

The ABCs of SCPPS



A QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISSUE #2 | 2026



ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, & THE ARTS

ACADEMICS:

Celebrating the Class of 2026



DHS & HHS GRADUATES SOARED!

\$37.3M

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

ACT SCORES

35 GRADUATES SCORED

30

OR ABOVE

2 GRADUATES SCORED A PERFECT

36

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

4

GRADUATES RECOGNIZED

5,100

POSTSECONDARY CREDITS

The Class of 2026 from Destrehan and Hahnville High Schools secured a combined \$37.3 million in financial aid and scholarship offers upon graduation last month. This total reflects the diverse athletic, vocational, and academic accomplishments of this year's graduating seniors.

Destrehan High School seniors brought in \$18.8 million of that total, led by valedictorian **Cecilia Cody** and salutatorian **Hannah Burst**. Hahnville High School graduates claimed \$18.5 million, led by valedictorian **Korinne Bourgeois** and salutatorian **Avery Oertling**.

In the district, 35 students scored 30 or above on the ACT, with one student from each school earning perfect scores of 36. Additionally, two graduates from each school were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Helping to ease the financial transition to higher education, the graduating class collectively earned thousands of college credits before receiving their high school diplomas. Collectively, SCPPS graduates earned more than 5,100 postsecondary credits, including more than 1,700 dual-enrollment hours.

The Class of 2026 will also be well-represented in collegiate sports, public service, and the workforce. **Thirty-two student-athletes** signed letters of intent to play at the university level, while **17 graduates committed to career and technical pathways, law enforcement, and the armed forces**. For students transitioning directly into regional industries, the district saw a massive output of workforce credentials, totaling more than **1,900 industry-based certifications**.

These diverse achievements reflect the district's commitment to preparing students for multiple pathways after high school. Whether heading to a four-year university, entering the workforce with certified skills, or serving the community and country, **the Class of 2026 leaves a lasting legacy of excellence in St. Charles Parish and beyond.**



ATHLETICS:

SCPPS Celebrates Student-Athletes During Inaugural Athletics Awards Ceremony



Student-athletes from across St. Charles Parish Public Schools were recognized for their achievements during the district’s first-ever Athletics Awards Ceremony, held on May 11, 2026. The student-led event, emceed by **Richie Mills**, co-host of Friday Night Football and Sports Director for WGNO, celebrated the accomplishments, leadership, and character of student-athletes from Destrehan and Hahnville High Schools while highlighting the district’s commitment to excellence in athletics.

The ceremony was created to showcase the talent within the district and recognize students who have earned honors through the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. Director of Athletics and Physical Education **Duane Foret** shared that while schools traditionally celebrate athletic accomplishments individually, the event provided an opportunity for the district to collectively recognize student-athletes on a larger stage.

Throughout the evening, students, coaches, teams, and alumni were recognized with a variety of awards, with one of the highest honors of the evening, the Legacy Award, presented to SCPPS alums **Ben Parquet** (Bethune Class of 1957) and School Board Member **Ellis Alexander** (Carver Class of 1966).

“Success is measured not only by championships but by the positive influence student-athletes have on others and the way they represent their school both on and off the field.”

DUANE FORET
SCPPS Athletic Director

the evening, create award categories, identify the characteristics each award would represent, and help shape the overall tone of the ceremony. “To be part of this committee, you need to be a leader and a voice for your peers, so it was ideal to have them lead this production,” he said.

A unique aspect of the event was the leadership role students played throughout the planning process. Students from both high schools worked through the district’s Student Athletic Advisory Committee to help coordinate the event from start to finish. According to Foret, the committee helped develop the theme of



Hahnville High School student-athlete presents the Community Service Award.

In addition to celebrating athletic performance, the event emphasized the importance of recognizing qualities such as leadership, discipline, teamwork, resilience, sportsmanship, and academic responsibility.

By bringing together student-athletes, coaches, families, and community members for a districtwide celebration, the inaugural Athletics Awards Ceremony established a new tradition that highlights the role athletics play in developing leadership, character, and school pride.



Destrehan High School student-athletes pose with assistant softball coach during the inaugural Athletic Awards Ceremony.



