



Elizabethtown Area School District
2024 Annual Impact Report

Board of Education

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Meeting Schedule and Agendas: The school board meets twice a month, typically on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the District's website at www.etownschools.org.

Attendance Options: Community members can attend meetings in person, watch them live on the District's Zoom channel, or access recorded meetings on the District's YouTube channel for up to one year.

Community Input: The school board welcomes community input during meetings, as it helps guide their decisions and enhances the overall student learning experience.

Introducing the 2024 Annual Impact Report

The Elizabethtown Area School District proudly presents the 2024 Annual Impact Report, which offers a comprehensive look into the **2023-2024 school year**. Aptly named "Impact Report," this publication captures the full scope of our District's efforts, achievements, and growth, underscoring our unwavering commitment to educational excellence and community transparency.

This report provides diverse data points, stories, and insights that illustrate our progress in preparing students for their future. We value each data point because it serves as a vital marker of our performance, helping us measure growth, identify areas for improvement, and make informed adjustments to serve our students better. Every piece of information—every success, challenge, and adjustment—paints the complete picture of how we ensure that "Every student graduates ready to live, learn, and thrive in a global community."

The report also emphasizes the significance of community partnerships and the responsible management of district finances. These relationships, combined with our focus on performance and continuous improvement, ensure that we provide a high-quality education for every student.

As we reflect on our accomplishments and lessons from the past year, we look forward to the opportunities ahead. We invite you to explore this report and celebrate the dedication of our students, staff, and community, all of whom play an integral role in our collective success.

Thank you for supporting our mission to provide an outstanding education. Together, we are building a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,



Karen R. Nell, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Building a Holistic Path to Student Success

The Elizabethtown Area School District promotes student success through a comprehensive three-pronged approach that emphasizes academic excellence via the Life Ready Model, robust student support services, and a vibrant culture of belonging. This integrated strategy serves as the cornerstone of our educational framework, ensuring that every student achieves academic success and feels connected and supported throughout their educational journey. By fostering an environment where academic rigor meets emotional and social development, we empower students to thrive in and out of the classroom.

Supporting this three-pronged approach is our Benefits-Based Accountability Framework, which is anchored by seven distinct pillars, each with its own success criteria: 1) Student Learning, 2) Student Readiness, 3) Engaged, Well-Rounded Students, 4) Well-Being, 5) Community Connections, 6) Effective Adults, and 7) Effective Systems. While each pillar plays a crucial role in advancing our mission, together they seamlessly integrate our emphasis on academic achievement, comprehensive support services, and a strong culture of belonging. This cohesive structure not only enhances our educational outcomes but also fosters a thriving community where every student feels valued and empowered.

Academic Excellence and Student Success

The first three pillars—Student Learning, Student Readiness, and Engaged, Well-Rounded Students—directly relate to our academic and student support service efforts. Academically, we focus on ensuring that students learn and develop the skills to thrive after graduation. Our **Life Ready Model** platform aims to foster growth through rigorous instruction and personalized learning opportunities that prepare students for future careers, further education, or military service.

Our **Student Support Services** division is designed to remove barriers to student success, ensuring every child has access to the necessary resources to excel. Whether addressing physical, emotional, or academic challenges, our support teams work with our classroom teachers to create an environment where all students can reach their full potential.

Culture of Belonging

Essential to our success is a strong **Culture of Belonging**, primarily reflected in the fourth pillar—Well-Being. We recognize that student success hinges on their ability to approach school with a positive mindset, a desire to attend, and a sense of being valued and included. Our commitment to fostering a supportive environment ensures that every student feels seen, heard, and empowered. This culture cultivates a sense of belonging, allowing individuals to excel, contribute meaningfully, and feel supported in both their personal and educational journeys. By prioritizing well-being, we create a school community where all students can thrive.

Effective Operations and Community Support

The final three pillars—**Community Connections**, **Effective Adults**, and **Effective Systems**—are crucial in guiding the operational efficiency and resource management of our District. These pillars ensure that we are focused on student outcomes and the systems and people that support them.

Through **Community Connections**, we actively engage with families, local businesses, and organizations to build strong partnerships that enhance the educational experience. By focusing on **Effective Adults**, we prioritize the development of our faculty and staff, equipping them with the tools and training they need to succeed in creating effective learning environments. Finally, the **Effective Systems** pillar ensures that we operate efficiently and maximize our resources, using data-driven decision-making to continuously improve our operations, ensuring we are always striving for excellence.

A Unified Approach to Success

By uniting **Academics**, **Student Support Services**, and a **Culture of Belonging**, we create a comprehensive framework that is designed to support student success. This integrated approach, guided by our seven pillars, ensures that every aspect of our work—from instruction to operations—is aligned with our mission to prepare students for a bright future. It's a strategy that we believe in and that you can have confidence in.

Guiding Our Path to Success

To improve the educational experience for all students, our District administration has crafted five-year plans that have been approved by the board, aligning with our Academic, Support Services, and Operations divisions. These plans are designed to sharpen our focus on essential initiatives in the short term.

Each plan details specific objectives to help us achieve these goals, ensuring our efforts are consistently aligned across all schools, departments, and instructional programs. This structured approach enables us to maintain clarity in our priorities, with the data presented in this report reflecting our progress and success in reaching these objectives.

Additionally, our state-approved comprehensive plan and a series of goals established by our school board provide ongoing governance direction. This reinforces our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures we remain on course to fulfill our mission: ***Every student graduates ready to live, learn, and thrive in a global community.***

We invite you to scan the QR codes provided to the right to access our comprehensive five-year plans, as well as the school board's goals and information about our benefits-based accountability efforts. These documents will offer deeper insights into our strategic initiatives and clarify our commitments and objectives for the upcoming years.

Learn More About...



District
Goals



Life Ready
Model



Support
Services



Culture of
Belonging



Benefits-based
Accountability

Academic Programming

At the core of our academic programming lies the unique and innovative **Life Ready Model**, a comprehensive approach from Kindergarten to twelfth grade. This model offers a dynamic curriculum and a continuum of personalized learning experiences, all designed to cater to each student's distinct strengths, interests, and aspirations. Our aim is to tailor programs, services, and support to ensure that every student can achieve their ambitions, regardless of their individual needs.

The Life Ready Model goes beyond a traditional curriculum; it cultivates a mindset that combines personalized, career-specific learning opportunities with an emphasis on developing critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. Through classroom learning and real-world experiences, we equip students with essential skills and knowledge to support their growth and achievement throughout their educational journey.

Rooted in the principle that our graduates should be well-prepared for life after high school, the Life Ready Model aims to equip them with the knowledge, skills, emotional resilience, and civic awareness necessary to pursue any of the following pathways:

- Securing a career with a livable wage
- Continuing education at a postsecondary institution
- Serving in the nation's armed forces

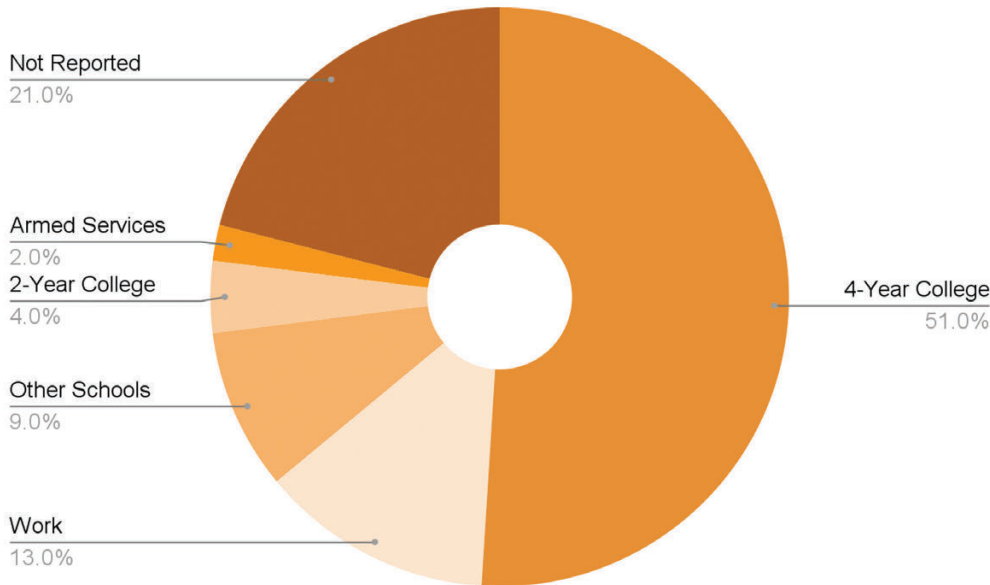
This section of the annual report provides data and insights on critical areas such as student achievement, educational programming, community engagement, and overall future readiness.

Graduation: A Gateway to Opportunities

Monitoring post-graduation plans is vital for the Elizabethtown Area School District as it provides insights into the effectiveness of our educational programs and student preparedness. We can identify trends that inform curriculum development and resource allocation by tracking the distribution of students pursuing four-year colleges, two-year institutions, employment, the armed forces, or other pathways. This information helps us better tailor support services to meet students' needs, enhance community engagement, and strategically plan for future cohorts. Understanding our graduates' trajectories ensures that all students are equipped with the opportunities and skills necessary for success beyond high school.

Post-graduation Analysis

As self reported by members of the Class of 2024



The High School Diploma: A Key to Future Success

Graduating high school represents more than a milestone; it opens doors to new opportunities for personal and professional growth. As a school district, we evaluate our graduation rates as they serve as one indicator of the overall effectiveness of our educational system. By monitoring graduation rates, we can ensure that we meet the diverse needs of all students, implement timely interventions, and align instructional practices to keep students engaged and on track for success. Ultimately, a strong graduation rate is a testament to our commitment to fostering an environment where every student can thrive.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Elizabethtown Area School District:** 93% graduation rate for the Class of 2024.
- **Pennsylvania's Future Ready Index:** 92.4% statewide graduation rate goal by the 2032-2033 school year.

Pathways to Success

The Elizabethtown Area School District offers a well-rounded and engaging educational program designed to prepare students for success in both college and their future careers. Our curriculum includes a variety of rigorous, weighted courses—such as Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment opportunities—providing students with academic challenges that foster critical thinking and deeper learning. These offerings reflect our commitment to equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their next steps, whether in higher education, the workforce, or beyond.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

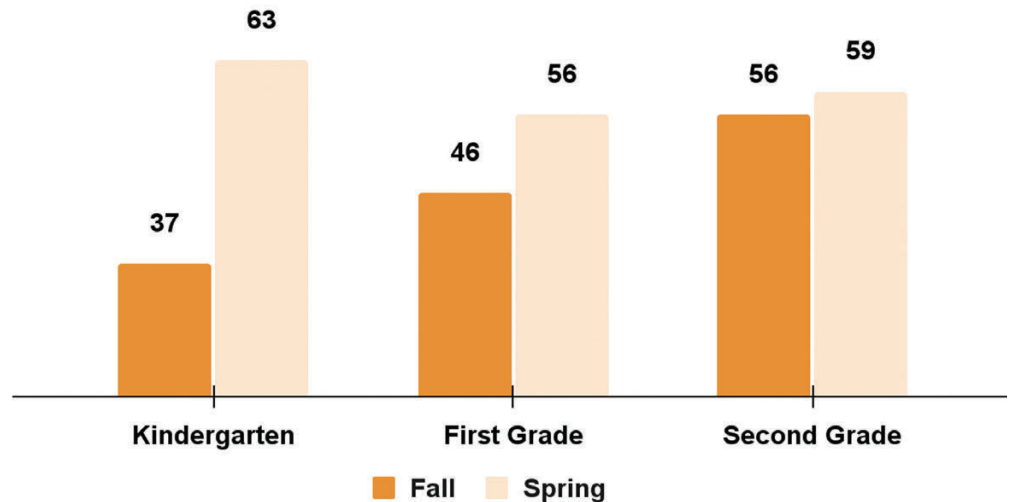
- **Weighted Course Enrollment:** 41% of high school students were enrolled in at least one weighted course.
- **Multiple Weighted Course Enrollment:** 29% of high school students took multiple weighted courses.
- **Course Passing Rate:** A remarkable 1,374 out of 1,385 weighted courses were successfully passed.

Tracking Student Growth

The Elizabethtown Area School District utilizes the DIBELS platform (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) to assess the reading abilities of elementary students throughout the year. This valuable tool evaluates essential literacy areas, including phonemic awareness, reading fluency, and comprehension. While we conduct formal DIBELS assessments in the fall and spring, our commitment to tracking student growth is ongoing. By continuously monitoring progress, we equip our teachers with insights that enable them to provide targeted support, helping students enhance their reading skills and build a strong foundation for long-term academic success.

Growth in Reading

Percent of Students at Benchmark Score or Above (2023-2024 School Year)

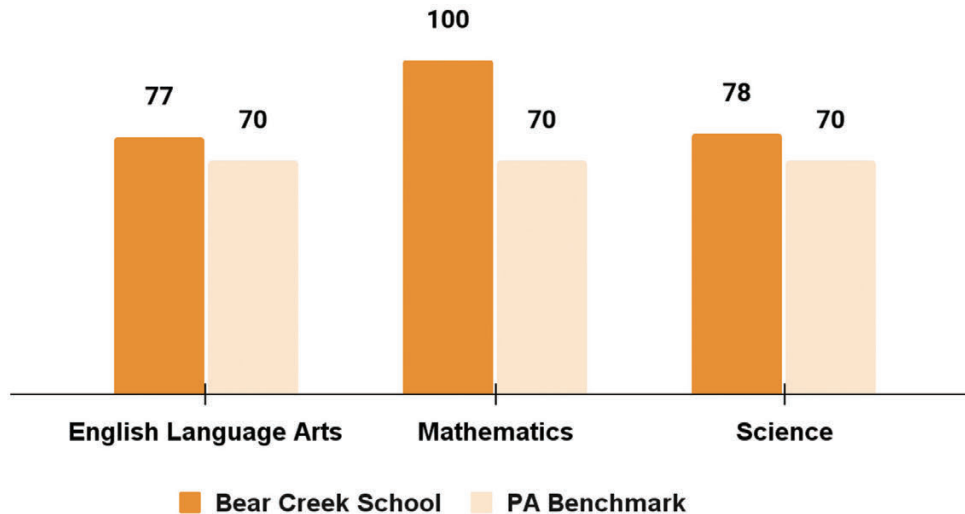


Measuring Academic Growth: The Role of PVAAS

PVAAS (Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System) assists our District in tracking students' academic growth starting in fourth grade. Rather than focusing solely on measuring proficiency at a single point in time, PVAAS analyzes student performance data on the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) to assess how much progress students make year over year. A strong PVAAS score indicates that students are making steady progress, even if they haven't reached top proficiency levels on the PSSA.

Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations

Bear Creek School Score versus the Statewide Benchmark (2023-2024 School Year)



Instant Decision Week for College-Bound Seniors

Graduating seniors can get a head start on their college selection during Instant Decision Week. This special event allows students to meet directly with college representatives and receive immediate admission decisions. We are proud to be one of the few school districts in Pennsylvania to offer this opportunity, demonstrating our commitment to helping students plan for their future education.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Appointments Scheduled:** 124 appointments were arranged with participating colleges and universities.
- **Participation Increase:** 28% increase in participation compared to the previous year.
- **Acceptance Rate:** The acceptance rate for students who applied to a participating college or university reached 97%, up from 90% the previous year.

Measuring Career Readiness: Pennsylvania's Standards Benchmark

Pennsylvania's Career Standards Benchmark measures how effectively school districts provide career education and opportunities for students to explore diverse career pathways. It focuses on ensuring students have meaningful experiences, preparing them for future careers. Schools receive a score for grades five, eight, and eleven, which is compared against a statewide benchmark for the respective grade level.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Grade 5:** 99% of students met the Career Readiness Indicator.
- **Grade 8:** 98% of students met the Career Readiness Indicator.
- **Grade 11:** 98% of students met the Career Readiness Indicator.

Fostering Skill Development

The Elizabethtown Area School District's Cooperative Education programs provide real-world training through hands-on learning. These programs help students build important skills they need for different careers. In the 2023-2024 school year, 100 students completed internships, a 10% increase from last year. Another 90 students, a 7% increase, participated in work experiences, where they explored industries firsthand. These opportunities let students use what they have learned in class in real situations, helping them prepare for future careers.

We also offered Pre-Apprenticeships in a wide range of fields, from Building Trades to Electrical, Emergency Medical Technician, and the Manufacturers Program, giving students even more ways to gain experience before graduation.

- **Building Trades** (Associated Builders and Contractors): 6 students
- **Electrical** (Independent Electrical Contractors): 5 students
- **Emergency Medical Technician** (Municipal Emergency Services Authority): 18 students
- **Manufacturers Program** (Manufacturers' Association): 9 students

Additionally, during the 2023-2024 school year, 125 students engaged in programs at the **Lancaster County Career and Technology Center** and eight students completed the Lancaster Chamber's prestigious **Discovering Paths** program, a career exploration and mentoring initiative.

Through these diverse pathways, we empower students to build the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful future.

Life Ready Course Opportunities

The Elizabethtown Area School District's Cooperative Education program gives students valuable hands-on experiences that connect what they learn in the classroom to real-life situations. This approach makes learning more meaningful and helps students build practical skills and knowledge for future success. During the 2023-2024 school year, students had the chance to explore different career interests through our Cooperative Education programs, including but not limited to:

Internships:

- CPRS Physical Therapy
- Asuncion Dental
- GEARS
- Liberty Wealth Advisory Group
- Susquehanna Mechanical
- Home Grown Outdoor Finishes

Work Experiences:

- The Bark Park - Canine Adventure Center
- Goodwill Store and Donation Center
- Masonic Villages at Elizabethtown
- Country Meadows Family Restaurant
- A&J Home Renovation and Repair

Proud Tradition of FFA at Elizabethtown Area High School

Elizabethtown Area High School's agriculture program builds on a legacy of leadership, agricultural education, and community involvement. Students can also gain hands-on experience and valuable skills in agriculture, leadership, and teamwork through the program's FFA chapter, which fosters pride, responsibility, and dedication to future agricultural careers. This program continues to prepare students as future leaders in agriculture and their communities.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Agriculture Program Enrollment:** 176 students actively participated in the District's in-house agriculture program.
- **FFA Membership:** Over 60 students joined the FFA, an affiliate of the National FFA Organization and Pennsylvania FFA Association.
- **State Competition Success:** Two FFA teams placed first in their events, qualifying for the National FFA Convention & Expo.
- **Keystone Degrees:** Four students earned Keystone Degrees at the PA Farm Show, honoring their achievements in agricultural education.
- **FFA Jackets:** Three students received FFA jackets at the PA Farm Show, with 11 others earning jackets through the PA FFA Alumni Jacket Program.

Exploring Career Paths: The Role of the ASVAB

The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test helps measure students' strengths and weaknesses. It provides valuable information about their potential for future success. Besides being used for military purposes, the ASVAB also offers valuable career information for many jobs in both civilian and military fields. By providing the ASVAB to interested students, we help them explore different career paths and empower them to make informed decisions about their futures.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Participation:** 11 students took the ASVAB.
- **Enlistment Qualifications:** 7 students qualified for enlistment in a military branch.
- **Navy Advanced Program:** 1 student qualified for the Navy Advanced Program (Nuclear Power).
- **Graduation Requirements:** 7 students utilized their ASVAB score as an alternative assessment to meet EAHS graduation requirements.

Building Leadership Skills Through the NNDCC

The NNDCC program (Navy National Defense Cadet Corps) provides high school students with an opportunity to explore military careers and develop skills for their future. The curriculum focuses on four key areas: civics, national security, oceanography, and technology.

In addition to traditional classroom learning, the program includes leadership activities, community service, and experiences rooted in military values. These opportunities prepare students for military careers and teach essential life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and problem-solving, which can be applied to any career path.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Participation:** 19 cadets were involved in the NNDCC program.
- **Field Trips:** 4 field trips enhanced practical learning experiences.
- **Competition Team:** 9 members showcased their dedication and talent on the competition team.
- **Competitions:** 6 competitions fostered teamwork and skill development.
- **Color Guard Performances:** 9 performances highlighted discipline and pride.
- **Community Engagement:** 7 community events allowed cadets to contribute their time and skills.
- **School Events:** 13 school events facilitated cadet engagement with peers and faculty.
- **Completed Program:** 4 students completed the two-year program.
- **Outside Awards:** 8 students received awards from external organizations.

