

ELANCO EXTRA

Annual Report 2024-2025



Welcome to the Eastern Lancaster County School District and our annual report for the 2024-2025 school year.

This year has been one of meaningful change and continued progress for our district. From new faces joining our team to the transition of 6th grade into the middle school, each change reflects our shared commitment to growth and improvement.

Through all of these transitions, one thing has remained constant: the dedication of our students, staff, families, and community. Their resilience and collaboration have allowed us to not only adapt but to strengthen our focus on what matters most – providing an exceptional education and a supportive environment where every student can thrive.

Across our schools, we continue to emphasize both academic achievement and personal growth. Whether it's through innovative classroom instruction, expanded career and technical opportunities, or our ongoing investment in student well-being, we are preparing learners for success in a world that is constantly evolving.

As we look ahead, our priorities remain clear – to support our staff, engage our families, and create learning spaces that reflect the excellence and pride of our community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future of every student in ELANCO.

Jon Dahl,
ELANCO Board President



Front Row Board Members (L to R):
Brian Conroy, Gary Buck, Paul Irvin, Jacqueline Geyer, Thomas Wentzel

Back Row Board Members (L to R):
Jonathan Dahl, Jarod Hynson, Phil Stoltzfus, Bryan Naranjo



Student Representatives:
Nyla Forshee and Riley Arment

Dear ELANCO Community

It is my pleasure and honor to serve as the superintendent for our district. In ELANCO, our faculty, staff and administration work together to create a learning environment where each child is encouraged and coached to reach their goals and potential. Learning takes many forms, whether through engaging and rigorous experiences, clubs and activities that allow children to grow and shine outside of the classroom, performing arts and athletics that demonstrate the talents of individuals and groups, or engaging with our community in career coaching and development. In our school district, each child's path toward their future is unique, just as the combination of interests, talents and skills of each child is also unique.

“Across our schools, we continue to emphasize both academic achievement and personal growth.”

As you are reading through this annual report as a student, parent, employee, business owner or community member, I hope you see the many ways that our school district is preparing our children for their futures. Please join me in celebrating the hard work and significant effort put in by so many to make our district all that it is for our learners.

Thank you,
Michael Snopkowski,
Superintendent



ELANCO Highlights 2024-2025 Year-at-a-Glance

Teacher of the Year

Rachel Leister, 7th grade Garden Spot Middle School math teacher, was named Secondary Math Teacher of the Year by the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit and the Lancaster STEM Alliance. Rachel was selected in recognition of her instructional practices, relationship building and overall positive impact on the students she serves in her classroom.



Writing contest winner

Ava Reese, a fifth grade learner at New Holland Elementary, earned 1st place in the Junior Fiction category of the Hershey Story Museum Writing Contest. The



annual writing contest received over 300 entries from 5th-8th graders all across Central PA. Her historical fiction piece chronicled the plight of Cuban refugees in 1994. Ava was honored at the 36th annual Hershey Business Partners in Education Annual Breakfast on May 1st.

University Award Winner

Dave Smith, social studies teacher at Garden Spot Middle School, was awarded the Arcadia University 2024 Finbarr O'Connor Prize for Shifting the Paradigm,



along with a \$15,000 grant to invest in the Kiva program at Garden Spot Middle School.

Mock Crash Scene at Garden Spot High School

On April 17th, a mock crash scene was staged in the rear of the Garden Spot Secondary Campus to demonstrate the real and sometimes fatal effects of driving while impaired. The New Holland Police Department, New Holland Fire Department, and New Holland Ambulance were on site, along with support from local life flight helicopter crews, to dramatize the collision of two vehicles, the emergency personnel response, and the aftermath of the crash.



Principal Heather Schrantz and Assistant

Principal Andrew Kreider were invited to present at the National Conference on School Leadership, with a follow-up to last year's presentation on implementing a school-wide program to engage learners and support literacy development.

Skills USA Contest Winner

Sherry Finegan, a high school senior, won first place in the Skills USA Contest for Pennsylvania in the Advertising Design category. Skills USA represents nearly 400,000 career and technical education students and teachers in middle schools, high schools and college/post-secondary institutions nationwide.





ATHLETICS

ELANCO Highlights 2024-2025 Year-at-a-Glance

Mia Parry and Gavin Courtney both represented **Garden Spot** in the state championships in their respective sports during 2024-2025. Mia swam in the state championships in the 200M Individual Medley after taking 3rd in the same event in the District III Championships.



Gavin Courtney earned district, regional and also state championships this year, becoming the first **Garden Spot** bowler to earn distinction as the top bowler in Pennsylvania.



