

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN LOCAL
TAXATION STRUCTURE**

OCTOBER 28, 2024



Susquehanna Township School District

OUR EFFORTS TO DATE

June: Public Hearing #1

July:

- Township Mailer #1
- Public Hearing #2

August:

- Township Mailer #2
- Distributed Flyers @ Community Event

September:

- Board of Commissioners Presentation
- Marquee Advertisement of 2 EI Assoc. Presentations
- EI Associates Presentations - Proposed New School
- Media Coverage

October:

- Township Mailer #3
- EI Associates Presentation - Proposed New School
- **Community Information Session**

We need your VOTE





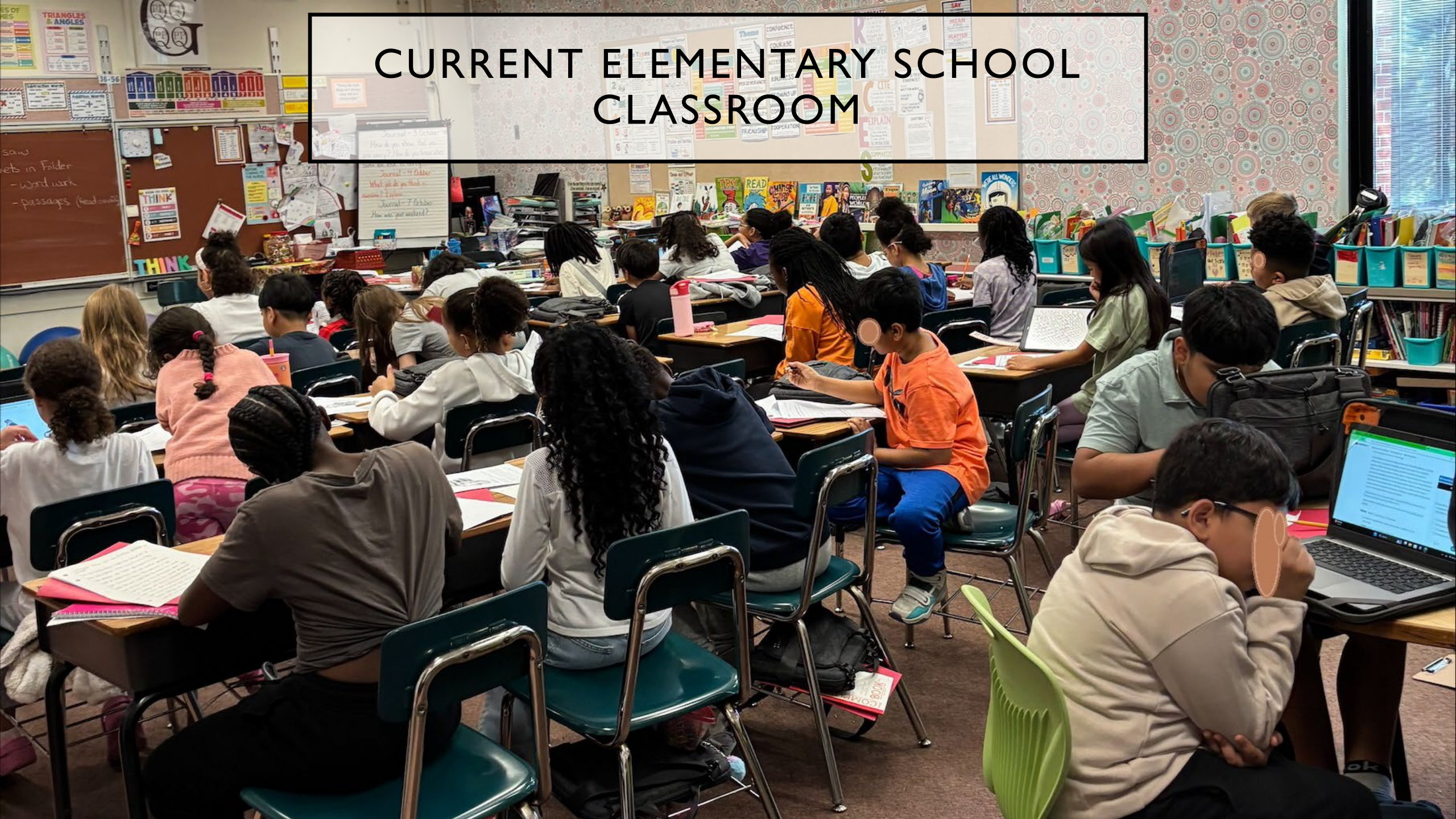
CURRENT
CONDITIONS &
DEMAND FOR
ADDITIONAL
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES

- Fastest growing school district (15%) in Dauphin County.
- Annual rental of 20 modular classrooms to address overcrowded elementary student population.
- Need a new elementary school - \$100 million estimated cost.
- Increase in annual debt to finance new school – \$4.30 million

SARA LINDEMUTH / ANNA CARTER PRIMARY SCHOOL & THOMAS W. HOLTZMAN, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MODULARS



CURRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM



KEY FACTORS
IMPACTING
PROPOSAL TO
CHANGE
STSD'S
LOCAL
TAXATION
STRUCTURE

Insufficient Revenues:

- STSD receives less **state** revenue per student than all other Dauphin County school districts.

