

STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS REPORT

Last year the State Legislature focused on property tax reform during their legislative session. While individual taxpayers haven't yet seen how these changes will affect their own property taxes, local agencies like police and fire departments, town governments, and schools are starting to realize how these changes will impact their annual budgets. Starting in February, Brownsburg Community School Corporation will hold Community Engagement Sessions to give taxpayers a comprehensive look into how our schools are funded and how changes like last year's Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1) will alter the funds available to effectively operate a school corporation.

While this will be explained in greater detail at these upcoming meetings (dates on page 2), it's important to give a basic overview of how public schools are funded. In this newsletter we will focus on the Education Fund and the Operations Fund. The Education Fund revenue comes from the State of Indiana and is based on a formula that gives schools an established dollar amount per student enrolled. These funds are only allowed to be used to pay teachers and support staff, along with educational supplies. The Operations Fund comes from local property taxes and is used solely for salaries for operations and non-classroom employees, like bus drivers, custodial staff, and maintenance staff. Schools pay for their utilities, non-classroom supplies, property insurance, and all transportation services (including fuel) from this fund.

Since the Education Fund is tied to actual student enrollment, you can see in the graph on the next page that the state tuition that goes into the classroom has risen in proportion to our student enrollment growth. During this same time, changes in legislation have decreased the amount of money coming into schools' Operations Funds. (continued, page 2)



WHAT ABOUT CONSTRUCTION?

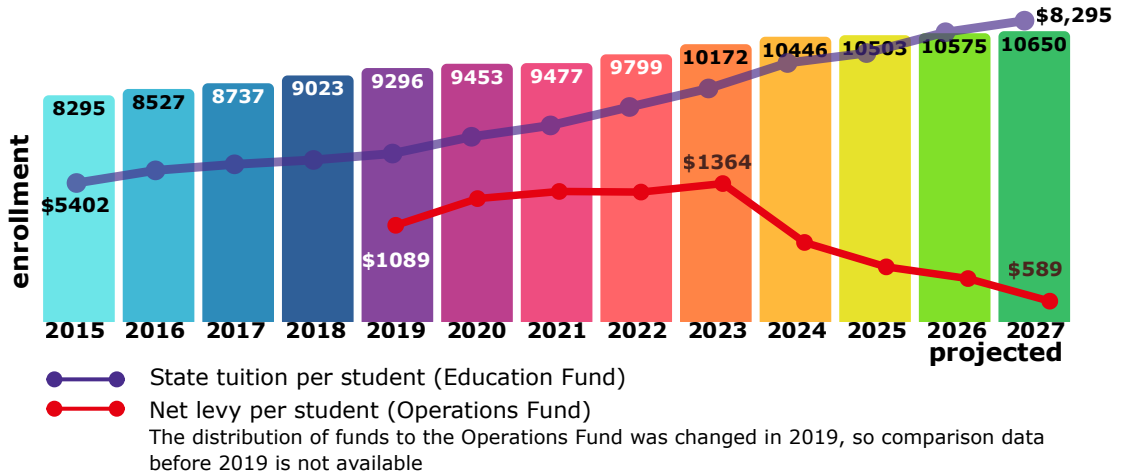
Brownsburg Community School Corporation student enrollment has grown 27% in the last 10 years. During that time, Lincoln and Crossroads Elementary have opened, West Middle School has expanded and a multi-phase renovation project at BHS has continued. Funds for school construction come from local property taxes and are driven by the school tax rate. The recent construction has made room for an additional 2,208 students in Brownsburg while also LOWERING the school tax rate for 13 consecutive years.

As a growing community, Brownsburg has seen increases in assessed value. This assessed value increase has impacted individual property taxes while the actual school tax rate has continued to decrease. (see chart, page 2)

**KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2026-2027
OPENS MARCH 2, 2026**

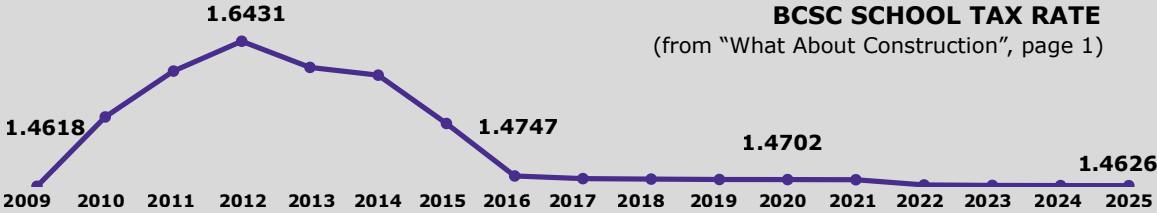
www.brownsburg.k12.in.us/enrollment

COMPARING EDUCATION FUND TO OPERATIONS FUND



SCHOOL FINANCES (CONTINUED)

Recent legislation has negatively impacted the funds available to support the cost of running the day-to-day operations of school districts. You can see that the Education Fund is more in line with the pace of our growth. In 2019, the amount of money Brownsburg Schools received in the Operations Fund is \$1,088.63 per student net levy. In 2027, the projected amount per student will be only \$598.13 per student, a 24% decrease in just 8 years.