ARTS:

Lafon Summer Intensives Inspire Young Artists

The Lafon Performing Arts Center recently concluded its annual Spotlight Summer Intensives, a series of arts-based camps that once again attracted strong participation from families across the region, reflecting a growing interest in high-quality arts education opportunities for students.

"The overwhelming response affirms how deeply our community values arts education and creative opportunities for their children," said SCPPS Coordinator of the Arts Joshua Martin. "Families in St. Charles Parish are eager for programs that allow students to explore their creativity, build confidence, connect with peers, and participate meaningfully in the artistic process." The summer programs offered specialized instruction in two tracks: visual arts and musical theatre.

Visual Arts Intensive

Young artists entering first through eighth grades participated in the visual arts intensive, exploring a variety of creative mediums under the guidance of St. Charles Parish Public Schools' visual art teachers.



Throughout the camp, students experimented with painting, drawing, mixed media, tie-dye, glow-in-the-dark art, and other hands-on projects designed to encourage artistic exploration and self-expression.

"Having our own teachers lead the program makes the experience especially meaningful. Our teachers bring strong artistic skills, established relationships, encouragement, and a passion for helping students grow creatively."

JOSHUA MARTIN | SCPPS Coordinator of the Arts



Musical Theatre Intensive

In the Shell Theatre, students entering fourth through ninth grades participated in daily classes focused on acting fundamentals, vocal projection, improvisation, stage presence, singing, and choreography. The intensive culminated in a fully staged production of *Seussical KIDS*, a musical which follows the Cat in the Hat as he whisks a young child into the colorful world of Dr. Seuss.

"*Seussical KIDS* was selected because it is a well-loved, high-energy show with a strong ensemble structure," Martin said. "It allows every performer to have a meaningful moment to shine while contributing to the success of the full production. In just two weeks, students develop performance skills, collaboration, focus, resilience, and the ability to work as a team toward a shared goal."

Beyond the Stage and Studio

While the camps concluded with a visual art showcase and a public theatrical performance, organizers emphasize that the greatest impact occurred throughout the creative process itself.

"It is powerful to see students grow from being reluctant or unsure on the first day to confidently sharing their ideas, talents, and creativity by the end of the program," Martin said. "Ultimately, we want every camper to feel inspired, valued, and empowered to continue pursuing artistic opportunities beyond the summer."



School Board Receives Final Report from Accounting Consultant

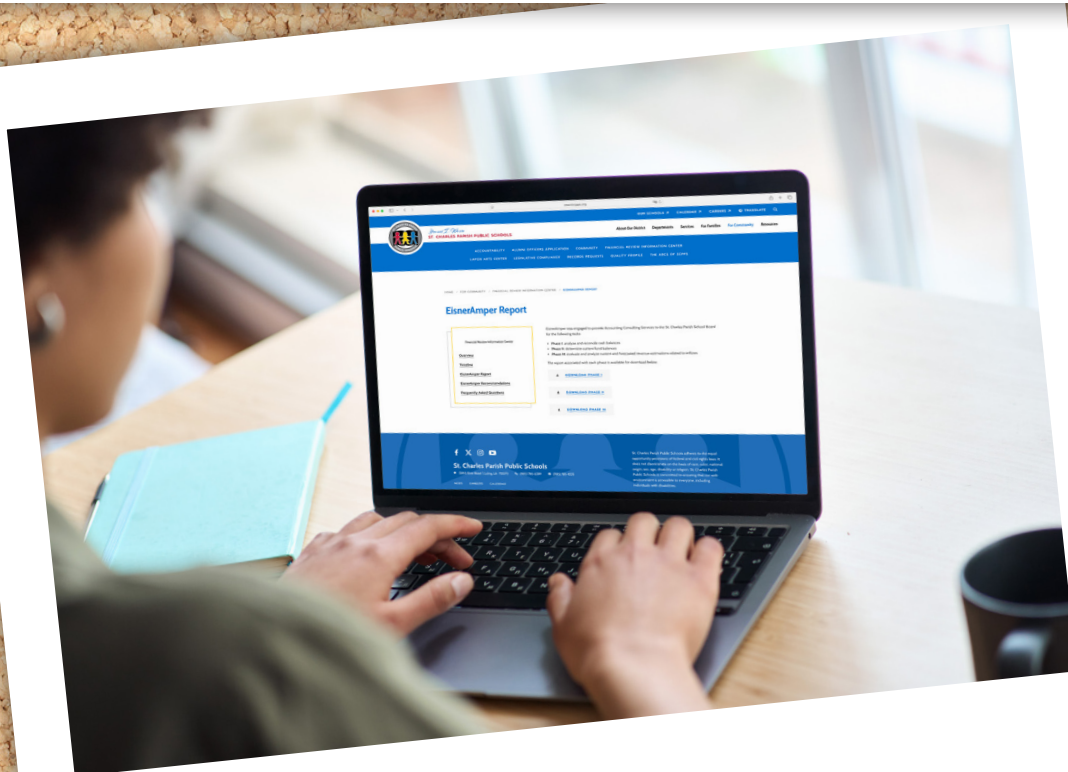
The St. Charles Parish School Board has received the final report from EisnerAmper, the independent firm engaged to provide accounting consulting services related to concerns regarding the district’s financial information. The report has been submitted to the St. Charles Parish District Attorney and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is available for public review through the district’s Financial Review Information Center.

