



Report of the Superintendent

August 26, 2026

SHSD PDI: Summer Edition



Twenty classes were offered, taught by 11 educators, during this summer's Professional Development Institute.

Over 40 educators participated in these learning opportunities.

Courses included building reading strategies, vocabulary routines, 3D modeling, Canva for education, foundations for AI, behavior strategies, and more!



Welcome to the Somerset Hills School District... and to the 2026-2027 school year!

Final summer bucket list items being accomplished, summer reading lists being finished, and school supplies being purchased... all signs pointing to a brand new school year about to start!

The Somerset Hills School District was excited to welcome new staff this week. Beginning on August 18th, the district hosted a three-day New Educator Orientation. Participants received training in areas that included: technology, lesson planning, classroom management, wellness, HIB, Title IX, Genesis, Outlook and more! Additionally, they met with SHEA President Sarah Falzarano and Jess d'Anunciacao, SHEA Membership Chair. Time incorporated into the orientation program allowed new staff to enjoy tours of their campuses and to set up their classrooms. A shared theme amongst the group was a



sense of community; they are ready to educate and nurture students within their own school communities, as well as to contribute to the district and surrounding communities of Bernardsville, Bedminster, Far Hills and Peapack-Gladstone.



“When SHSD moves forward with staff members, we recognize that all new hires knowingly entered into a competition to be appointed to work with the most prized treasures in the Somerset Hills communities: our children,” shared Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent. “While we hire the very best instructors to ensure our children reach their full potential, we also hire great people who can connect, motivate, and inspire the next generation of contributors at Somerset Hills. Our students return in August, and I cannot wait to see our new staff interact with them in their classrooms.”



Proudly joining our TEAM!

Mrs. Arielle Rementilla officially took on her role as Assistant Principal at **Bedwell Elementary School** on July 1st. Joining her, Principal Scott Wolfe, and the Bedwell staff this school year are: Alyson Cohen, Grade 4; Terri Johnson, Art; Emma Van Kooy, School Counselor; and Samantha Treiber, Paraprofessional.

Principal Lisa Garofalo and Assistant Principal Keith Koellhoffer have added six new staff members to their **Bernardsville Middle School** roster: Christina Beaudry, Special Education; Maya Bhuyan, Special Education; Christopher Gillooly, Science; Brielle Ramundo, Language Arts; Fernando Rivera, Social Studies; and Morgan Stout, School Psychologist.

Dr. Scott Neigel, BHS Principal, and his two Assistant Principals Dr. Michael Corbett and Mr. Mike Hoppe greeted the following new staff to **Bernards High School**: Eric Kane, Chemistry; Stephanie O'Brien, Biology; Taylor Smith, Math; Allison Swank, English; Kerri Valesey, English; and Nicole Wasylak, English.

The **District** also welcomed Mrs. Jessica McGinn, Supervisor of Athletics, Health and Physical Education, who began on July 1st. Joining the Transportation/Facilities departments this year are Jessie Solis, Bus Driver; Jeanneth Mora, Bus Aide; and Sindy Tomanguilla, Custodian.

After having taken some summer moments to relax, recharge, and make memories, all SHSD staff returned to the district as of August 25th for three Opening Days of training and preparation. We will welcome students for their first day of school on August 31st.



Administration - 15
Support Staff - 20
Certified Staff - 190
Paraprofessionals - 18
Transportation - 22
Custodial - 21
Maintenance - 5
Technology - 7



**Supporting
our
Students!**



Gearing Up!





Getting
classrooms
ready!



BES: 478

BMS: 384

BHS: 640



Creating & Organizing Listening & Learning



Ready...Set...Go!





Back in Action



- