



UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT: 2025



Dr. John T. Rozzo Superintendent



The 2025 Annual Report for the Upper St. Clair School District reflects a year defined by progress, collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence. Throughout the past year, our students, staff and community continued to build on a strong foundation, embracing opportunities for growth, innovation and achievement.

The following report highlights many of the ways our district supports student success – academically, artistically and athletically. From classroom accomplishments and creative performances to service initiatives and athletic achievements, this document illustrates the depth and breadth of experiences that make Upper St. Clair a vibrant learning community. We invite you to follow along with us all throughout the year on the District's website (uscsd.k12.pa.us) for regular articles and highlights.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on creating learning environments where every student feels challenged, supported and inspired. Strong relationships among students, staff, families and community members continue to be at the heart of our success. These partnerships enable us to meet the evolving needs of our learners and ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As I reflect on my time as superintendent since 2018, I am continually impressed by the pride and dedication our community demonstrates in support of its schools. This shared belief in the value of public education guides our work and reinforces our mission to prepare students for future success.

Thank you for your continued trust, engagement and support. Together, we will continue to build upon our successes and create meaningful opportunities that empower all students to thrive.

With gratitude and respect,

Dr. John T. Rozzo
Superintendent



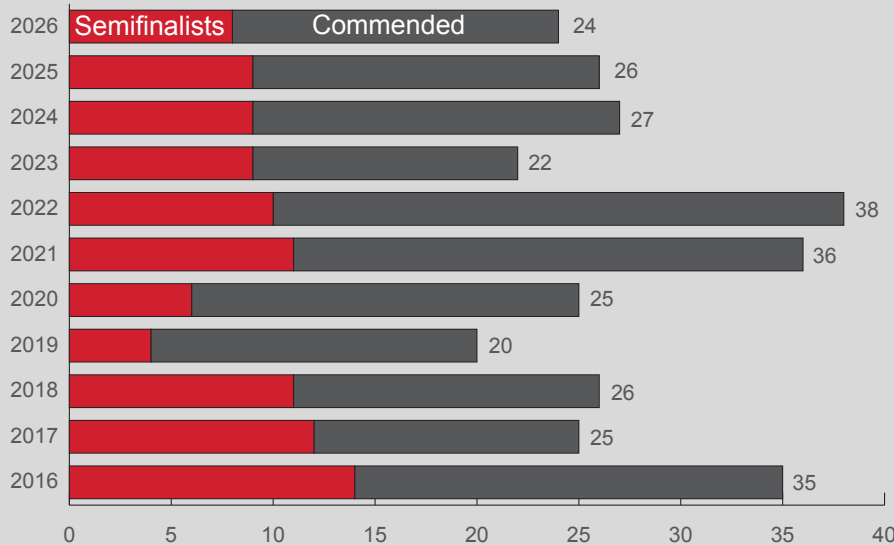


OUR STUDENTS

Did you know

USCHS offers 24 Advanced Placement, 31 International Baccalaureate and 11 College in High School courses, which may qualify for college credit.

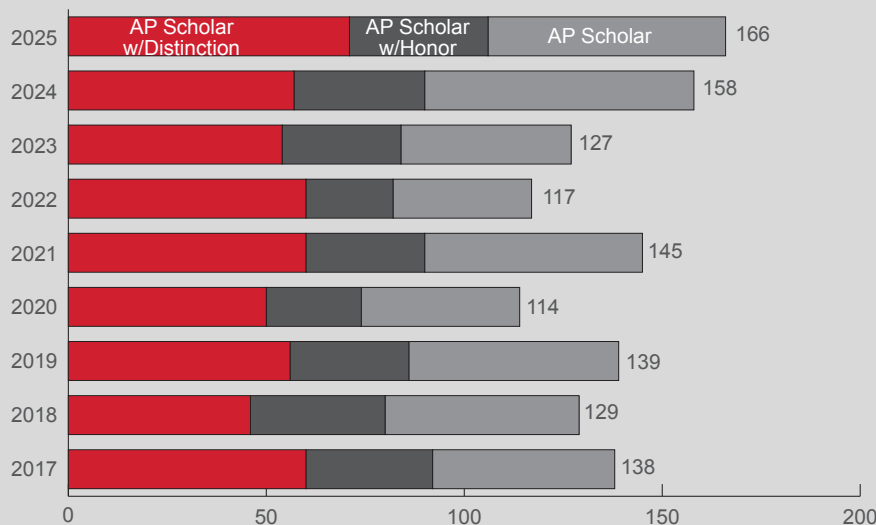
National Merit Scholarship Program



Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT – the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test – during the fall of their junior year.

