



There were 617 graduates in the Class of 2025.



To ensure every student has opportunities to grow, thrive, and fulfill their potential through caring, responsive education

The Year in Review



Annual Report

2024-2025

Our District

Situated in the heart of Pennsylvania, the State College Area School District serves a diverse community that combines a growing college town with suburban neighborhoods and working farms in the countryside. As the area's fourth-largest employer, SCASD draws its students from a 150-square-mile attendance area encompassing the Borough of State College and five surrounding townships.

Across eight elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school, and the Delta Program for middle and high school levels, our District annually serves an enrollment of about 6,800. Each year, our faculty and staff dedicate themselves to providing the best possible academic experiences for students — from an innovative STEM program for grades K-5, to the middle school foreign language classes, to the diverse array of high school courses that include AP, Advanced, International Baccalaureate, and Career and Technical Center opportunities. Our art, library, and music departments districtwide excel in their fields; in fact, over the past decade the District has perennially received the Best Communities for Music Education Award. At the high school alone, students can choose from 74 clubs and activities, including 22 musical ensembles and 32 athletic teams.

Within this dynamic environment, our teachers and students shine. SCASD routinely garners awards for teaching, and District schools annually are highly ranked in state and national lists for instruction and learning opportunities. Over the years, numerous State High students have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars, a rare honor, and each class typically includes several National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Additionally, we take pride in our mental health and special education services, counseling department, intervention programs, learning enrichment, and individualized education plans to accommodate the needs of all students. Our District is fully committed to promoting responsive instruction, equity, inclusion, and restorative practices so that all students, faculty, and staff feel welcome and supported. In everything we do, we strive to meet the objectives spelled out in our comprehensive plan and fulfill our core mission: To ensure every student has opportunities to grow, thrive, and fulfill their potential through caring, responsive education.



For the first time, the Pennsylvania Art Education Association honored the Art Department with its Outstanding Visual Arts Community award.

Vision Statement

The State College Area School District, in a mutually respectful partnership with the greater community, will dedicate themselves every day through evidence-based curricula and practices to achieving excellence in education as a model District. Our schools will be safe, welcoming, inclusive, and innovative spaces, where every student is empowered to acquire the knowledge, skills, confidence, and adaptability to thrive in a dynamic world. Civility and respect will guide our schools as we commit to embracing diverse voices and perspectives.

Demographics

Special Education: 13%	
Gifted: 7.6%	
English Language Learners: 3.6%	
Economically Disadvantaged: 20.7%	
<div></div> American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.2%
<div></div> Asian	9.1%
<div></div> Black	2.7%
<div></div> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.1%
<div></div> Hispanic	4.6%
<div></div> White	75.9%
<div></div> 2 or More Races	7.5%

Year in Review

SCASD began the 2024-2025 school year with a new mission statement: To ensure every student has opportunities to grow, thrive, and fulfill their potential through caring, responsive education. The updated mission statement, as well as new vision and values statements, were developed as part of the 2024-2027 Future Ready Comprehensive Plan.

Elementary students returned to school in the fall to a new, unified Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program called STAR (Show Kindness, Take Responsibility, Act Safely, Ready to Learn). The District also enlisted community businesses and organizations, like Schlow Library, to distribute tickets recognizing students who demonstrated STAR expectations.

In November, Mount Nittany Middle School student Cooper Palma received the 2024 Distinguished Student Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education. That same month, Gregg Wilson was approved by the Board to be the new Gray's Woods Elementary School principal.

The District formally joined a multi-agency solar power project in the fall when the Board approved the 15-year Solar Power Purchase Agreement.

In 2024, the CEEL before- and after-school program became certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and continues to be a trusted resource for families seeking high-quality out-of-school programming.

Girls Wrestling debuted as a new PIAA winter sport. Athletics overall marked a banner year, with the State High boys cross country team and boys track and field team each winning state championships. Across all sports, eight student-athletes were individual champions.

In February, long-time State High



School Resource Officer John Aston, pictured above, walked through the school one last time as the halls were lined with cheering students, faculty, and staff after his retirement.

After offering the IB program in the high school for five years, the Board decided to phase it out over the next two years to ensure all students could still receive their IB diplomas.

