

*“Standards. Vision. Preparation. Success!”*

**B**



**BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**2025-26 School Budget  
Presentation**

**April 28, 2025**





Excellence

As always, the Budget process  
focuses on the 3 R's:

*Responsive, Respectful and Resourceful*

- *Responsive* to the needs of students and the community in both educational delivery and continuous school improvements
- *Respectful* of taxpayers in difficult economic times.
- *Resourceful* by taking a tough line on efficiency and taking advantage of opportunities to look beyond this year and into the years ahead .



# Budget Guiding Principles

- Sustain excellence of Bergenfield Public Schools by:
  - Keeping the focus on teaching and learning
  - Putting resources first and foremost in the classrooms
  - Maintaining high expectations and support for each and every student
  - Recruiting, developing, and sustaining a world-class teaching force
  - Being at the forefront of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, such as STEM, robotics, and green technology



# Awards and Recognitions



Bergenfield's Reputation as a  
National, State, and Local School District Of Excellence



# One of America's Best High Schools



- Bergenfield High School has been ranked among the top 9% of high schools in the United States by the *U.S. News & World Report* in the 2024 Best High Schools survey
- BHS was recognized as being 2,252<sup>nd</sup> in the nation, 105<sup>th</sup> in NJ, and the 24<sup>th</sup> best in Bergen County
- Ranked 1,020<sup>th</sup> in the nation for college readiness



# K-12 School District Rankings



- The district was ranked 64th in New Jersey by Niche.com
- Ranked 1,058 in the country out of the 11,697 districts included in the report
- We also ranked 19th in Bergen County



# Best Communities for Music Education



- Once again, we were named one of the best communities in the nation for music education by the NAMMM Foundation
- Our 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row making the list and 17<sup>th</sup> time overall!



# High Impact Tutoring Grant

Free tutoring coming to 57 more N.J. school districts. See the list.

Updated: Mar. 27, 2024, 7:49 a.m. | Published: Mar. 27, 2024, 7:30 a.m.



By [Tina Kelley](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

Another 57 New Jersey school districts and charter schools will receive a total of [\\$7 million for high-impact tutoring](#), the state Department of Education announced last week, more than five months after the program was originally slated to begin.

In November, 243 districts and charter schools received [\\$41 million for tutoring](#) under a \$52 million effort [Gov. Phil Murphy](#) announced last February. The education department did not immediately respond to a question about how the remaining \$4 million would be spent.

The grants, backed by federal COVID relief money, cover small-group tutoring sessions at least twice a week over 10 weeks, which has yielded [impressive results](#) elsewhere.

The tutoring is primarily for students in third and fourth grade, but school districts can expand their programs to additional grades. **(See the full list of 57 districts receiving tutoring money below.)**

Districts can use the funds for their own staff or to hire outside tutoring companies. Some districts learned late in October, when the education department [issued guidance](#), that they would have to collect bids from tutoring providers to do the work.

State officials said some districts have already seen success with their tutoring programs.

Franklin Township School District in Somerset County, which was awarded a grant in November, has tutored 86 students in person and virtually for 12 weeks. Student test scores rose on average 6% in English Language Arts and 13% in math, state officials said.

The Bergenfield school district in Bergen County ran 30 tutoring groups with students each receiving 36 sessions. Almost all saw academic growth, with some catching up an entire year in their proficiency levels after the tutoring, state officials said.

"These High Impact Tutoring grants give our schools access to a powerful tool that can accelerate learning for students throughout New Jersey," said Kevin Dehmer, the state's Acting Commissioner of Education. "Our efforts are focused on proven approaches that are designed to place students in the best position for academic growth. We know the need is there, and now we have the program in place to help address the need."

The Bergenfield School District in Bergen County ran 30 tutoring groups with students each receiving 36 sessions. Almost all saw academic growth, with some catching up an entire year in their proficiency levels after the tutoring, state officials said.



# The Promising Practices Project



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

ANGELICA ALLEN-MCMILLAN, Ed.D.  
Acting Commissioner

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor  
TAHESHA L. WAY  
Lt. Governor

January 12, 2024

Dr. Christopher Tully, Superintendent  
Bergenfield Public School district  
225 W. Clinton Ave  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Dear Dr. Tully,

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department), in consultation with the New Jersey State Policy Lab and the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (Rutgers research team), is convening a study entitled *The Promising Practices Project*. Through this study, the Department is eager to learn from local educational agencies (LEAs) who have been identified as providing exemplary work around the state to impact student academic performance. Specifically, the Department would learn about innovative educational practices driving learning acceleration that emerged in response to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The study will identify promising practices that may be emulated throughout New Jersey and the nation.

The study will analyze the practices and activities that schools may have implemented for learning acceleration and/or COVID-19 recovery and the positive effect on student performance on the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics New Jersey State Learning Assessments. The study will explore how individual schools achieved success in serving the needs of all students, including traditionally underserved populations.

Through a quantitative analysis, the Rutgers research team identified New Jersey schools with positive student learning outcomes when comparing pre- to post-pandemic performance in ELA and mathematics. The data analysis concluded that Hoover Elementary School within your LEA was identified as a positive outlier. Therefore, the Department and the Rutgers research team would like to learn more about innovative practices that may have led to the LEAs achieving positive results. Through thoughtful qualitative research, the Rutgers research team will strive to document promising practices that lead to the data.

- Hoover School recognized by the NJDOE as a positive outlier
- Only 78 schools in New Jersey received this recognition.
- Positive student learning outcomes when comparing pre- to post-pandemic performance in ELA and Mathematics.



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# Curriculum and Student Achievement

