

Owen J. Roberts



District Update

2024-2025

Welcome to Owen J. Roberts School District

Dear Owen J. Roberts Community,

Welcome back to another exciting year! As part of our ongoing partnership with the community, we are pleased to share the **2025 Annual Report**. Within this publication, we highlight key moments and accomplishments from the past school year in the Owen J. Roberts School District.

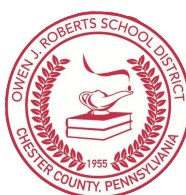
OJR's annual report contains details about the academic offerings provided by the district, assessments of academic growth, student achievement, extra-curricular activities, and more. The report serves as a guide to where we are as a district and our continued progress toward meeting our strategic goals.

During the 2024–2025 school year, we engaged families, students, community members, staff, and administration in a collaborative process to review and revise our **Mission, Vision, and Core Values**. This important work ensures that these guiding statements reflect our shared commitment to student learning, belonging, and wellbeing. These three pillars represent not only our collective identity as Owen J. Roberts Wildcats, but also our highest expectations for the education we provide to all students.



Our **Mission** is to inspire every person in the OJR learning community to **think critically, act compassionately, and achieve success** within a **culture of access, dignity, and belonging for all**. Our **Vision** is to be a learning community that embraces a **growth mindset**, engages in **continuous innovation**, celebrates each person's **uniqueness**, and fosters a culture of **belonging for all**. Our **Values** inspire us to become the best version of ourselves and serve as the foundation for our decision-making. We encourage our community to learn more in this annual report and stay informed by visiting the [Mission, Vision, and Values Portal](http://www.ojrsd.com/about-us/mission-vision-and-values) on the district website at www.ojrsd.com/about-us/mission-vision-and-values.

To support our Mission, Vision and Values, and in advance of the 2025-2026 [District Goals](http://www.ojrsd.com/about-us/district-goals-2025-2026), our team remains focused on developing a [Long-Term Facilities Plan](http://www.ojrsd.com/about-us/district-goals-2025-2026) for OJR High School and OJR Middle School. While all of the concepts being discussed are considered preliminary in nature, we continue to make progress on prioritizing key infrastructure projects. I encourage you to visit our **District Goals Portal** at www.ojrsd.com/about-us/district-goals-2025-2026, and read our **Long-Term Facilities Plan** at www.ojrsd.com/about-us/long-term-facilities-plan.



Welcome to Owen J. Roberts School District

In 2025, OJR also finalized plans to introduce **full-day kindergarten** at all five elementary schools for the first time in the district's history. This exciting initiative will directly benefit students by creating a strong foundation for future **academic success**—supporting the development of **lifelong learners**, allowing for **deeper engagement** with content, and enabling teachers to guide students at a more **intentional pace**. The program also provides opportunities to reteach and **enrich** learning experiences while introducing our youngest students to a broader range of subjects. You can register your child for school and learn more by visiting our [Full-Day Kindergarten Portal](https://www.ojrsd.com/about-us/full-day-kindergarten) or by visiting www.ojrsd.com/about-us/full-day-kindergarten.



The success of our students is due to the collaborative work of our **teachers, support staff, parents, administrators, and community partners**. Together, we create a learning environment that **inspires our students** to achieve their highest potential.

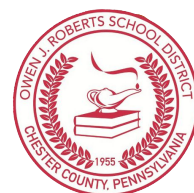
We want to thank our teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, support staff, and volunteers for their tireless efforts in making our school district a truly **special place to live and learn**. We also thank our students, families, and community supporters for their continued **commitment to excellence** and for helping Owen J. Roberts maintain its place among the top school districts in Pennsylvania.

We hope that you find this report to be a useful resource. We look forward to many more exciting years in our Owen J. Roberts School District Community!

Respectfully,

Rita Pederson
School Board President

Dr. Will Stout
Superintendent of Schools



Board of School Directors

The nine members of the Owen J. Roberts School Board are elected at large to serve the citizens of East Coventry, East Nantmeal, East Vincent, South Coventry, North Coventry, West Vincent, and Warwick Townships. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. In addition, the Board holds Working Sessions on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Input from our residents is always welcome.

