

# STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2025



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## **A letter from the Superintendent.**

### **Points of Pride**

The Coles Alternate High School Program completed a successful first year housed at Cherry Hill High School East. Students in the program have thrived in their environment and have enjoyed their involvement in the school and its activities.



Our School-Age Child Care (SACC) has seen a 28% increase in enrollment over the past three years. SACC serves approx. 650 students in the before and after school care programs.

A new partnership with Rutgers University Camden will allow high school seniors to take college courses at a discounted rate. Students will have the opportunity to graduate from Cherry Hill with Rutgers University college credits.



The High School Experiential Learning program provides students with invaluable internship opportunities,



allowing them to work alongside and learn directly from industry professionals in their chosen fields. This

hands-on experience provides our students with real-world skills, broadens their horizons, and helps them gather crucial insights to help their decisions about their future college and career pathways.



Dear Stakeholders,

Cherry Hill Public Schools celebrates a year of innovation, achievement, and progress in the 2025-2026 school year. This year's *State of the District* publication highlights the strides we've made in academic excellence, strategic planning, and community engagement, while addressing the challenges that shape our future.

Key accomplishments include the implementation of innovative policies, such as a [new cell phone policy](#) to enhance classroom focus, and the approval of a [5-Year Strategic Plan](#) and [Portrait of a Graduate](#), which set a clear vision for student success. Partnerships with Rutgers University and expanded Advanced Placement and career readiness programs have opened new doors for our students, while preschool expansion ensures increased opportunities for learning and growth.

The district is simultaneously focused on addressing critical challenges, including balancing elementary enrollment, tackling chronic absenteeism, and improving student success across all grade levels. Through expert financial stewardship, community collaboration, and a commitment to inclusivity, we are building a stronger, more inclusive district for all.

Cherry Hill Public Schools is leading with innovation and building momentum to ensure a brighter future for our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Dr. Kwame R. Morton, Sr.  
Superintendent  
Cherry Hill Public Schools



# Who **WE** are.

Cherry Hill is the 11th largest public school district in the state.

## **Our Students**

Number of schools: 18

Students enrolled: 10,691

Pre K-5: 5,303

Grades 6-8: 2,542

Grades 9-12: 3,324

Out of district placements: 1,382

## **Ethnic Distribution of Students**

White: 50%

Asian: 17%

Hispanic/Latino: 16%

African American: 10%

Two or More Races: 6%

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: >1%

## **Cultural Diversity**

Native languages spoken by students: 76

Number of bilingual students: 2,283

Number of identified Multilingual Learners in  
our ESL program: 577

## **Socioeconomic Diversity**

Percentage of students eligible for free or  
reduced lunch: 25%

## **Diverse Student Needs**

Percentage of students eligible for special  
education services: 19%

## **Our Indicators of Success**

Class of 2025

- 100% of enrolled 12<sup>th</sup> grade students graduated
- Graduates committed to enroll at over 100 colleges/universities
- Approximately 25% of graduates earned the Seal of Biliteracy

## **2024-2025 Average SAT Score**

District:

- Reading and Writing: 593
- Math: 576

State:

- Reading and Writing: 540
- Math: 529

## **National Merit Recognition**

Class of 2026

Semifinalists: 5

Commended Students: 41

## **Our Employees**

Total number of employees: 1,782

Teachers and other certified staff: 1,107

Total number of Administrators: 55

Beginning teacher salary: \$57,378

Median teacher salary: \$91,577

Number of teacher workdays: 187

# STUDENT OUTCOMES

## **Academic rigor.**

### Advanced Placement (AP)

- 33 unique AP Courses
- 2,709 seats filled in AP Courses
- AP Exam Results, 2025:
  - 1,678 exams given
  - 69% of students scored 4 or 5



### Implementation of the Pre-AP Framework

- Redefining the Portrait of an AP student



## **Curricular opportunities.**

- Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts
  - Grades K-5
- Eureka Math Squared Implementation
  - Grades K-5 (new)
  - Grade 6: Algebra I
- High School Mathematics Pathways
  - AP Pre-Calculus (3 sections at East, 4 sections at West)
  - AP Calculus AB (1 section at East, 1 section at West)
  - Business Statistics (1 section at East)
  - Cybersecurity (1 section at East, 1 section at West)





# **PRESCHOOL**

The impact of a high-quality preschool program is paramount in the success of many children and allows them to develop into open-minded thinkers.