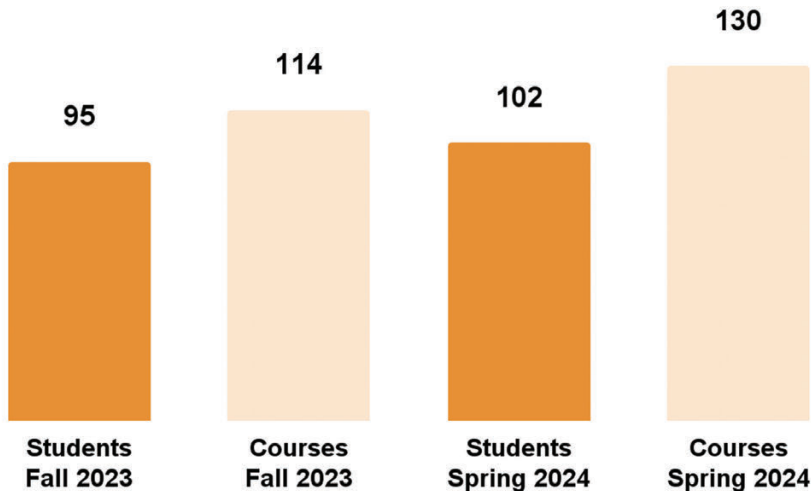
Bridging High School and College

The Dual Enrollment program allows high school students to take college-level courses while simultaneously earning both high school and college credits. For the 2023-2024 school year, a total of 140 students participated in this program, achieving an impressive 97% pass rate across all courses taken.

Although families are responsible for the associated costs, this program provides valuable opportunities for students to jumpstart their future education and careers. Through this experience, students gain confidence and familiarize themselves with college-level expectations, paving the way for long-term success.

Dual Enrollment Analysis

Number of Students and Courses



Dual Enrollment Institutions

Students participated in Dual Enrollment courses at several esteemed institutions, including:

- Elizabethtown College
- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Harrisburg University
- Lancaster Bible College
- Messiah College
- Penn State York
- Saint Joseph's University
- York College

The program offered a broad range of courses, such as American Literature, Calculus, Computer Science, Foundations of American Government, Film Studies, Intro to Critical Reasoning, Intro to Forensic Identification, Intro to Psychology, Medical Terminology, and Mock Trial. These courses, designed to provide students with a high level of academic enrichment, helped participants prepare for success in higher education.

Building Blocks for Academic Ambition

Offering AP courses (Advanced Placement) and exams enriches the high school academic experience and prepares students for college. AP courses challenge students with rigorous material, helping them develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. While students are not required to take AP exams, doing so reflects their engagement with the coursework. High scores on these exams can strengthen college applications and, in many cases, earn college credit. Whether or not students sit for the exams, participating in AP courses helps them build a strong academic foundation and gain a competitive edge in the college admissions process.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

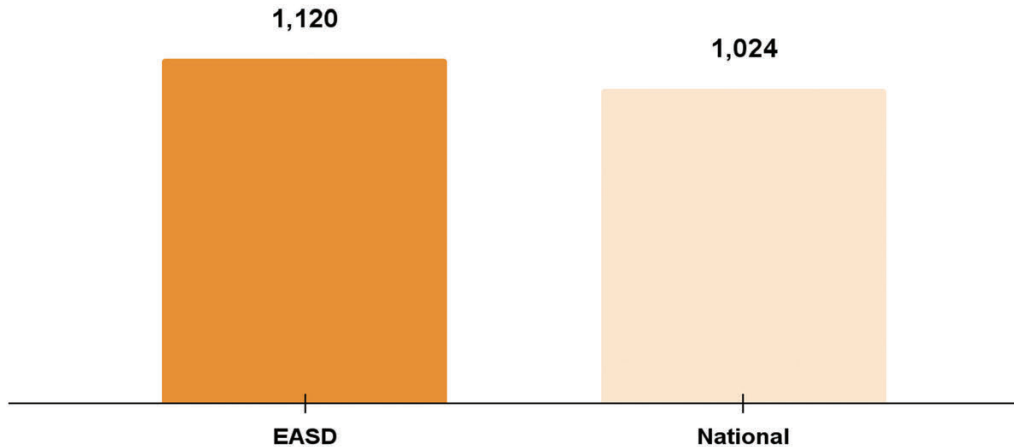
- **Enrollment:** 125 students enrolled in at least one AP course.
- **Exam Participation:** 107 students participated in at least one AP exam.
- **Total Exams Administered:** 171 AP exams were administered in total.
- **Test Scores:** 96% of test takers scored three or higher.
- **Overall Exam Performance:** 89% of all exams taken received a score of three or higher.

The SAT Entrance Exam

The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is an important test used by colleges and universities to assess a student's readiness for higher education. In our District, we monitor SAT scores to evaluate the effectiveness of our academic programs and identify areas for improvement. By tracking these scores, we can ensure that students have the resources they need to succeed after high school, helping them achieve their goals in college and beyond.

Class of 2024

Average SAT Score

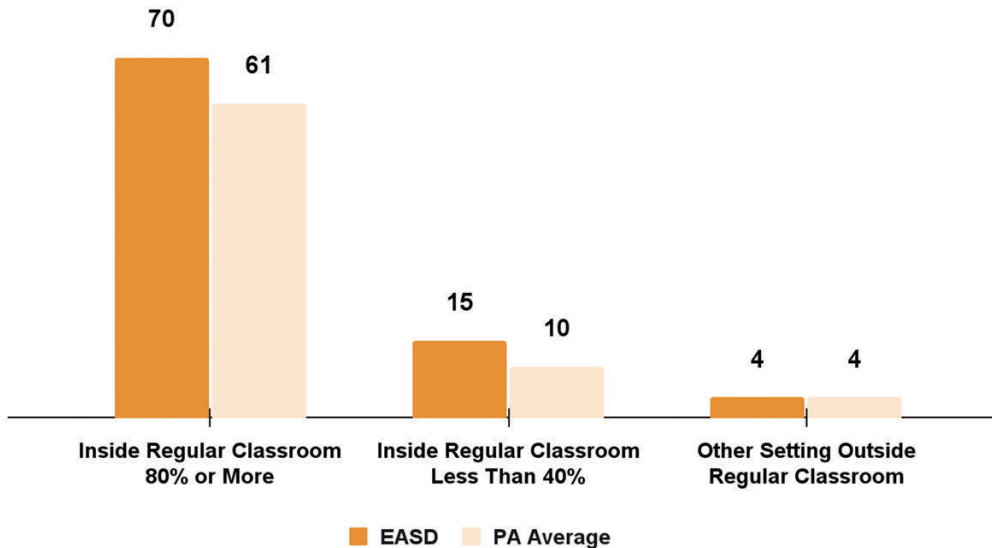


Empowering Every Student

The Elizabethtown Area School District is committed to providing students with disabilities a high-quality education that meets their unique needs. We aim to empower every student in special education to become more independent and reach their full potential. By fostering an inclusive environment, we support the academic, social, and emotional growth of all students. Our commitment includes offering personalized resources and support, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to thrive and actively contribute to our school community.

Learning Environment

Percent of Students (2023-2024 School Year)



Meeting Student Needs

The Elizabethtown Area School District understands the importance of adjusting our programs and services to fit each student's unique needs. Our dedicated teaching professionals use best practices to support students with all kinds of disabilities, helping them reach their full potential and succeed in school and beyond.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Total EASD Students Receiving Special Education Services:**
644 or 17.5% of overall enrollment
- **Percent of Special Education Enrollment by Disability:**
 - Specific Learning Disability: 41%
 - Other Health Impairment: 17%
 - Speech/Language Impairment: 14%
 - Autism: 12%
 - Emotional Disturbance: 7%
 - Intellectual Disability: 6%

Getting A Post-Secondary Head Start

Through partnerships with Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and the Lancaster School of Cosmetology, our Early Enrollment initiative gives high school seniors the chance to begin their college or vocational education while still in twelfth grade. This head start helps students get closer to their career goals.

Additionally, eligible seniors can take part in our Early Graduation program, which allows them to graduate in the middle of the school year. This gives students the opportunity to start college, begin working, or join the military sooner, helping them transition smoothly into the next chapter of their lives.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

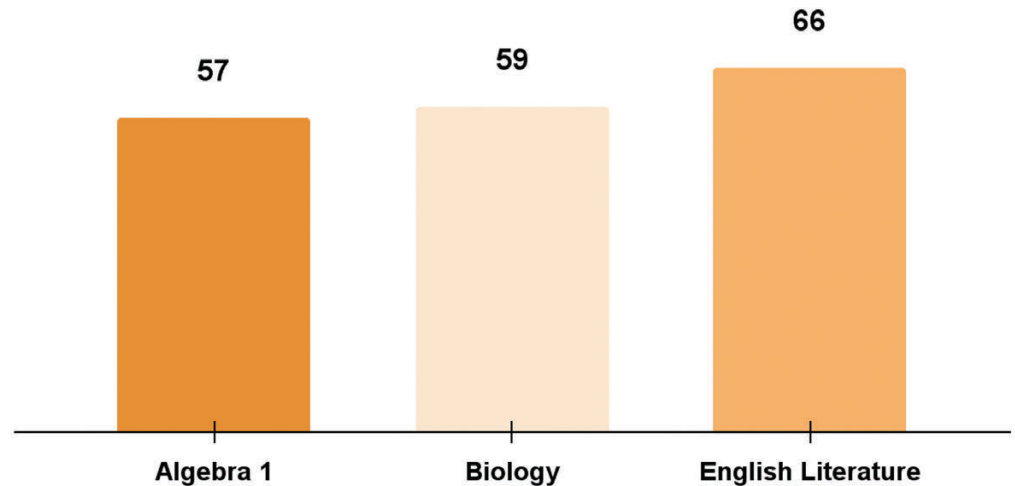
- **Early Enrollment Participation:** 2 students participated in an Early Enrollment program.
- **College Credit Success:** 100% of students who completed the Early Enrollment program successfully gained college credits.
- **Early Graduation:** 39 students took advantage of the Early Graduation initiative and received their diploma in February 2024.