Semifinalist: scores in the top 1% | **Commended Students:** scores in the top 3%

AP Scholars



AP Scholar with Distinction: average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams

AP Scholar with Honor: average score of 3.25 or higher on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams

AP Scholar: scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams

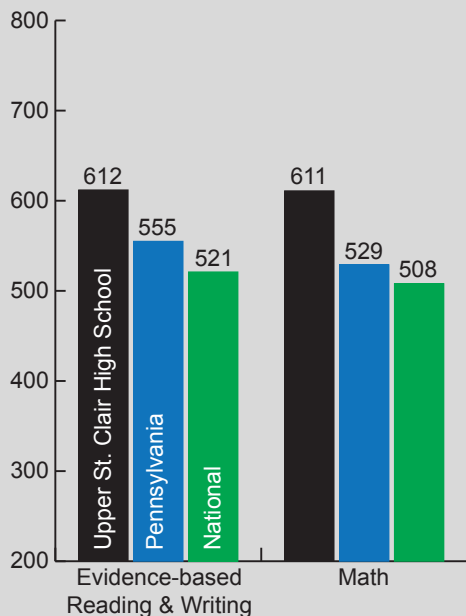
- USC is the seventh best school district in the United States and No. 1 in Pennsylvania for academic excellence and student outcomes, according to Money Inc.
- USC's elementary and middle schools rank among the top 1% in Pennsylvania, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Elementary Schools and Best Middle Schools rankings. Boyce and Fort Couch are the top two middle schools in Allegheny County. Among Pennsylvania's 2,384 middle schools, Boyce ranks No. 2 and Fort Couch ranks No. 8. Among Pennsylvania's 3,208 elementary schools, Baker ranks No. 7, Streams is No. 26 and Eisenhower rounds out at No. 27.
- USCHS ranks among the top 3% of high schools in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report's 2025-2026 Best High Schools rankings.
- Boyce and Fort Couch middle schools were recognized as Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch. They were first named Schools to Watch in 2008 and have earned re-designation in 2011, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2023 and now 2026.
- The sibling team of Josh and Matt Beitler, USCHS juniors, were named among the 100 Semifinalists in the 16th annual Solve for Tomorrow competition, sponsored by Samsung Electronics of America.
- Poems by Fort Couch seventh graders Sofia Khaydarova and Logan Dunkin and Boyce Middle School sixth grader Srinidhi Senthil Kumar were selected for publication in the Poetic Power Poetry Contest.