Rita Pederson, President
Dr. John Melniczek, Vice President
Warren Chester
Sara Evans
Beth Chaville-Fuller
David Harmanos
Jennifer Munson
Dr. Nicholas Rotoli
April Saboe

Superintendent and Leadership Team

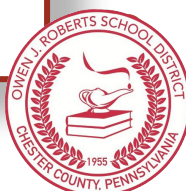
Dr. Will Stout, Superintendent
Dr. Kathy Soeder, Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent's Cabinet

Dr. Brad Bentman, Director of Pupil Services
David Francella, Director of Business & Operations
Dr. Kristin Haggerty, Director of Human Resources
Michael Rodriguez, Director of Communications
Paul Sanfrancesco, Director of Technology
John Yount, Director of Security and Safety, School Police Chief

School Principals

Dr. Jeffrey Detweiler, West Vincent Elementary Principal
Heather Gillan-Esposito, North Coventry Elementary Principal
Steven Kollar, Owen J. Roberts High School Principal
Dr. Malinda McKillip, French Creek Elementary Principal
Dr. Todd Oswald, East Coventry Elementary Principal
Dr. Edward Smith, East Vincent Principal
Corbin Stoltzfus, Owen J. Roberts Middle School Principal



Our Mission

To inspire every person in the OJR learning community to think critically, act compassionately, and achieve success within a culture of access, dignity, and belonging for all.



Our Vision

We will be a learning community that embraces a growth mindset, engages in continuous innovation, celebrates each person's uniqueness, and creates a culture of belonging for all.



Our Values

Our values inspire us to become the best version of ourselves and serve as the foundation for our decision making.

- **Students First** - Our students are our most precious resource. Every action we take is with their best interest and well-being in mind.
- **Authentic Relationships** - The success of our students is rooted in deep, trusting relationships among students, staff, families, and the community.
- **Belonging & Kindness** - Our schools are environments in which each member is unconditionally valued. Dignity and respect for each individual are the foundation of genuine connections.
- **Collaborative Approaches** - The power of the group is exponentially stronger than the individual. We work together and seek the voice and input of all within the community.
- **Multiple Perspectives** - We seek to understand diverse perspectives locally and globally to broaden our thinking. We believe that our differences are one of our greatest assets.
- **Continuous Growth & Innovation** - We strive to explore what is possible to compete in a rapidly evolving world. We are lifelong learners.

Learn More: www.ojrsd.com/about-us/mission-vision-and-values



2024-2025 School Year Overview

OJR at a Glance

- 7 Operating school buildings with nearly 1.1 million square feet of building space
- 5,426 Students enrolled
- 800 Employees
- \$22,002 Total cost per pupil
- 82 School buses and 6 vans logged more than 1.5 million miles
- \$122.5 General fund budget
- 7 Sending municipalities

Demographics

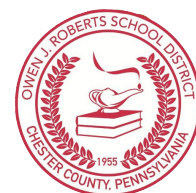
Enrollment	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 (Projected)
Elementary School	2718	2647	2676
Middle School	859	845	844
High School	1824	1789	1751
Total	5401	5281	5271

2024-2025 District Awards and Honors:

- OJR High School Language Department received the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association Golden Globe Award. They have been a recipient of the award since 2013.

Graduating Class of 2025

- 400 students
- Over \$4.8 million awarded in scholarships
- 83% furthering their education
- 3 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and 5 National Merit Commended students



2024-2025 School Highlights

East Coventry Elementary School

- East Coventry Elementary School continued to demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, significantly outperforming state averages in both math and reading.

East Vincent Elementary School

- East Vincent Elementary implemented Family Group Time (FGT), creating opportunities for students to build authentic connections, engage in collaborative problem-solving, and strengthen social skills that support both academic and personal growth.

French Creek Elementary School

- French Creek partnered with the CCIU to receive the training and professional development necessary to successfully implement a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan in 2025-2026. PBIS is an evidence-based, three-tiered framework used in schools to improve academic and behavioral outcomes.



North Coventry Elementary School

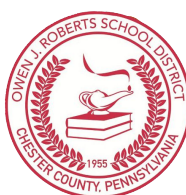
- Strengthened Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to better serve academic and behavioral needs with increased collaboration between classroom teachers, specialists, and support staff.

West Vincent Elementary School

- West Vincent lived its core value of “supporting the growth of all students” by significantly exceeding statewide growth measures in ELA, Math, and Science. Also, student social and emotional growth was achieved through the successful first year implementation of our PBIS systems.

Owen J. Roberts Middle School

- In an attempt to address the disproportionate number of disciplinary referrals, the middle school took initial steps toward implementing Restorative Practices. Key staff received training in the fundamentals of restorative practices and restorative justice circles while five middle school staff members were trained as trainers.



District Goals & Priorities: Accomplishments for 2024-2025

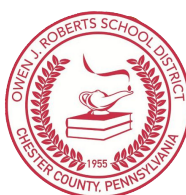
Student Success: Ensure that all students are challenged and engaged while providing multiple pathways for student success by broadening opportunities, building support systems and eliminating barriers. The school district will eliminate opportunity gaps and work to ensure all students are active participants in the community.