Evaluating Academic Proficiency

Pennsylvania's Keystone Exams are administered in Algebra I, English Literature, and Biology. Our District utilizes the results from the Keystone Exams to evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum and teaching practices, as performing well on these exams is crucial to graduation and college acceptance. It's important to remember that standardized tests are just one way to measure student success and the quality of our schools.

Keystone Exams Performance

Percent Proficient or Advanced (Class of 2024)

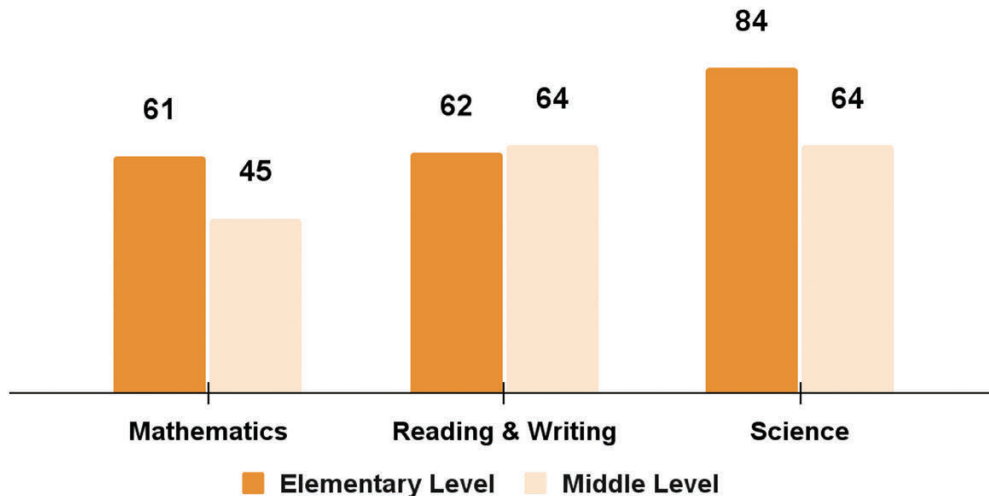


Assessing Academic Progress

Pennsylvania's System of School Assessment (PSSA) evaluates how well students in grades 3-8 meet state standards in four critical subjects: math, reading, science, and writing. The results from these standardized tests provide valuable insights into student learning and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. While strong performance on the PSSA is important, we recognize that standardized tests represent just one aspect of measuring student achievement and assessing the quality of our schools.

PSSA Performance by Level

Percent Proficient or Advanced (2023-2024 School Year)



Celebrating Honor Roll Achievements

Maintaining a strong academic record is crucial for college admissions and helps develop important skills such as discipline, time management, and goal-setting—traits that are valuable for future careers. Achieving honor roll status not only recognizes consistent high-level performance but also demonstrates personal responsibility. It establishes a standard of excellence and inspires peers to strive for success.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Middle School Honor Roll Participation:** 50% of middle school students made at least one honor roll.
- **High School Honor Roll Participation:** 46% of high school students made at least one honor roll.
- **Consistent Honor Roll Achievement:** 22% of middle school students earned honor roll status for every marking period.
- **Consistent Honor Roll Achievement:** 20% of high school students earned honor roll status for every marking period.

Elevating English Learners

With a growing and diverse student population, it is essential to provide strong support for our ELD program students to ensure they achieve English proficiency, transition smoothly into mainstream classes, and gain meaningful vocational experience.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

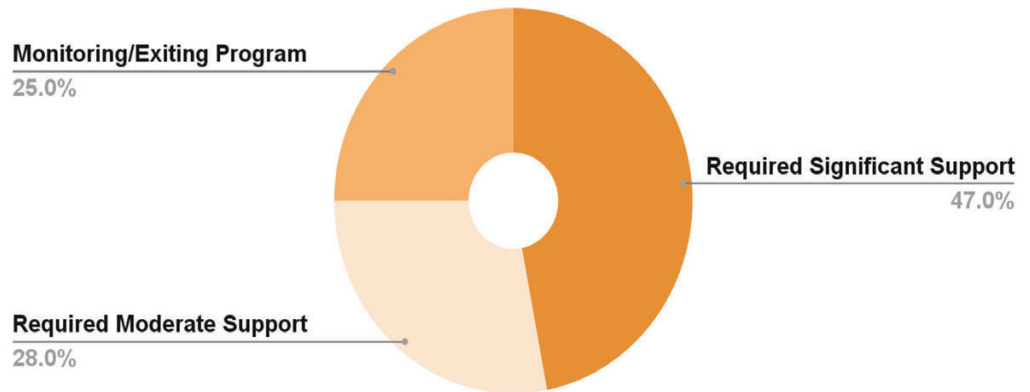
- **Students Served:** 158 students received ELD services, marking a 23% increase compared to last year.
- **New Students:** 30% of ELD students were new to the district.
- **Language Diversity:** 12 different languages are spoken by ELD students, with 58% speaking either Nepali or Spanish.
- **Reclassification Success:** 10 ELD students were reclassified, meeting the criteria for grade-level English proficiency.
- **Grade-Level Transition:** 98% of ELD students successfully transitioned to the next grade level.
- **Internships and Training:** ELD students participated in internships or vocational training, including roles such as a trainer-translator intern with the Wenger Group, and obtaining industry certifications in Precision Machining, Automotive Technology, and Photography & Digital Imaging.

Building Language Skills for Academic and Career Success

The ELD program (English Language Development) is designed to support non-native English speakers in enhancing their language proficiency. This program equips students with essential language skills needed to thrive academically and personally, broadening their opportunities for success in education and future careers.

2023-2024 Level of Support

Percent of Students Receiving ELD Services



Student Support Services

Elizabethtown Area School District is dedicated to creating a system where all staff members understand their critical role in providing targeted interventions, support, and assistance to ensure every student can thrive. Our **Student Support Services** team is unwavering in its commitment to removing barriers that hinder students' ability to fully engage in and benefit from the opportunities available to them in our personalized learning environments. These services encompass a broad spectrum of interactions and interventions, fostering collaboration between students, school staff, community organizations, and the wider community to ensure each student's success.

The District's focus on student support reflects this commitment, emphasizing identifying and addressing challenges that arise from family circumstances, evolving learning needs, exceptionalities, or physical and mental health conditions. By removing these obstacles, we empower students to pursue meaningful and relevant pathways as they prepare for graduation.

Our dedicated team collaborates closely with students and their families and external resources when necessary to provide targeted support strategies that ensure each student is optimally positioned for academic success. These partnerships give students the tools and guidance needed to flourish in the classroom and beyond.

This section of the annual report offers valuable insights into our Support Services division, highlighting the comprehensive programs and resources we have put in place to remove barriers to learning and thus support student well-being and achievement.

Addressing Student Well-being

Through the Elizabethtown Area School District's partnership with **Empower the Mind**, we offer specialized crisis counseling services that delivered immediate support and intervention for students facing significant emotional distress, including suicidal ideations, self-harm, and other urgent mental health concerns. Providing counseling during or immediately following a crisis helps students resume their regular routines more effectively, which is crucial for their academic and social stability.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Unique Students Served:** 79 unduplicated students accessed our crisis counseling services.
- **Total Interventions:** 120 total crisis counseling interventions.
- **Engagements:** A total of 256 student crisis interventions took place, with an impressive 86% effectively stabilizing students, enabling a prompt return to class.
- **Support for Transition:** 24 students received critical support upon returning to school from inpatient or partial placements.
- **Emergency Referrals:** 35 students were referred to local emergency departments for further assistance.

Promoting Well-Being

School nurses play a vital role in enhancing student well-being. They manage acute and chronic health conditions while conducting screenings to identify previously undiagnosed health issues. Their timely interventions help students remain in school and fully engaged in their education. In addition to providing direct health services, our nurses collaborate with families to connect them with external medical resources and ensure compliance with state immunization and examination requirements. This effectively reduces health-related barriers to education.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

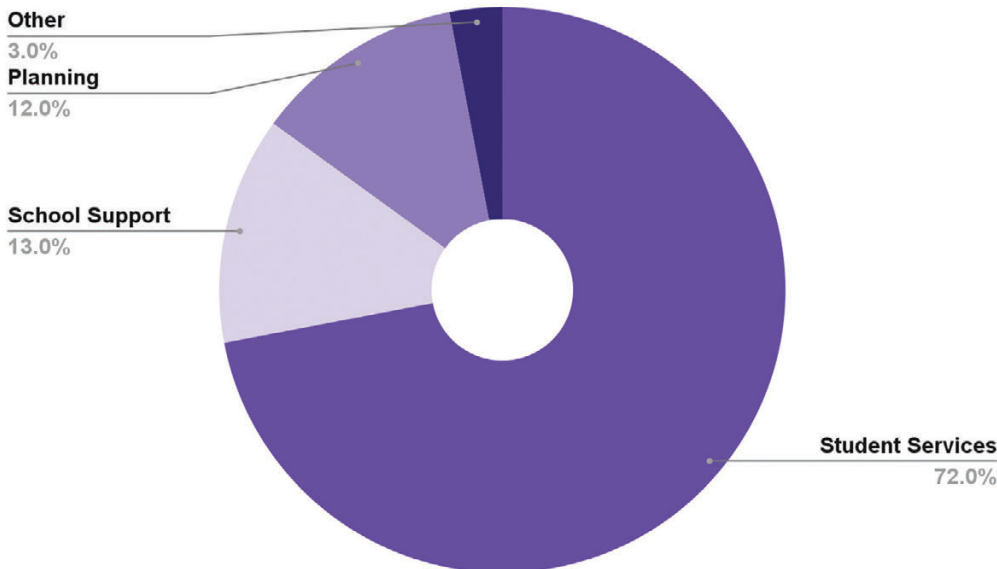
- **Screenings Conducted:** 5,987 students underwent hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings, with 513 referred for further evaluation.
- **BMI Screenings:** 3,774 students participated in BMI assessments, which promote overall well-being by enhancing physical health and concentration in school.
- **Emotional Wellness:** 93 students (grades 7-12) took part in emotional wellness screenings to ensure student mental health is prioritized early, fostering a positive learning environment.
- **Nurse Visits:** 33,522 visits were made to the nurse's office for illness or injury, ensuring prompt care and minimizing lost instructional time.
- **Chronic Condition Management:** 962 chronic conditions were managed by our school nurses minimizing school absences and enabling students to participate in their education fully.
- **Medication Distribution:** 10,814 medications were administered safely, which helps students remain healthy and engaged in their studies.