Since concerns regarding the district’s financial records first came to light, the School Board has taken a series of actions to strengthen financial oversight and accountability. In addition to engaging EisnerAmper to provide accounting consulting services, the Board has directed and overseen the implementation of corrective measures aimed at improving financial monitoring, reporting, and internal controls.

The EisnerAmper report found that the district’s financial position was impacted by several related factors, including inaccurate or incomplete financial information, budgetary controls that did not support timely monitoring, and accounting practices that made it difficult to accurately assess the district’s financial position throughout the year. The report did not identify any misappropriation of funds.

The report’s completion marks an important milestone in the Board’s efforts to better understand the circumstances that contributed to the district’s current financial challenges and to identify opportunities for improvement. The Board continues to monitor the implementation of recommendations and remains focused on addressing budget challenges while prioritizing personnel, instruction, compliance, and safety.

To support transparency and keep the community informed, the district has established an online Financial Review Information Center that includes the EisnerAmper report, a timeline of events, updates on implementation efforts, and frequently asked questions. The Financial Review Information Center can be accessed at wearescpss.org/for-community/financial-info-center.





Guided by Vision, Driven by Results

One of our School Board’s most important responsibilities is to establish a clear vision and direction for our school system. That work is guided by the Board’s Long-Range Strategic Action Plan (LRSAP), typically a three-year roadmap that serves as the foundation for continuous improvement across our district. The plan focuses on six key commitments: Student Achievement; Student Wellbeing and Belonging; Diverse, Effective, and Engaged Employees; Resource Allocation; Facility Management; and Stakeholder Investment. Each commitment identifies measurable objectives and specific action steps to improve student outcomes and strengthen our school system.