In the spring, the District reviewed and enhanced its safety measures following a thwarted safety threat at the high school.

State College Area High School received the 2025 School of Distinction Gold Award from the Jostens Renaissance program. Only three schools were recognized in Pennsylvania, with State High being the only gold winner.

In April, the District added hearing assistance devices in the Panorama Village boardroom as part of a larger focus on ADA accessibility that also included new school websites.

As the year concluded, District Food Service staff continued

the Summer Food for All program, providing 70,000 meals that fed as many as 900 students each week.

And the District continued preparing for the Delta Programs to become official middle and high schools at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Quick Facts

- » 1,949 Individuals employed
- » 6,800 Students
- » 617 Students in Class of 2025
- » 4th Largest county employer
- » Average elementary class size: 20
- » Average grades 6-8 class size: 23
- » Teachers' average years: 15
- » National Merit finalists: 10
- » 11th best district in Pennsylvania out of 500: Niche.com
- » \$219 million in total expenses
- » 99.03% graduation rate
- » 674 Professional employees (teachers, nurses, counselors, psychologists)
- » 19 Professional employees with doctorates

Growing all Learners K-8

The 2024-2025 school year began with all eight SCASD elementary schools and both middle schools being recognized among the Best Schools in Pennsylvania by U.S. News & World Report. Every school achieved this distinction, earning a place within the top 40% statewide, and both middle schools showed impressive gains, with Park Forest Middle School ranking 82nd in the state.

The acclaim for serving our students’ needs continued when the District was deemed an exemplary program for our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in K-5 by PaTTAN. Our framework now serves as a model for enhancing all students’ academic, behavioral, and social-emotional well-being.

This success is built on the foundation of our exceptional educators who are among the best in the nation, according to Niche.com rankings. The popular school ranking site placed SCASD at 127th on its list of districts with the Best Teachers in America and 10th best in Pennsylvania. That means our teachers are in the top 1.1% in the country and top 2% in the state.

Over the course of the year, the District continued to work on ways to enhance our educational programming and target students’ diverse needs. This effort led to adding an additional 30 minutes



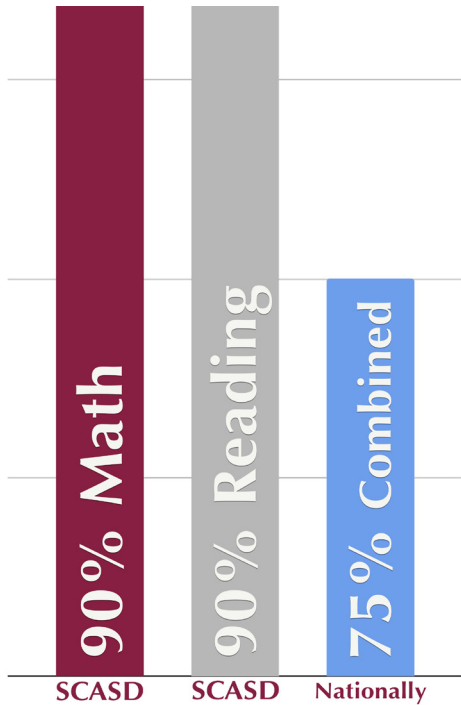
Radio Park Elementary School second grade teacher Kate Hallinger received the Penn State College of Education Alumni Society’s Outstanding New Graduate Award.

of ELA each day for individual and small group instruction in K-5.

In January, the District convened a districtwide team tasked with reviewing and then updating our K-12 math resources and curriculum. At the same time, a revamp of our elementary progress reports was underway to align them with current standards and make them more parent-friendly.

We believe students thrive with varied and engaging instructional experiences that fulfill their academic and social-emotional

needs. For the year, 97% of fourth and fifth graders participated in at least one in-school or extra-curricular activity. This was achieved by maintaining choir, band, and orchestra in the school day as well as adding more intramural activities to grades K-8 like bowling, kayaking, and the Girls on the Run program.



Measuring Success

We use multiple assessments to evaluate student performance in order to continually adapt instruction. One example is our district-wide Measures of Academic Progress assessment results, which reflect our commitment to growth for all students.