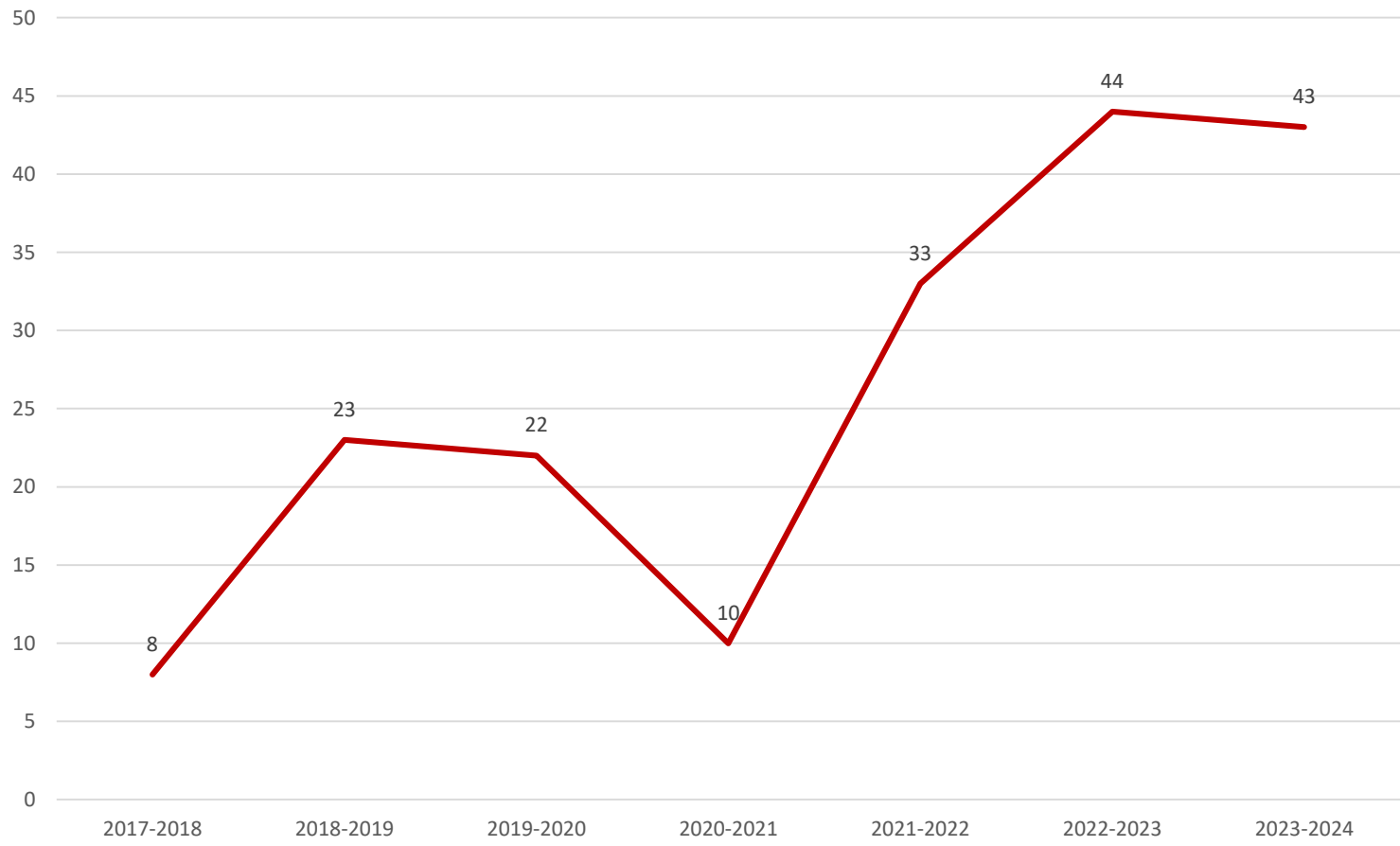


## Seal of Biliteracy

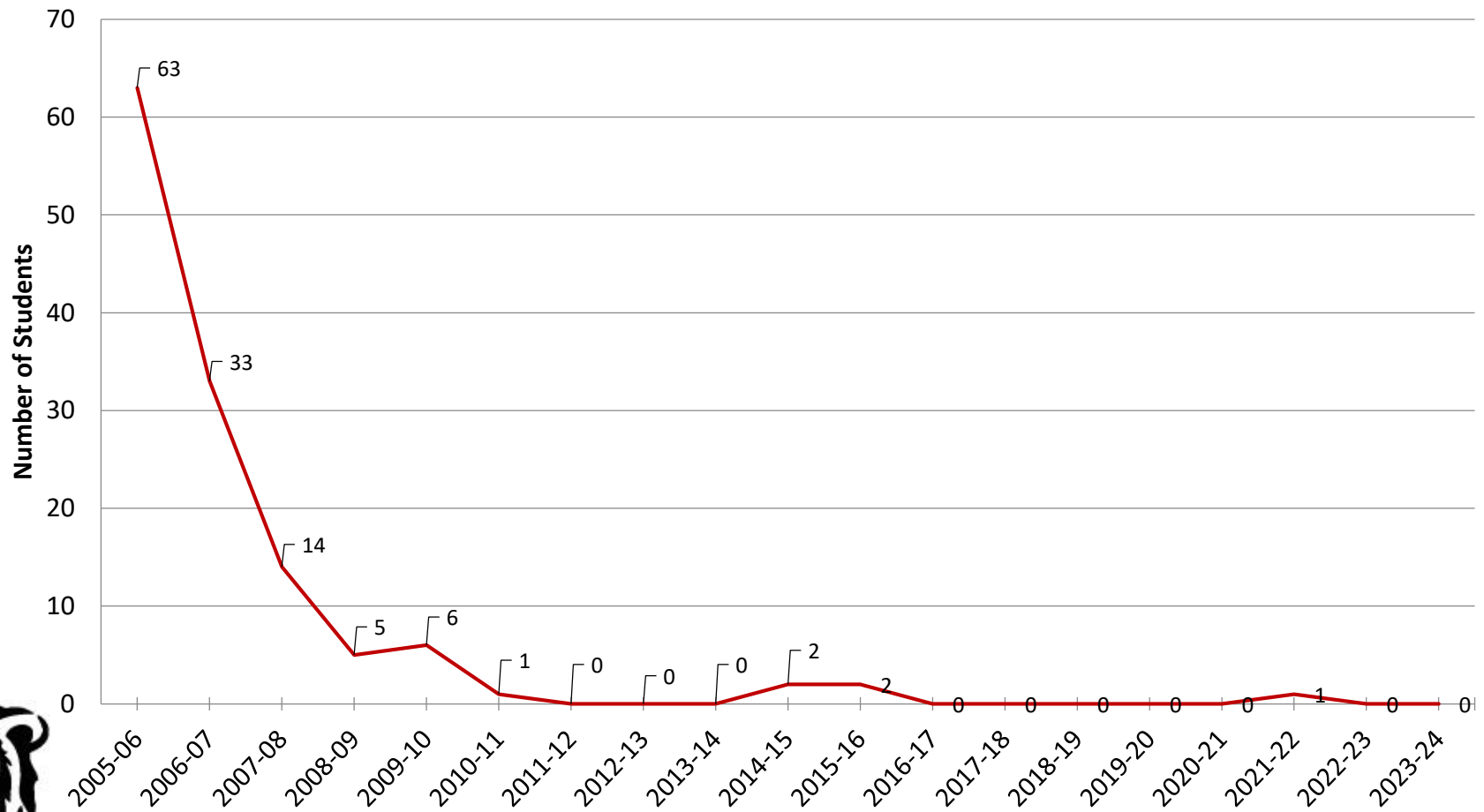