Senior **Cannon Youndt** was recognized as a World Champion archer on August 11th after a 3-day competition in West Virginia at the International Bow Hunting Organization (IBO) World Championships.

The fall **2024 Girls Volleyball team** was crowned as Section 2 Champions in the Lancaster-Lebanon League, qualifying for district playoffs and ending the season as the #4 team in class 3A.



Senior **Jake Conrad** became only the 14th basketball player to score at least 1,000 points for the Spartans. He ended his career scoring 1,093 total points for **Garden Spot High School**.

On May 21st, 15 seniors committed to playing an athletic sport at the collegiate level and participated in **Garden Spot Athletics Signing Day**. They were joined by family, friends, and faculty members.



GRADUATION

On May 30th, 2025, the Garden Spot High School class of 2025 celebrated its graduation in the high school gym. Senior speakers **Summer Stern and Morgan Watt** shared their hopes and dreams for the class, and encouraged all to find their voice through their words and stories of their time at Garden Spot. All told, 226 students graduated and are taking their lessons and learning with them to our military, workforce and continuing education.



Performing Arts

For its fall show, Garden Spot Performing Arts presented the murder-mystery-comedy “Clue,” based on the classic Parker Brothers board game, as well as the hit movie starring Tim Curry, Madeline Khan, and Christopher Lloyd. It had been nine years since GSPA last presented a timeless whodunit, and the ELANCO community turned out with enthusiastic support. In the spring, GSPA tread into uncharted territory; for the first time in the organization’s 57-year history they presented a work by Broadway’s most celebrated and exacting composer, Stephen Sondheim. Their production of “Into the Woods” featured over 100 young people on stage, in the pit, and behind the scenes.



High School Band

Band

Performers from our high school and middle school bands represented Garden Spot in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and Lancaster Lebanon Music Educators Association performances. The performers and events were PMEA District 7 Band South (**Isabella Campbell, Meredith Good and Bailey Sauder**), PMEA Region Band (**Isabella Campbell and Meredith**



Middle School Band

Good), LLMEA High School County Band (**Isabella Campbell, Meredith Good, Maggie Mull, Caylee Toland, Sarah White, and Elena Zimmerman**) and LLMEA Middle School County Band (**Lenore Demick, Kate Gehman, Emily Heller, Rylee Nolt, Mya Keepert, and Bailey Sauder.**)



PMEA District 7 Band South



PMEA Region Band

Chorus

Luke Canales, Lila Albertson, and Jenna Zueno represented the Garden Spot Senior High School Chorus at the LLMEA County Chorus Festival under the direction of Dr. Amy Vorhees of Susquehanna University.



PMEA Orchestra Representatives

Orchestra

In the spring semester of 2025, Garden Spot High School was represented at three PMEA festivals by some of our exemplary musicians. **Simon Wehn** on string bass and **Meredith Good** on French Horn both attended District 7 Orchestra and Central Region Orchestra. In April, Simon moved on from regions and had the honor of performing in the symphony orchestra at the PMEA state conference.

Grade Reconfiguration and Middle School Transition

The ELANCO School District made the decision during the 2024-2025 school year to realign the grade spans across all buildings and move 6th grade from each of



the elementary buildings to the secondary campus and create Garden Spot Middle School for grades 6-8. Planning occurred throughout 2024-2025, with monthly updates provided to the board and community at each Committee of the Whole meeting.

The conversion of the grade spans has also been accompanied by the implementation of teaming at the middle school, with teams of teachers and learners working together throughout the year. Each grade level is divided into two or three teams, depending on the total enrollment in the grade. The teams include core classes that all students attend each day in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies.

Learners also engage in learning across a variety of humanities classes, including art, music, technology education, STEM, physical education, health, and world languages. During 6th and 7th grades, students will rotate among the various options, and can also participate in the band, chorus or orchestra programs if they choose. Once in 8th grade, students are able to request specific humanities courses that align with their skills and future interests.

Heading into the summer of 2025, multiple events were planned for new students and their parents and guardians to visit the middle school, open lockers, and tour the building with schedules in hand. At the August visitation days, over 85% of incoming students visited the building and had the opportunity to meet their new teachers and tour the building. Moving forward, the middle school teachers, staff and administration will continue to gather feedback and input to make the experience for each child the best it can be.

ELANCO Comprehensive Plan Approved by School Board

Through a process involving teachers, students, parents, business partners, school board members and administrators, the ELANCO School District developed a comprehensive plan to guide its actions and choices. Approved by both the School Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the plan will be in effect from July 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2028 and will focus on creating the best conditions for learning across our district.