What can schools do to alleviate the negative impact of recent legislation changes? Please join us for upcoming Community Engagement Sessions as we talk about potential solutions and discuss our current financial situation in greater detail. Community input and advocacy is necessary as we work to ensure continued excellence at Brownsburg Community School Corporation. We request that attendees commit to attend all five meetings as the content will build from session to session and we will not start over each time. All meetings are on Wednesday nights (dates below) at 6:30pm. Sessions will take place in the BCSC Board Room at 310 Stadium Dr, please enter door #7. In the event that a larger meeting space is needed, the location may be adjusted and will be well publicized and sent to those registered.

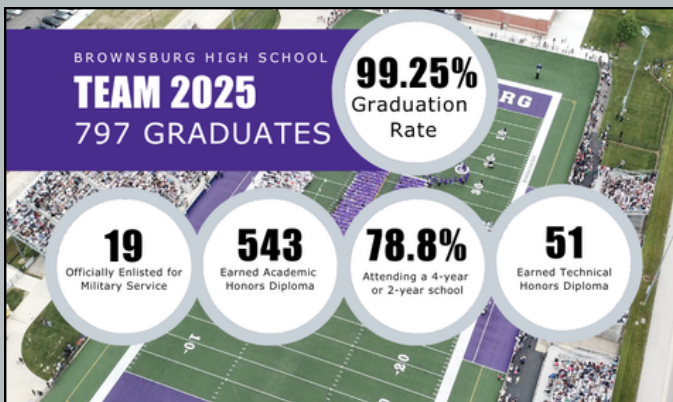
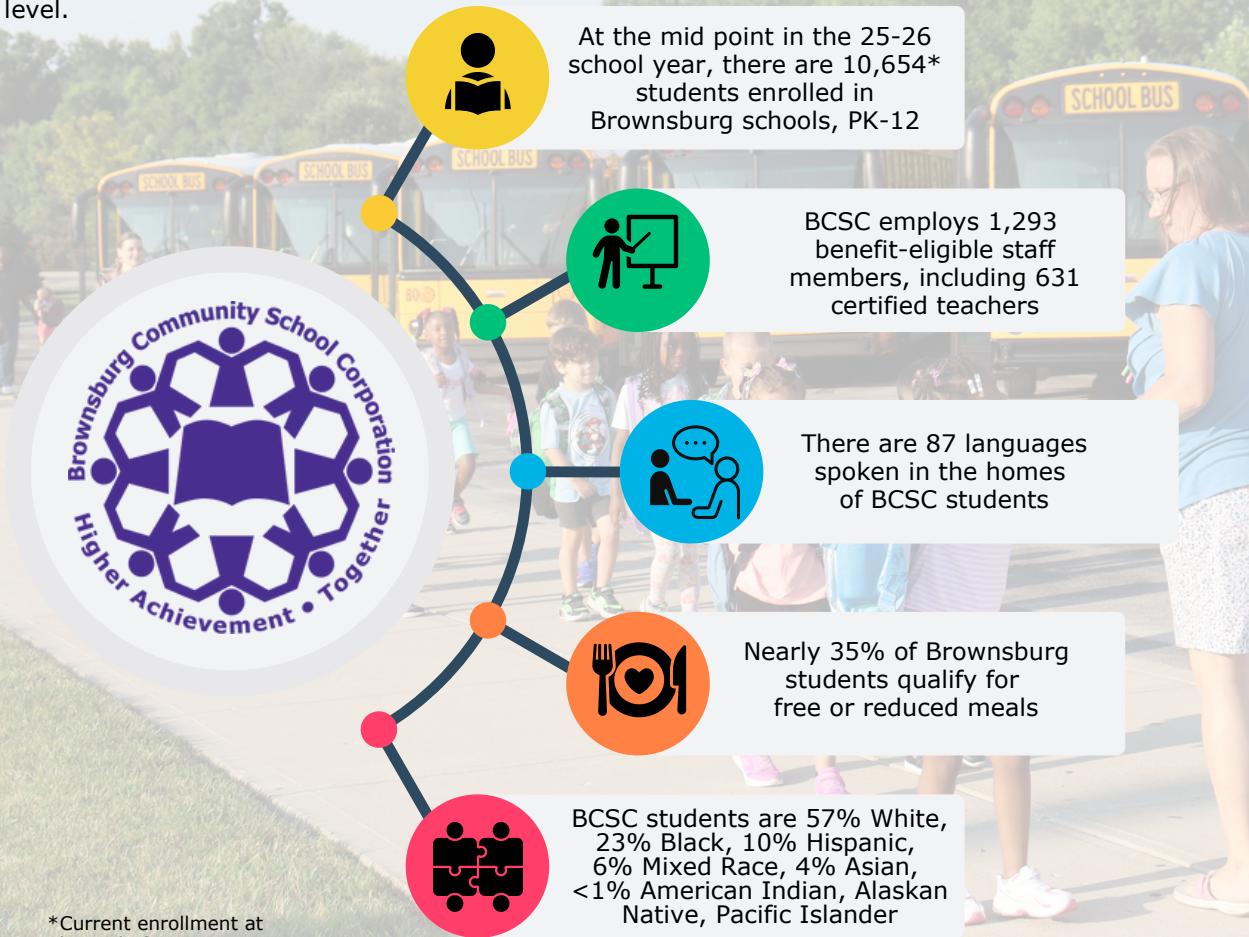
2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