Empowering Students for the 21st Century

School counselors are vital in helping students navigate challenges within the school environment. They provide essential support for personal growth, resilience, and academic success. By equipping students with the skills to thrive socially, emotionally, and intellectually, counselors empower them to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential, significantly enhancing their well-being and future success.

School Counseling Services K-12

Percent of Time (2023-2024 School Year)



Fostering Student Support

The Elizabethtown Area School District's SAP (Student Assistance Program) initiative is dedicated to supporting students who encounter challenges in their learning journey. Through a structured approach, identified students and their families are connected with essential school and community resources. The ultimate goal is to remove barriers to learning, fostering an environment where all students can achieve their fullest potential and thrive academically.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Elementary Level:** 0 SAP referrals were made at the elementary school level (Grades 3-5 only).
- **Middle School Level:** 43 SAP referrals were made at the middle school level.
- **High School Level:** 11 SAP referrals were made at the high school level.
- **Main Reasons for Referrals:** Externalizing behaviors, substance abuse, and internalizing behaviors.

Nurturing Resilience: Trauma Counseling for Young Minds

The Elizabethtown Area School District provides important trauma counseling for elementary students dealing with emotional challenges from difficult experiences. These experiences can include losing a loved one, facing abuse, or being in accidents like fires. Trained counselors from **Empower the Mind** offer support to help students build resilience and learn coping skills. The goal is to create a caring environment where students can succeed in school and grow personally.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

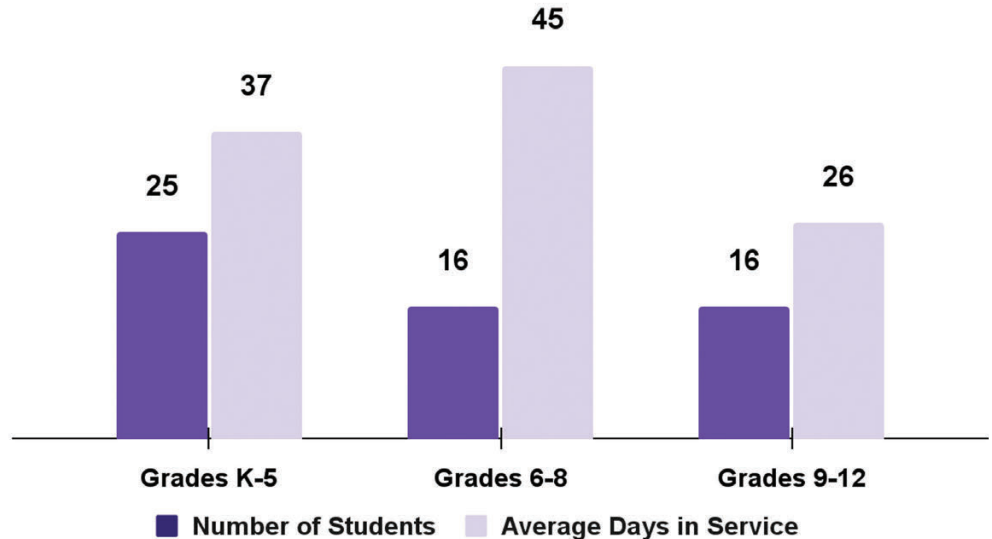
- **Referrals:** 29 referrals at the primary and intermediate elementary levels (Grades K-5).
- **Students Served:** 20 elementary-level students received trauma counseling.
- **Successful Discharges:** 9 students were successfully discharged from trauma counseling services.
- **Continuing Services:** 11 students were recommended to continue receiving services at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

Enhancing Accessibility To School-Based Services

School-based services are conveniently located in the school, making them easily accessible for students and families. This eliminates transportation barriers, allowing students to receive support without significant time away from school. One example is **TEAMCare**, which fosters resilience, promotes coping strategies, and provides healthy alternatives to negative behaviors, helping students succeed academically and personally.

TEAMCare

Student Participation and Days of Service (2023-2024 School Year)



Supporting Students by Addressing Food Insecurity

Lancaster Magazine recognized the Elizabethtown Area School District's Bear Bags program as one of the top three non-profit organizations in Lancaster County in its Best of Lancaster 2023 Readers Survey. The Bear Bags program is a vital part of our Support Services Division, reflecting the District's dedication to supporting students and families experiencing food insecurity. By providing food to those in need, the program ensures students can focus on learning without the burden of hunger.

Addressing food insecurity is essential because hunger directly affects students' ability to learn, concentrate, and perform academically. Access to consistent, nutritious meals not only boosts student well-being but also promotes regular attendance and engagement in school activities. Programs like Bear Bags help level the playing field by offering essential support, ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed academically and thrive socially.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Family Support Reach:** 52 families received assistance through our Bear Bags program.
- **Student Impact:** 154 students were supported through our Bear Bags program.
- **Distribution Milestone:** 1,542 food distributions completed to meet student and family needs.

Removing Barriers to Student Success

In the Elizabethtown Area School District, we are dedicated to supporting students experiencing homelessness or in foster care. Our District works hard to help these students feel valued, connected, and ready to succeed within our schools. By providing direct school-based services and partnering with community resources, we address each student's educational and social needs, creating a sense of belonging that supports their path to academic and personal success. Through these focused efforts, we work to ensure all students have the support they need to thrive.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **McKinney-Vento Support:** 50 families received assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act to address homelessness.
- **Homelessness Support:** 70 students benefited from McKinney-Vento services, promoting stability in their education.
- **Foster Care Services:** 11 students in foster care placements received support within our school district, ensuring a sense of belonging and continuity.

Culture of Belonging

The District's **Culture of Belonging** initiative is a comprehensive effort to create engaging learning spaces that make school an attractive option for all students. By fostering an atmosphere of belonging, safety, acceptance, and voice, we aim to cultivate a thriving school culture where every student feels valued and empowered.

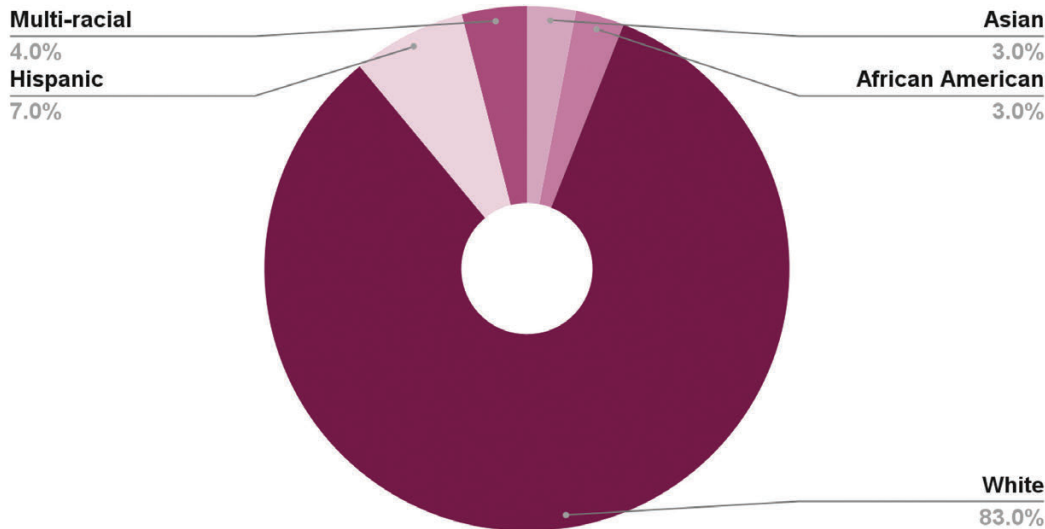
Our initiative recognizes that students have unique motivations and experiences shaping their educational journey. Therefore, we prioritize the development of programs and services that promote emotional readiness, social competencies, and teamwork. These elements are essential for creating safe spaces where students can connect, collaborate, and thrive.

At the core of our commitment to a culture of belonging is the alignment of academic offerings with enriching opportunities that inspire students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally. We strive to ensure that every student finds meaning and relevance in their school experience, preparing them for successful paths after graduation. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of cultivating healthy relationships and responsible decision-making, further enhancing the learning environment and paving the way for future success.

In this section of the annual report, you will find data and charts highlighting our key focus areas, including safety and security initiatives, programming and extracurricular activities, and programs designed to nurture social and emotional learning.

Nurturing Potential Through a Culture of Belonging

Demographic Breakdown



Empowering a Brighter Future

Staying enrolled in school offers numerous lifelong benefits, including improved employability and greater earning potential. Therefore, we strive to keep students engaged in their educational journey, nurturing a sense of excitement and optimism for future opportunities.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **High School Dropout Rate:** 99% of students stayed enrolled in high school, with only 1% meeting the dropout criteria.

Outstanding Student Achievements in the Arts (Part 1)

- **PMEA Elementary Songfest Participation:** 4 elementary students participated.
- **PMEA Elementary Stringfest Participation:** 11 elementary students participated.
- **LVC Bandfest Participation:** 7 middle school students participated in Bandfest.
- **LVC Stringfest Participation:** 15 middle school students participated in Stringfest.
- **LLMEA County Band Festival Participation:** 11 high school students participated.
- **LLMEA County Chorus Festival Participation:** 13 high school students participated.
- **LLMEA County Orchestra Festival Participation:** 17 high school students participated.

