process.



Athletics

Among the 2016-17 athletics highlights for the district, the girls' volleyball team won its first Mid Penn Conference championship and sixth straight District 6 title. The Little Lady Lions advanced to the state Class 4A semifinals for the first time since 2006 with a perfect record, ending 22-1. Coach **Chad Weight** was named the Mid Penn Coach of the Year, and senior **Taylor Kuruzovich** was chosen as the Conference Player of the Year. She and teammates **Alli Henderson** and **Laura Hildebrand** also received all-state honors.



Football coach **Matt Lintal** won the Mid Penn Conference Commonwealth Division Coach of the Year Award, leading the Little Lions to a 9-1 regular season record, a share of the division crown and a playoff win. Linebacker **Pete Haffner** earned Mid Penn co-defensive MVP honors for the second year in a row.

In wrestling, sophomore **Cole Urbas** took home a bronze medal at 182 pounds in the state wrestling championship. The boys' basketball team won the Mid Penn Commonwealth Division, notched a district title and advanced to the second round of the state Class 6A tournament with its first playoff win in eight years, finishing at 21-5. Junior **Drew Friberg** surpassed the 1,000 points mark on his way to earning third-team all-state honors.

Senior **Tobias Van Dyke's** silver medal in the 500-yard freestyle was the individual highlight for the boys' swimming and diving team, which earned eight medals at the state Class 3A Swimming and Diving Championship. Freshman **Matt Brownstead** won a bronze and set a team record in the 50-yard freestyle. He also set the District 6 championship meet record in the event.

In the spring, the State High boys' baseball team won a district title and reached the state Class 6A semifinals for the first time since 2007, finishing the season at 13-11.

Boys' soccer, boys' tennis, softball and the girls' and boys' track and field teams also garnered district titles—the sixth straight for soccer, 12th straight for the girls' track and field, and 22nd overall for softball. In boys' track, the 4x800 meter relay team of **Joey Feffer, Nick Feffer, Chris Di Perna** and **Owen Wing** took second in the state championship meet. In girls' track, the 4x800 meter relay team of **Sophie Bollinger, Catherine Curtin, Elly Haushalter** and **Esther Seeland** took third in the state championship meet. **Lyndsey Reed** took second place in the pole vault at the Penn Relays.

Girls' and boys' tennis coach **Jane Borden** was named the High School Coach of the Year for the U.S. Professional Tennis Association Middle States Section.



For a service project to help Special Olympics, junior **Nick Vanden** won the Junior Volunteer of the Year Award from the United States Tennis Association's Central Pennsylvania District.

Vanden collected used tennis racquets, restringing and regripping them before delivering 50 to the Huntingdon County Special Olympics team. Overall, he collected more than 80 racquets.



Representing seven decades of State High football, dozens of former players revisited Memorial Field during the first annual Memories on Memorial Football Alumni Evening at the Little Lions' home opener.

Super Bowl champion **Matt Suhey**, class of 1976, presented the NFL's Golden Football Award, given to schools that contribute to Super Bowl history, to head coach **Matt Lintal** and the team captains. Alumni were recognized on the field before the game and invited to watch from the home sideline.

Overall Achievement

State High student **Joey Feffer** was named a 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholar, placing him among 161 high school seniors so honored. One of Pennsylvania's two designated state selections, he received the U.S. Presidential Scholar medallion at the National Recognition Program in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1964 by presidential executive order, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selected one male student and one female student from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as from families of U.S. citizens living abroad. Overall, the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars came from the national pool of about 4 million high school seniors.

Joey Feffer made the U.S. National Linguistics Team and competed at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Dublin, Ireland. To qualify for the team, he passed two rounds of testing with the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, a contest in which high school students use logic skills to solve linguistic puzzles.

State High student **Kristine Lai** won a 2017 National Merit Scholarship. Other finalists were **Kurtis Darl Brown, Mia Cavener, Crystal Dahm, Lars de Lorenzi, Joey Feffer, Nicholas Feffer, Joshua Geselowitz, Katherine Curie Kim, Joseph McCracken, Alexis Soto, Andrew Yang** and **Hayden Yoder**.