Please scan and register to receive materials and reminders

BCSC BY THE NUMBERS

While Brownsburg Schools saw growth of 124 students this year, that's down from an average of 323 a year from 2021-2024. A decline in birthrates over the last 5-7 years has slowed growth in elementary grades while we are still seeing significant growth at the secondary level.



Brownsburg High School is the 10th largest high school in the state of Indiana. As the size of our graduating classes have grown, the graduation rate and number of students earning Academic Honors Diplomas has continued to be exceptionally high. The teachers and staff at BHS do a tremendous job preparing students for life after high school!



BACK-TO-BACK

In November, BHS Football completed an undefeated season and stood at the top of the mountain as IHSA 6A State Champions, for the second consecutive year. The Bulldogs were again victorious over Westfield, 38-31. BHS junior receiver Branden Sharpe (right) was named Hoosier Crossroads Conference (HCC) player of the year after his stellar season. During the 6A State Championship game, Sharpe broke IHSA records for longest kickoff return (99 yards) and most receiving yards in an IHSA State Title game (151 yards). BHS Assistant Coach Casey Popenfoose was also named Indiana Football Coaches Association's Assistant Coach of the Year.



'84-'85 GLORY DAYS

The 2024 Football State Championship brought back many memories from the back-to-back State Championships in 1984 and 1985. To kick off the start of last fall's football season, BHS Athletics invited members of the '84 and '85 teams for a special celebration and recognition. While much of the school has been renovated since they walked the halls at 1000 South Odell, there was lots of reminiscing and laughter as players and coaches relived the memories.



BHS STUDENTS EXCEL AT STATE



FIRST EVER TENNIS STATE CHAMPS

BHS Juniors Ethan Cougill and Skyler Rose are the first-ever Bulldogs to win a State Championship in tennis. The #1 Doubles team finished the regular season with a 25-2 record and blazed through the IHSA State Doubles Tournament, winning in straight sets in the semi-finals and finals.



BHS MADRIGALS - REPEAT CHAMPS

The BHS Madrigal Singers Concert Choir claimed its second straight ISSMA State Title in the Mixed Choir Division last spring. This group is one of nine choral groups that BHS students can join. The last two State Titles for Madrigal Singers make 9 total State Titles in the history of the BHS Choir program.



BHS WRESTLERS BREAK RECORDS

The BHS Boys Wrestling 24-25 season finished with another IHSA State Championship for the Bulldogs. Eleven wrestlers advanced to the semi-finals and destroyed the Indiana record for the most points scored at 243 (previous record was 174). BHS wrestlers earned SEVEN individual State Titles. This was also a state record. The last time a team had that many wrestlers on top of the podium was in 1949. The team is currently seeking a 'threepeat' with a successful start to the 25-26 campaign.

2025 STATE CHAMPS:
Traevon Ducking (106)
Case Bell (113)
Revin Dickman (120)
Jake Hockaday (132)
Tommy Gibbs (144)
Parker Reynolds (150)
Gunner Henry (190)

STATE FINALISTS:
4th - Mason Day (157)
3rd - Caden Brewer (215)
3rd - Maximus Forrester (285)
2nd - Braylon Reynolds (138)



AREA 31: COLLEGE CREDITS & CERTIFICATIONS

Brownsburg High School students have had access to a variety of career and technical education programs offered by Area 31 for many years. Since 2023, four of the Area 31 programs are also offered at Harris Academy - Cybersecurity, Pre-Nursing (CNA), Medical Assisting, and Criminal Justice.



