



# BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT THE BULLDOG EXPERIENCE 2025 - 2026



## Message from the Superintendent



It is my privilege to share the 2025-26 Big Spring School District "Bulldog Experience," a snapshot of the meaningful work happening in our schools. This report goes beyond state test scores to highlight both the data that tracks our progress and the stories that reflect our Bulldog pride.

Every day, I see the dedication and heart that make Big Spring special, from

innovative classroom learning to outstanding performances on the field, stage, and in service to others.

These successes are only possible because of our community's strong support. Parents, families, local organizations, and taxpayers all play a vital role in helping our students thrive.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on providing excellent learning experiences while being careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Thank you for celebrating these achievements and for your continued partnership.

Ever, Always Strong,

Dr. Nicholas Guarente



**5**  
SCHOOLS

WITH

**227** & **2,337**  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF STUDENTS

AND TOGETHER  
WE MAKE



**1**  
FAMILY



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# EDUCATIONAL VALUE

## Academics

Big Spring personalizes learning to help students explore academic and career pathways. From day one to graduation, the district provides the support and opportunities every student needs to thrive.

**Named the Best School District in Cumberland County for the 4th consecutive year!**



## College and Career Ready

- 14** AP courses offered
- 58** students enrolled in college-level courses
- 101** students with hands on work / internship experience
- 121** students enrolled at Cumberland Perry Career and Technical Center



## Staff Achievements



**Ashley Oldham**, Big Spring High School  
*PA Department of Education 2026 Teacher of the Year Finalist*



**Adam Oldham**, Counselor, Big Spring High School  
*2024 Pennsylvania School Counselors Association School Counselor of the Year*



**Matt Kump**, Big Spring High School  
*2025 PA Shape Teacher of the Year*



**Leah Richwine**, Mount Rock Elementary School  
*Shippensburg Study Council 24-25 Outstanding Teachers*



**Tessa Brenize**, Oak Flat Elementary School  
*Shippensburg Study Council 24-25 Outstanding Teachers*



**Emily Moyer**, Oak Flat Elementary School  
*Carlisle Army War College Excellence in Education Award*



**Jesse Bortner**, Big Spring Middle School  
*Carlisle Army War College Excellence in Education Award*

## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025



**180**

**GRADUATES**

19 earned Distinguished Diplomas

**93**

Post Graduate  
Schooling

**41**

Workforce

**17**

Career Technical  
Programs

**3**

Military

**26**

Other/Unknown

**\$468,363** in scholarships will be awarded next year, with a total of **\$1,873,452** to be awarded over the next four years.



## BULLDOG CLUBS AND ATHLETICS



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

School is about more than academics. Sports, clubs, and activities help students discover passions, build lasting friendships and find their place beyond the classroom.

**19 HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS**

**12 MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS**

**40+ HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS**

**83% HS AND MS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULARS**

### *The Little Mermaid* at BSHS



### Marching Band Kicks Off Season Ranked #1



### PAEA Names Big Spring Outstanding Visual Arts Community for 2024-25



## Bulldog Athlete Highlights



Girls wrestling team medaled at States for the first time.



Volleyball made first-ever trip to States, reaching semifinals.



Bocce team qualified for Unified Playoffs.



Boys wrestling qualified for District 3 tournament, first time since 2017.



Girls basketball earned highest team GPA with 3.80.

## Bulldog Foundation Invests in Students & Community

**\$1,000 Scholarships (Six Awards)**

**\$1,000 Special Scholarships (Two Awards)**

**\$7,800 Classroom Grants**



# THANK YOU BULLDOG FOUNDATION!

Photos: Ryan Cleary



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## Fiscal Stewardship & Careful Budgeting



### BY CRISTY LENTZ BUSINESS MANAGER

As we close out the 2024-2025 school year, our annual audit is underway to review what worked well, identify areas for improvement, and ensure we continue to model fiscal responsibility. Next, we'll begin developing the 2026-2027 budget.

The state budget remains unresolved nearly three months past the June 30 deadline, in part due to ongoing debate over cyber charter school funding reform. This delay has held up the distribution of state funds to schools across Pennsylvania, including Big Spring. Thanks to careful planning and maintaining reserve funds, we are able to continue operations smoothly during this period of uncertainty.

## What to Know About Cyber Charter Reform

- Cyber charters are public online schools funded by local districts.
- Local school districts must pay tuition for each student who enrolls, based on district spending, not the cyber charter's actual costs.
- Some districts pay **as little as \$7,000 and others up to \$25,00** per general ed student for the same education.
- State leaders are debating reforms to create a fairer, more predictable funding system.

## Big Spring



## Budget Cycle



## Big Spring Board of Education

"On behalf of the Board of Education, we are honored to support the incredible work taking place across our schools to help every Big Spring student thrive. We are thankful to be part of the Bulldog family and remain dedicated to ensuring student success."

**JOHN WARDLE, PRESIDENT**