OUR STUDENTS

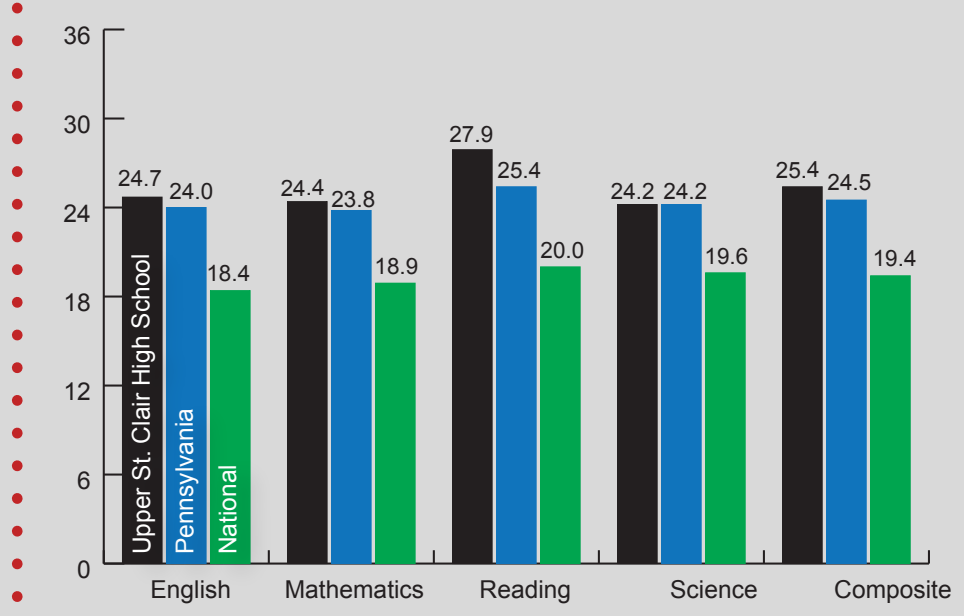


- USC has been honored with the 2025 Best Communities for Music Education designation for the 10th consecutive year.
- Four students earned recognition in the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. Awardees include USCHS students Sofia Jahn, Frankie Dubreil and Julia Campagna as well as Fort Couch Middle School student Matthew Campagna.
- 2025 graduate Carlee Santel successfully auditioned and was selected as Lead Trumpet in the PMEA All-State Jazz Band. She also placed first chair in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-Eastern Concert Band Ensemble.
- Senior Ava Wynne earned first place in the 2D Art & Design category of the Carnegie Library Teen Media Awards for her piece titled "Wistful Affection."
- Sophomore Cecily Unitas joined Atlanta-based singer/songwriter Jesse Ruben in a performance of his inspirational anthem "We Can," during the opening ceremony of the Autism Speaks Empower Walk & 5K Run in September.
- Fort Couch Middle School eighth-grader Kaaveri Patil was named a finalist in the 31st annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater.
- Freshman Shun Watanabe earned first place in the Freestyle Audio (Composition) category at Demosplash 2025, an annual electronic arts festival hosted by the Carnegie Mellon University Computer Club.
- The USCHS presented five sold out performances of "Mary Poppins" – featuring more than 100 students with additional student involvement on the stage crew and orchestra pit.
- Freshman Abigail Petras was selected for the FBI National Academy Associates Youth Leadership Program.
- Juniors Dylan Childs and Peter Markovitz along with their team, Team Panthers Kicking Cancer, raised \$41,658 as part of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2025 Student Visionaries of the Year program.
- The Revolution Robots, a FIRST LEGO League robotics team from Fort Couch Middle School, placed second in Robot Design and earned the Robot Design Finalist Award at the American Robotics Open Championship, in May 2025.
- The USCHS Esports Super Smash Bros. team captured the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League Spring State Title in May 2025 and finished second in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association Grand Finals.

2025 SAT averages



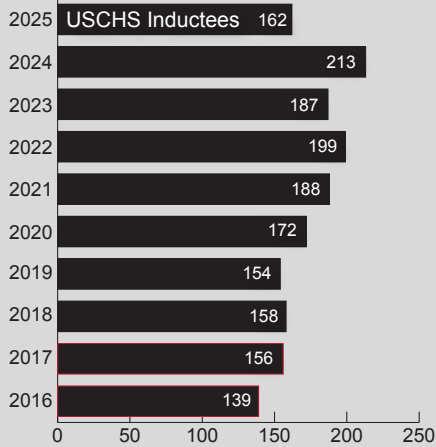
2025 ACT averages



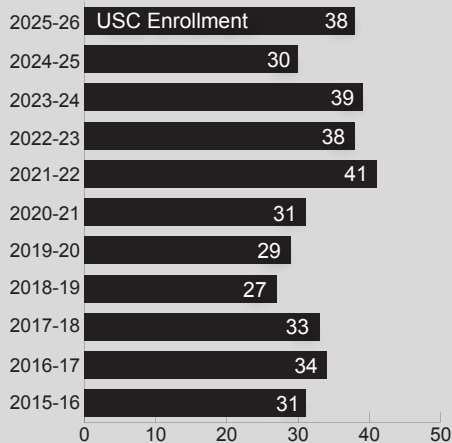


OUR STUDENTS

National Honor Society



Parkway West Career & Tech. Center



Parkway West's 16 programs prepare students for college and careers beyond high school: Auto Body Repair; Automotive Technology; Carpentry; Cosmetology; Culinary Arts; Cyber Security & Networking Technology; Diesel Technology; Electrical Systems Technology; Graphic Arts & Production Technology; Healthcare Occupations Technology; Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration; Power Motorsports Technology; Public Safety Technology; Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Therapy Technology; Veterinary Assistant Technology; and Welding & Fabrication Technology.