# Seal of Biliteracy

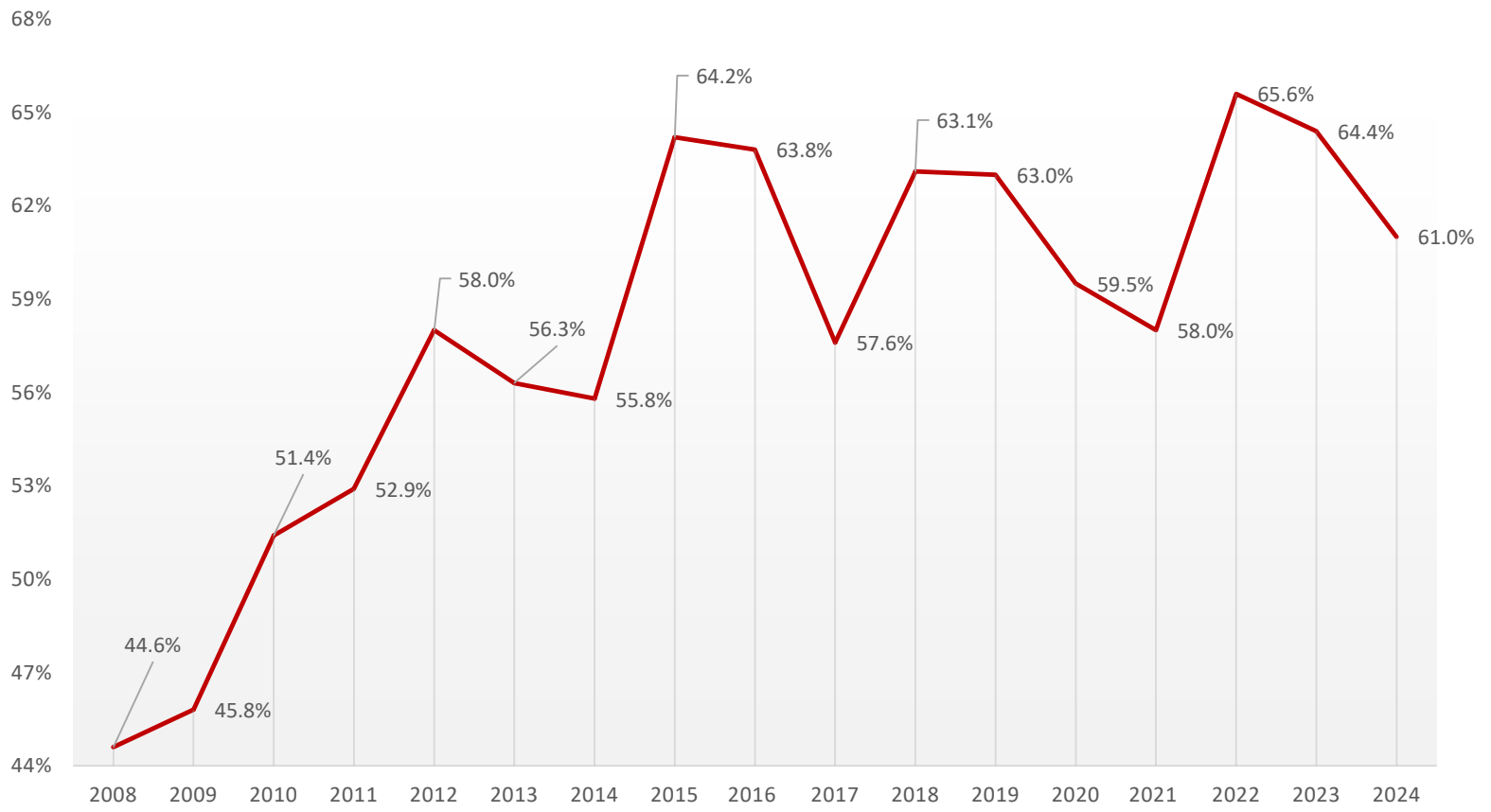
Seal of Biliteracy  
(Bergenfield High School)



