

Chambersburg

A R E A



SCHOOL DISTRICT

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you. As the new Superintendent of CASD, I am honored to extend a heartfelt welcome to our Chambersburg community.

It is truly a privilege to serve as your Superintendent, and I am eager to collaborate with students, parents, educators, and community members to continue the tradition of academic achievement and growth. As we embark on this journey together, I am deeply committed to fostering open communication. With that in mind, this community newsletter aims to keep all residents informed and engaged in the happenings within our school district in addition to all the digital communication found on our website, mobile app, and social media platforms.



I encourage you to read this newsletter, watch the State of the District video, and read the detailed State of the District report on our website at: <https://www.casdonline.org/Page/19765> or scan the QR Code to the left with your smart phone's camera. Subsequently, I invite everyone to actively participate in shaping the future of our schools by sharing your feedback in a short Community Survey to rank our priorities moving forward. Your input is invaluable to us as we build an educational environment for our students now and generations to come.

TAKE THE SURVEY

Please scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone's camera and complete the survey on your phone or go to this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CASDCommunity2024 on your computer and complete the survey by **May 31, 2024**.



Your contribution will make a real difference in the lives of our students and the entire Chambersburg community. Together, we will build a stronger, more vibrant community where every student has the opportunity to achieve and succeed.

*Christopher E. Bigger,
Superintendent*



Last Day of School for the 2023-2024 School Year is **Friday, May 31, 2024**

*Spreading Kindness
with Kindness Tunnels...
a Tradition Since 2016*



State of the District

Overall, the school district is currently meeting academic expectations with less per student revenue and expenditures compared to the state and our peers. However, our English learner population, slow post-covid recovery in our elementary performance, and lack of seats in high interest secondary programs for students have emerged as indicators of concern. Public perception is a solid B ranking overall along with 75% of the schools achieving and 25% struggling with attendance, graduation rates, or performance. With significant changes in demographics and disadvantaged students, we will need to adjust and invest in educational programming K-12 to accelerate performance.

Enrollment in the Chambersburg Area School District has increased over 30 years from 8,000 students to 9,200 and has stabilized over the past 8 years inside the school buildings. Homeschool and cyber school enrollments have doubled in the past 10 years totaling 1,300+ CASD students. The demographic shifts in English learners (1,400 students), economically disadvantaged students (60%), and special education populations (18%) all increased substantially over the past 7 years. The lions share of annual budget increases are special education and cyber/charter schools leaving little room for enhanced or expanding programs and services with current revenues and expenditures.

Financially, our per student revenues and expenditures are considered below average for schools similar to Chambersburg with an average to above average fund balance. The district's debt service is below the state average, at around 6%, with the state average at approximately 9%. Chambersburg local tax effort and capacity taxes residents on par with median income and market value compared to the state averages.

Please watch the State of the District Video and read the Flipbook on our website at: <https://www.casdonline.org/Page/19765> or scan



The Perception Survey in 2023, with 5,000+ participants indicates strong support for staff and schools overall. Schools are safe and welcoming with high levels of trust between families and staff. Bullying and cell phones were topics of concern for review and consideration, in addition to recruiting and retaining staff. The public perception of a caring and safe school system is consistent throughout all schools but we see varying academic performance between our schools.

Staffing challenges have emerged as a significant hurdle in maintaining programming with emphasis added on support staff positions, special education, and English learner language teachers. We turn away 300+ students at Franklin County Career and Technical Center (FCCTC) and the Career Magnet School annually resulting in uninterested students and elevated attendance concerns. We also cluster our high need special education students in grades K-5 to three elementary schools conflicting with least restrictive educational legal practices.

"We turn away 300+ students at Franklin County Career and Technical Center (FCCTC) and the Career Magnet School annually due to lack of available seats."

The summary has established a solid foundation of historical strengths as well as areas to build an educational Blueprint for improving our public education system in Chambersburg. Such Blueprints are emerging in states such as Maryland and Michigan with a focus on outlining key systems based on high performing jurisdictions throughout the country.



Our five-year Plan will include a Blueprint for Schools of Distinction by 2030.