- The USCHS Speech & Debate Team won its sixth Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championship.
- A record 16 members of the USCHS Speech & Debate Team were named Academic All Americans by the National Speech & Debate Association.
- Three Fort Couch Middle School eighth graders placed in the top three in the nation in the 2025 PersonalFinanceLab Financial Literacy Challenge.
- Poems by Ojasi Madhekar and Vaishnavi Dabas were selected for publication in the 2025 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Anthology, distributed to all Allegheny County public and school libraries.
- For the third year in a row, a team from Fort Couch Middle School won the 2025 Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition – advancing to the national competition in Washington, D.C.
- 2025 graduate Ian Dvorin earned first place in Spreadsheet Applications at the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.
- Two USCHS teams qualified to compete at the National TEAMS Competition, where students collaboratively solve real-world engineering issues.
- USCHS robotics team TeraBridges 18603 finished eighth and earned the 1st Place Connect Award within its 64-team division at the 2025 FIRST Championship.
- USCHS 2025 graduate Tommy Slowey and senior Jeffery Zhang advanced in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO).



- USCHS Student Council was recognized as a 2025 National Council of Excellence by the National Association of Student Councils for the fifth time.
- Boyce Middle School sixth grader Sailee Kumar was named the winner in the Middle School Poetry category of the 40th annual Waldman Arts & Writing Competition.
- USCHS students raised \$38,467.42 through its all-night U-THON, which benefits the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.
- A Fort Couch team finished second and two USCHS teams placed second and third at the 2025 Future Problem Solving State Bowl.
- USCHS seniors Jamie Barrett and Yuhong Shi were named candidates in the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.
- In its second year, the USCHS girls flag football team won the 2025 Girls' Western Pennsylvania Flag Football Championship – defeating two-time defending champion Moon Area High School.

OUR STUDENTS



2025 Pennsylvania State Assessments

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure students' attainment of academic standards. The standards identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels.

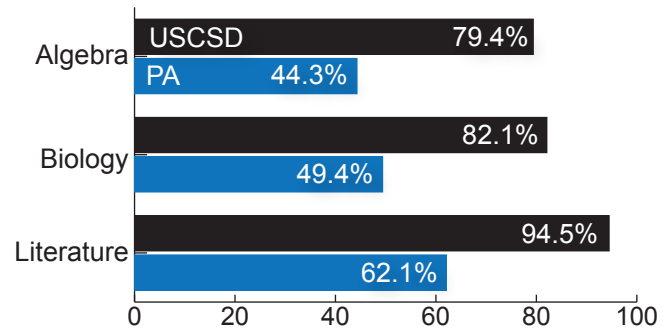
Students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed in English language arts and math. In 2025, testing in science shifted from grades 4 and 8 to grades 5 and 8, and incorporated new integrated STEELS standards (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability). The 2025 science assessment served as a field test; therefore, scores were not reported.

Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to measure proficiency in algebra, literature and biology. For most Upper St. Clair students, biology is completed in grade 9; literature in grade 10; and Algebra I ranges from as early as grade 6 through grade 9. The data below is for students in the Class of 2026 – regardless of when the Keystone Exam was administered.

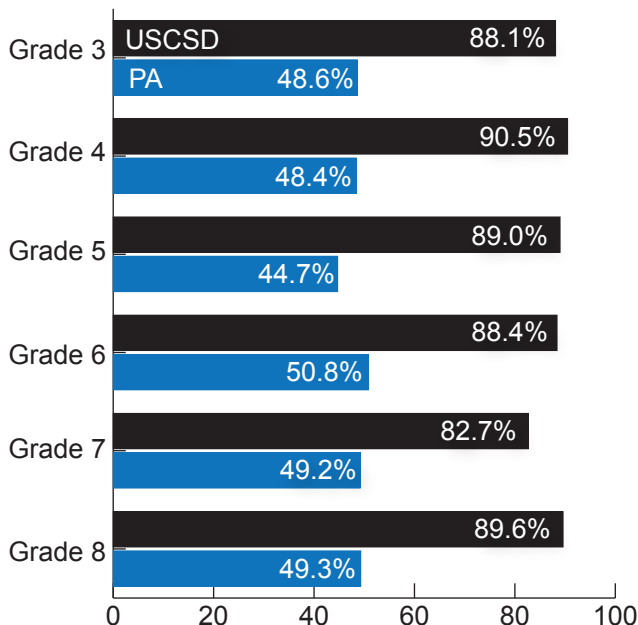
Did you know

Upper St. Clair ranks in the top 3% of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts in every subject at every grade level of the 2025 PSSA and Keystone exams.