Lai

Feffer

Teaching

Radio Park Elementary teacher **Mary Robert** received the 2016 Penn State College of Education Alumni Society Outstanding Teaching Award, selected from the many hundreds of graduates successfully teaching worldwide.

Overseen by Food Services Director **Megan Schaper** and managed by Food Service Supervisor **Chris Meckley**, the Park Forest Middle School cafeteria earned a high gold rating score in the national Smarter Lunchrooms Movement assessment program. The national average rating is bronze.



Radio Park Elementary teacher **Kelly Mark** received the National Association of Professional Development Schools 2017 Outstanding PDS Dissertation Award at the NAPDS national conference in Washington, D.C.



Easterly Parkway Elementary teachers **Andrea de Carle** and **Nicole Titus** were recognized by the American Educational Research Association for their research in the Professional Development School, the partnership between Penn State and the State College Area School District. The teachers each won the prestigious Claudia Ballach Award.

The Park Forest Middle School STEM team of teachers **Bill Hughes, Lynn Mona, Steve McAninch, Jeff Seamans, Heath Stout** and **Greg Wilson** received the Gerald Day Excellence Award: Top Volunteered Article by a Classroom Teacher Team for their article, "Every Day a New 3D Printing Material." Hughes was the lead author. The award came from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association's 2017 Communications Survey, and will be presented at the ITEEA's 2018 conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Math and Science

Out of 255 teams, the Mount Nittany Middle School Mathcounts team won its first Mathcounts state championship, lead by seventh-grader **Zach Cheslock** and **Tony Tzolov**, who placed eighth and 10th, respectively. Eighth-graders **Claire Jin** and **Albert Zhang** rounded out the state leaderboard.

The Arts

Park Forest Middle School student **Nico Cardenas-Miller's** short horror film "The Guest," a special English class project, was accepted into the All-American High School Film festival and shown in New York.

State High sophomore pianist **Baron Cao** won the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition and performed a Mozart concert with the symphony. He placed third at the Music Teachers National Association Senior Piano Competition on March 20, 2017, in Baltimore, Md. To reach the competition, Cao won at state and regional MTNA competitions.



Recognition



Sophomore **Drew Spielvogel's** charcoal drawings "Effaced" and "Haze" won national gold and silver medals, respectively, in the 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. He was one of 2,500 students in grades 7-12 who received national medals. At the Northeast Region-At-Large level, Spielvogel received six Gold Keys and one Silver Key.

The State High Thespians troupe won six Isaac Awards for its spring performance of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Isaac Awards are Central Pennsylvania's high school musical theatre awards. Isaacs went to **Justin Shondeck** (Actor in a Leading Role), **Eli Yurman** (Actor in a Supporting Role), **Morgan Higgins** (Actress in a Supporting Role), **Elena Gomez** (Achievement in Design), **John Michael Rosenblum** and **Will Flecko** (Best Ensemble) and the cast (Featured Dance). The play came in second for best production, one of State High's three runner-up awards.



Career and Technical Center

The State High chapter of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) earned 12 medals in 15 health professions and sports medicine events at the state conference and competition. **Jo Jo Soares Gulet, Alli Henderson, Laura Hildebrand, Ellie Kim, Britney Peachey** and **Jesse Torbic** won gold medals. **Ruthie Dangelo, Supriya Kumar** and, as a team in one event, **Sanjana Kuchapudi, Roshni Raj** and **Peter Takac** won silver medals. **Iqra Rana, Maya Urbanski** and **Lillian Wang** won bronze medals.

Sixteen State High DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) chapter members placed at the state competition, qualifying for the national competition. First places: **Griffon Barter, Benjamin Brauser, Derek Cestone, Saige Cestone, Patrick Holoviak, Iris Li, David Narehood, Aziz Salamy, Teja Wein** and **Ryan Wilson**. Third places: **Justin Bayly, Kyle Engle** and **Nicolas Gibson**. Fourth places: **Zach Cook, Susanna Walter** and **Joy Zu**. In addition, junior **Max Lucas** was elected as Pennsylvania DECA president for the 2017-2018 school year.