Blueprint Foundations



5 Schools Excelling



Elementary Learning Loss



Safe Schools and Caring Staff



Changing Demographics with higher needs



Meeting expectations at low cost per student but fading



English Learner Programming a must



4 Schools in Improvement Status



Programs needed for 300 - 500 H.S. students to earn National Credentials and Certifications



Highest student to staff ratios compared to peers



Elementary Special Ed Facilities

We will not engage in initiatives that are misaligned with our mission.

We will not allow past practices to create barriers to new and innovative ideas.

Strategic Delimiters

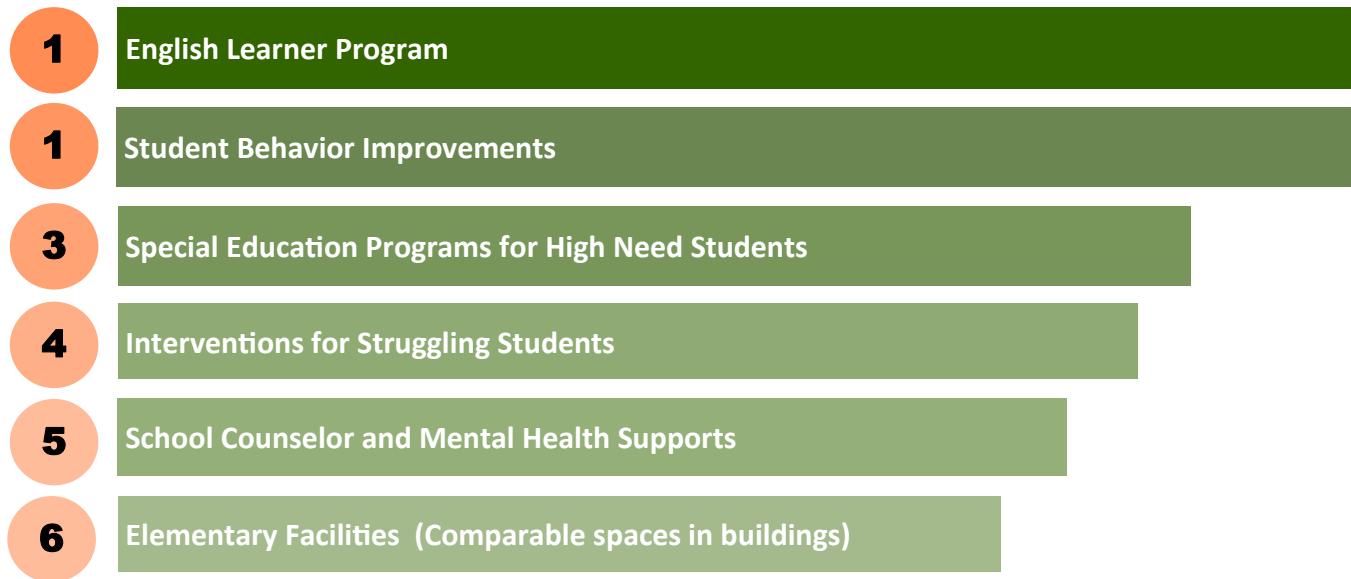
We will not engage in problem solving through the lens of blame.

We will not avoid conflict or difficult conversations.



Staff Survey Results: Ranking of Priorities

Staff members recently took a staff survey and ranked priorities in order of importance and urgency. Here are the top six results of the Staff Survey:



WE ARE HIRING!

Interested in working with students, driving a bus, serving food, coaching, and more? We have teaching positions open as well.

Apply on our website at:

<https://www.applitrack.com/chambersburg/onlineapp/default.aspx>

OPEN POSITIONS:

- [Athletics/Activities \(3\)](#)
- [Buildings & Grounds Department \(4\)](#)
- [Crossing Guard \(1\)](#)
- [Curriculum & Instruction \(1\)](#)
- [Elementary School Teaching \(12\)](#)
- [Food Service Department \(3\)](#)
- [High School Teaching \(4\)](#)
- [Instructional Support Staff \(36\)](#)
- [Middle School Teaching \(5\)](#)
- [Non-Instructional Support Staff \(6\)](#)
- [Pupil Services Department \(3\)](#)
- [Security Department \(1\)](#)
- [Stipend Position \(8\)](#)
- [Substitute \(6\)](#)
- [Transportation Department \(3\)](#)
- [Volunteers \(1\)](#)

Future Study: Innovative Academic Calendars

In December 2023, PA Legislation amended the Pennsylvania School Code to eliminate the requirement for a minimum 180 school days providing there are 900 or more instruction hours each academic year. Districts can now choose between 180 school days and hourly instruction requirements: 900 for elementary students and 990 for secondary students.