- Our School District worked as a school community with administrators, teachers, parents, and students to develop a new District Mission, Vision, and Values.
- Teachers were provided with professional development for bullying prevention and bystander training. Teachers worked through school scenarios to consider how they would best respond and support students.
- Each faculty was part of a Universal Design for Learning walkthrough for each school. Teachers received training on how to plan for the diverse learning needs of all students.



Student Wellbeing: Create an environment that fosters the growth and nurturing of all students' physical, mental, and social-emotional growth in healthy, safe and supportive learning environments.

- Year two of the Development and Implementation of a K-12 Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that focuses on personalized learning, collaboration and communication, data-informed decision-making, and continuous improvement.
 - Reviewed and refined the MTSS informational webpage to improve clarity, accessibility, and alignment with district practices. Developed a comprehensive, tiered MTSS framework for Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language, and Mental Health services to better support student needs across levels of intervention. Additionally, provided targeted professional development on Executive Functioning strategies for some staff and parents to strengthen understanding and application in school and home settings.



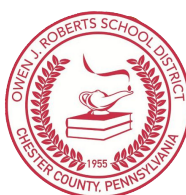
District Goals & Priorities: Accomplishments for 2024-2025

Student Wellbeing (continued):

- Year three Implementation of a Mental Health Comprehensive Plan in collaboration with our work in the Penn Mental Health Consortium.
 - The high school launched a daily flex period, transitioning from a traditional advisory model to a more flexible structure designed to enhance student engagement, increase choice, and strengthen connections with staff and peers. At the middle school In the first year of implementation, two cohorts of staff were trained in the Fundamentals of Restorative Practices and the use of Restorative Circles, building capacity to foster a more inclusive, supportive, and relationship-centered school environment. Throughout the elementary schools, we continued the implementation and refinement of PBIS practices to strengthen consistency and effectiveness across settings. Additionally, reviewed and Tier 1 SEL instruction to develop next steps in alignment with best practices, improve fidelity of implementation, and better support the social-emotional development of all students.



Infrastructure Excellence: Finalize selection of architect and engineers and begin design development/phased construction of the ten year Master Facilities Plan. In addition, engage stakeholders in the 2025-26 budget development process with the intent of staying within the state-mandated limits and focusing on resource allocation that prioritizes district initiatives related to student success and wellbeing.



District Goals & Priorities for 2025-2026

Student Success: Ensure that all students are challenged and engaged while providing multiple pathways for student success by broadening opportunities, building support systems and eliminating barriers. The school district will eliminate opportunity gaps and work to ensure all students are active participants in the community.

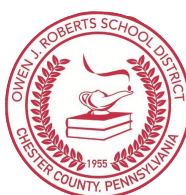
Initiatives to support this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Implement Full Day K and provide additional professional development for Purposeful Play for new Kindergarten grade level team
- Review Professional Learning Communities within individual schools for the purpose of professional learning and student achievement
- Continue professional development for Universal Design Learning with integration of Danielson rubric
- Plan for the Integration of the new Personal Finance Standards
- Develop new Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements for the District
- Continue with ongoing Curriculum Development Cycle and instructional interventions
- Provide professional development for teachers to use AI for teacher productivity tasks
- Aimsweb, Link It, PSSA/Keystone - Monitor assessment data to provide tier 1 instruction and interventions for students

Student Wellbeing: Create an environment that fosters the growth and nurturing of all students' physical, mental, and social-emotional growth in healthy, safe and supportive learning environments.

Initiatives to support this goal include, but are not limited:

- Implementation of Character Strong Pilot at the Elementary Schools
- Continue implementing Restorative Practices training at the Middle School
- Incorporation of a 27-minute flex period, 2 days a week, at the Middle School
- Launch of a 9th-grade seminar program at the High School
- Enhance mechanisms for high school students to share feedback, provide input, and propose initiatives with the intent of continuously improving the school community
- Embed a plan for supporting executive functioning into our MTSS
- Foster a district-wide culture where positive classroom door greetings are a consistent and expected daily practice



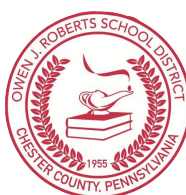
District Goals & Priorities for 2025-2026

Infrastructure Excellence: Continue design development and begin land development for the Long-term Facilities Plan. In addition, engage stakeholders in the 2026-27 budget development process with the intent of staying within the state-mandated limits and focusing on resource allocation that prioritizes district initiatives related to student success and wellbeing.