**Students learn  
through play  
and stay engaged  
in our curriculum.**

## **Preschool Expansion Update**

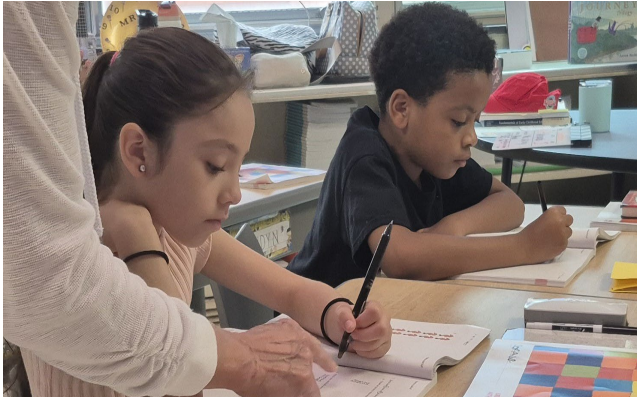
- 16 additional classrooms at Estelle V. Malberg Early Childhood Center and Joyce Kilmer Elementary are set to open in January 2026.
- Other provider sites: Mosaic Early Learning Center, Discovery Corner, Cadence Academy, and KinderCare.
- 500+ students enrolled.
- \$9.7 million awarded in Preschool
  - Expansion Aid (PEA).
- Creative curriculum (play based).
- Over the next three years, our preschool provider sites will help us add more classes.
- Consistent calendars, ongoing training, and standardized classroom environments at all locations.
- The new playground at Malberg is open for play.
- Before/Aftercare program additions.



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our Kindergarten through 5th Grade students are off to a tremendous start in the 2025-2026 school year.

**Students are involved with learning, activities, social-emotional learning, intervention, and enrichment.**



## Before/After School Care Expansion

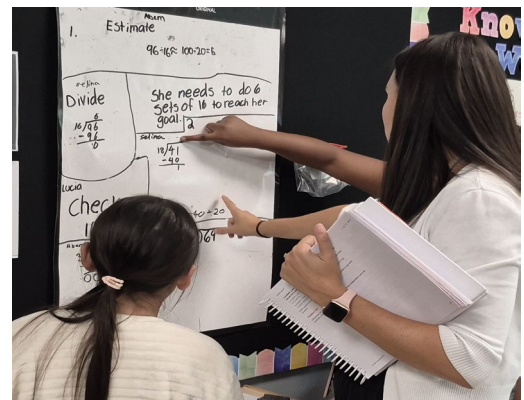
- With the increased enrollment of SACC and intern opportunities for high school students, the number of SACC staff has increased.
- In addition to SACC, Cherry Hill Public Schools has been able to provide before and after school programming through our partner *Right At School*.

## Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts

- Builds strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills
- Engages students with knowledge-rich content
- Teachers train extensively for effective delivery
- Impact: improves comprehension, vocabulary, and student confidence

## Eureka Math Squared

- Implements conceptual understanding
- Stresses procedural fluency
- Provides real-world application
- Builds and expands understanding





# MIDDLE SCHOOL

At the middle school level, our students and staff have done an outstanding job adapting to the Junior High School model.

## **Navigating transitions.**



### To help prepare for the schedule adjustment

- New Student Orientation was held for incoming 6th grade students.
- There is opportunity for focused intervention.
- There have been additional events for students including 6th Grade Socials, Welcome Back dances, and school-wide assemblies.
- For staff, there was training, as well as LMC work focused on the new model and Grade Level Faculty meetings.

## **Developing the WIN (“What I Need”) period.**

- Administrators and staff worked over the summer on curriculum, scheduling, and development.
- Group band, orchestra, and choir happen during the WIN period.
- There are additional opportunities for academic intervention, assemblies, study hall, access to media centers, and student-directed activities during this time.





# HIGH SCHOOL

Our high school curriculum, college prep courses, and strong electives help our oldest students prepare for life beyond graduation.