In 2024-2025, each of our quartiles of elementary and middle school students demonstrated an average of

a year or more worth of growth in math and reading.

Right: Overall, students in grades 2-8 performed at the 90th percentile nationally for math and reading, compared to the national average of the 75th percentile for both. Additionally, over 47% of our students performed in the top quartile in both reading and math, compared to only 25% nationally.

Secondary Students 9-12

State College Area High School provides challenging academic courses, comprehensive career and technical education, and diverse extracurricular activities, contributing to it being ranked 38th out of 741 Pennsylvania public high schools by U.S. News and World Report and in the top 2% of Niche.com’s equivalent rankings. Niche.com also ranked the faculty in the top 2% statewide for quality of instruction.

State High consistently places graduates in the nation’s top universities and colleges. From the Class of 2025, Penn State accepted 274. SAT scores annually surpass state and national averages, and athletic teams, music ensembles, and clubs consistently garner honors. The 2025 graduating class of 617 included 268 Faculty Scholars (GPA of 4.00 or 3.75 unweighted).

During the school year, 73% of students took rigorous courses, compared to the statewide average of 57%. Learning also occurred outside classrooms. Dozens of students received off-campus enrichment opportunities beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum, including Learning Enrichment, Advanced Option, independent study, research, lab experiences, Penn State courses, mentorships, and internships.

SAT Scores	Reading and Writing	Math
State High	621	605
State Average	550	529
National Average	532	511



State High had 10 National Merit Scholarship finalists.

617 Graduates
83% Attended college



Class of 2025 Valedictorian Max Bodner, left, and Salutatorian Constantine Pan.

High School

- » 2,221 Total students 9-12
- » 99.03% Graduation rate
- » 74 Activities and clubs
- » 32 Athletic teams
- » 73 Advanced Placement and advanced courses
- » 16 International Baccalaureate World Campus courses
- » 13 Career and Technical Center programs
- » 22 Bands, orchestras, choirs, string ensembles, and rock ensembles

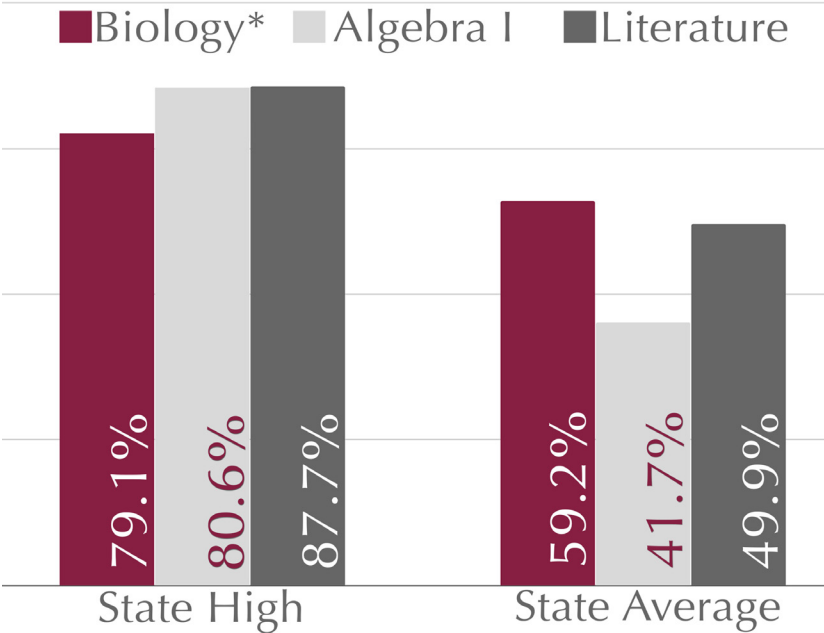
Advanced Placement

1,438 AP tests were taken with a maximum score of 5

- 92% Scored a 3 or higher
- 225 AP Scholars with an average score of 4.21

The Keystone Exams

State High students annually outperform the state average on the Keystone Exams. The chart below shows a comparison of State High students who achieved proficiency vs. the PA state average for Keystone test scores in 2024-2025.



*2023-2024 data due to Future Ready PA waiver participation.