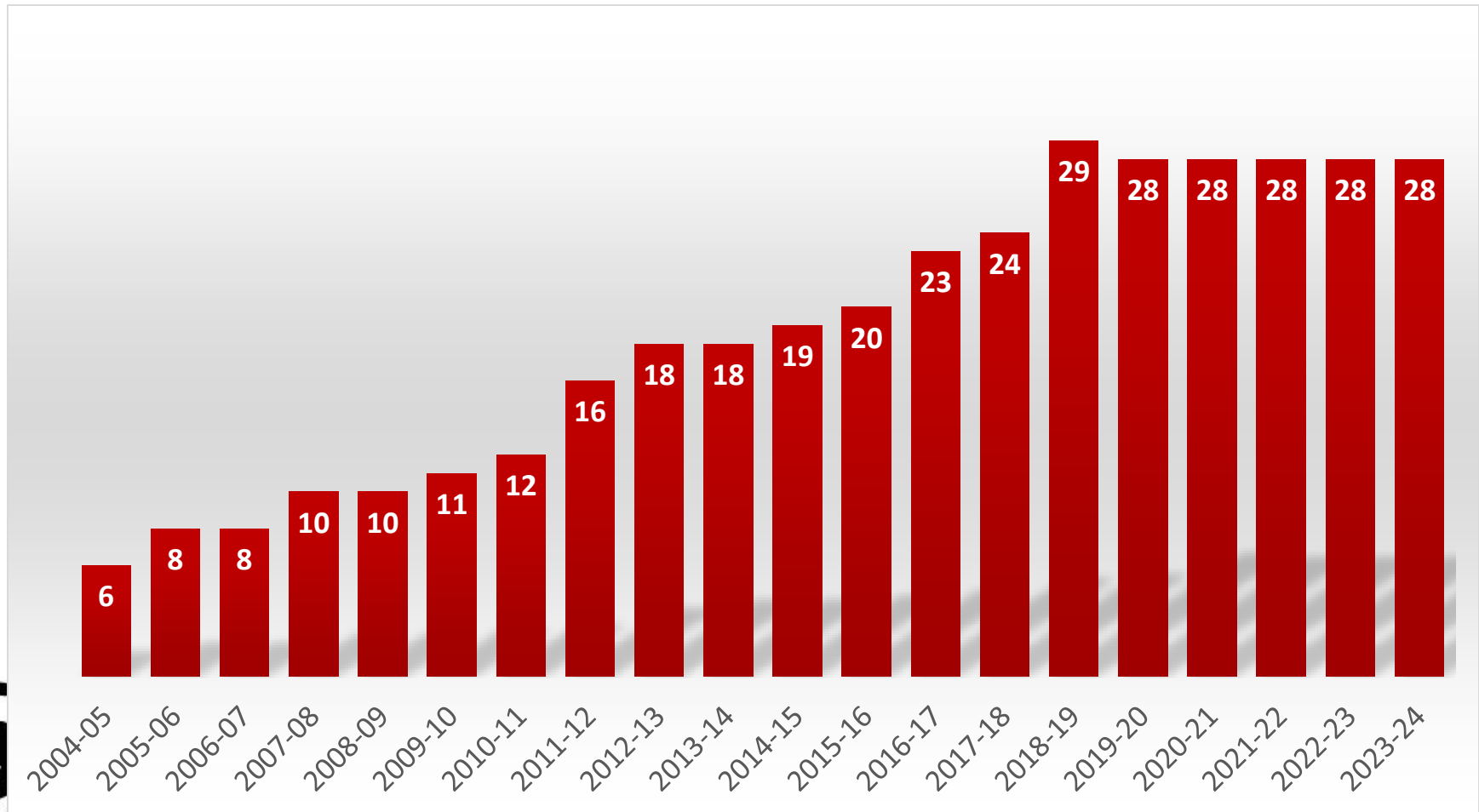
## Dropouts



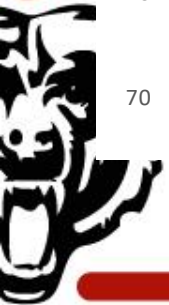
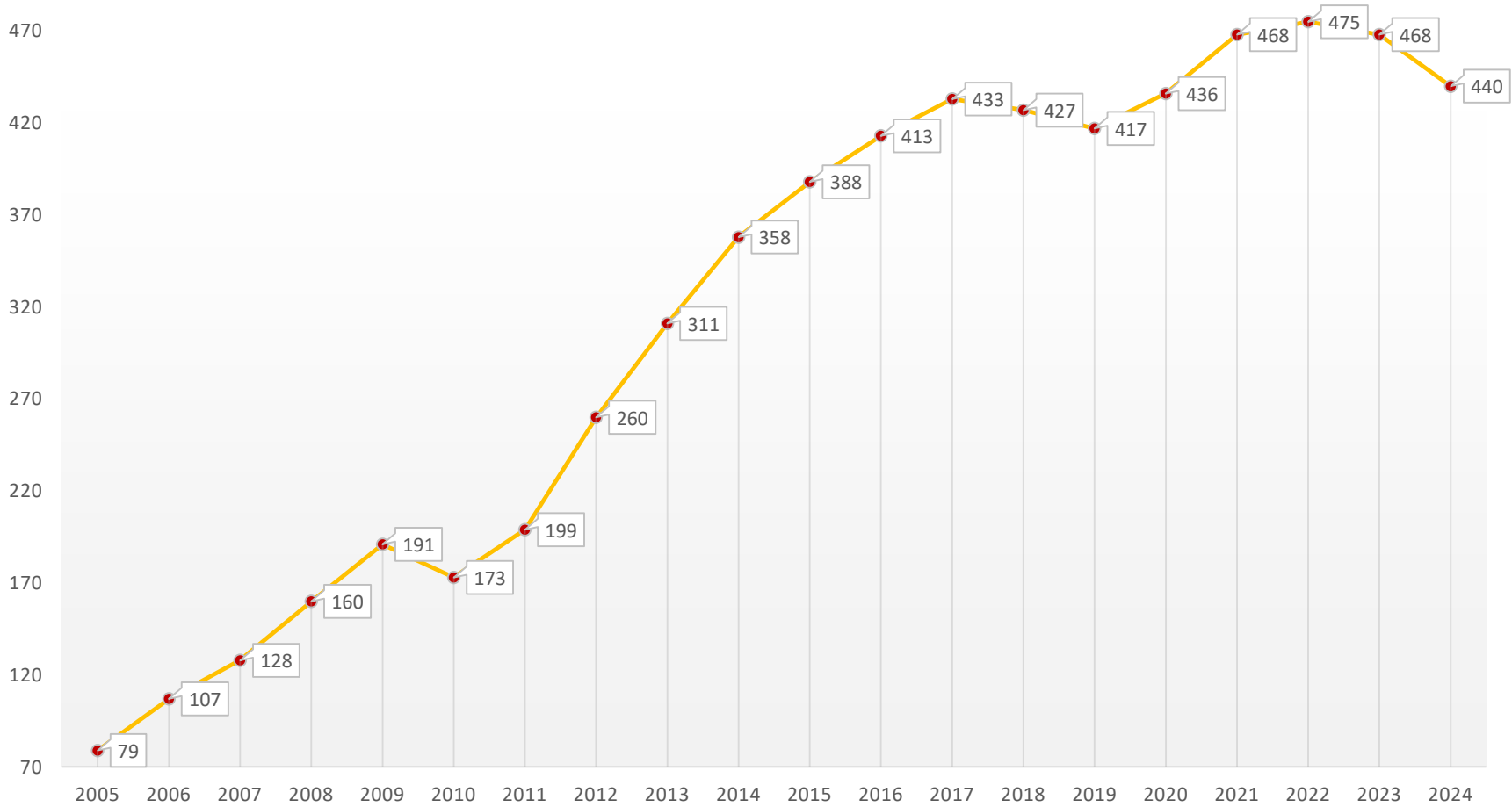
# Graduates Attending 4-Year Colleges