Stagnant Tax Base:

- STSD's real estate tax base has shown little growth over the past 10-years, limiting revenue generation.

Diverse & Growing Population:

- STSD is the most diverse school district in Pennsylvania, third most diverse district in US and continues to attract families with school aged children.

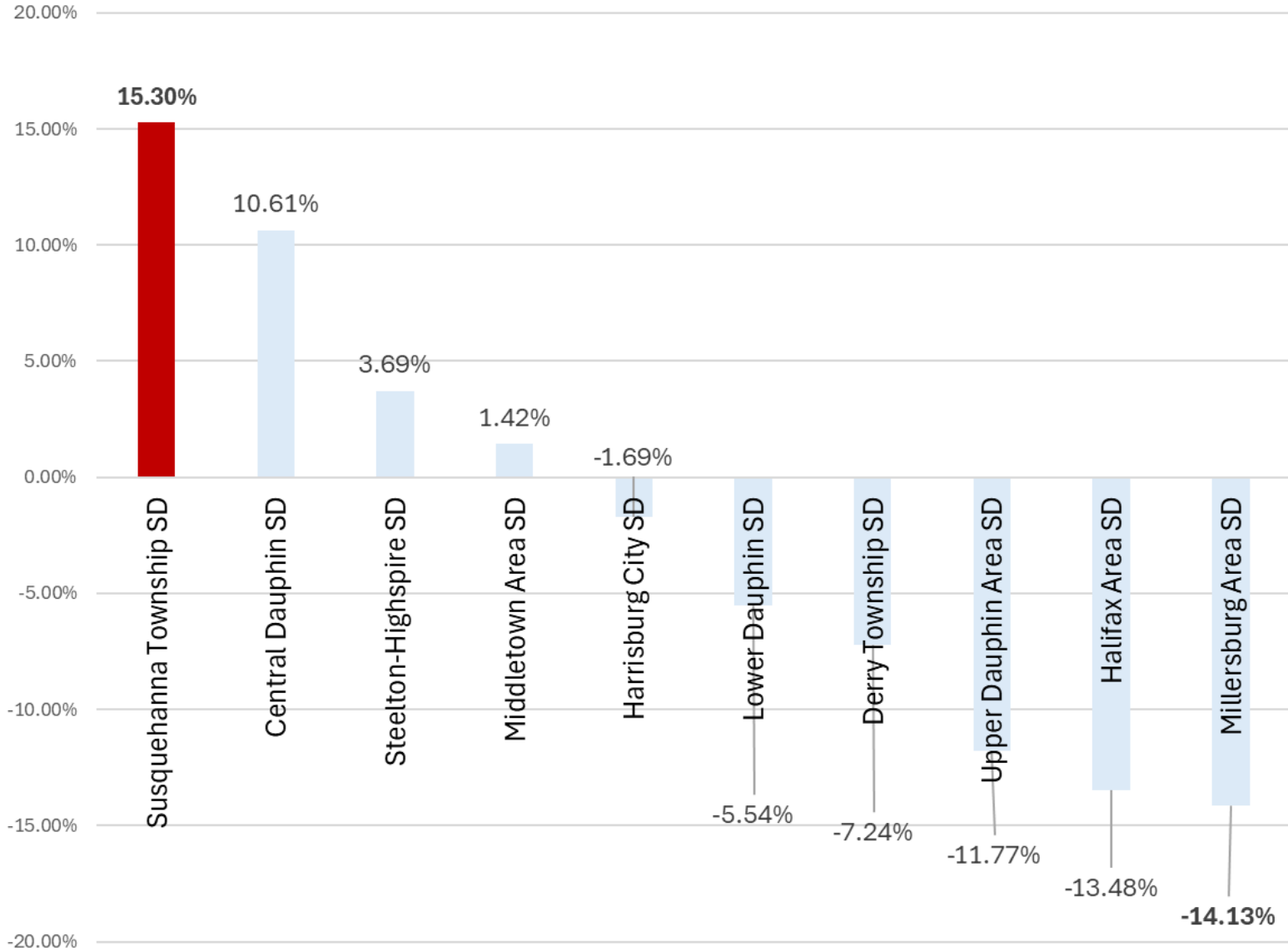
Increase in Multi-Family Homes:

- Susquehanna Township has a growing number of households with multiple families living together.