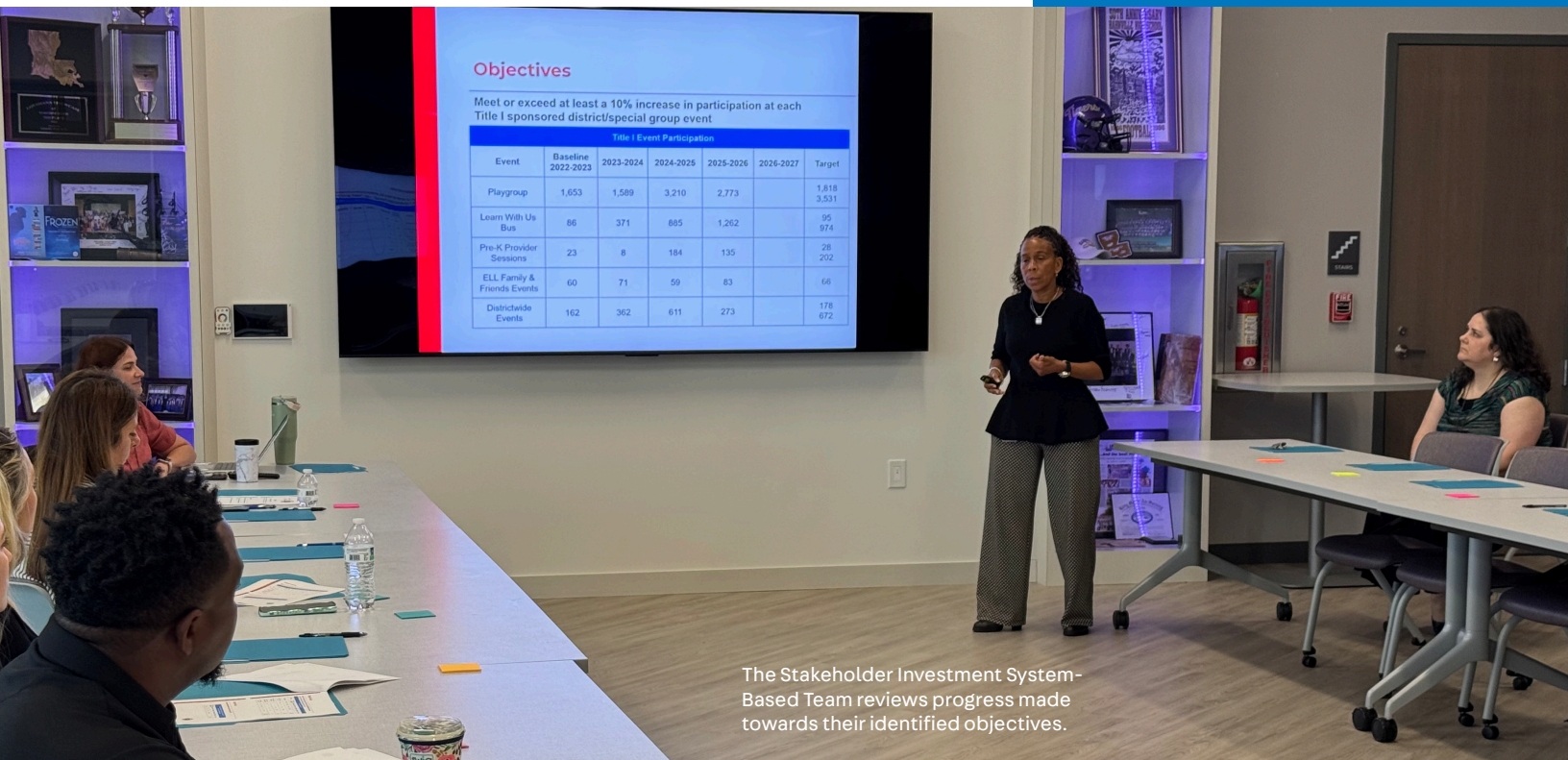
The development of the LRSAP is a collaborative process led by executive staff members through System-Based Teams comprised of district leaders, school administrators, teachers, support staff, school board members, parents, business and industry representatives, and community partners. These teams conduct comprehensive needs assessments by reviewing student performance data, operational metrics, stakeholder feedback, survey results, demographic trends, and other relevant information to identify strengths, challenges, and priorities for future improvement.

Once priorities are identified, teams set measurable objectives that define success and outline action steps to achieve those goals. The work does not stop once the plan is approved. Each year, System-Based Teams reconvene to review updated data, assess progress, refine strategies, and recommend any necessary adjustments. This ongoing process is shared with the school board during annual retreats and planning sessions to ensure accountability, transparency, and alignment with our community’s needs.

As we begin planning Phase XI of our Long-Range Strategic Action Plan, we remain committed to engaging stakeholders, listening to feedback, and making data-informed decisions that support our mission to provide high-quality educational opportunities for every student.



DR. KEN OERTLING
Superintendent



Objectives

Meet or exceed at least a 10% increase in participation at each Title I sponsored district/special group event

Event	Baseline 2022-2023	Title I Event Participation				Target
		2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	
Playgroup	1,653	1,589	3,210	2,773		1,818 3,531
Learn With Us Bus	86	371	885	1,262		95 974
Pre-K Provider Sessions	23	8	184	135		26 202
ELL Family & Friends Events	60	71	59	83		66
Districtwide Events	162	362	611	273		178 672

The Stakeholder Investment System-Based Team reviews progress made towards their identified objectives.