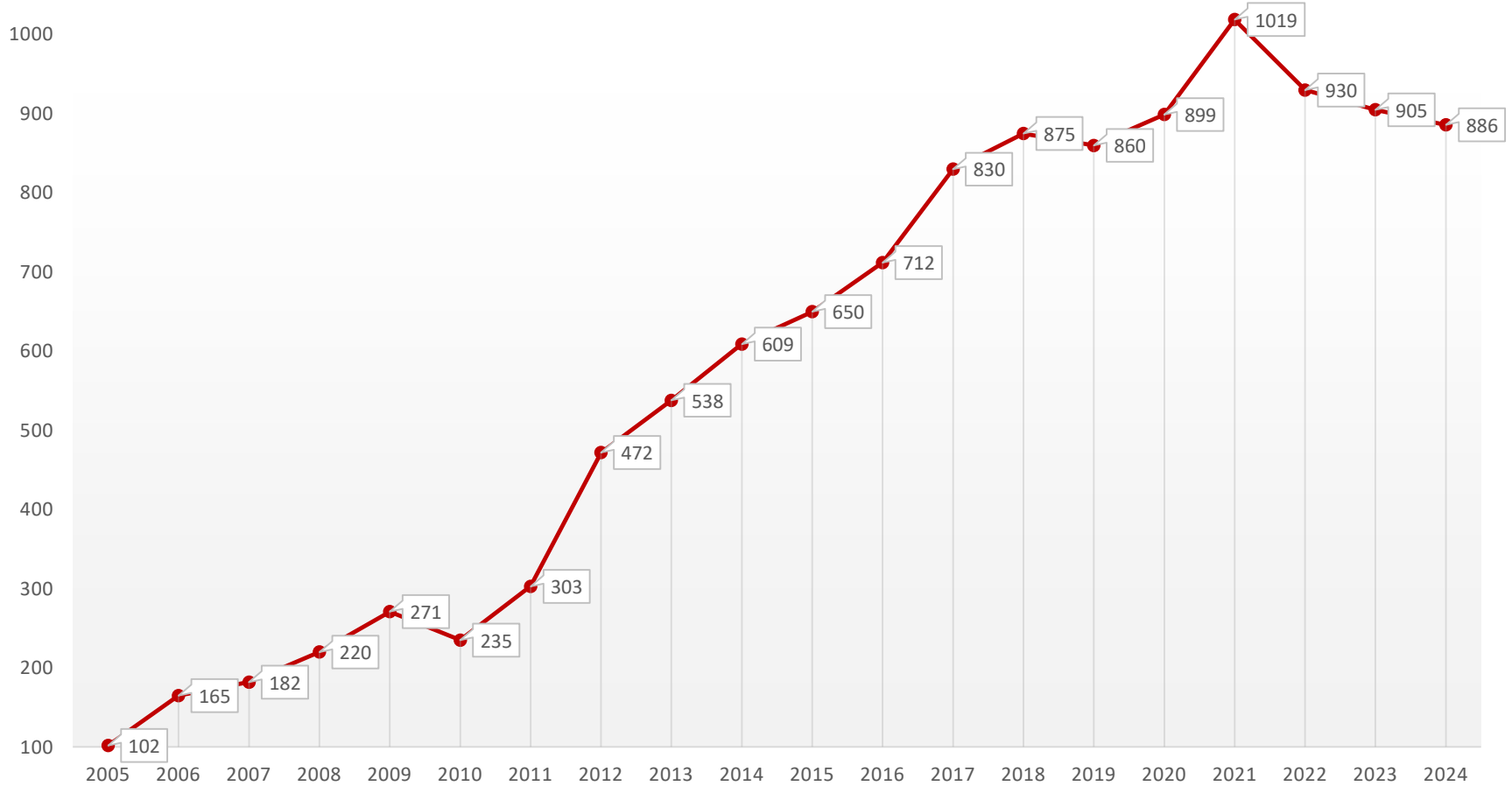
## Total AP Courses



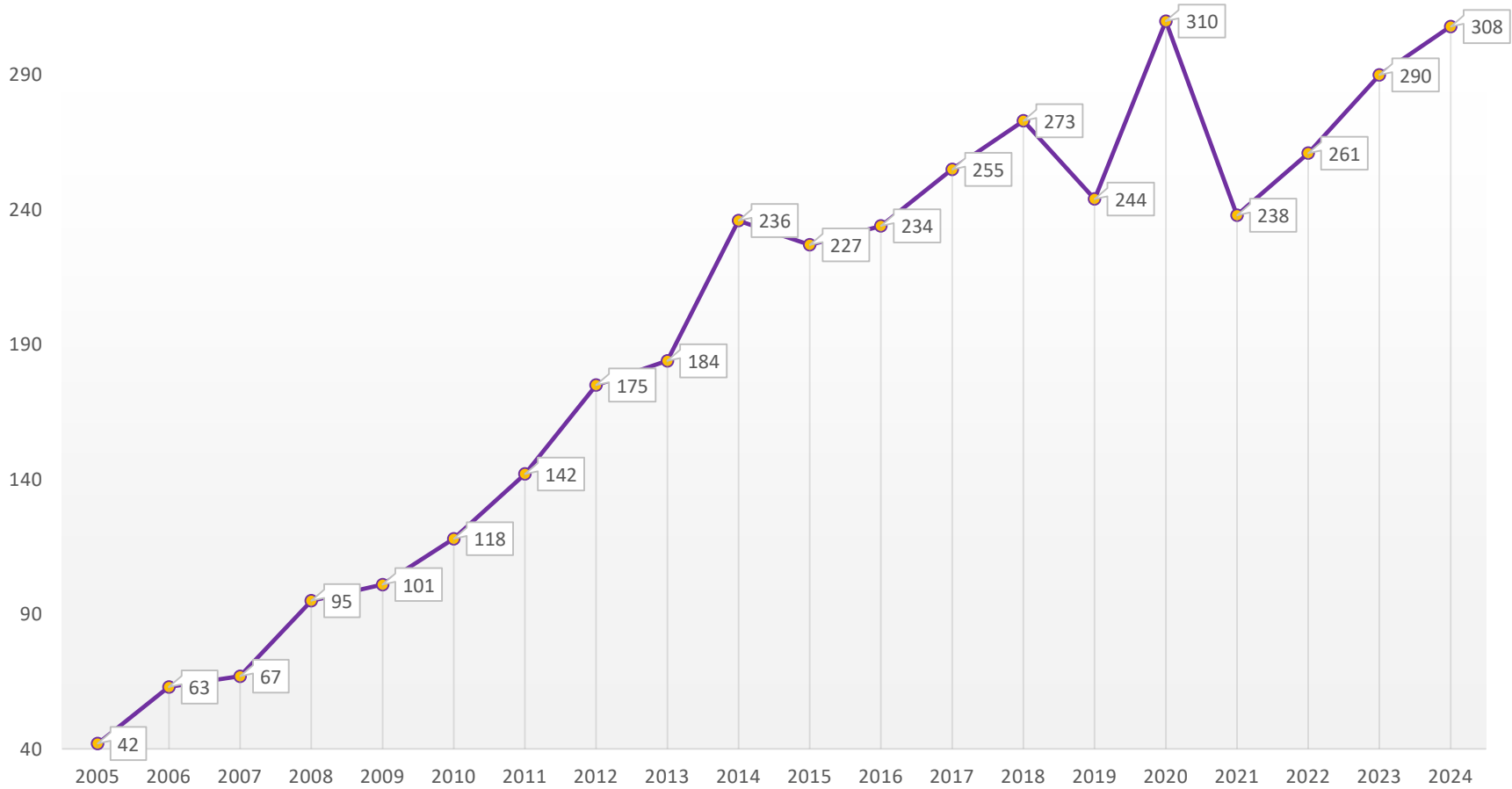
## Total # of AP Students



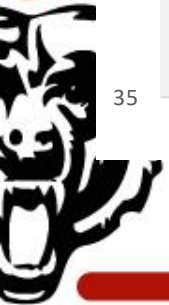
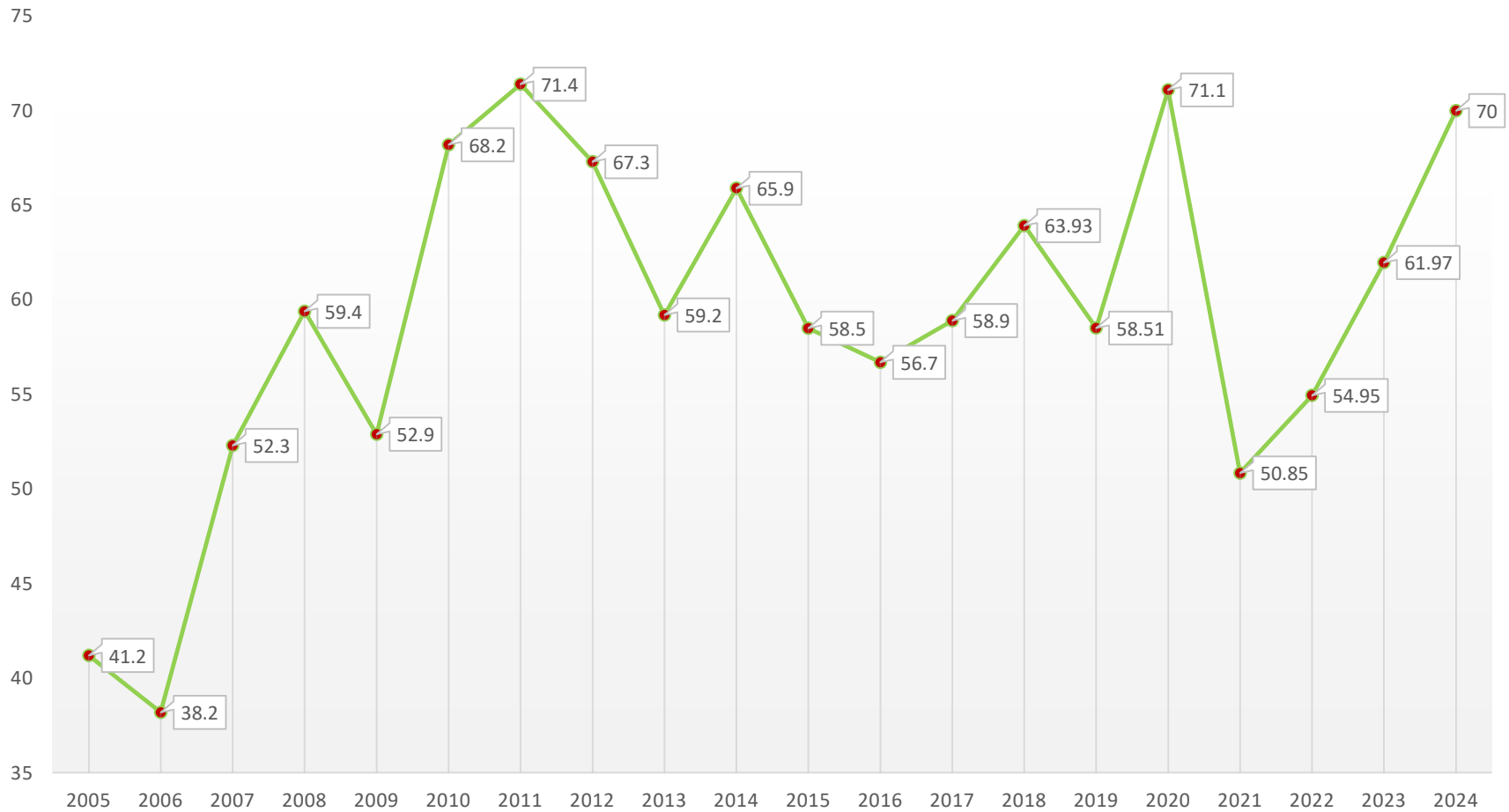