Five State College Little Lions FFA chapter members medaled at the state FFA Activities Week and Convention: **Evan Kocher** (gold), **Joanna Everhart** (silver), **Dillon Kocher** (silver), **Becky Royer** (silver) and **Megan Royer** (bronze). The chapter's Poultry Evaluation Team won a silver medal, also qualifying it to be the state FFA representative at the Eastern States Exposition.



Senior **Lane Brown** (right) won a donated used car in the State High Senior Prom raffle, then made his good fortune even better. He turned to his stunned best friend, **Jair Castillo**, and gave away the Mazda 626 sedan. The reason? Brown already had a truck, and his buddy needed a set of wheels.

Student Achievement

State College Area School District students continue to excel 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 support program.

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 2016-2017

Keystone exams are state mandated end-of-course assessments that students take when completing Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. The Algebra I and Biology assessments are given to 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	85.95%
Biology	78.57%
English	83.09%

Based on PDE School Performance Profile

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

2017 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in English Language Arts						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	85.8%	77.3%	76.5%	84.8%	78.1%	75.2%
State	64.6%	60.9%	59.6%	63.5%	59.5%	58.9%

2017 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in Math						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
District	72.2%	61.4%	56.0%	59.8%	57.4%	48.0%
State	54.5%	46.6%	43.8%	40.3%	37.8%	32.5%

2017 PSSA Percent Proficient/Advanced in Science		
	Grade 4	Grade 8
District	87.0%	68.1%
State	74.5%	52.7%

High School Student Achievement

75 Students Tested American College Test (ACT) Data										
Year	English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2017	26.4	23.4	27.0	23.4	27.5	24.2	26.3	23.3	26.9	23.7
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
2017	87.0%	67.0%	60.3%
2016	87.9%	67.7%	60.3%

AP students in 2016-2017: 432
Total exams: 878

Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)						
Year	Critical Reading			Mathematics		
	District	State	Nation	District	State	Nation
2017	600	541	538	600	533	533

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 93.8 percent, the Class of 2016 numbered 542 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 not graduating in four years are special education students who begin ninth grade with their cohort but stay in the district for extra years before graduating to benefit from life transition programs.

About 78 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, Northwestern, New York, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Michigan and Carnegie Mellon.

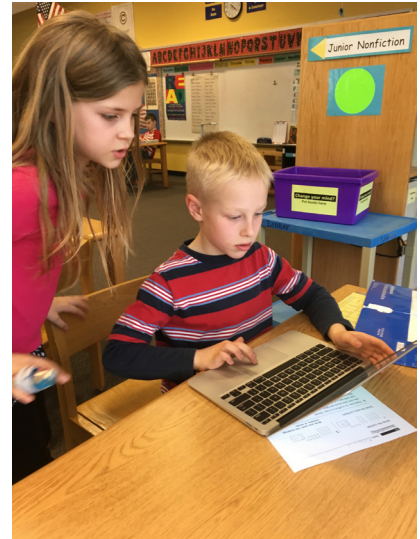
One percent of the class planned to enlist in the military or ROTC programs, and 4 percent said they were entering the workforce.



Community Education

2016-2017 marked the fourth year for the Community Education Extended Learning (CEEL) program. Fees for the program were reduced to allow more families to access the program, causing a significant increase in the number of participants. A long-standing partnership with the Penn State University World Language program found a new home at the CEEL program. Pre-service teachers provided instruction in French, German and Spanish to students in grades 2-5.

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



- CEEL participants - 515 (vs. 387 during the 2015-2016 school year)
- In-Car Driver Education participants - 220
- Summer camp offerings (Elementary) participants - 904
- Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Tutoring Center participants - 142

SCASD Education Foundation

In its second year, the SCASD Education Foundation received \$39,674 in contributions, including \$5,404 raised during the annual Centre Gives campaign for local nonprofit organizations. The foundation disbursed \$20,797 to the district to support student experiences and innovative learning opportunities.

Through the state's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, businesses contributed \$16,500, which went toward establishing an Oracle Academy computer science program as part of the high school's Career and Technical Center. The EITC program allows PA-based businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for charitable giving to approved entities.