## New courses in the 2025-2026 school year

- Math: AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, Business Statistics, Cybersecurity (see page 5)
- Media and Production: 4th year opportunity
- Culinary Arts: Baking and Pastry (2 at East, 1 at West)

## **Dual credit partnerships.**



- Students have numerous opportunities to get involved with their school, including athletics, the performing and visual arts, clubs and activities, AFJROTC, DECA, peer leaders, leadership opportunities, financial literacy, culinary, student government, Health and Physical Education, Study Skills, and Digital Literacy.
- Our students can explore trade school partnerships, experiential learning opportunities, internships, and 18-21 CBI/Job Training programs.
- To prepare for life after graduation, students can participate in SAT preparation classes and workshops, FAFSA and scholarship assistance, College Fairs and Career Day.



# ATHLETICS

More than half of all secondary students participate in Cherry Hill Public Schools athletics and middle school intramurals.



## At a glance.

- 191 All-Conference athletes
- 68 student-athletes from the Class of 2025 committed to play college sports
- Several of our teams have won various levels of regional and state championships
- Regionally and state-wide recognized coaches
- Unified sports expansion includes Unified Bowling and Unified Track

## Excellence in Athletics and Student Leadership.

### Various leadership building opportunities:

- Positive Coaching Alliance
- Captains' Luncheon
- Athletes Against Bullying
- Seasonal Coaches meetings





# **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

Through universal design, various inclusion opportunities, and programs tailored to every learner, we strive to create schools where all students belong. The mission of special education is to embrace inclusion as part of our culture, not just our policy.

## **We have been able to:**

- Provide more behavior and student support
- Develop and identify expectations in the General Education setting
- Support interventions that span across various settings
- Continue to work to support positive school cultures and promote belonging
- Offer training and support for parents
- Provide robust interventions

## **Inclusive Opportunities:**

- Coles Alternative High School Program at Cherry Hill High School East
- Mathematics Pathways
- Pre-AP (Advanced Placement)
- “Best Buddies” in the secondary level schools
- Annual S.T.A.R. Games
- Unified Sports
- Adaptive Physical Education classes
- Unified Art

**Advancing  
practices  
districtwide.**



# CONSTRUCTION

## Cherry Hill Bond Referendum Construction

Approximately 1/3 of funding from the 2022 Bond Referendum has been committed thus far to renovations, sitework improvements, and additions throughout CHPS:

- Roof repairs and replacements
- All Purpose Room additions at six elementary schools
- New playgrounds and sitework improvements
- HVAC replacements
- Comprehensive multi-year renovation at Carusi Middle School
- Security vestibule installation at Beck Middle School
- The next phase of projects includes:
  - Additions and renovations at Rosa Middle School
  - Accessibility and security improvements, including additional vestibules
  - High School elevator additions/renovations
  - High School auditorium improvements
  - HVAC and electrical upgrades
  - Gymnasium and locker upgrades
  - Playground enhancements at Stockton and Horace Mann Elementary Schools





# **LABOR MANAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE**

The Labor Management Collaborative (LMC) is a collaborative statewide partnership, comprised of superintendents, school administrators, educational union leaders, and Board of Education members committed to strengthening the educational system in New Jersey.

**Research suggests that  
the impacts include  
but are not limited to:**

- **Increased student achievement**
- **Increased teacher morale**
- **Increased teacher retention**

The Cherry Hill School District Labor Management Collaborative provides a safe space for educators, support professionals, administrators, and school board members to participate in a shared decision-making model that improves teaching and learning and creates a positive and productive school culture.