Finance

Historically, SCASD schools have benefited from strong community support for public education and consistent revenue streams from a stable economy centered around Penn State University. Total revenues and other financing sources for 2024-2025 were \$209,037,000, which is primarily funded by local revenue totaling \$164,512,000 (79%). The local revenues are derived primarily from levying taxes such as real estate tax, earned income tax, and real estate transfer tax: \$122,957,000, \$22,746,000, and \$3,842,000, respectively. Local revenues increased approximately \$8,720,000 compared to the prior year. Real estate taxes, including supplemental tax billings, increased \$6,815,665, primarily related to the District increasing the real estate tax rate by 2.65% (Act I Index was 5.3%) or 1.3146 mills resulting in a total of 50.9228 mills.

The District continued to offer the Supplemental Property Tax Rebate Program for its 10th year and issued 268 rebates totaling \$106,895. Additionally, each approved District homestead and farmstead received approximately \$168 in property tax relief.

Revenue Sources

Local: \$164,512,174: 79%

State: \$40,698,840: 19%

Federal: \$1,702,286: 1%

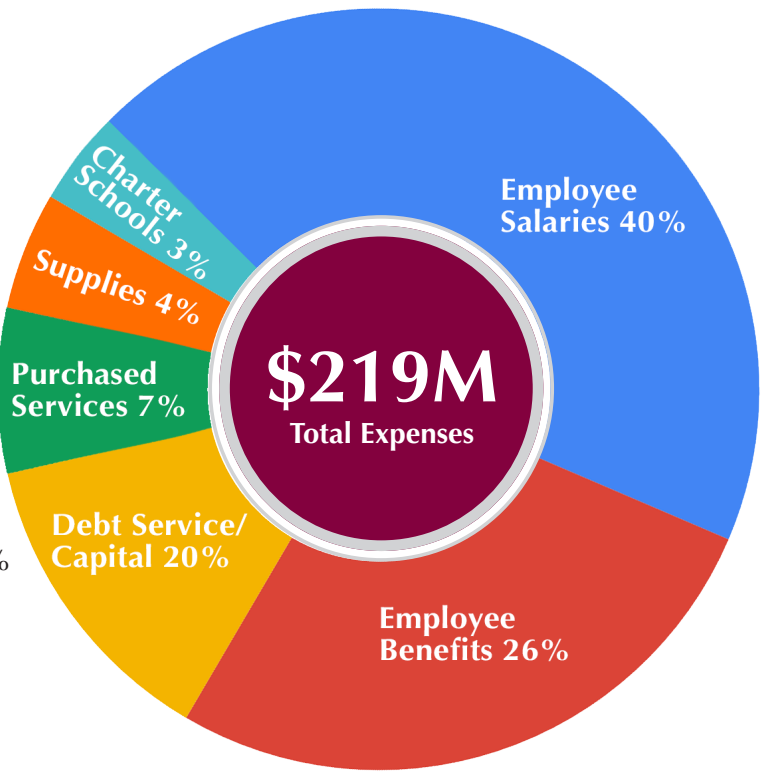
Other: \$2,124,090: 1%

social security and retirement costs. State revenues increased \$3,262,000. This change was due to the basic education subsidy increasing by \$1,285,519, revenue for retirement reimbursement increasing by \$647,634, and other state revenue (comprising primarily of PCCD and PHEAA grants) increasing by \$653,581. Federal revenues decreased by \$304,000, consistently lower across all programs. In addition, due to the District entering into long-term software agreements, financial reporting standards required the recognition of other financing sources in the amount of \$2,124,000 to offset the software expenses.

88%

of the budget is used directly to support student learning.

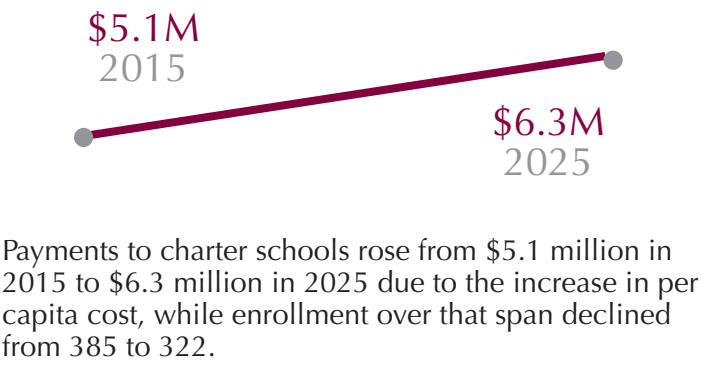
Expenditures and other financing uses for the 2024-2025 fiscal year were \$218,543,000 compared to the 2023-2024 fiscal year of \$193,518,000 (12.9% increase). Salaries and benefits increased by \$6,192,000, mostly due to salaries and PSERS expenses increased by \$5,076,000 and \$1,359,000, respectively. Increases in other benefits were proportional with the increase in salaries. Other purchased services