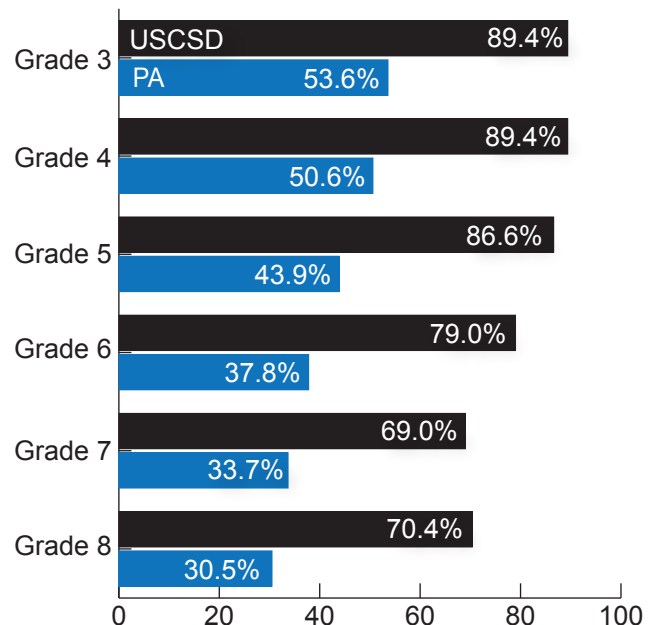
Keystone Exams



PSSA: English Language Arts



PSSA: Math





OUR STUDENTS & STAFF

2025 Varsity Athletics

PIAA

- Girls Basketball, Runner-up
- Boys Basketball, Semifinals

WPIAL Champions

- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball

WPIAL Runner-Up

- Boys Swimming

Section Champions

- Boys Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Girls Lacrosse
- Girls Volleyball



2025 WPIAL Champions

Our Staff

Thomas Kaminski, who began his teaching career 20 years ago at Fort Couch Middle School, returned to the district as the new principal at Boyce Middle School. He replaces Dr. Dan O'Rourke, who is transitioning to a district-level leadership role.



Tom Kaminski

Dr. Jennifer Kirk, USCHS counseling curriculum leader, was selected as an inaugural fellow in the Designing Your Life Fellowship, a national initiative launched by the National Association for College Admission Counseling in partnership with the Strada Education Foundation.



Dr. Jennifer Kirk

The district restructured the facilities and operations department – promoting Dan Snyder to director of operations and facilities and naming Dr. Lou Angelo director of administrative services – overseeing the areas of transportation and facility usage/permitting.



Dan Snyder



Dr. Lou Angelo

Michael Joyce joined the high school leadership team as an assistant principal in the fall. He most recently served as assistant principal at Elizabeth Forward High School.



Michael Joyce

USCHS esports coach Monica Erwin was selected as the Region 8 Lead for the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League, a leadership position that will shape scholastic esports across Southwestern Pennsylvania.



Monica Erwin

Aimee Mack, human resources representative, was promoted to human resources manager – overseeing employee recruitment and retention as well as employee relations.



Aimee Mack

Chelsea Martini was hired as the assistant director of special education in the student support services department. She previously served as a special education teacher in the South Fayette Township School District.



Chelsea Martini

USCHS teacher and USC Robotics coordinator Tracy Smith was named the 2025 Educator of the Year by the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania. The award recognizes educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching, community outreach and STEM education.



Tracy Smith

Did you know

Each school is staffed with full-time, certified school counselors and school nurses. In addition, four full-time school psychologists serve all six schools, providing expertise in supporting the social and emotional health of our students.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



2025-2026 Budget

The 2025-26 Upper St. Clair School District budget totals \$108,436,040 and includes a 3% millage increase of 0.9180 mills, resulting in a final millage rate of 31.5150.

Early in the budget process, the School Board adopted a resolution limiting any potential tax increase to within the inflationary index established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This action guaranteed that any increase to the real estate tax rate would not exceed 4% (1.2238 mills). The approved increase is well below that threshold, reflecting the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Budget Challenges

Three key factors negatively impacted the 2025-26 budget:

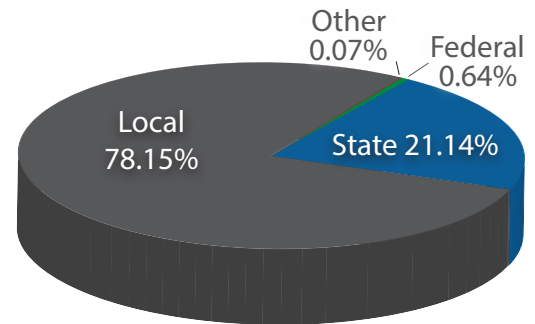
- **Allegheny County Common-Level Ratio:** The county's common-level ratio, a key factor in property assessments, has steadily declined from 100% in 2013 to 52.7% in 2025. As a result, the district anticipates a \$750,000 revenue loss tied to real estate tax refunds associated with this change.
- **Rising Healthcare Costs:** The cost of employee medical coverage increased by \$500,000 for 2025-26. Over the past three fiscal years, healthcare costs have risen 28.7%, totaling more than \$2 million in additional expenses.
- **Mandated State Retirement Contributions:** Required employer contributions to the state retirement system increased by \$400,000 compared to the prior year.