The first Board of Directors began with **Doug Loviscky** as president and **Chris Buchignani** as vice president. Other initial members were **Penni Fishbaine**, **Michelle Frisco**, **Carol Grim**, **Ann McLaughlin**, **Mary Kay Montovino** and **Betsy Whitman**. On behalf of the foundation, Affinity Connection continued to publish stories about district teachers, students, programs and alumni via an e-newsletter and a magazine. The launch of the Maroon and Gray Society, a State High alumni honor society, was planned for the fall of 2017.





Special Education

The district provides a full continuum of service and support options for students with disabilities. In 2016-2017, 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. The district began conversations about expanding RtII to include behavioral interventions beyond school-wide positive behavior plans.

The district kept expanding Integrated Mental Health supports to students and families with increased outpatient service, and implemented 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 continued to offer Math 180 support for students receiving special education support, and in high school math seminar classes (general education class) to help close students' math gap and achieve proficiency.

The district employed a full-time behavior specialist, **Natasha Vogt**, to support school teams and students experiencing significant behavioral challenges. In addition to helping students and teams district-wide, Vogt continued to assist classroom-based programs for students with autism via the CLM (Competent Learner Model) curriculum.



In its 15th year as a partnership with Penn State, LifeLink PSU provided students with special needs, ages 18-21, an opportunity for interacting with college student mentors to cultivate academic growth, social development and independence.

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 potential as students and individuals.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the district continued implementing a universal screening process to evaluate K-8 students who may be gifted, to determine recommendations for a Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) that assesses 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 with exposure to content, methods and instructional techniques that developed higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills. More than 1,000 elementary and middle school students, excluding kindergarten, qualified for learning enrichment services.

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 2016-2017 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 took part in learning enrichment during the school year.

State College Area School District

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Corl Street Elementary School

235 Corl Street
State College, PA 16801
Charlotte Zmyslo, principal, (814) 231-1185
Enrollment: 242

Gray's Woods Elementary School

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870
Kristen Dewitt, principal, (814) 235-6100
Enrollment: 421

Mount Nittany Elementary School

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA 16801
Mark Feldman, principal, (814) 272-5970
Enrollment: 317

Easterly Parkway Elementary School

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Michael Maclay, principal, (814) 231-1170
Enrollment: 328

Houserville Elementary School (3-5)

217 Scholl Street
State College, PA 16801
Todd Dishong, principal, (814) 231-5026
Enrollment: 173

Park Forest Elementary School

2181 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Michael Hardy, interim principal, (814) 231-5010
Enrollment: 497

Ferguson Township Elementary School

215 West Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868
Charlotte Zmyslo, principal, (814) 231-4119
Enrollment: 357

Lemont Elementary School (K-2)

675 Elmwood Street
Lemont, PA 16801
Todd Dishong, principal, (814) 231-5034
Enrollment: 177

Radio Park Elementary School

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA 16803
Zachary Wynkoop, principal, (814) 231-4115
Enrollment: 354

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Delta Middle Level (5-8)

154 West Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 101

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA 16801
Brian Ishler, principal, (814) 272-4050
Enrollment: 757

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA 16803
Karen Wisner, principal, (814) 237-5301
Enrollment: 756

STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

North Building (11-12)

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal, (814) 231-1111
Enrollment: 1,073

Delta Program

154 West Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
Jon Downs, director, (814) 231-1000
Enrollment: 158

State College Virtual School

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

South Building (9-10)

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801
Curtis Johnson, principal, (814) 231-5020
Enrollment: 1,035

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 cohesive community that provides a safe, nurturing environment for all stakeholders.

Offering virtual learning opportunities to our students, the virtual school is an independent learning environment, though students also can participate in SCASD activities.

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

Profile of the Class of 2017

- 542 total graduates (including 11 "Grade 13 Graduates")
- 163 Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 weighted or 3.75 unweighted)
- 13 National Merit finalists (18 semi-finalists, 21 commended)
- 23 National AP Scholars
- 432 students took 878 AP tests, with 87% of the tests scoring a 3 or higher (out of 5).
- 272 students scored a 5 on an AP test (31% of tests taken at SCASD).
- 78 percent of students are pursuing a college education (74% 4-year colleges, 4% 2-year colleges).
- Kristine Lai (University of Pennsylvania) was the valedictorian. Joseph Feffer (Harvard University) was the salutatorian.
- 11 students enlisted in the military or entered ROTC programs.