increased \$892,000 due to a rise in charter school costs (\$391,000) and other tuition costs associated with special education (\$402,000). Supplies and property increased approximately \$2,265,000 primarily due to costs associated with long-term software expenses. Other uses of funds increased approximately \$15,350,000 primarily due to the costs associated with the transfer of funds (\$9,393,000) to one of the District's Internal Service Funds to cover health insurance costs and an increased amount being transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund for future capital needs (\$5,862,406).

Charter School Expenses

The District's payment of \$6.3 million to charter schools for 322 students represented 3% of the budget. The amount was based on a state formula calculated using the District's actual per capita costs. While the District funds charter schools as required, it maintains no financial, academic, or operational supervision, nor does it have annual evaluative authority over them.



Facilities

Work continued in 2024-2025 on the District Wide Facilities Master Plan, which includes planning for the proposed new Park Forest Middle School building. These efforts also focused on assessing building conditions throughout the District, sustainability, and transportation, playground, and athletic program needs. Community forums were held in September 2024 and May 2025.

The board approved 60% plans for the new Park Forest Middle School building in May 2025. The new school would be constructed on a tract across Valley Vista Drive from the current school, next to Circleville Park. The proposed project is expected to break ground in 2026 and be ready for students sometime in the 2028-2029 school year.

Work began in 2025 on the 40,000-square-foot expansion at Mount Nittany Elementary School. A third wing is being built, adding six core classrooms. The wing will also contain a STEM classroom, an instructional music room, a cafeteria/kitchen, and spaces for autistic support and small group instruction. Construction is expected to take 18 months, with the building finished by July 2026.

In October 2024, the District's Information Technology offices moved to a new location in the recently renovated North Annex



DWFMP community forum at Park Forest Middle School.

Building, the former location of the Career and Technical Center (CTC) on the high school's north campus. The Virtual Academy and RIT programs also moved into space in the building in 2025.

In February 2025, Physical Plant and Facilities moved into its new 10,000-square-foot building between Community Field and the north building. In addition, more than 20 smaller projects with a combined cost of less than \$1 million were also completed districtwide.

Right: A crane lowers a beam into place during Mount Nittany Elementary expansion project construction.



Centre County School Tax Comparison

District	Mills	Median Assessed Value	Real Estate Tax	Earned Income Tax*	Total Tax
SCASD	50.9228	\$74,208	\$3,779	\$733	\$4,512
Bellefonte	54.3495	\$48,463	\$2,634	\$810	\$3,444
Bald Eagle	61.9800	\$35,680	\$2,211	\$1,581	\$3,792
Penns Valley	51.4177	\$46,175	\$2,374	\$1,002	\$3,376

*EIT Based on Centre County median household income of \$77,110.

Awards & Recognitions

Faculty & Staff



State High's Morgan Inhoof won the 2025 Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators Northern Region Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award.

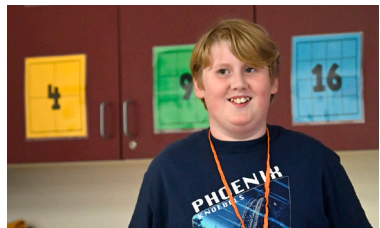


State High Mental Health Clinician Elisabeth James received the 2024 Yale Educator Award from the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions.



Rebecca Donaghue, coach for State High cross country and track teams, was named the PA Track & Field Coaches Association Boys Coach of the Year for 2024 and the USTFCCA PA Coach of the Year.