Begun during the fall of 2024, the action team analyzed the strengths and needs of our district and prioritized the actions to be taken to best prepare our learners for the future they want to pursue. To best make this possible, the three goals for the district are:

- Incorporate professional development that focuses on research-based instructional strategies in English Language Arts (structured literacy) and other content areas.
- Develop and implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support for secondary schools that mirrors the supports in our elementary buildings.
- Continue to develop a collaborative Professional Learning Community framework that continuously evaluates and enhances instructional practices across all classrooms for all learners.

Taken together, the approved goals are in line with ELANCO's plan to incorporate a High-Quality Academic experience through a Supportive Learning Environment that meets each learner's needs. Through this alignment and consistency, learners who graduate from Eastern Lancaster County School District will be prepared for their futures, regardless of the pathway that they choose to travel. Each ELANCO graduate will not only possess the understanding of core content but will also demonstrate the skills that will help them be successful in any environment, as well as continue to learn and grow to meet their personal and professional career goals and aspirations.



Athletics Comprehensive Plan

The ELANCO Athletics Department underwent a full analysis and planning process to examine the needs and future of athletics in the district. Incorporating feedback from coaches, players, parents and administrators, the action team worked to develop a plan through which each program in the district would perform at its best, while also supporting our community to provide opportunities beyond the interscholastic program at appropriate levels of competition.

Shared with the School Board in October, the plan provided a roadmap for the hiring of ELANCO's first full-time athletic director, Mr. Keith Blackwell, as well as direction related to structures, logistics, student involvement, publicity, and facilities. Matching the ELANCO community's engagement and support with a long-term plan and commitment for the experiences of our student-athletes is the clear aiming point for our athletic program and will be the guide to future financial, facility, and programmatic decisions.



Among many of the updates and changes discussed throughout the year, the ELANCO School Board tasked the administration to study and propose upgrades to the athletic facilities on the secondary campus. After considering school and community needs, the administration shared concepts for converting existing space behind the middle school to two synthetic playing surfaces, as well as adding lights, restrooms, and a concession stand. Approval of the conceptual design for this space is scheduled for the fall of 2025, with formal design and permitting to occur during the 2025-2026 school year. If all goes according to plan, the field construction will begin in the fall of 2026 with the fields ready for usage for the 2027-2028 school year.



ELANCO unveiled a new primary communication tool in the spring of 2025 in an effort to better connect with parents and community members and share the important information and news happening from within our classrooms and across our district. ParentSquare, which is now being used at the district, building and classroom levels, allows parents and guardians to engage in two-way communication with our administrators, teachers, staff, coaches and advisors. By sharing pictures, videos, schedules, sign-up forms and emergency updates, ParentSquare is simplifying the ways that our district and our community stay connected and engaged.



Blue Ball Elementary School

Building Life Skills Through a Snack Cart Program



During the 2024-2025 school year, Blue Ball Elementary Life Skills Learners gained real-world experiences through a creative and engaging program: the classroom snack cart. This initiative gave learners the opportunity to practice important life skills while providing a helpful service to teachers and staff.

Learners visited classrooms, greeted teachers, took orders, handled money, and delivered items with a smile. These everyday tasks reinforced valuable lessons in communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and customer service.

What might look like a simple snack delivery was, in fact, a hands-on learning experience. The snack cart program taught learners independence, responsibility, and workplace readiness—skills they can carry with them long after they leave Blue Ball Elementary.



Garden Spot Middle School

Project Linus Club



Garden Spot Middle School learners in the Project Linus club partnered with residents at Garden Spot Village to make handmade blankets for children in need. Project Linus is a national volunteer organization that focuses on making homemade blankets to provide warmth and comfort to ill and traumatized children in hospitals and shelters. Known as “Blanketeers”, learners traveled to Garden Spot Village during their club periods, partnering together to knit and sew the blankets that were later donated to the local Lancaster County chapter. Newly retired school counselor, Mrs. Nancy Schwabe-Fry, indicated several hundred blankets were made and donated over the past several years.

Closures and Cancellations

In case of closures due to weather, emergency or other unforeseeable circumstances, information will be sent to parents and guardians via the annual contact information updates on file for each learner, broadcast on WGAL-TV8, as well as posted on the district website and district social media.