PMEA - Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

LLMEA - Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educators Association

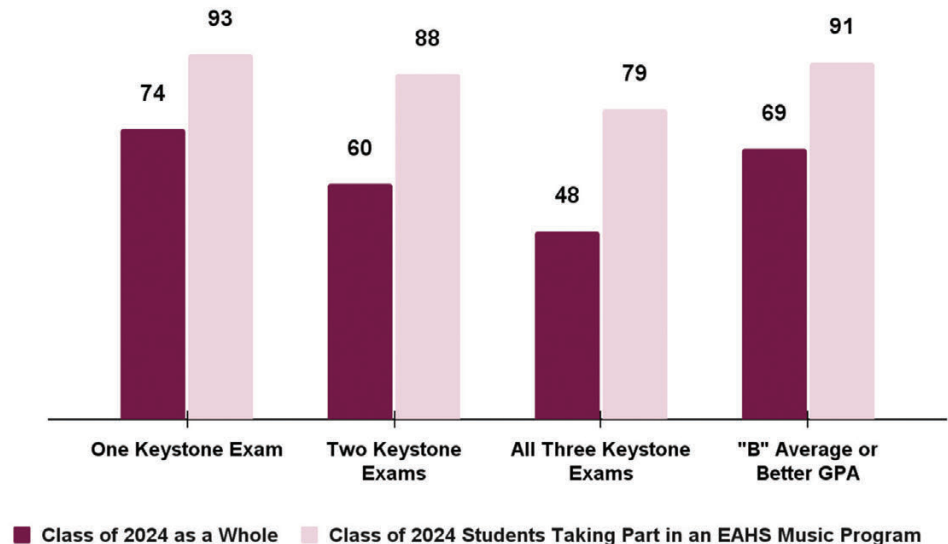
LVC - Lebanon Valley College

Fostering Student Success Through The Arts

Participating in music, theater, and visual arts creates a supportive environment where students feel valued, increasing their engagement in school life. These artistic opportunities foster creativity and contribute to academic success, as involvement in the arts has been shown to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, the arts promote civic responsibility and develop essential communication skills. By engaging in music and theater, students build a sense of community, enriching their educational experience and motivating them to achieve academically.

Impact on Student Learning

Percent Proficient or Advanced



The Arts Participation Levels

	EAHS	EAMS	ELEMENTARY
Concert Band	90	129	201
Marching Band	98	137	N/A
Jazz Band	29	36	25
Orchestra	93	80	141
Chamber Orchestra	21	27	N/A
Chorus	75	128	118
Show Choir	24	24	N/A
Fall Play	65	N/A	N/A
Spring Musical	100	127	N/A

Outstanding Student Achievements in the Arts (Part 2)

- **PMEA District Band Festival**
Participation: 4 high school students participated.
- **PMEA District Jazz Band Festival**
Participation: 1 high school student participated.
- **PMEA District Chorus Festival**
Participation: 7 high school students participated.
- **PMEA District Orchestra Festival**
Participation: 11 high school students participated.
- **PMEA Regional Band Festival**
Participation: 1 high school student participated.
- **PMEA Regional Chorus Festival**
Participation: 6 high school students participated.
- **PMEA Regional Orchestra Festival**
Participation: 1 high school student participated.
- **Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards:**
2 high school students earned top honors.

Outstanding Student Achievements in Athletics

- **Section Champions (LLL):**
5 teams won the section championship.
- **State Champions (PHSBBC):**
1 team won the state championship.
- **District Qualifiers (PIAA):**
7 teams qualified for the District Playoffs.
- **State Qualifiers (PSHSBBC):**
1 team qualified for the State Playoffs.
- **National Signing Day:**
23 students took part in Athlete Recognition Days to declare their intent to play collegiate athletics.

LLL - Lancaster-Lebanon League

PHSBBC - Pennsylvania High School Boys Bowling Championship

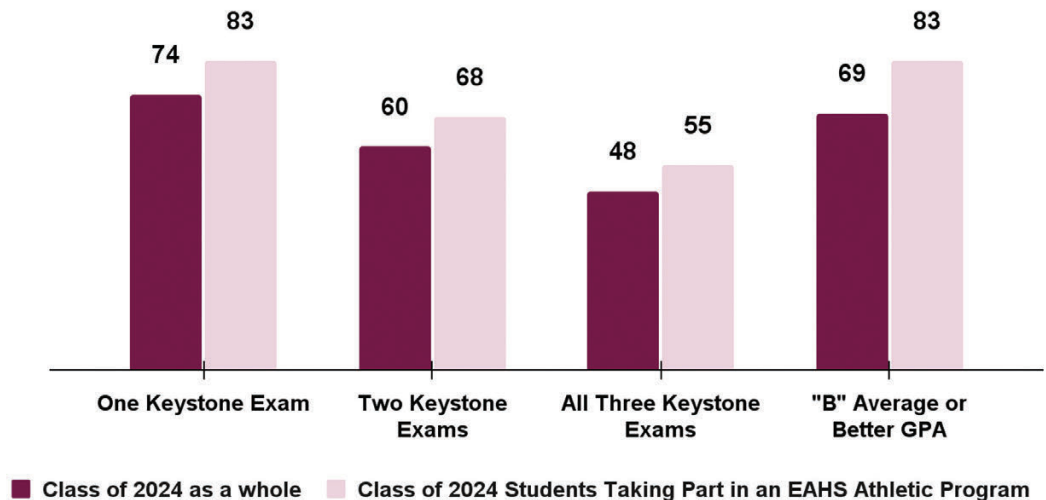
PIAA - Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Fostering Growth Through Sports

Engaging in athletics fosters peer connections and creates a supportive environment where students feel valued and included. This sense of community boosts attendance and motivation in academics. By promoting teamwork, character development, and healthy living, sports programs enhance overall well-being. This holistic approach improves physical and emotional health and supports academic success, allowing students to thrive both socially and academically.

Impact on Student Learning

Percent Proficient or Advanced



2023-2024 Athletic Participation Levels

FALL

	EAHS	EAMS
Cheerleading	26	15
Cross Country (Boys)	18	8
Cross Country (Girls)	13	7
Field Hockey	30	22
Football	53	39
Golf	9	N/A
Soccer (Boys)	38	34
Soccer (Girls)	41	28
Tennis (Girls)	26	N/A
Volleyball (Girls)	23	N/A

WINTER

	EAHS	EAMS
Basketball (Boys)	18	20
Basketball (Girls)	19	17
Bowling	21	N/A
Cheerleading	20	15
Rifle	18	N/A
Swimming (Boys)	11	N/A
Swimming (Girls)	21	N/A
Unified Bocce	8	N/A
Wrestling (Boys)	26	17
Wrestling (Girls)	6	9

SPRING

	EAHS	EAMS
Baseball	32	N/A
Lacrosse (Boys)	24	N/A
Lacrosse (Girls)	36	N/A
Softball	26	N/A

	EAHS	EAMS
Tennis (Boys)	11	N/A
Track & Field (Boys)	50	23
Track & Field (Girls)	37	30
Volleyball (Boys)	17	N/A

Cultivating Achievement and Empowerment

The Attollo Recruit program helps students think about their own goals and how to reach them. Students who do well in the Recruit program can move on to the Attollo Scholar program, which gives them helpful tools like mentoring, test prep for the SAT and PSAT, and guidance with college applications. These programs help students work together toward shared goals and give them the skills they need for success in school and beyond.

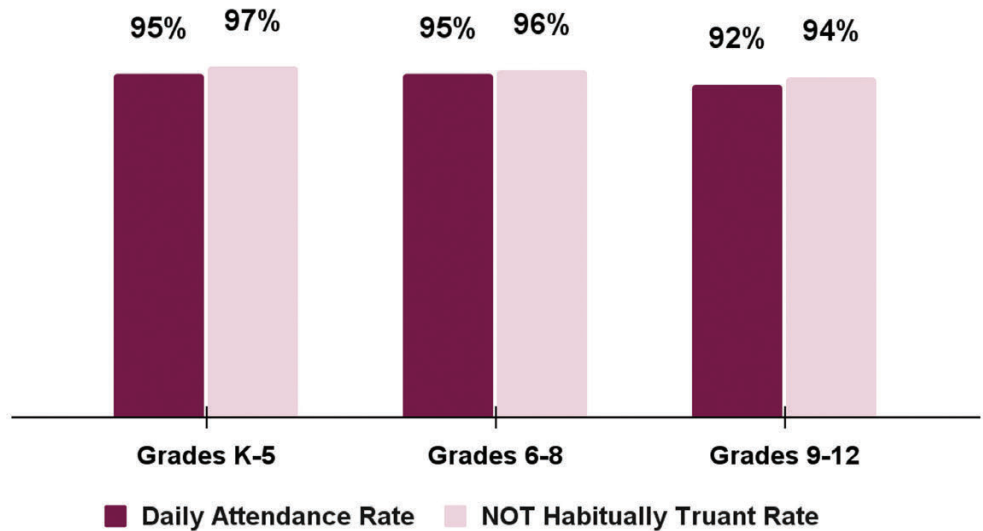
A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Students Participating in Attollo Recruit: 26**
- **Students Completing Attollo Recruit: 25**
- **Attollo Recruits Continuing to Attollo Scholar: 12**

Promoting Student Engagement

The Elizabethtown Area School District has implemented proactive strategies to encourage regular attendance. These initiatives include building solid connections with students and their families, creating a positive school environment, supporting families facing attendance challenges, and establishing clear, consistent attendance expectations. Additionally, the District closely monitors two key indicators: Daily Attendance and Habitual Truancy Rates. Habitual Truancy is defined as accumulating six or more unexcused absences within the current school year, allowing us to assess our students' engagement and enthusiasm for attending school.

2023-2024 Attendance Indicators



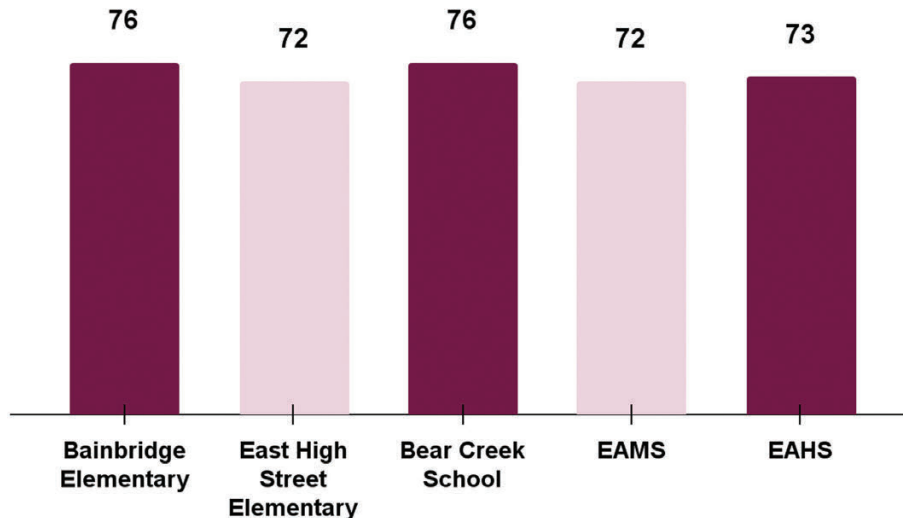
Transforming Our Schools: Leader In Me

The Leader in Me program helps students set personal goals and improve their social skills. It encourages leadership, builds character, and promotes academic success while creating a positive school environment. The program also strengthens student empowerment and community involvement. To measure its impact, the school uses the program's MRA (Measurable Results Assessment) to collect feedback from students, teachers, parents, and administrators.