As we embark on this study of educational innovation and calendars, let's keep our focus on what matters most: the success and well-being of our students. Together, we have the opportunity to reshape the future of education in our community and empower the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

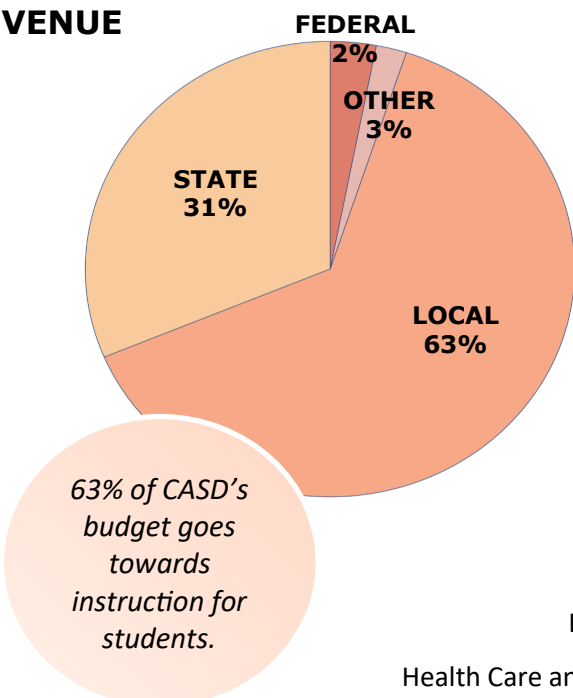
The **CASHS Class of 2024** Commencement Ceremony will be on Friday, May 31, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Trojan Stadium. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 3:00 PM. If it is still raining on Saturday, it will be moved to Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 2:00 PM.



The **CMS Class of 2024** Commencement Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the Trojan Stadium. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the CASHS Auditorium on the same date and time.



2024-2025 Budget Projection

PRELIMINARY BUDGET		BUDGET PROJECTION 2025
<p>REVENUE</p>  <p>FEDERAL 2%</p> <p>OTHER 3%</p> <p>STATE 31%</p> <p>LOCAL 63%</p> <p><i>63% of CASD's budget goes towards instruction for students.</i></p>	REVENUE	
	Local	\$117,577,224
	State	\$ 58,311,423
	Federal	\$ 4,480,736
	Other Financing Sources	\$ 5,002,000
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$185,371,383
	EXPENDITURES	
	Salary and Benefit Costs	\$120,431,328
	Other	\$ 67,583,541
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$188,014,869
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$2,643,486)
	BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$ 34,890,835
	Health Care and Capital Reserve Transfers	
	PROJECTED YEAR END BALANCE	\$ 32,247,349
	FUND BALANCE AS % OF EXPENDITURES	17.15%
FUND BALANCE AS # OF MONTHS OF EXPENDITURES	2.06	

Who Makes the Chambersburg Area School District Work?

62,500 People living in Chambersburg

84 Food Service Employees

10,000 + Students

76 Custodial/Maintenance Employees

651 Teachers

51 Administrators

261 Support Staff

9 School Board Members

175 Transportation employees

1 Superintendent



Capacity and Current Student Enrollment

Recently, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh, & Associates presented a study of our capacity and enrollment at Chambersburg Area School District. Since 1993, CASD has grown by 1,175 students. The average annual growth rate over the entire 30 years, including the Pandemic enrollment dip was 0.48%. The single greatest year to year growth rate over the entire 30 years was 3.06% and the least was – 4.21% in 2020/2021, during the pandemic.

The numbers below will continue to be refined to best reflect the current use of instructional space based on educational programming, scheduling, and enrollment.