Safe2Say Reporting

We encourage our learners as well as parents and guardians that **if you see something, say something** to school personnel or local law enforcement. Each report of concerning behavior is taken seriously by the ELANCO team and will be investigated. ELANCO also receives information from state law enforcement if a tip is anonymously submitted through the Safe2Say Something website or tipline (844.723.2729), so if you or your child do not feel comfortable contacting the school, these resources are available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Notice of Special Education Services

In compliance with state and federal laws, Eastern Lancaster County School District hereby gives notice that it conducts ongoing activities to identify learners who may be in need of various learner services including special education and related services, services for protected handicapped learners, and services for gifted learners.



<https://www.elanco.org/programs/special-education/annual-notice>

Special Education (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2007)

If you believe your school-age child may be eligible as a child with a disability and in need of special education and related services, screening and evaluation processes are available to you at no cost upon written request. These processes are designed to assess your child's needs and determine eligibility. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, even if your child is not enrolled in the District's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening should be made in writing to the Building Principal. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

- a. Autism
- b. Emotional Disturbance
- c. Hearing Impairment, including Deafness
- d. Intellectual Disability
- e. Multiple Disabilities
- f. Orthopedic Impairment
- g. Other Health Impairment
- h. Specific Learning Disability
- i. Speech and Language Impairment
- j. Traumatic Brain Injury
- k. Visual Impairment, including Blindness

Children age three through the age of admission to the first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and as a result, need Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists:

- a. The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas or

- b. The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviation below the mean on a standardized test. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help.

For additional information you may contact the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 Early Intervention Program at (717) 606-1601.

Service Agreement Plans (Section 504 of Americans with Disabilities Act)

Eastern Lancaster County School District provides to each protected handicapped learner related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the public school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the child's abilities. Services are provided without discrimination or cost to the child or family.

To qualify for services under Section 504, the child must be school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the public school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped learners" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional learners enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in the special education programs.

Gifted Education Programs (Chapter 16)

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of gifted support services, screening and evaluation processes are available to you at no cost upon written request. These processes are designed to assess the learner's needs and determine eligibility. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, even if your child is not enrolled in the District's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening need to be made in writing to the Building Principal.

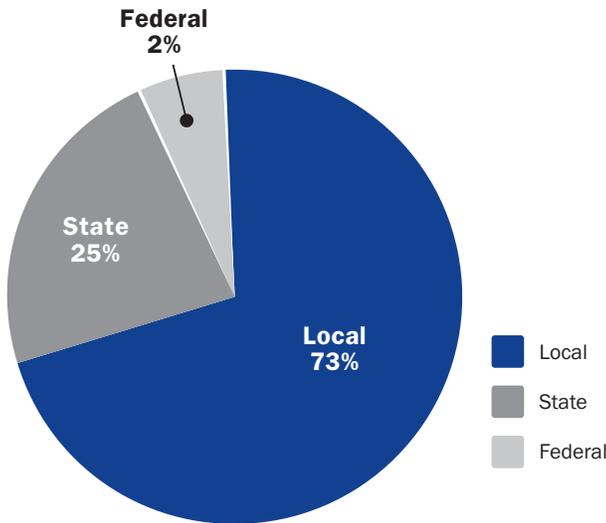
Attendance Requirements

Attendance shall be required of all learners between the ages of 6 and 18 enrolled in district schools during the days and hours that school is in session. Parents or guardians of all children between the ages of 6 and 18 are required by the compulsory attendance law to ensure that their children attend an approved educational institution, unless legally excused.

ELANCO continues to be the 2nd lowest taxing district in Lancaster County

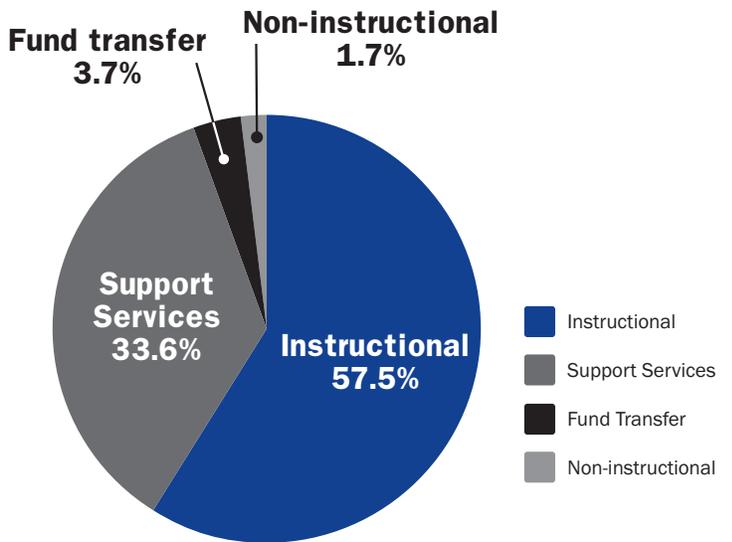
Revenues
(By Source)

The district receives most of its revenues from local sources, primarily from taxes. This is followed by state funds and lastly from the federal government in the form of grants.