Limited Land Available In District:

- Limited land available in the district large enough to accommodate a new school. STSD currently under contract to purchase a 42-acre tract of land to serve as the site for a new elementary school.

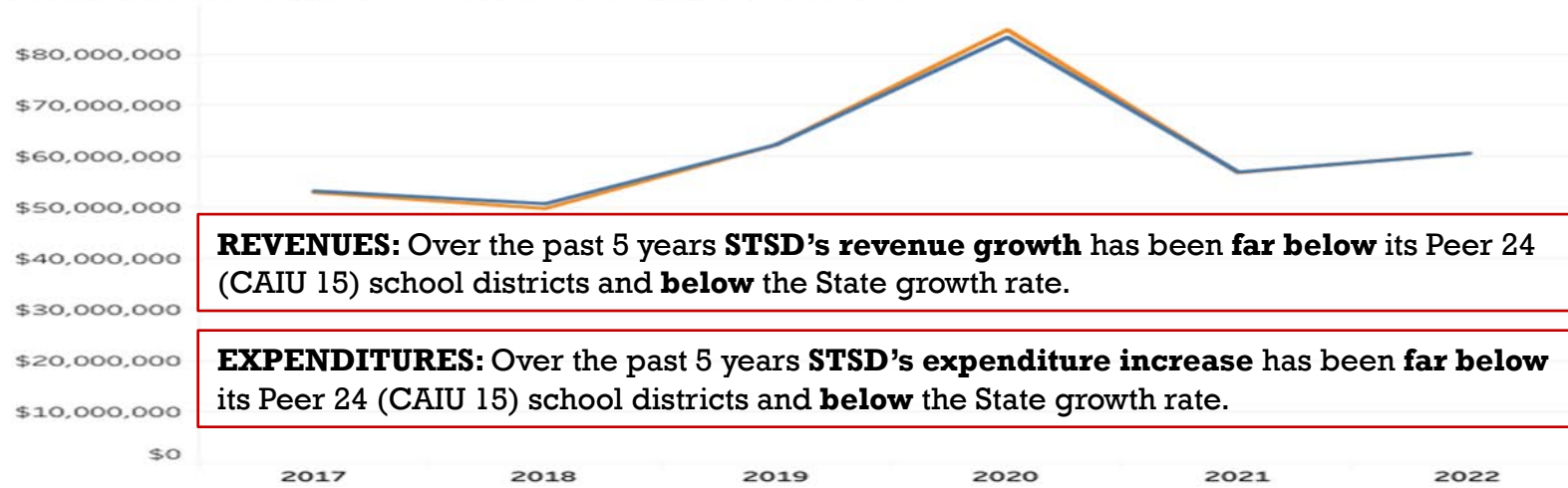
% Student Enrollment Change



DAUPHIN COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
ENROLLMENT TRENDS –
6 YEAR PERIOD

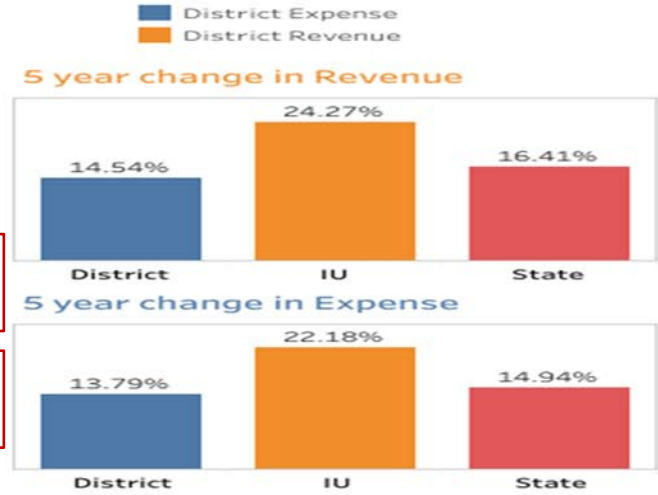
Susquehanna Township SD Financial Analysis Story

General Fund changes over time including transfers



REVENUES: Over the past 5 years **STSD's revenue growth** has been **far below** its Peer 24 (CAIU 15) school districts and **below** the State growth rate.

EXPENDITURES: Over the past 5 years **STSD's expenditure increase** has been **far below** its Peer 24 (CAIU 15) school districts and **below** the State growth rate.