## Total # of Exams



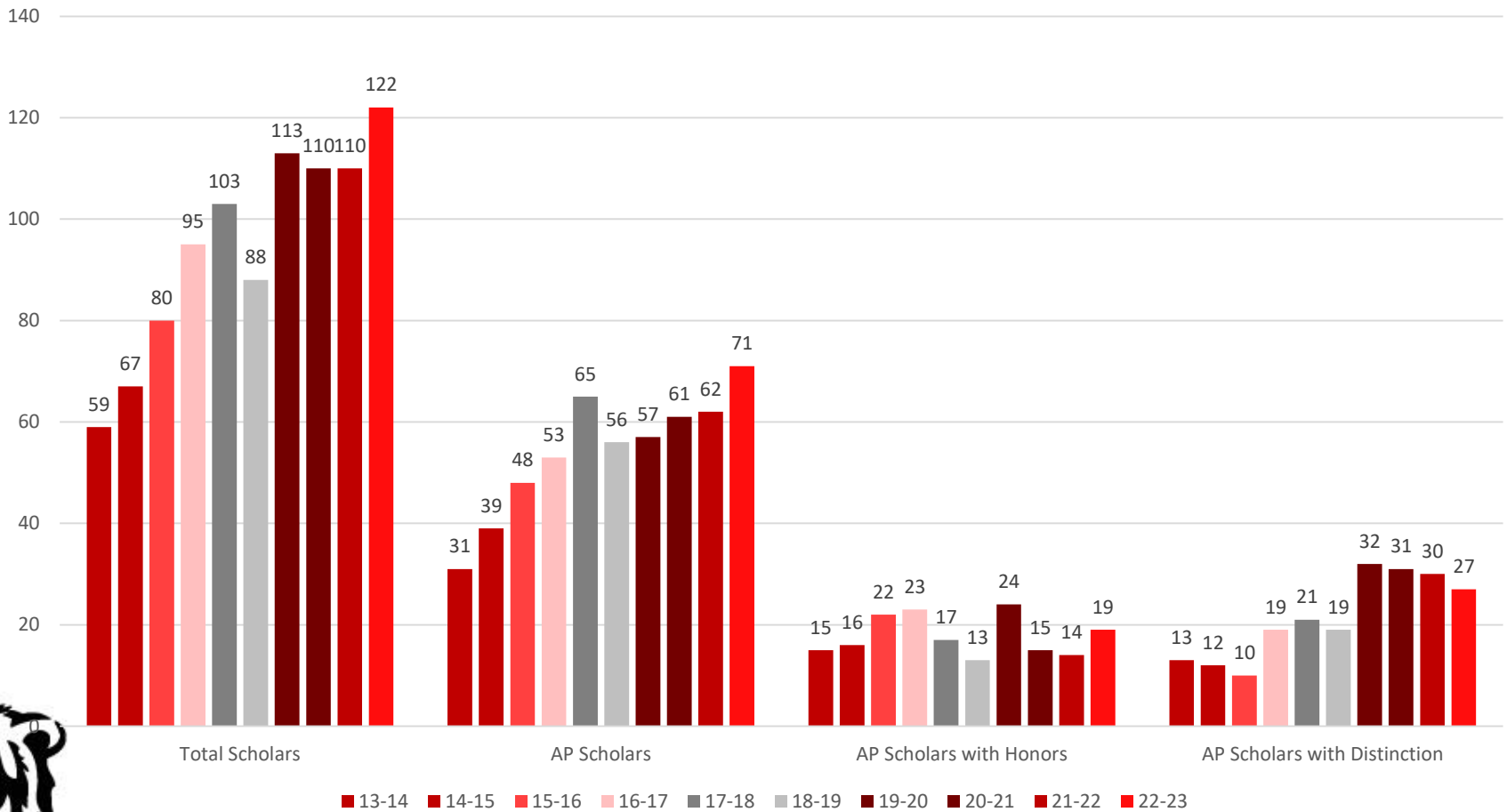
## Total # of AP Students with Score 3+



## % of AP Students with Score 3+



# AP Scholars



How do we continue to grow, maintain high level of academic achievement, improve facilities and keep taxes stable?