Staffing and Expenditures

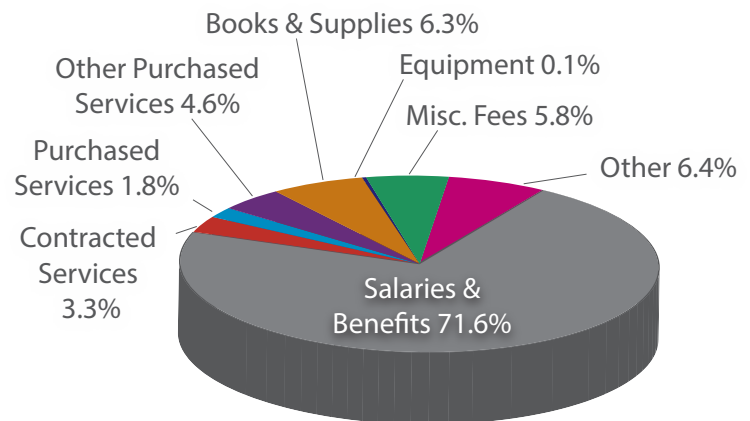
Salaries and benefits account for nearly 72% of total expenditures. The 2025-26 budget includes:

- The elimination of one classified staff position through attrition.
- The addition of one special education teacher and one support aide, funded through federal grants.
- Maintaining all other staffing levels, including leaving the assistant superintendent and senior director of operations and administrative services positions unfilled.

Revenue: \$107,664,683



Expenditures: \$108,436,040



To help balance the budget, the district is using a one-time allocation of \$725,000 from the fund balance to fully fund bus and technology equipment purchases.

Property Tax Relief

Qualifying homeowners continue to benefit from the homestead/farmstead exclusion, which reduces a home's assessed value by \$12,495.95, resulting in a real estate tax savings of \$393.81.

This property tax relief program is funded through gaming revenues collected from slot machines and casinos across Pennsylvania. The exclusion amount has steadily increased over the past three years, from \$294 in 2023 and \$354 in 2024 to the current level.

To qualify, a property must be an owner-occupied residence, and the homeowner must have filed and received approval for a Homestead Exemption Application with Allegheny County by March 1. Applications and additional information are available on the Allegheny County website.





CLASS OF 2025

Nearly 85% of the
college or univer
technical school

Where are they now?

Allegheny County Police Academy
Auburn University
Bella Capelli Academy
Bowling Green State University
Bucknell University
Canisius University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chatham University
Clemson University
Colgate University
Columbia College Chicago
Community College of Allegheny County
Community College of Beaver County
Denison University
Duquesne University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory & Henry University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Furman University
Gannon University
Geneva College
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Grove City College
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ithaca College
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Kenyon College
La Roche University
Lehigh University
Loyola University Chicago
Marietta College

Marshall University
McGill University
McMaster University
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
Messiah University
Miami University (Oxford)
Michigan State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania College of Technology
The Pennsylvania State University
Pellissippi State Community College
PennWest California
The Phelps School
Phillips Exeter Academy
Point Park University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Vincent College
Salve Regina University
Santa Fe College
Sciences Po (Paris)
Seton Hill University
Shenandoah University
Slippery Rock University
Smith College
South Hills Beauty Academy

Did you know

Nearly 85% of the USCHS Class of 2025 is attending a four-year college or university. 7% are attending a junior college, business or technical school and 8% entered the workforce or Armed Services.

Swarthmore College
Temple University
The College of Wooster
The George Washington University
The New School
The University of Alabama
University at Albany, SUNY
The University of Akron
University of California Berkeley
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Montana
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa

University of Tennessee Knoxville
University of Toledo
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Madison
Università Bocconi
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Waynesburg University
Wellesley College
West Virginia University
Westminster College
William & Mary



Did you know

USC's school safety team includes nine full-time, Act 120 School Police Officers, one Security Officer and one Safety Coordinator.

At least one officer is assigned to each of the District's six schools.