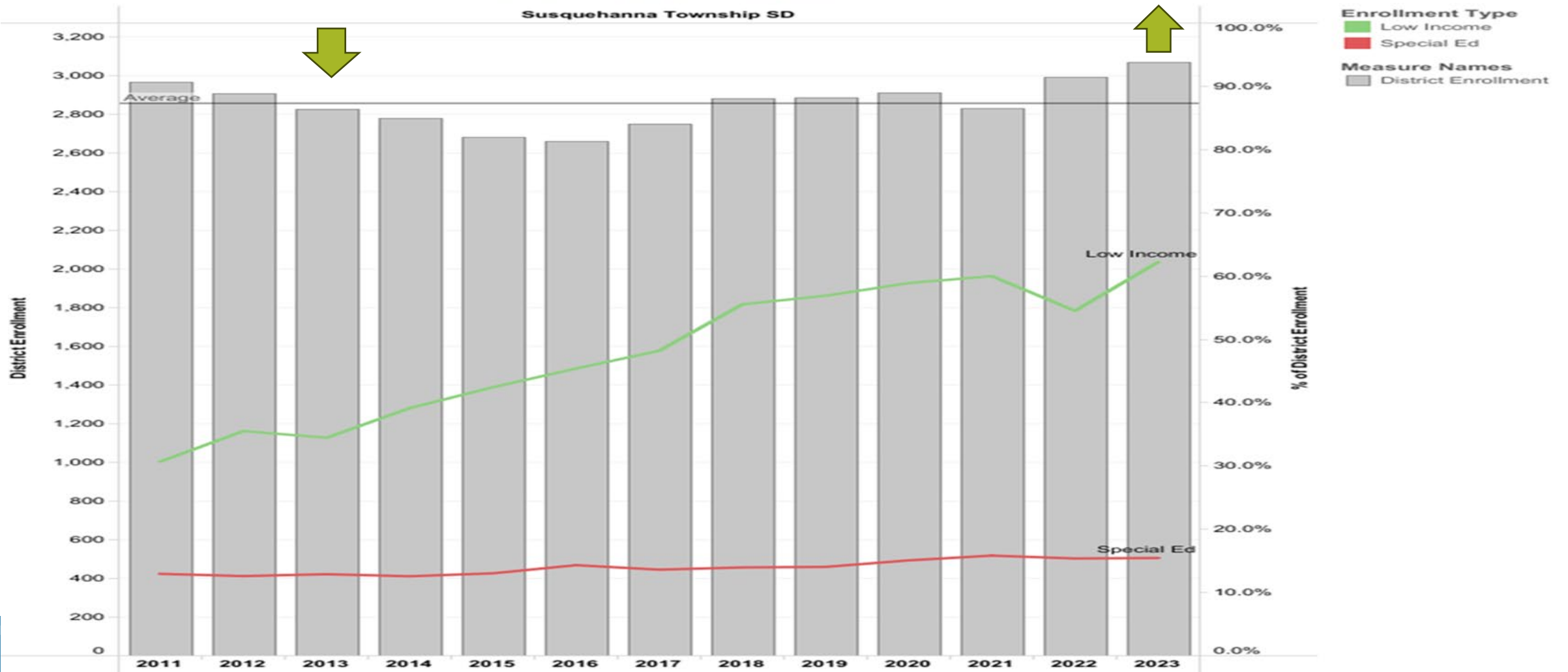
Transfers are 9000 sources and 4000-5000 functions.



CAIU # 15

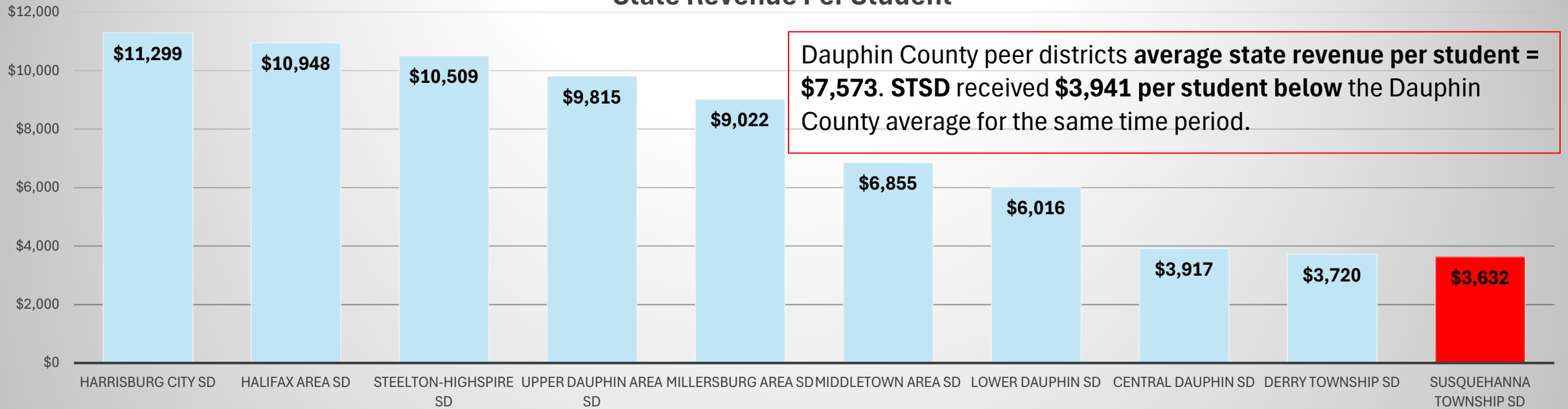
5 YEAR CHANGE IN REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Enrollment Breakdown (District Level)
 District(s): Susquehanna Township SD
 Source: PA DOE Enrollment Data