## **Successes.**

- **Empowerment**
- **Shared purpose**
- **Creation of Building Based Teams**
- **School climate improvement**
- **Board of Education goals**
- **School calendar**
- **Professional Development opportunities**
- **Staff wellness**
- **Salary guide enhancements**

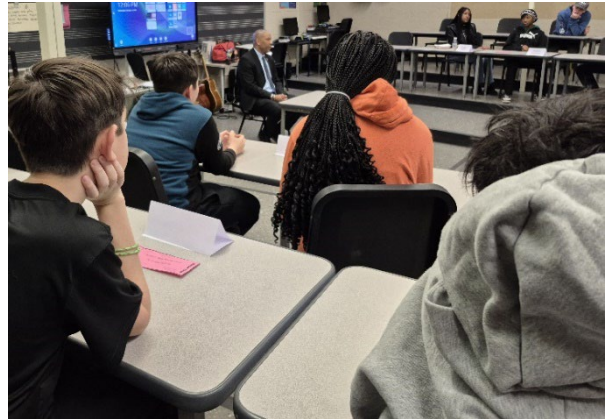
# **WE collaborate.**

## **Creating conditions for success.**

As a school district we value collaboration with our stakeholders, with a shared goal:  
the success of Cherry Hill Public Schools.

### **What we have done.**

- Created district goals
- Worked to improve staff wellness
- Developed Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and District Ambassadors Program
- Collaborated to create districtwide LMC teams
- Hosted the Cherry Hill LMC Learning Hub
- Provided professional growth opportunities
- Completed successful contract negotiations for CHASA, CHEA, and Campus Police



### **Looking ahead.**

- We will continue to empower building-based teams.
- We will be able to implement results from the NJSCI Survey.
- We will expand on building-based LMC goals.



# COMMUNICATIONS

In the Office of Public Information, we are committed to providing accurate and timely communications to our stakeholders. With guidance from the [Communications Audit](#) completed in 2024, we continue to work to improve communications.



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## Strengthening connections.

- A focus on strengthening timely internal and external communications.
- There has been a concentrated effort on refining crisis communications response.
- Viewers who visit the [new district website](#) can expect to see timely updates.
- Our [Data Dashboard](#) has officially launched.
- We are working to schedule public forums throughout the school year to increase opportunities for district leaders to gather input directly from our stakeholders.
- New episodes of “[Discussions with Dr. Morton](#)” have been posted to break down information-heavy topics.
- The district continues to incorporate communications planning into major projects and initiatives to keep stakeholders well informed.
- We use our digital platforms to share highlights and exciting positive news on social media.

# **WE celebrate success.**



## **Recent School of Character awards:**

- National District of Character (2023)
- National Schools of Character - Woodcrest Elementary School (2024); A. Russell Knight Elementary School (2022); Cherry Hill High School East (2021); Joyce Kilmer Elementary School (2021); Barclay Early Childhood Center (2020); Cherry Hill High School West (2020); Horace Mann Elementary School (2020).
- Henry C. Beck Middle School - Camden County School of Character, 2025
- [Click here](#) to view a full list of our School of Character awards.

## **Cherry Hill Public Schools in the news:**





# **WE look ahead.**

## **A vision for innovation and growth.**

As we move through the 2025-2026 school year, Cherry Hill Public Schools has a concentrated focus and effort in the following areas:

### **Elementary Enrollment Balancing.**

This school year, Cherry Hill Public Schools is undertaking an elementary enrollment balancing effort to ensure every student has access to the best possible learning environment. The primary goal of this process is to examine elementary enrollment distribution to eliminate potential overcrowding across our elementary schools. By achieving more balanced enrollment, we will ensure all students have access to resources, maintain optimal class sizes, and support the academic and social-emotional needs of all our young learners. This thoughtful and necessary adjustment will strengthen our schools and community for years to come.

### **Addressing Chronic Absenteeism.**

Cherry Hill Public Schools is deeply committed to reducing chronic absenteeism to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed. We recognize that consistent attendance is fundamental to academic achievement and overall well-being. To support this, the district is implementing targeted interventions and working collaboratively with families and community partners to identify and address barriers that may prevent students from attending school regularly. Our focus is on creating a supportive environment where students feel engaged and valued, reinforcing the critical link between being present in the classroom and building a strong foundation for future success.

### **Portrait of a Graduate.**

Our Portrait of a Graduate is a clear, future-focused vision of the characteristics and mindsets students will develop during their educational journey. Rooted in the community's aspirations, it defines key attributes students will acquire during their time in Cherry Hill Public Schools, ensuring that they graduate with the skills they need for success.



**WE thank you  
for your support of  
Cherry Hill Public Schools!**



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