# Saving Money

- Solar panels - able to sell the unused Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) at a profit
- Energy Efficient Unit-Ventilators and LED Lighting
- Tri Valley Autism and Bear Den Life Skills Programs

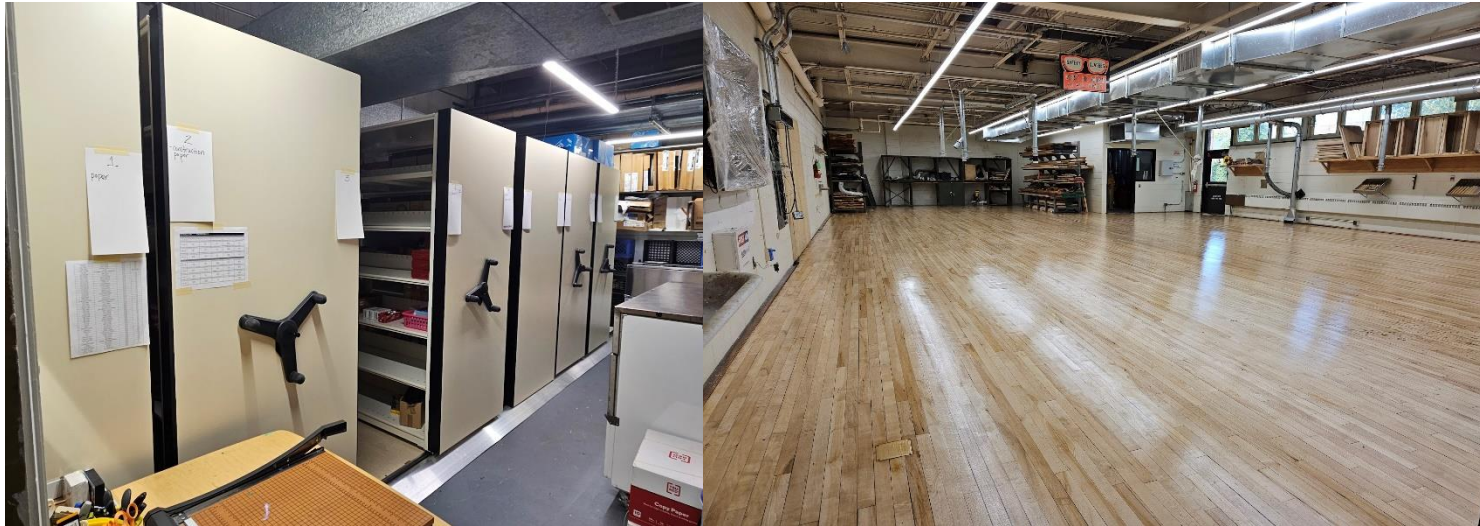


# Saving Money

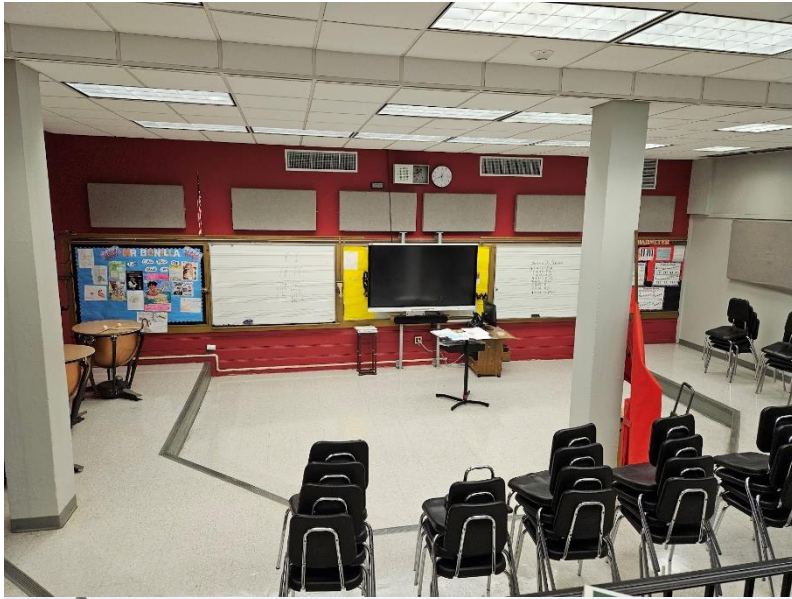
- Boiler Replacements at BHS and RWB
- District is receiving 40% of the cost via a ROD Grant from NJDOE.
- Total Savings to the Bergenfield Taxpayers is **\$1,897,841**



## Facility Upgrades



## Facility Upgrades



## 2025-2026 Capital Projects

- Franklin Bathroom Renovation
- Franklin Asbestos Abatement
- Franklin Shade Replacement
- Franklin Gym Door Replacement
- Hoover Fire Escape Stairs Replacement
- Hoover Siding Replacement
- Lincoln Asbestos Abatement
- Washington Asbestos Abatement



## 2025-2026 Capital Projects

- RWB Bathroom Renovation
- RWB Asbestos Abatement
- RWB Exterior Lighting Addition
- BHS Asbestos Abatement
- BHS OT/PT Room Renovation
- BHS Athletic Hallway Floor Replacement
- BHS Side Cafeteria Floor Replacement
- Field House Asbestos Abatement



# State Aid Revenues



**B**

2025-2026  
Proposed Budget



## 25-26 Budget Notes

- State Aid Decrease \$615,511.
- Tuition Revenue Decrease \$464,436.
- Tri Valley Increase \$1,392,045.
- Out Of District Tuition Decrease \$105,107.
- Employee Benefits Increase \$499,238.



## Required Cuts

**Total Budget Cuts**

**\$4,069,386**



# Budget Cut Categories

## Cut Categories

- Retirements
- RIF's
- Capital Equipment
- Textbooks
- Building Maintenance
- Technology



## The Last 15 Years of Tax Increases

**Average % Increase**  
1.48%

**Average \$ Increase**  
\$734,194

Over \$6,000,000 in tax savings over the last 15 years.



# Enrollment Projections

The New Jersey Department of Education projects that as of October 15, 2025 we will have 3,574 students.