STSD STUDENT ENROLLMENT & LOW-INCOME STUDENT TRENDS

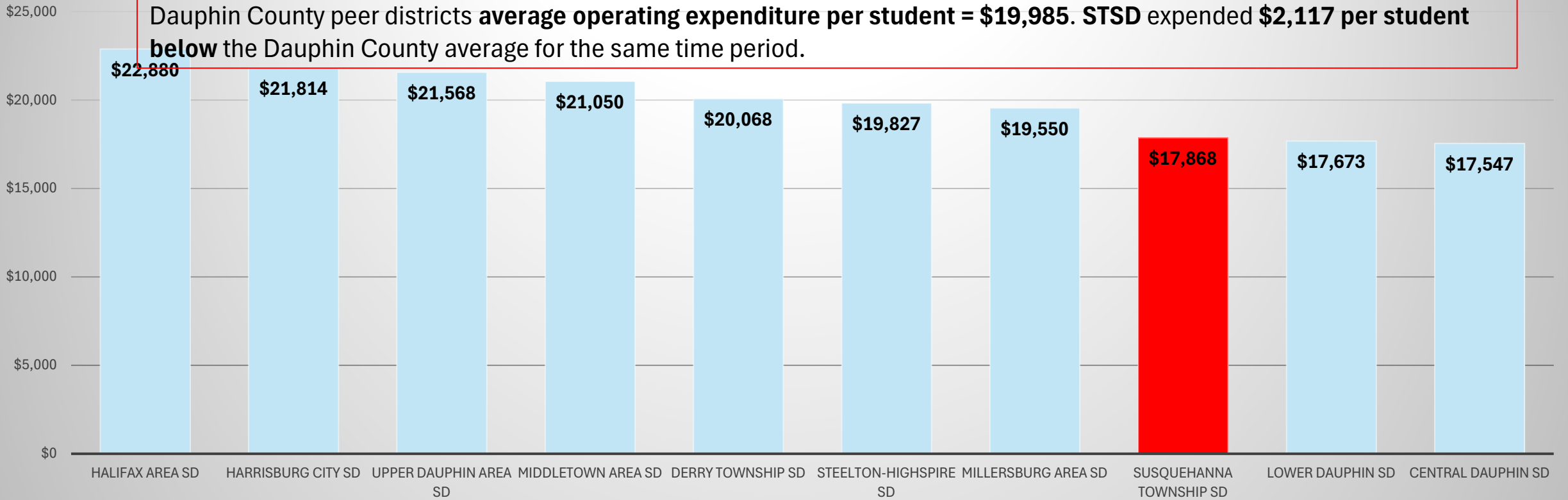
State Revenue Per Student



DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS STATE REVENUES PER STUDENT