Initiatives to support this goal include, but are not limited:

- Award construction contract for French Creek Elementary School traffic pattern improvements and relocation of soft and hard play areas. Complete construction 2025-26
- Continue design development of the secondary campus facilities plan. Begin the land development process with South Coventry Township. Obtain appropriate governmental/agency approvals
- Develop a balanced General Fund operating budget for 2026-27 with 3 year projections incorporating available resources to support District initiatives related to student success and wellbeing goals below the state's base Act 1 Index
- Develop and execute district-wide strategies to ensure the ethical, responsible, and effective integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching, learning, and operations for both staff and students

To read more about OJR's goals for the 2025-2026 school year, please visit <https://www.ojrsd.com/about-us/district-goals-2025-2026>.



Full-Day Kindergarten

Our community has been clear in its desire to see Owen J. Roberts pursue this course of action and to have schools provide educational opportunities that align with those already being offered in neighboring school districts in Chester County and the surrounding region. We are excited to share that the School Board approved the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Implementing FDK provides a number of benefits to our students, including the creation of a solid basis for future academic success (learning how to be a learner), a deeper dive into content, a slower pace, the ability for reteaching and enrichment, and exposure to a wider range of subjects. In addition, a Full-day program provides more opportunities for academic content and a structured environment, while enabling staff to support emotional learning and focus on social development to build peer connections.



The current half-day kindergarten program is not long enough to fully provide instruction for state standards, specific program time allocations, development of interpersonal and soft skills, and social play. Full-Day Kindergarten provides 6.5 hours of school time, more than double the time previously provided to students. In addition, the current alignment for the OJR grant program with PreK Counts is not appropriate for students transitioning from PreK Counts to OJR half-day Kindergarten. At present time, preschool children in our community have a full-day program, transition to a half-day kindergarten program, and then must transition back to full-time instruction as they enter first grade. We've also heard concerns from many families about the challenges of providing mid-day transportation for their children to attend a half-day program.

After assessing the classroom capacities and facility capabilities throughout the school district, the administration is confident it can effectively implement Full Day Kindergarten in a timely and efficient manner. In the coming months, OJR will update this web portal regularly with the latest information related to Full-Day Kindergarten, as well as details about next steps.

Visit www.ojrsd.com/about-us/full-day-kindergarten for more information and to register your child.



2024-2025 Budget

The Owen J. Roberts Board of School Directors approved a 2024-25 Budget of \$131,633,958. The spending plan included a millage rate of 35.4731 which equates to a real estate tax increase of 2.75% below the State Act 1 Index of 5.30%. The increase represents an additional \$176 per year on the average assessed property value of \$186,179. The Commonwealth's Budget Secretary certified that the district was allocated \$2,289,266 in Pennsylvania State Gaming Funds that was distributed during the 2024-25 fiscal year, to reduce taxpayers' burden. Each homestead/farmstead owner received a maximum of \$247.40 through a tax credit applied as a reduction to their property tax bill.

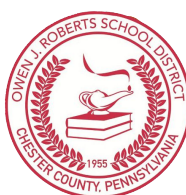


The majority of the increase directly supports student educational programs and consists of additional support for student services, such as mental health and emotional support services for students at all levels, special education, student tuition costs for TCHS and Charter Schools, transportation services focusing on school bus driver recruitment and retention and additional buses to improve service levels, and to begin phasing in required debt service to fund the master facilities plan. Overall costs are minimized by aggressively controlling costs in other areas, such as maintaining level school building budgets and reducing the facilities maintenance budget over the long-term with programs such as guaranteed energy savings projects and initiatives.

OJR receives the majority of its revenue from local property taxes, approximately \$84.1 million or 63.9%. Unfortunately, the District's Commercial tax base is extremely small relative to other schools in Chester County and represents only 9.3% of assessed property value. Therefore, residential homes primarily support school district operations and represent 84.54% of assessed property values. The district also receives \$9 Million from Local Earned Income Taxes (EIT). The remaining \$8.3 Million of local revenue consists of interest income, other local taxes, donations, revenue from pass through agencies, and other community services.

The district expects to receive \$28.1 Million, 21.37% of its budget, from the State and \$2.1 Million, 1.59% of its budget, from the federal government.

Each year, the budget development process begins in November and extends through April. Several working sessions and public meetings are held to share information and gather input. The final budget is voted on in either May or June.



2025-2026 Budget

The Owen J. Roberts Board of School Directors approved a 2025-26 Budget of \$137,503,214. The spending plan included a millage rate of 36.3599 which equates to a real estate tax increase of 2.50% below the State Act 1 Index of 4.00%. The increase represents an additional \$165 per year on the average assessed property value of \$186,691. The Commonwealth's Budget Secretary certified that the district was allocated \$2,557,384 in Pennsylvania State Gaming Funds that was distributed during the 2025-26 fiscal year, to reduce taxpayers' burden. Each homestead/farmstead owner received a maximum of \$247.40 through a tax credit applied as a reduction to their property tax bill.