Elementary School	2023-2024 Enrollment	Current % of Capacity
Andrew Buchanan Ele School	239	79.67%
Benjamin Chambers Ele School	564	82.94%
Falling Spring Ele School	242	80.67%
Fayetteville Ele School	465	97.28%
Grandview Ele School	293	97.67%
Guilford Hills Ele School	176	58.67%
Hamilton Heights Ele School	544	82.93%
Lurgan Ele School	119	46.12%
Marion Ele School	191	63.67%
New Franklin Ele School	201	81.71%
Scotland Ele School	438	92.41%
South Hamilton Ele School	267	96.04%
Thaddeus Steven Ele School	305	81.99%
Elementary Schools Total	4,044	81.33%

Middle School	2023-2024 Enrollment	Current % of Capacity
Middle School - North	1,050	66.96%
Middle School - South	1,084	73.05%
Middle Schools Total	2,134	69.92%

High Schools	2023-2024 Enrollment	Current % of Capacity
Senior High School - CASHS	2,324	86.46%
Career Magnet School - CMS	684	96.34%
High Schools Total	3,008	88.52%

District Total	9,186	80.64%
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What's Next?

We remain on target for a Fall 2024 completion of the study.

The next phases of the study focus on identifying the strategies and limits that a district can employ to improve academic programming while becoming more efficient. This includes:



Vision for Educational Program



Impact of Changing Demographics on Space



Determine the best Physical Distribution of Special Education and Support Classes



Facility Conditions and Costs to Upgrade



Option Development based on Educational Vision, Enrollment, Changing Demographics, and Condition of Existing Facilities



Timeline for 5 Year Development Plan +
5 - 7 Year Long Range Plan

March 13, 2024

Released the State of the District Report to the staff and public.

March - June 2024

Develop the CASD Draft 2030 Blueprint for Schools of Distinction.

July - Sept 2024

Communicate the CASD 2030 Blueprint for Schools of Distinction.



Interested in hearing more about our District and the future of CASD? Attend a School Board Meeting on any or all of these dates set for the remainder of 2024:

- May 07, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- May 21, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- June 04, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- June 04, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting (immediately following Regular Board Meeting) at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- June 25, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Aug. 06, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Aug. 20, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Sep. 10, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Sep. 24, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Oct. 08, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Nov. 12, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Dec. 03, 2024 | Reorganization Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Dec. 03, 2024 | Committee of the Whole Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.
- Dec. 10, 2024 | Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. | DAO Boardroom, 435 Stanley Ave.





The Chambersburg Area School District Newsletter is distributed to all residents of the Chambersburg Area School District.

Serving Greene, Guilford, Hamilton, Letterkenny, and Lurgan Townships, and the Borough of Chambersburg since 1966.



Directory Information

SCHOOLS

Andrew Buchanan Elementary.....	717-261-3430
Benjamin Chambers Elementary...	717-261-3442
Falling Spring Elementary.....	717-261-3439
Fayetteville Elementary.....	717-352-2774
Grandview Elementary.....	717-261-3445
Guilford Hills Elementary.....	717-352-2124
Hamilton Heights Elementary.....	717-261-3448
Lurgan Elementary.....	717-532-6125
Marion Elementary.....	717-375-2360
New Franklin Elementary.....	717-261-3454
Scotland Elementary.....	717-261-3460
South Hamilton Elementary.....	717-261-3466
Thaddeus Stevens Elementary.....	717-261-3469
Middle School North.....	717-261-3366
Middle School South.....	717-261-3385
Senior High School.....	717-261-3322
Career Magnet School.....	717-261-5656

ADMINISTRATION

CASD Administration Office.....	717-263-9281
Superintendent's Office.....	717-261-3301
Assistant Superintendent - Elementary.....	717-261-3420
Assistant Superintendent - Secondary.....	717-261-3423
Business Office.....	717-261-3309
Human Resources.....	717-261-3304
Special Education.....	717-261-3425
Technology.....	717-267-4490
K-12 Curriculum.....	717-709-2321
Communications/Marketing.....	717-261-5663
Buildings and Grounds.....	717-261-3412
Transportation.....	717-261-3462
Food Services.....	717-261-3416
Registrar.....	717-709-4084
Athletics.....	717-261-3332

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Norcross, President
Faye Gaugler, Vice-President
Sherian Diller
Stephanie Gouss
Stephanie Harbaugh
Michael Hayduk
Carl McKee
Benjamin Raber
Lance Walker