State High 2016-2017 Quick Facts

- 58 Advanced Placement and advanced courses were offered. Delta Program offered 16 advanced courses, and the Career and Technical Center offered 9 advanced courses.
- 74 activities and clubs
- 19 bands, orchestras, choirs, string ensembles and rock ensembles
- 30 high school athletic teams
- 90.6 Building Level Academic Score
- 2,266 enrollment
- 50.4% male; 49.6% female
- 17% economically disadvantaged students
- 1.5% English language learners
- 10.5% special education students
- 83% white; 6.8% Asian; 3.3% Hispanic; 3.1% Multi-Racial; 2.9% African American
- 16.3 average years of experience for teachers
- Four-year cohort graduation rate of 93.8%. Four-year cohort rates reflect students who graduated four years from their 9th grade start date. They do not include students with special needs 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)

School Day Proposal

In April of 2017, the district administration and school board began discussing a proposal to change the elementary and secondary student days, starting in 2018-2019.

Meant to increase student learning opportunities, the proposal calls for the elementary day to begin earlier, at 8:10 a.m., and last 44 minutes longer. This would enable more core learning time and a fifth weekly special period. The secondary day would shift to a later 8:40 a.m. start, aligning with adolescent sleep patterns and allowing for more engaged morning learning, while the day would remain the same length as before.

Through a State College Area Education Association vote, faculty approved contract adjustments that allowed the proposal to move forward. The district continued refining the proposal throughout the summer, planning for community outreach in the fall and an expected school board vote in late 2017.



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 students work-based learning experiences.

During 2016-2017, 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.

Message from the SCASD Board of Directors President

Dear community members,

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

During the 2016-2017 year, our school community began a new strategic planning process, inviting community members, faculty, staff, students, and parents to be on our Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Over multiple days, this 72-member team identified goals for improving instruction and experiences for students in our schools. For the next five years, the district administration will measure progress on these goals, with regular reports to the Board.

In January of 2017, the Board approved a new "School Climate and Inclusive Excellence" policy to guide schools as they "support and promote teaching and learning environments in which all students can succeed, both academically and socially; have a strong and meaningful voice; and are prepared for democratic life and successful transition into the 21st century workplace." This policy, and the district initiative that it establishes, provide for a number of strategies to make our schools more welcoming and supportive of diverse students and families.

Introducing three elementary school projects was another major focus of Board work during this school year. The Corl Street, Houserville (to be renamed), and Radio Park elementary school buildings and grounds were designed through a process that included regular community input at multiple points. We are excited that we will soon be providing all elementary students in our district with updated facilities that include contemporary building designs, generous natural light, and climate control. These projects will be LEED Gold-certified buildings, based on the standards established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Board also began work on the design process for the final phase of renovations to modernize Memorial Field as our district's premiere athletic venue. Meanwhile, the construction of the new State College Area High School continued, and our students and teachers worked alongside the project with great flexibility and tenacity.

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 being responsible stewards of your tax dollars. It is an honor to serve in a community that prioritizes providing an excellent educational experience for every child.

Sincerely,



Amber Concepcion
Board President
State College Area School District

Kindergarten and new students are enrolled at the Student Registration Office, 131 W. Nittany Ave., Room 100, State College. The office is open year-round 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, except for holidays and any times/days listed on the website (www.scasd.org/registration). If there's inclement weather, please call the office at 814-231-1017 to make sure it's open.

Students may be enrolled in the State College Area School District if their parents or legal guardians are legal residents of the school district and the students reside in the home within the district on a permanent basis; they are accepted as tuition-paying students by the Board of Directors; or they are approved exchanged students.

Students need not be present during the registration process.

Kindergarten registration is held each spring. The dates are available on the district's registration website (www.scasd.org/kindergarten), along with additional information and necessary documents.

2016-2017

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Jacqueline Wynkoop
Director of Gifted and Learning Enrichment

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