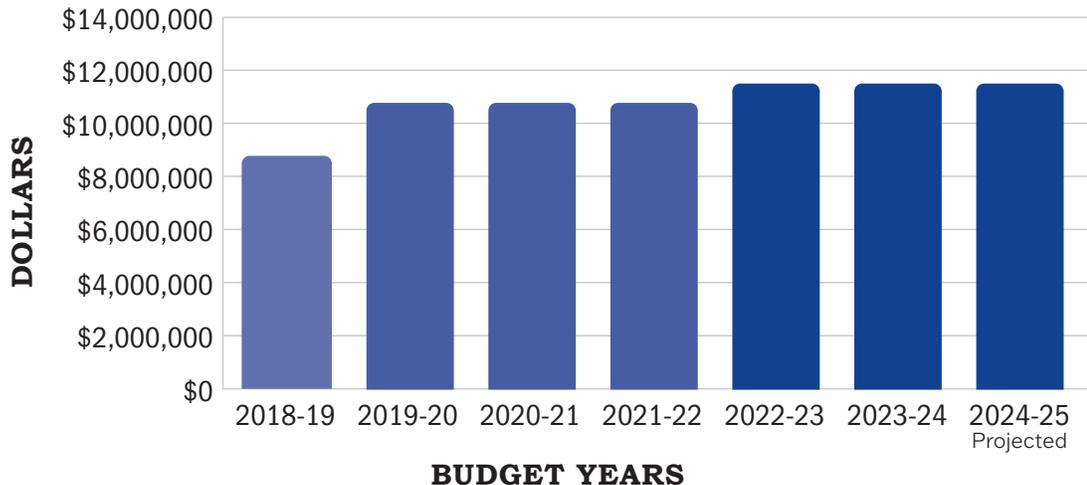
Expenditures
(By Program)

The greatest district expenditures are associated with instructional costs. These expenditures include all costs associated with classroom instruction (i.e. teachers, supplies, curriculum, etc.) and Support Services which include all costs to support classroom instruction (i.e. school counselors and nurses, librarians, principals, etc.). Instructional and Support Services account for 94.5% of the total costs. Fund Transfer is to transfer funds to the capital reserve fund for future construction projects. Non-Instructional expenditures are for student activities and athletics.



Fund Balance History
(Operating Budget Only)

Fund balance is the funds accumulated over time that are available for any purpose, as well as for specific purposes, such as, retirement costs, technology purchases and learning loss costs. As the charts shows, the district has maintained a healthy and consistent fund balance, providing flexibility in meeting new or unexpected costs in the future.



GETTING INVOLVED

The ELANCO School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE) and believes in partnering with the local community to meet the needs of our learners and their families. There are many ways in which you can support and serve ELANCO as a district employee, a contracted employee through STS or Brightbill, a shadowing, co-op or intern business sponsor, or as a volunteer in our classrooms, activities, and athletics. To pursue any of these options, please follow the QR code next to the description of each opportunity.

ELANCO

The ELANCO Human Resource team regularly posts and updates job opportunities within our district. These include professional openings, staff openings, coaching, and advisory positions.

Substitute Teacher Service (STS)

Classroom substitutes, paraprofessionals, personal care assistants (PCAs), cafeteria workers and other important roles are staffed through STS and are available across all of our schools.

Brightbill Transportation

Bus and van drivers are contracted through Brightbill Transportation. Varying options and schedules are available and may also include out-of-district trips for athletics and activities.

Shadowing, Co-Ops and Internships

Local businesses play a critical role in the education of our learners. Without participation from local partners, the experiences of our learners would look very different and not fully prepare them for success in our community and beyond. If you'd like to learn more about how to open your business to ELANCO learners, or to attend any of our educational programs or job fairs, please contact us!

Volunteering

ELANCO schools and activities are made better by the volunteers who support our district and expand the opportunities available for our learners. During the 24-25 school year almost 900 adults served across the schools in our district and provided access to activities that would not have been possible without their support. Interested individuals need to complete a volunteer packet and receive board approval.



**ELANCO
Human
Resources**



**Substitute
Teacher
Service
(STS)**



**Brightbill
Transportation**



Volunteers



**Garden Spot
Pathways
to Success**



Eastern Lancaster County School District

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