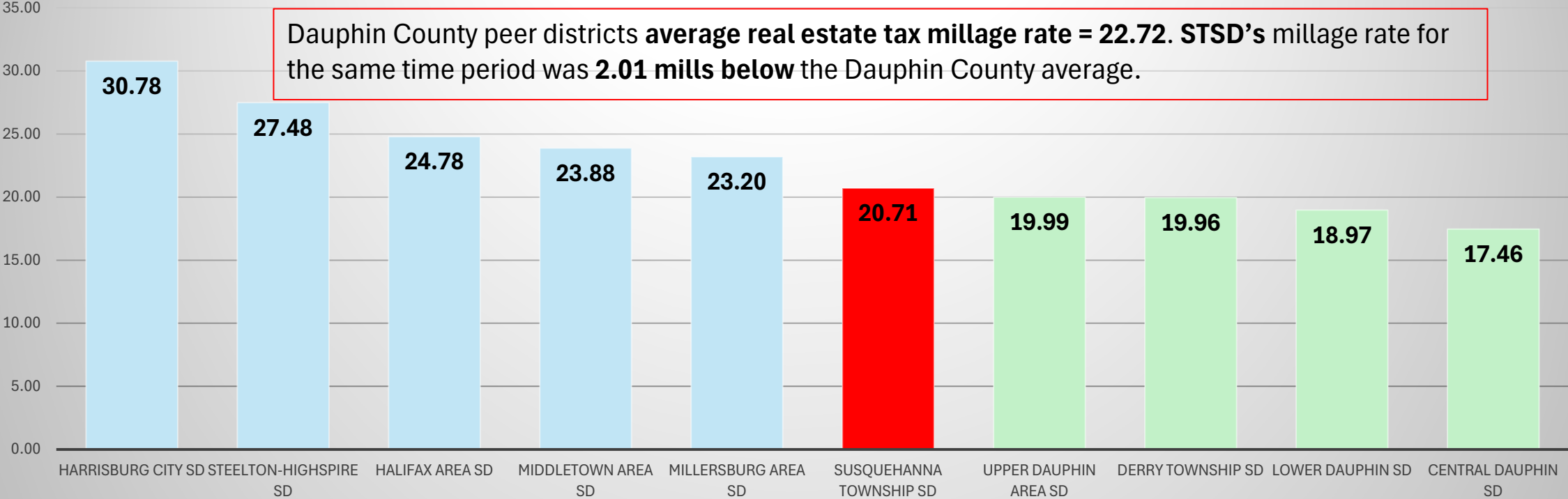
Operating Expenditure Per Student

Dauphin County peer districts **average operating expenditure per student = \$19,985**. **STSD** expended **\$2,117** per student **below** the Dauphin County average for the same time period.



DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER STUDENT

Real Estate (Property) Tax Millage Rates



**DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATES**

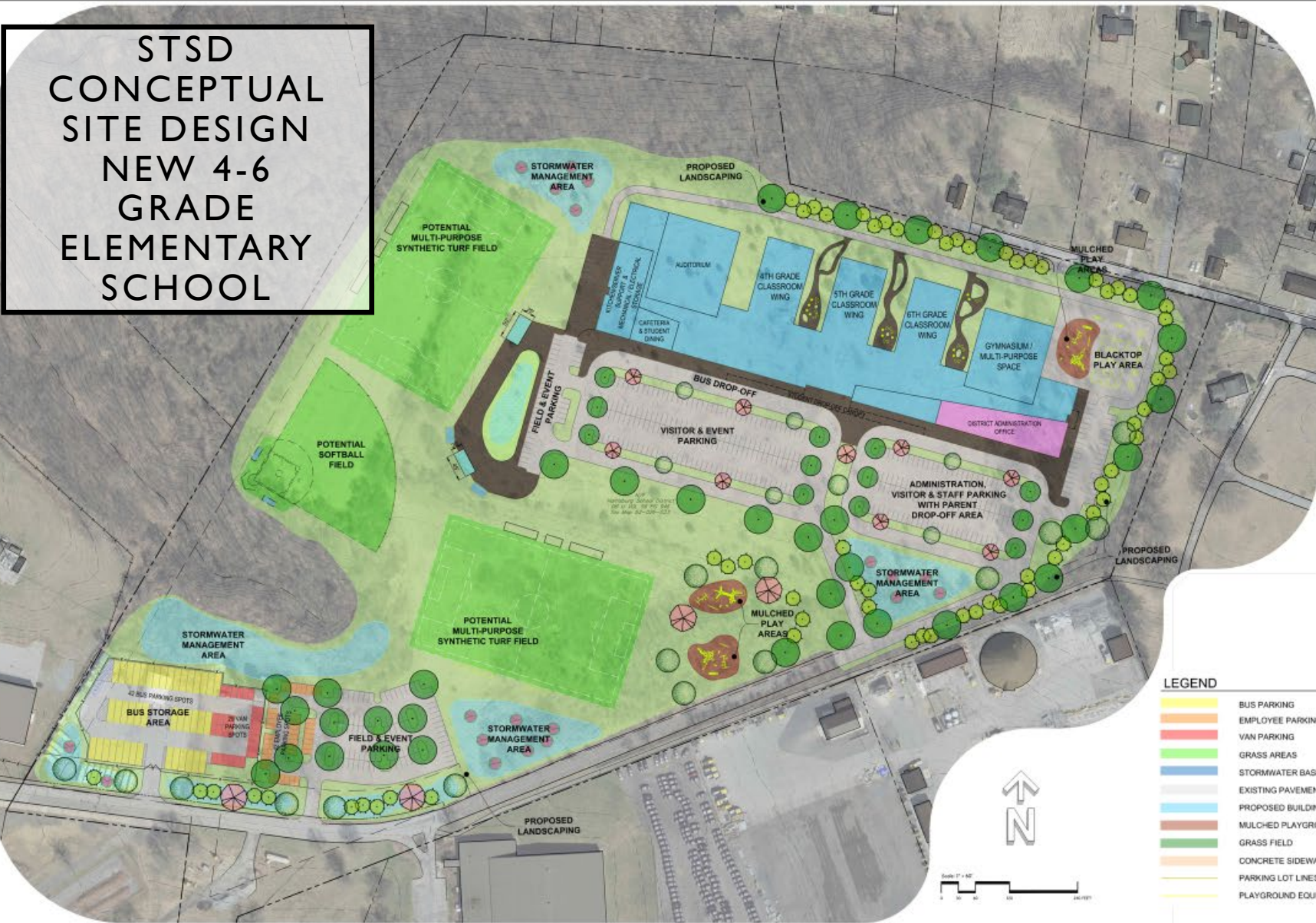
WHAT IS THE
PROPOSED
CHANGE TO
STSD'S LOCAL
TAXATION
STRUCTURE?