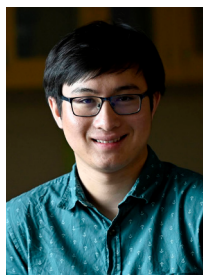
Track coach Artie Gilkes was recognized by the Brooks Inspiring Coaches Program.



Mount Nittany Middle School's Cooper Palma was named the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education Distinguished Middle School Student of the Year for 2024.



State High Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Zach Lorber, left, was named the PA Restaurant & Lodging Association Educational Foundation's 2025 ProStart Educator of Excellence. Tristan Rogers, center, won a gold medal at the SkillsUSA state culinary competition.



Aaron Le received "Honors" recognition for his performance in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad, placing him in the top 150 nationally.

The Delta Program sixth grade team of Nora Wang, Josie Hughes, Kirby McCutchen, Oskar Goldberg, Oli Kissling, Samuel Adler Ortiz, Vinny Gratz, and Blake Schulman took first nationwide in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl competition.



Noah Radio was selected for the AI Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference as Pennsylvania's representative, the first State High student to receive the honor.

State High's Heidi Egerer was elected Pennsylvania District Governor of Key Club International, the first State High student to hold the position since the District's founding in 1947.



The MNMS Quiz Bowl team notched first nationally with a perfect score at the Fall Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl Competition.



State High TSA team members placed in the top 10 in 12 events, including finishing second in two events, at the National TSA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee after winning six championships at the Pennsylvania State Competition.

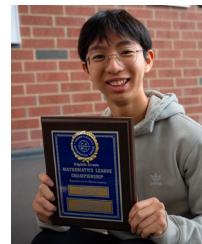
PFMS TSA team members captured three national championships and finished second in three other events at the National TSA Conference and won nine state championships at the PA State Competition.



Mount Nittany Middle School won the state Mathcounts Championship, with Franklin Hsu the individual champion.

Middle school students Emil Itskov-Curto, Viniv Monga, Isabella Song, and Miranda Zhu recorded perfect records in the Intermediate Math League of Pennsylvania season.

PFMS student Suhnjun Choi earned a perfect score and was ranked first in the state in the Math League Championship 2024-2025 contest, the second year in a row that he achieved a perfect score.



Athletics



The State High boys cross country team won a state championship, the program's first since 1986.



State High's Molly Workman and Sam Huggins won gold medals in the 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle, respectively, at the state swimming and diving competition. Workman broke a state record and Huggins set a school record. Workman also won a gold in the 50 freestyle, breaking the school record.



The State High Boys Track and Field team won the state outdoor track and field championship. Gold medals went to Jesse Myers in the 200-meter dash, Adam Bell in the pole vault, and Nate Haas in the javelin. Myers also won a gold medal in the 200-meter dash, setting a state meet record time of 21.08 seconds, at the state indoor track and field competition.



State High's Asher Cunningham won a state wrestling title in the 172-pound class.

State High's Ty Salazer won the Big School Mr. PA Football Award, recognizing the top player in the state across the 4A, 5A, and 6A divisions.

Arts



State High Thespians received Isaac Awards for their spring production, Urinetown. Luca Snyder won in the Best Supporting Actor in a Male Role category for his performance as Officer Lockstock. Two runner-up awards were Best Ensemble for "The Law" number and Student Crew, consisting of Ivan Atwood, Jessie Cozine, Eros Hernandez, and Alex Sisler, for set construction.

Music



For its music education program, the district received the Best Community for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants for the 21st time.

State High's William Liu was named the runner-up in the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra's 2025 Young Artists Competition.

PFMS 7th/8th Grade Orchestra, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band received superior ratings at an adjudication festival, with all three voted best overall in their categories. The 8th Grade Choir received an excellent rating. Addy Leroy won the best overall soloist award, and the ensembles collectively won Esprit de Corps award.



MNMS 7th/8th Grade Orchestra, Clef Hangers, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band also received superior ratings, with both the symphonic and jazz bands voted best overall. The 8th Grade Choir received an excellent rating. Nate Tindall won the best overall soloist award.