MRA Scoring Guide:

- 90-100: Exemplary
- 80-89: Effective
- 70-79: Satisfactory
- 50-69: Needs Improvement

MRA Results



Commitment to Safe Learning Environments

The Elizabethtown Area School District is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where all students can thrive. Our approach emphasizes both prevention and response, focusing on secure facilities, safety technology, regular emergency drills, partnerships with first responders, and proactive engagement with students and staff. These strategies ensure that our schools remain safe spaces, fostering a sense of belonging and supporting student well-being and academic success.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Total Incidents Reported:** 558
- **Offenders Identified:** 289
- **Incidents Involving Law Enforcement:** 2

Sampling of Reportable Incidents:

Minor Altercations; Student Code of Conduct Violation; Possession, Use, or Sale of Vaping Materials; Theft; and Fighting.

JumpStart: Building Foundations for Freshman Success

Elizabethtown Area High School's Jump Start program aims to help incoming freshmen transition smoothly into high school. This valuable opportunity provides students with early exposure to the expectations of high school life while building meaningful connections with teachers and mentors. By participating, students strengthen social bonds with peers and develop essential academic and life skills to set them up for success from day one. A key goal of the program is to encourage participants to get involved in a school club or organization, helping them build a sense of belonging within the school community.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Jump Start Participants:** 16 freshmen took part in the Jump Start Program.
- **School Club or Organization Participation:** 10 Jump Start participants were active in at least one school club or organization.

Fostering a Culture of Belonging Through Clubs and Organizations

At Elizabethtown Area School District, our commitment to creating a Culture of Belonging is reflected in the many opportunities students have to connect, grow, and find their place within our school community. Clubs and organizations play a vital role in this initiative, giving students at the middle and high school levels avenues to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and forge meaningful relationships. By engaging in club activities, students not only deepen their connection to their peers and school but also build confidence, resilience, and a sense of purpose. These programs support our goal of ensuring every student feels valued, seen, and encouraged to participate fully in their educational journey.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Middle School Clubs:** 15 school-sponsored clubs and organizations were offered at Elizabethtown Area Middle School.
- **Sampling of Clubs at the Middle School:** Chess Club, Engineering Club, Quiz Bowl, Ski Club, Student Council, and Yearbook.
- **High School Clubs:** 39 school-sponsored clubs and organizations were offered at Elizabethtown Area High School.
- **High School Participation:** Total club memberships at the high school level reached nearly 1,000, with students counted for each club or activity they participated in.
- **Sampling of Clubs at the High School:** Art Club, Competition Science, Debate Club, eSports, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Human Rights Club, Key Club, Mini-THON, Model UN, Pep Club, Red Cross Club, and Student Council.

Operational Efficiency

Operational efficiency is essential for school districts to maximize resources, provide high-quality education, and build strong community trust. A well-managed district not only improves educational outcomes but also boosts teacher morale and garners community support—key elements for the success of both the institution and its students.

Here's why operational efficiency matters:

- **Enhanced Academic Success:** Efficient allocation of resources directly supports academic achievement, ensuring students have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.
- **Elevated Teacher Satisfaction and Retention:** Streamlined operations increase educators' job satisfaction, fostering a stable and experienced teaching staff.
- **Community Trust and Accountability:** Transparent and responsible resource management strengthens community trust, assuring stakeholders that resources are being utilized effectively.
- **Long-Term Planning and Quality Education:** Operational efficiency enables the district to engage in strategic, long-term planning, ensuring a consistent delivery of high-quality education.

This section of the annual report provides an overview of our key departments—business operations, communications, food service, transportation, and human resources—illustrating how we effectively manage resources to benefit both students and the community.

Nurturing A Top-Tier Teaching Staff

Supporting a highly skilled teaching staff is essential for enhancing student achievement, academic progress, and attendance rates. To promote this, the District has implemented comprehensive recruitment and retention initiatives that prioritize experience, educational qualifications, and mentorship for new teachers. Additionally, continuous professional development for all staff and opportunities for career advancement within the District are emphasized. These efforts ensure that our educators stay engaged, well-prepared, and dedicated to student success.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Experienced Faculty:** 68% of our faculty members have over a decade of teaching experience.
- **Faculty with Advanced Degrees:** 81% of our faculty hold graduate degrees.
- **Faculty with Doctorates:** 3% of our faculty have earned doctorate degrees.
- **Administrators with Graduate Degrees:** 79% of our administrators hold advanced degrees.
- **Administrators with Doctorates:** 29% of our administrators hold doctorate degrees.
- **Administrators with 10+ Years in Education:** 83% of our administrative team has over ten years of experience in the education field.

Investing in Professional Growth for Enhanced Learning

The Elizabethtown Area School District supports teachers and administrators' professional growth to enhance student learning experiences. Professional development is a priority and a pathway for educators to stay current with instructional strategies, technology integration, and social-emotional learning approaches. These opportunities reflect our commitment to nurturing a community of lifelong learners prepared to meet our students' evolving needs and the broader educational landscape.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

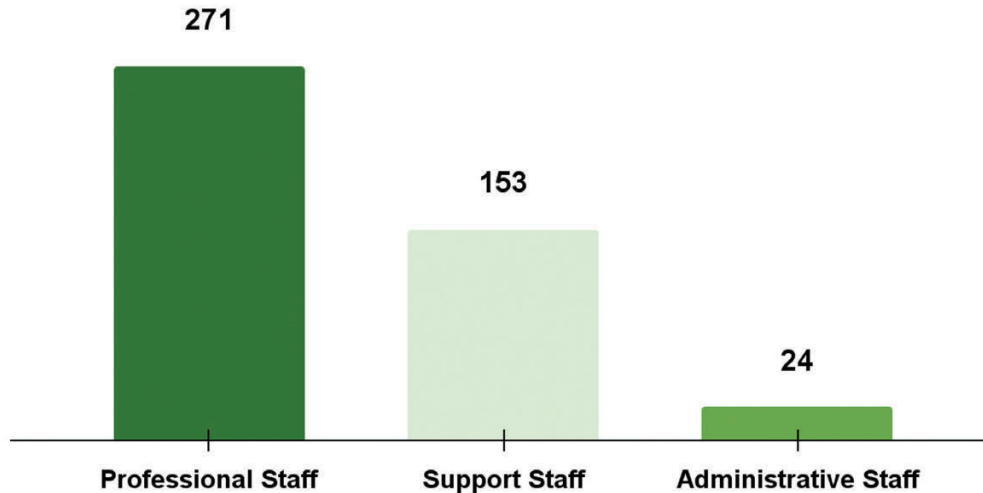
- **Teachers:** 26,064 hours completed in a variety of sessions.
- **Sampling of Courses Completed by Teachers:** Special Education Law, Using Data to Plan Instruction, Leader in Me Strategies, Multi-Tiered System of Supports, Safe Crisis Management and De-escalation, Curriculum Writing and Common Assessments, and Student Supports/Reducing Barrier to Learn.
- **Administrators:** 580 hours completed in a variety of sessions.
- **Sampling of Courses Completed by Administrators:** Safe Crisis Management, Leader in Me Strategies, Principals' Collaborative, Using Data to Plan Instruction, Multi-Tiered System of Supports Leadership Training, and Federal Programs.

Student Success Through a Unified Team

Building a dedicated and skilled team of professionals and support staff is essential for enhancing the student learning experience. We believe that every employee, regardless of their role in the District, is responsible for the well-being, growth, and academic success of our students. By engaging actively with students, showing genuine care, and committing to the District's vision and mission, every staff member plays a vital role in creating an environment where students can thrive.

2023-2024 Staff Breakdown

By Number of Employees



Where are our dollars spent

A school district budget is a vital framework for efficiently and effectively allocating resources to support educational goals. A key priority within this budget is the investment in instruction and student services, ensuring that funds are directed toward enhancing the learning experience and meeting the diverse needs of students.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Student Instruction: 64%**
- **Student Support Services: 28%**
- **Debt Service: 2%**
- **Extracurricular Activities: 6%**

Expenditure Categories

The 2023-2024 expenditures are ranked from largest to smallest, with Salaries and Benefits comprising the most significant portion at 68% of total spending.

A Closer Look at the 2023-2024 School Year:

- **Salaries:** 44%
- **Benefits:** 24%
- **IU, Substitutes, and Professional Services:** 9%
- **Debt Service:** 6%
- **Transportation:** 4%
- **Cyber/Charter Schools and Tuition:** 6%
- **Supplies:** 4%
- **Other Expenses:** 3%

Revenue and Expenditure Variability

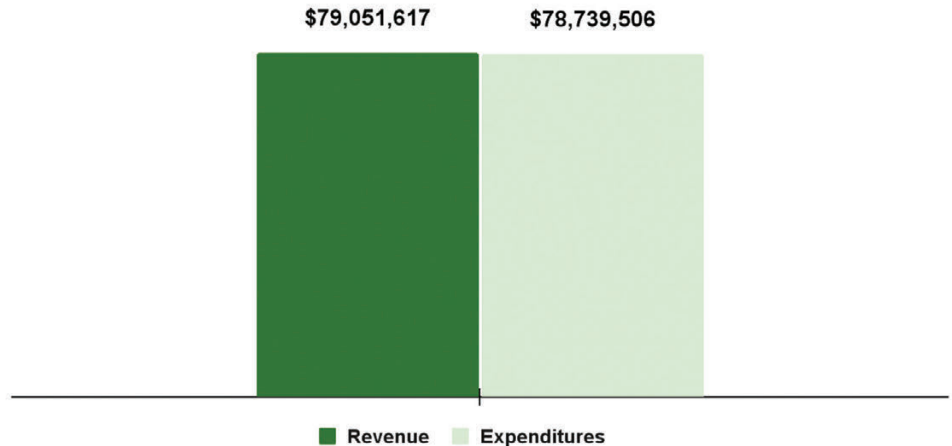
The District is committed to maintaining a fiscally responsible budget that prioritizes students' educational needs while ensuring taxpayers are not unduly burdened. One of the primary challenges is the unpredictability of revenue, as state and federal funding levels are typically finalized after local budgets are approved. On the expenditure side, costs are influenced by factors such as the specialized needs of our students and the rising demands for unanticipated investments in maintaining aging facilities and addressing infrastructure concerns.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, a sampling of the factors influencing the budget include:

- An increase of approximately \$1 million in state revenue.
- A decrease of approximately \$400,000 in federal revenue.
- An increase of approximately \$1 million in investment earnings.
- An overage of \$432,581 in facility maintenance and repair costs due to unanticipated expenses.
- An overage of \$222,067 in student transportation reflecting higher-than-expected costs.