- **Eliminate the \$270 school occupation tax (nuisance tax).**
- **Increase STSD's earned income tax rate.**
 - 0.50% to 1.10% - (0.60% Increase)
- **New total earned income tax rate when combining Susquehanna Township Municipality with STSD.**

Entity	Current	Proposed	Increase
STSD	0.50%	1.10%	0.60%
Susquehanna Township Municipality	0.50%	0.50%	
Total	1.00%	1.60%	

1901 Wayne Avenue Solution - Conceptual Site Plan

**STSD
CONCEPTUAL
SITE DESIGN
NEW 4-6
GRADE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



- Property is zoned Conservation (C) - elementary schools are not currently permitted and requires request for zoning relief, recreational uses are permitted but not well-defined in ordinance, zoning determination is recommended
 - Rezoning, Use Variance or Zoning Text Amendment
- Currently estimated between 40% to 45% impervious coverage
- New school on approximate pad of former school building
 - Two (2) separate entrances for buses and public Includes expansion of existing pad area for bus storage
- Disposition of Stanley Drive to Wayne Avenue is to be determined for potential right-of-way vacation
- Parking capacities:
 - 370 parking spaces at new school
 - 128 parking spaces at lower field lot
 - 40 buses (34 regular & 6 small)
 - 26 vans (22 10-passenger, 4 7-Passenger)
 - 42 driver vehicles
- New athletic facility on pad of former school building
 - Includes two (2) multi-purpose synthetic turf fields and a baseball/softball field
 - Bleacher seating for 200 spectators
 - Press box, small concessions/restroom building & storage sheds
 - Play areas for children possible

STSD CONCEPTUAL EXTERIOR BUILDING DESIGN NEW 4-6 GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





DISTRICT RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY INPUT ON PROPOSED NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 
- 1) LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Engineers
 - 2) Walking Paths Around the New School Site
 - 3) Considering a Reduction in Number of Turf Fields

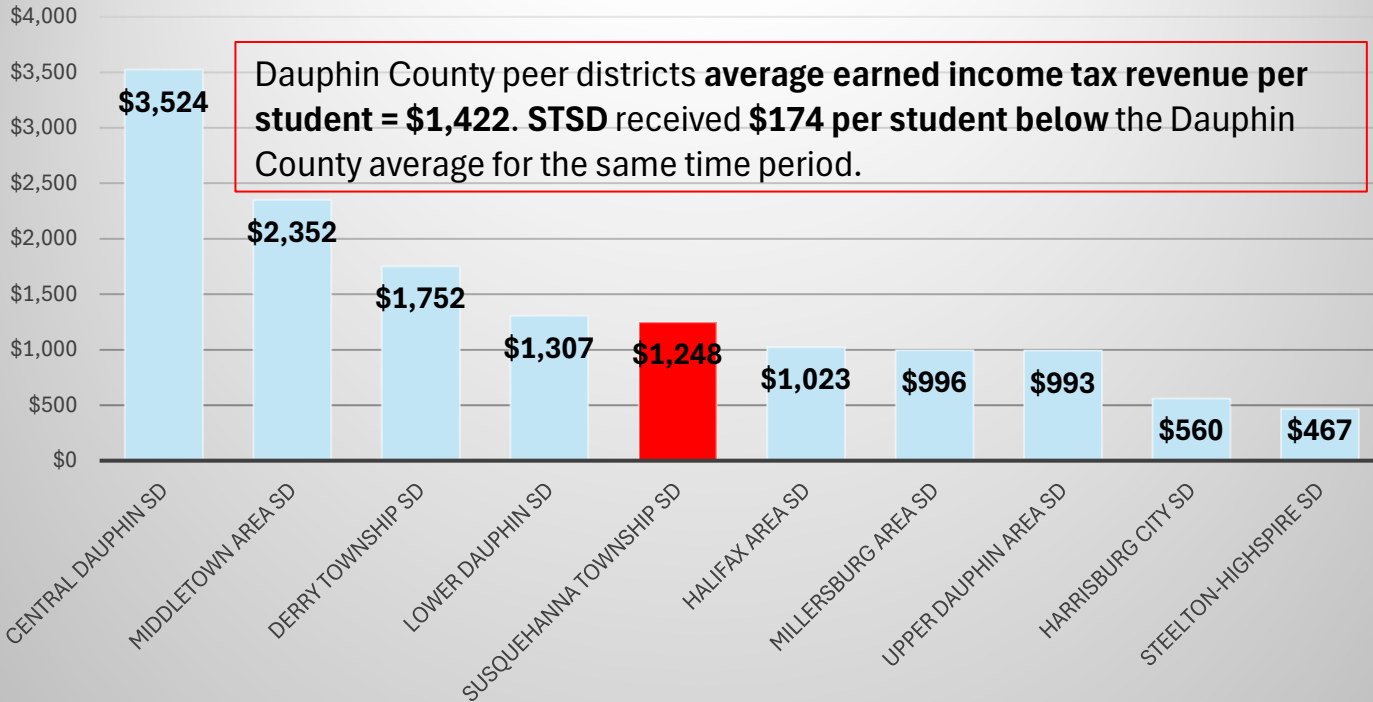
HOW MUCH
WILL STSD
RECEIVE IN
ADDITIONAL
REVENUE IF
VOTER
APPROVED?