Directory

www.scasd.org

Elementary Schools (K-5)

Corl Street Elementary

235 Corl Street
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Kelly Mark, principal
814-231-1185
Enrollment: 250

Easterly Parkway Elementary

234 Easterly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Meredith Henderson, principal
814-231-1170
Enrollment: 314

Ferguson Township Elementary

215 West Pine Grove Road
Pine Grove Mills, PA, 16868
Kara Treweek, principal
814-231-4119
Enrollment: 287

Gray's Woods Elementary

160 Brackenbourne Drive
Port Matilda, PA, 16870
Gregg Wilson, principal
814-235-6100
Enrollment: 356

Mount Nittany Elementary

700 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Beth Solensky, principal
814-272-5970
Enrollment: 413

Park Forest Elementary

2181 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Dr. Jessica Quinter, principal
814-231-5010
Enrollment: 419

Radio Park Elementary

800 West Cherry Lane
State College, PA, 16803
Alex Raup, principal
814-231-4115
Enrollment: 424

Spring Creek Elementary

217 Scholl Street
State College, PA, 16801
Paul Brigman, principal
814-231-5026
Enrollment: 360

Middle Schools (6-8)

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive
State College, PA, 16801
Brian Ishler, principal
814-272-4050
Enrollment: 752

Park Forest Middle School

2180 School Drive
State College, PA, 16803
Dr. Karen Wiser, principal
814-237-5301
Enrollment: 822

State College Area High School

650 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Laura Tobias, principal
814-231-1111
Enrollment: 2,221

Programs

Delta Middle Level (6-8)

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000
Enrollment: 136

Delta High School Level (9-12)

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Dr. Jon Downs, director
814-231-1000
Enrollment: 159

Virtual Academy

653 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA, 16801
Rebecca Michaels, assistant principal
814-231-1011 x2864
Enrollment: 165
10 (K-5), 25 (6-8), 130 (9-12)



The 2024 State College Area High School Homecoming Queen Genavieve Clayton and King Luca Snyder. Photo by Ellory Potter

Board of Directors

Dr. Aaron Miller

Jackie Huff

Dr. Anne Demo

Dr. Carline Crevecoeur

Dr. Deborah Anderson, Vice

President

Curtis Johnson, Superintendent

Dr. Amy Bader, President

Dr. Peter Buck

Gretchen Brandt

Dan Kolbe

Pictured left to right

Email: all-board@scasd.org



Administration

Curtis Johnson

Superintendent of Schools

Randy Brown

Finance and Operations Officer and
Open Records Officer

Dr. Jonathan Bucher

Assistant Superintendent of
Secondary Education

Christine Merritt

Supervisor of Curriculum K-12

Michelle Simpson

Human Resources Executive
Director, Compliance/Title IX Officer

Danielle Yoder

Assistant Superintendent of
Elementary Education

Annually, students in grades K-12 present works of art to administrators and members of the Board of Directors. Each art teacher chooses one piece of art to donate, including this drawing for Superintendent Curtis Johnson.



Directors

Stephanie Beaver, Director of Student Services

Tonya Black, Director of Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Mike Fisher, Director of Physical Plant

Justin Hetrick, Director of Technology

Dr. Jonathan Klingeman, Director of MTSS and
Intervention Support

Dr. Ben Mordan, Director of the CTC

Dr. Heather Pringle, Director of Special Education

Chris Rosenblum, Director of Communications

Megan Schaper, Director of Food Services

Van Swauger, Director of Transportation

Chris Weakland, Director of Athletics

Registration

The District's registration office is open year-round to accept new students. Each spring, it hosts registration events for the next school year, including for kindergarten. For the latest information, please call 814-231-1017 or visit the registration website. The district looks forward to welcoming your child.

www.scasd.org/Registration

At the PA School Public Relations Association communications statewide contest, Media and Communications Manager Nabil Mark received three Awards of Excellence (first place) in Photography, one Award of Merit (second place) in Excellence in Writing, and two Awards of Merit in Video Production. Chris Rosenblum received three Awards of Merit for Excellence in Writing.



The annual report is produced by
Matt Carroll and Nabil Mark
in the Communications Department.





The Pennsylvania Principals Association recognized State High Principal Laura Tobias as Pennsylvania's 2025 Principal of the Year.



2024-2025 Annual Report

240 Villa Crest Drive
State College, PA, 16801
814-231-1011
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