Financial Overview

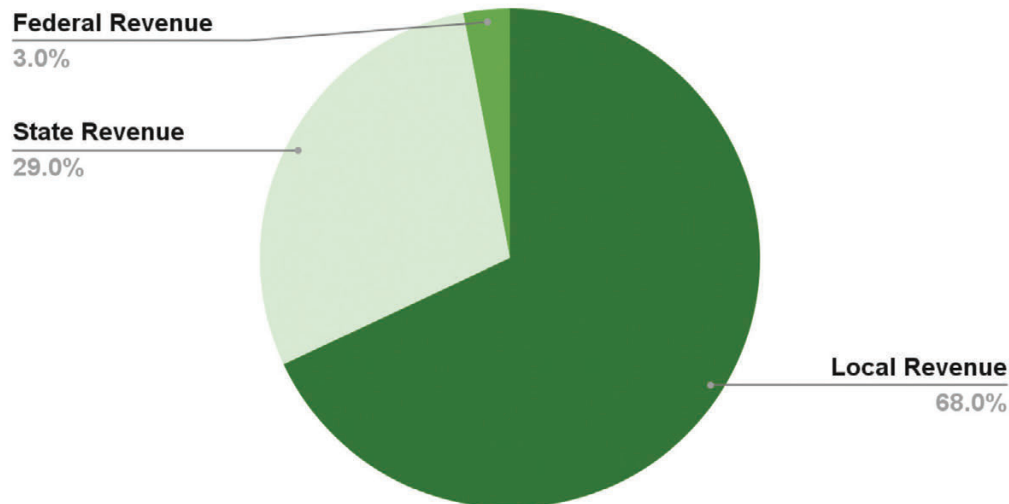
2023-2024 Actual Revenue vs. Actual Expenditures



School District Budgeting and Management

A school district's budget is supported by multiple revenue streams, primarily from local, state, and federal funding, each contributing uniquely to the district's financial health. Effective budgeting, financial oversight, and transparent reporting are critical to optimizing these resources while achieving educational objectives and meeting regulatory requirements. The balance between these revenue sources can vary greatly between districts, influenced by factors such as local economic conditions, the strength of the tax base, state funding formulas, and the availability of federal grants. Managing these complexities ensures the district can continue to provide high-quality education and services.

2023-2024 Revenue By Source



Fast Facts

Per Pupil Spending

Per pupil spending data is based on the **2022-2023 school year**, as compiled by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and lags one year. This data shows that the District invested less in its students than other schools on average, reflecting a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

- Elizabethtown Area School District: **\$16,986**
- Lancaster & Lebanon County Average: **\$20,460**
- Pennsylvania Average: **\$20,830**

Property Tax Details

- Average Annual Increase Over the Last 10 Years: **3.3%**
- Average Act 1 Index with Exceptions Over the Last 10 Years: **3.76%***

** The potential average annual increase a school district could have implemented, considering factors such as inflation and local economic conditions, as determined by PDE.*

Tax-Exempt Properties

- Percentage of Tax-Exempt Property Values in Elizabethtown Area School District: **15.1%**
- Percentage of Tax-Exempt Property Values in Lancaster County: **10.7%**

Bond Rating

- Moody's Bond Rating: **Aa3***
(Reaffirmed May 2024)

** Indicates low credit risk due to strong financial management*

Beyond the Numbers

The Elizabethtown Area School District is steadfast in its commitment to fostering student achievement. In the following pages, you will have the opportunity to hear directly from our students as they share their experiences within the district.

These stories not only illuminate the heart of our educational community but also serve as a testament to the profound impact of our initiatives. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education, our unwavering dedication lies in creating a supportive environment where every student can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

While countless unique stories exist, the personal testimonials featured in this publication offer a powerful glimpse into how our initiatives translate into meaningful experiences on the student journey.

Brenna's Story

After waiting for about seven years through the immigration process, I started my journey from Cuba to the United States to have a better future. At first, everything was new to me when I began school here about three years ago without knowing the language. However, that challenge opened the door to my personal growth. My teachers at Elizabethtown Area High School played an important role in helping me through this rough process. I had a lot of support and encouragement, and their patience helped me build confidence during that time.

Being part of the English Language Development (ELD) classes was the fundamental key to my progress, providing the tools to improve my skills. These classes greatly help students like me, as they offer the opportunity to grow and gain strength. In addition, through the Migrant Education program, I also had the chance to visit universities around the county, which expanded my perspective and inspired me to think about my future. I was highly motivated to keep pursuing my dreams, encouraging me to keep pushing forward. With my teachers' guidance and the opportunities given to me, I felt my English improving day by day.

During my senior year, I was given the opportunity to do an Internship as a translator at The Wenger group. I translated HR documents, provided safety training, and onboarded new employees. This was a great experience for me not only to have the work experience, but also to be able to help others to communicate. This training also improved my communication skills in both languages. It was a rewarding experience for me, knowing I could help others while working on my abilities. This internship taught me leadership, responsibilities, resilience, and how much I have grown since I came to the United States. I graduated in June 2024, and I plan to use the business and language skills I acquired while studying for my bachelor's degree at Millersville University.





Adrienne and Juliana's Story

Being a part of the Etown Bocce Team has been an amazing experience. In the past two years, we have had the opportunity to connect with amazing people and experience incredible things. Unified Bocce is different from any other sport that you would find in a public school. There is a sense of community in this setting that you won't find anywhere else.

At every match, we witness people cheering for every player, regardless of which team they are on. The encouragement is beyond anything you could imagine, and seeing the athletes connect with the other team is so much fun. We get to experience an environment that is filled with kindness and positivity. It is also fantastic to see students show up and support the team. Students make tunnels for the athletes to enter the gym, which they love! Having the crowd cheering them on is so much fun, and it is incredible to see everyone getting involved.

We have made connections with the athletes on our team, and they have shown us how amazing these kids are. They take this sport and run with it. And although bocce seems simple, they have shown the amount of talent and determination that goes into this game.

Bocce is an experience that is entirely independent of the game itself. Making these connections and witnessing interactions between athletes and partners is incredible to see. Everyone is so kind and welcoming, and the environment is overwhelmingly positive. It has been a great high school experience that I won't forget anytime soon.

Kendall's Story

As I was ending my sophomore year of high school, I was conflicted about what to do after high school. I had always found an interest in interior design and was pretty set on it until I was sitting in a room filled with seven other students from my class being introduced to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce's Discovering Paths career exploration program. At the start, I was filled with nerves and uncertainty due to being placed with a random person who would be my mentor for the next year. My parents wanted me to be open and try it out, which is precisely why I am where I am today.

The start of my junior year came, and it was time to meet my mentor. Reading the get-to-know-me paper, trying to get as much information about my mentor as possible, all I could think about was how terrible this was going to be. My mentor was a photographer, and I thought, why would someone who wants to go into interior design get placed with a photographer? After we met and talked, I realized we had a lot in common, and my views started to change drastically. On every field trip, I opened up more and learned more about not only her but also a lot about myself. Halfway through the program, we were set up with job shadows. Thanks to my mentor and her connections, it allowed me to shadow and talk with an interior designer and a home stager. Once I completed these job shadows, I was even more conflicted. As I admired those jobs, I found a deeper interest in the background steps before any of the decorating and colors were chosen. After another meeting with my mentor, I decided I wanted to be an Architect.

With the ending months of the school year, I was able to visit colleges and research more options to achieve my goal of being an Architect. I was even able to stay at SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) for a week. There, I took seminars about floor plans and other art-related classes. My senior year is here, and I am currently applying to colleges for architecture. Furthermore, I will graduate high school in January to open up more opportunities for job shadows and internships. Without the team at the high school connecting me to this program and my amazing mentor, I would not have been able to move forward with my plans. They stood by my side, helping with what is an important part of someone's life: figuring out who they want to be. I am very grateful for this opportunity and hope many other kids like me can experience it.



Elizabethtown Area High School Earns Blue Ribbon School Distinction

In September 2023, Elizabethtown Area High School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This prestigious award celebrated the school's academic excellence and reflected the hard work of students, staff, and the supportive community. Elizabethtown was one of only three high schools in Pennsylvania and among 353 schools nationwide to receive the year's honor.

The high school earned the award in the Exemplary High-Performing Schools category, recognizing top academic performance on state and national assessments. The Blue Ribbon designation not only celebrated past achievements but underscored the school's commitment to continuous improvement through its Life Ready Model, Student Support Services, and Culture of Belonging initiatives, ensuring students are prepared academically, socially, and emotionally for success beyond high school.

The award was formally presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., where school representatives joined other honorees from across the country to celebrate this outstanding achievement.



Sponsorships

The Elizabethtown Area School District proudly partners with Market Street Sports Group (MSSG) to create vibrant opportunities for businesses and organizations through corporate sponsorships. This collaboration allows local entities to engage with our school community in meaningful ways. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please reach out to MSSG at (717) 509-2803 or contact Jeff Bertoni at jbertoni@marketstreetsportsgroup.com.

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2024 Annual Impact Report