DEVELOPMENTS & DIRECTION

Building Momentum Across the District

The following updates reflect progress on district priorities identified through the LRSAP, outlining key developments and next steps across instructional, operational, and community-focused work.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Commitment A: Student Achievement continues to center on expanding early learning and strengthening instructional systems. The district is increasing access through additional PK-4 classes in every neighborhood school. Instructional capacity is being strengthened through Instructional Leadership Teams, refinement of district academic planning structures, and development of common benchmark assessments across K-8 and high school LEAP courses. Coaching support continues for teachers implementing Louisiana Student Standards and high-quality instructional materials. Additional work includes expanding Industry-Based Certifications, increasing paid work-based learning opportunities, and preparing for the transition to new statewide comprehensive assessments scheduled to replace LEAP in 2028.



STUDENT WELLBEING AND BELONGING

Commitment B: Student Wellbeing and Belonging includes ongoing improvements to transportation safety, including de-escalation training, upgraded HD bus cameras with stop-arm monitoring, and strengthened preventive maintenance systems. Child nutrition services are focusing on improved efficiency and student engagement through commodity utilization, program evaluation, team member training, and planning for future service delivery models. Student support systems continue to expand through full implementation of the 7 Mindsets SEL curriculum, increased behavioral health screening, trauma-informed practices, and Tier II interventions. Attendance supports, restorative practices, and cross-agency partnerships continue to address barriers to student success, along with an evaluation of the Before and After School Child Care program.

DIVERSE, EFFECTIVE, AND ENGAGED EMPLOYEES

Commitment C: Diverse, Effective, and Engaged Employees includes strengthened recruitment pipelines through university partnerships, dual certification pathways, and the REACH Residency Program. Retention efforts include expanded "Promise to Return" agreements, enhanced onboarding and mentoring systems, and districtwide Stay Interviews. Leadership development continues through structured academies and cohort-based programs. Employee engagement has been strengthened through recognition initiatives and expanded wellness supports, including programs addressing chronic health conditions and preventive care.



New Teacher Signing Day



DEVELOPMENTS & DIRECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Building Momentum Across the District

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Commitment D: Resource Allocation focuses on strengthening financial and technological systems. Improvements include expanded cashless transactions, payroll processing enhancements, vendor-supported operational efficiencies, and increased oversight through audits and compliance reviews. Technology priorities include implementation of recommendations from the LeanFrog ITS audit, expanded use of the Bark student safety platform, support for emergency response technologies such as Raptor and SmartPass, continued cybersecurity enhancements, network infrastructure improvements, and planning for redundant internet services. The district is also implementing recommendations from its AI Task Force while continuing to evaluate emerging technologies, evolving laws, ethics, and best practices related to artificial intelligence.



Adam Brooks from Bark's Connected Communities program provides NES students with family resources for online safety.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Commitment E: Facilities Management continues to advance priorities related to safety, sustainability, operations, and athletics. Key initiatives include implementing sustainability projects such as LED lighting upgrades and renewable energy projects, developing department standard operating procedures, and continuing construction of auxiliary gyms at elementary and middle schools. Safety efforts include enhanced emergency drills, evaluation of the resource officer program, electronic school safety audits, and implementation of electronic access systems at targeted locations with development of a phased plan for future expansion throughout the district. Additional work includes implementing staffing recommendations, reviewing maintenance and custodial staffing formulas, and implementing a new athletic website and mobile app.



STAKEHOLDER INVESTMENT

Commitment F: Stakeholder Investment continues to expand alumni engagement, historical preservation, and community outreach. A developing alumni network includes approximately 15,000 records supported by formal associations and emerging governance structures. Historical preservation efforts include digitized yearbooks, interactive timelines, and public displays. Early literacy outreach and family engagement continue through summer programming, community events, and targeted early childhood initiatives. A districtwide accessibility review is underway to ensure compliance with federal requirements, alongside development of a formalized communications plan to strengthen transparency, branding, and engagement.



Collectively, these efforts reflect steady implementation of priorities identified through the LRSAP and a continued focus on improving outcomes, systems, and community connection.