The majority of the increase directly supports student educational programs and consists of additional support for student services, such as mental health and emotional support services for students at all levels, special education, student tuition costs for TCHS and Charter Schools, transportation services focusing on school bus driver recruitment and retention and additional buses to improve service levels, and to begin phasing in required debt service to fund the master facilities plan. Overall costs are minimized by aggressively controlling costs in other areas, such as maintaining level school building budgets and reducing the facilities maintenance budget over the long-term with programs such as guaranteed energy savings projects and initiatives.

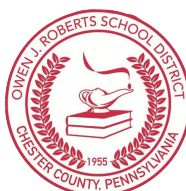
OJR receives the majority of its revenue from local property taxes, approximately \$86.8 million or 82.3%. Unfortunately, the District's Commercial tax base is extremely small relative to other schools in Chester County and represents only 9% of assessed property value. Therefore, residential homes primarily support school district operations and represent 86% of assessed property values. The district also receives \$9.5 Million from Local Earned Income Taxes (EIT). The remaining \$9.1 Million of local revenue consists of interest income, other local taxes, donations, revenue from pass through agencies, and other community services.



The district expects to receive \$29.9 Million, 21.81% of its budget, from the State and \$2.1 Million, 1.56% of its budget, from the federal government.

Each year, the budget development process begins in November and extends through April. Several working sessions and public meetings are held to share information and gather input. The final budget is voted on in either May or June.

For more information, and to see the 2025-2026 budget, please visit www.ojrsd.com/departments/business-finance.



Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation



The Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation is an incredible asset for our shared community. A 501(c)(3) charity that operates independently from the district, the Ed Foundation is dedicated to encouraging community-wide participation and philanthropy in order to support educational innovation and the Mission of the OJRSd.

The Education Foundation:

- Sponsors mini-grants for teachers in support of innovative projects
- Awards Staff Member Tributes nominated and delivered by students
- Oversees the Legacy Memorial Bricks that pave the way to Wildcat Stadium
- Accepts United Way and payroll deductions
- Honors Distinguished Alumni and grants Community Service Awards annually
- Hosts an alumni directory with plans to increase Alumni activities
- Is eligible to receive Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) from local businesses and individuals to direct funds back into the district
- Is looking for Board Members, Committee Members, Volunteers, and beyond

The Foundation's Board believes that the students, teachers, staff, and community of our beautiful district should have the tools and opportunities they need, desire, and deserve. Whether you're interested in supporting these efforts with your time, talents, or treasures, we'd love to hear from you. Simply select "Contact" at www.ojref.org and tell us more about your interests and ideas! If you're able to support the great work of the Foundation, visit www.ojref.org and select the red "Donate Now" button in the top right corner.

Your generosity is always welcome and deeply appreciated!



Resources for Families



ParentSquare

Stay Connected with ParentSquare! The Owen J. Roberts School District is making it easier for Wildcat families to stay connected by using ParentSquare for all school-to-home communication.

With ParentSquare, you can receive updates, sign forms, schedule conferences, and more—on your phone, computer, or through the free app!

We're excited to share that your contact information from Skyward will let you receive communications from OJR. To make the most of ParentSquare, we highly recommend downloading the free mobile app, available on iOS and Android.

 Sign up online at <http://parentsquare.com/signin>

 Download the app at https://www.pparentsquare.com/select_school/new

Starting every January, the Skyward online registration system will be available for you to begin the process of registering your child for kindergarten for the upcoming school year!

All children who live within the OJR School District, and who will attain the age of five on or before September 1, are eligible to attend school for the upcoming school year.



We invite you to visit the registration website at www.ojrsd.com/about-us/student-registration for the latest information about kindergarten registration and to register your child online, starting in January.

At the end of the online registration process, you will be prompted to make an appointment to complete the registration process at our schools in March.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call your school with any questions. We can't wait to have your child join us for the upcoming school year!



Stay Connected to OJR!

Follow Us Online:



www.ojr.sd.com



www.facebook.com/TheOJRSD



www.instagram.com/owenroberts_sd/



www.youtube.com/@OJR_SchoolDistrict



#WeAreWildcats

Come Work for OJR!



Want to make a difference in the life of students in our community?

We're hiring for a number of positions throughout the district - including full-time, part-time, and summer employment.

Come join our Wildcat team!

Visit us online today to see all of our available opportunities!

www.applitrack.com/owenroberts/onlineapp/