	<u>Actual</u>
October 15, 2024	3,649
October 15, 2023	3,655
October 15, 2022	3,582
October 15, 2021	3,584
October 15, 2020	3,642
October 15, 2019	3,642
October 15, 2018	3,560
October 15, 2017	3,552
October 15, 2016	3,546
October 15, 2015	3,517



# Anticipated Funds For 2025-2026 Budget

# B

Source	Amount
Fund Balance	\$2,352,754
Tuition Reserve	395,000
Tax Levy	54,556,566
Tuition	3,764,880
Miscellaneous Revenue	548,982
Transportation Fees	65,075
Withdrawal From Emergency Reserve	25,000
Withdrawal From Capital Reserve	1,054,128
Withdrawal From Maintenance Reserve	1,196,907
Banked Cap Adjustment	1,334,655



# Revenues from State Sources

	2024-2025	2025-2026
<b>State Aid</b>		
School Choice Aid	\$265,924	\$327,199
Categorical Transportation Aid	851,701	939,769
Categorical Special Education Aid	4,256,702	5,693,193
Equalization Aid	16,481,586	14,039,814
Categorical Security Aid	969,554	1,209,981
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>22,825,467</i>	<i>22,209,956</i>
Medicaid Reimbursement	41,690	7,620
PEA Carryover	168,335	175,789
PEA Aid	1,240,546	1,463,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,276,038</b>	<b>\$23,856,739</b>



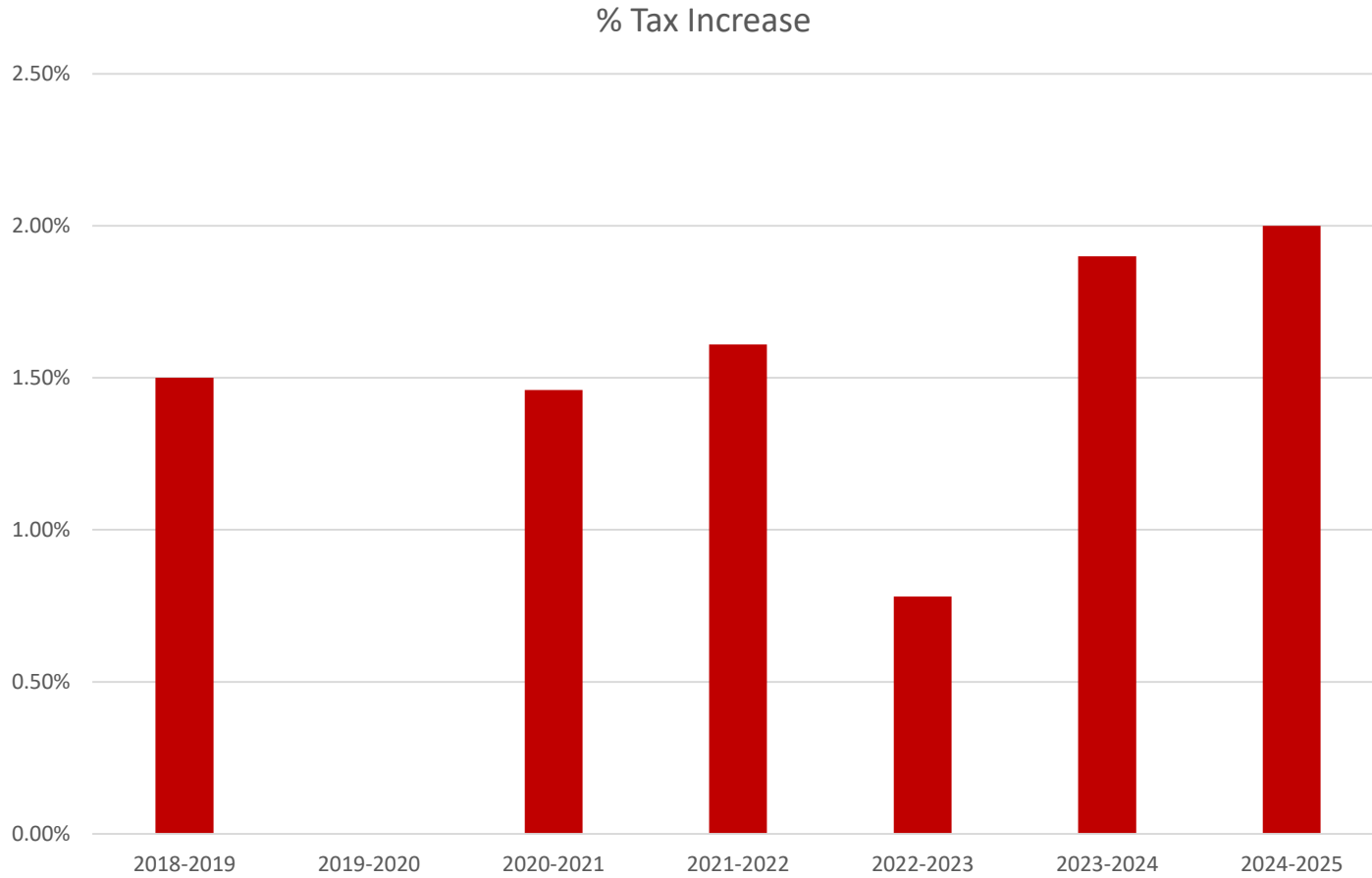
## Total Revenues

Source	Amount
General Fund	\$87,511,526
State Sources (restricted)	1,639,163
Federal Sources (restricted)	1,305,141
Debt Service	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Revenue All Sources:</b>	<b>\$90,755,886</b>



# Local Tax Rate History

(Average of 1.32% during these years)



## Total Tax Increase

2025–2026 Proposed Tax Levy                      \$55,891,221

2024–2025 Tax Levy                                      \$53,486,829

**Tax Levy Increase    \$2,404,392**



# Appropriations from General Fund **B**

Total General Current Exp \$86,059,239

Capital Outlay 1,089,625

Special Schools (Summer, Adult) 41,829

Charter School 320,833

**General Fund Grand Total: \$87,511,526**



# Appropriations from Special Revenue Fund

## State Projects

# B

PEA Special Education Contribution	\$300,056
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Preschool Education Aid and Carryover	<u>1,639,163</u>
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<b>Total State Projects:</b>	<b>\$1,939,219</b>
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## Appropriations from Special Revenue Fund Federal Projects

Title I	\$375,372
Title II	74,051
Title III	25,795
Title IV	0
IDEA	829,923
Other Special Projects	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Federal Projects:</b>	<b>\$1,305,141</b>



## Total Appropriations

General Fund Total	\$87,511,526
Special Revenue Fund State Projects	1,939,219
Special Revenue Fund Federal Projects	1,305,141
Debt Service	<u>0</u>

**Total Appropriations: \$90,755,886**



# Tax Levy Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund, the sum of \$55,891,221 for the 2025–2026 school year.

This represents a 4.5% increase in the local tax levy.



## Real Estate Values

### 2015 Quarter 1

- Homes sold: 41
- Median sale price: \$275,000

### 2024 Quarter 4

- Homes sold: 19
- Median sale price: \$550,000

This represents a 100% increase in median sale price in Bergenfield in comparative first quarters from 2015 to 2024.



# Average Home Assessment

The average home in the Borough of Bergenfield is assessed at \$320,000.



## Tax Impact

The tax impact of the 2025-2026 proposed budget on the average home will be:

**Annually**

\$240.64

**Monthly**

\$20.05

**Weekly**

\$4.63

2024-2025 Local Tax Levy

\$55,891,221

2024-2025 Local Tax Levy

\$53,486,829

**Tax Levy Increase**

**\$2,404,392**



## “We Are Bergenfield”



Questions for the Board of Education?