Matt Frazier (far left, above) joined the Area 31 at Harris staff when this program launched. He had worked for 26 years as a law enforcement officer and trainer and saw a natural transition to the classroom with a workplace specialists license. "I really like the connections I can make with students. I didn't realize it was going to change my life as much as it did." In the short time Frazier has led the Criminal Justice program, he has made a big impact. The age requirement to become a police officer or federal agent is 21. In recent years, law enforcement organizations have been lowering the age limits to 18 for 'bridge careers' like correctional officer. Mr. Frazier immediately began working with the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and its training board to help Area 31 graduates earn a valuable jail officer certification, jumpstarting their career in law enforcement. Frazier is working to add more certifications through Homeland Security to give our graduates even more options. Those who may pursue criminal justice in college have now already earned many of the college credits that are required in those programs. At least 3 students from Frazier's class are already working as jailers in Central Indiana. He says these changes have given students options, "They now have a career path. There is some place to go afterward instead of sitting for four years, waiting, and hoping, and forgetting what they learned. They've got a pathway now."

NEW STATE DIPLOMA

This year's current freshman class, BHS Team 2029, will be the first to graduate with Indiana's new diploma. The biggest change is the addition of three "seals" that students can earn - Enrollment, Enlistment, and Employment. As the current 8th grade class - BHS Team 2030 - prepares to enter freshman year, the BHS teams are ready to help set students on a path for success after high school.



Current 8th grade families are invited to learn more about their student's options as they start to think about scheduling classes for freshman year. Mark your calendars!

YOU CAN BE A SUPER SUB TOO!

This newsletter is delivered to the mailboxes of every home in the area the Brownsburg Community School Corporation serves. Whether you are an alumnus, currently have students in our schools, or even if you have had few interactions with Brownsburg Schools, we may have a place for you - as a substitute. Our 'super subs' find the experience rewarding in so many ways.

Michelle Hamm (pictured) is a sub bus driver for BCSC. While she has another full time job that keeps her busy seasonally, when she has some open time, she drives a bus for Brownsburg Schools. The Transportation Department loves to have her to cover planned leaves and vacations. Michelle does already have her CDL, but potential sub drivers without a CDL would get the training that they need to get licensed. Why does Michelle like to sub? "It helps me stay connected to my community, and I feel like I'm giving back. I really love the flexibility and the unplanned extra money is nice!"



Most afternoons Shelley Ayers is busy getting her grandkids off the bus and helping them with homework. During the day, about three times a week, she's working as a substitute instructional assistant at BCSC. Shelley had a career in the legal field, and when she retired, she knew she wanted to work with children. "I feel like I missed out on time with my own kids because I had to work. When I retired, I just knew I wanted to be around kids." Shelley also loves the flexibility. She share her availability with the substitute coordinator at the start of every month so she has a good idea of when she'll be subbing. With her grandkids close by, she keeps very busy, but enjoys the time she spends with Brownsburg students. "I have been a sub in all the schools, and I really love it!"

VISIT WWW.BROWNSBURG.K12.IN.US/SUB-INFO FOR MORE!

HENDRICKS REGIONAL HEALTH - AN OUTSTANDING PARTNER

The outstanding people at Hendricks Regional Health (HRH) serve our community and the Brownsburg Schools' community in so many ways. Our student athletes receive tremendous care through HRH from the team doctor and athletic trainers (pictured with this year's state 6A Football State Champion trophy).

Our school nurses are supported by HRH and are directed by our Health Services Supervisor, an HRH employee. An army of HRH nurses fill in when there's a need in our school clinics. We're so grateful for all they do!



The State of our Schools newsletter is printed and mailed with funds provided by Hendricks Regional Health, your indispensable health and wellness partner working toward building a healthier Brownsburg

2026 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

The regular monthly business meeting of the Brownsburg Board of School Trustees typically occurs on the second Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Board Room of the F.L. O'Neal Administration Office at 310 Stadium Drive, unless otherwise noted. (Enter Door #7) Notifications of special-called meetings or changes in meeting times, dates and/or locations will be posted accordingly. Monthly Board Work Sessions are also open to the public.

Regular Business Meetings

January 12, February 9, March 9,
April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13,
August 10, September 14,
October 5, November 9, December 14

Board Work Sessions

January 26, February 23, April 27, May 26,
August 24, September 28, November 23



Jessica Heffernan
President
At Large



Dr. Matt Freije
Vice President
Lincoln Township



Dr. Katie Dixon
Secretary
Lincoln Township



Gordon Hayward
Member
Brown Township



Mike Wells
Member
Lincoln Township