Approximately \$2.5 Million (EIT)

STSD would continue to collect on all **delinquent** occupation tax revenues levied prior to July 1, 2025 (\$750K to \$1.0 Million)
This will diminish over time.

Earned Income Tax (EIT) Revenues Per Student

Dauphin County peer districts **average earned income tax revenue per student = \$1,422**. **STSD** received **\$174 per student below** the Dauphin County average for the same time period.







Current Earned Income Tax Rates

School District	Municipal EIT	School District EIT	Total EIT
Central Dauphin SD	0.50%	1.50%	2.00%
Middletown Area SD	0.50%	1.25%	1.75%
Derry Township SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Lower Dauphin SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Susquehanna Township SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Halifax Area SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Millersburg Area SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Upper Dauphin Area SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%
Harrisburg City SD	1.50%	0.50%	2.00%
Steelton-Highspire SD	0.50%	0.50%	1.00%

DAUPHIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS EIT REVENUES PER STUDENT

WHAT DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN TAXATION STRUCTURE MEAN TO STSD TAXPAYERS?

Financial Impact on STSD Taxpayers:

Annual Net Impact of Occupation Tax Elimination and Increased EIT											
Individual Wage Amount	Taxpayer Annual Wage	Current Taxation Structure			Proposed Taxation Structure			Total Change (Annual)	EIT Deduction Per Pay (Bi-Weekly)		
		EIT 0.50%	School Occupation Tax \$270	Total (Annual)	EIT 1.10%	School Occupation Tax \$0	Total (Annual)		Current Tax Structure 0.50%	Proposed Tax Structure 1.10%	Increase Per Pay
Low Subject to Occupation Tax	\$5,001	\$25	\$270	\$295	\$55	\$0	\$55	-\$240	\$1	\$2	\$1
 Median	\$47,597	\$238	\$270	\$508	\$524	\$0	\$524	\$16 	\$9	\$20	\$11
 Average	\$58,300	\$291	\$270	\$561	\$641	\$0	\$641	\$80 	\$11	\$25	\$13
High	\$1,589,776	\$7,949	\$270	\$8,219	\$17,487	\$0	\$17,487	\$9,269	\$306	\$673	\$367

A photograph of a young man and woman embracing in front of a two-story house. The man is wearing a blue button-down shirt and the woman is wearing a red and white plaid shirt. The house has brown siding, white trim, and a dormer window. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON
SCHOOL REAL ESTATE TAXES?**

**INCREASED EIT REVENUES
ARE ANTICIPATED TO
SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE
STSD'S RELIANCE ON
ANNUAL SCHOOL REAL
ESTATE TAX INCREASES
NECESSARY TO BALANCE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGETS**

Tax	Action	When?
School Occupation	Eliminate	Tuesday, July 1, 2025
School EIT	Increase	Thursday, January 1, 2026

**WHEN DOES THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN
STSD TAXATION STRUCTURE
OCCUR IF APPROVED?**



ARE PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY WAGES SUBJECT TO THE PROPOSED STSD 1.10% EIT TAX?



NO



SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT **LEARNERS NEED YOUR VOTE**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2024, BALLOT QUESTION
(AT POLLS & VIA MAIL-IN BALLOT)**

Do you favor eliminating the annual \$270.00 school occupation tax by increasing the rate of the Susquehanna Township School District earned income tax from 0.50% to a new School District rate of 1.10% making the maximum new total earned income tax rate (when combined with the Susquehanna Township Municipality 0.50% rate) a total of 1.60%?



**NOVEMBER 5,
2024, BALLOT**

EVERY

VOTE

COUNTS

THANK YOU

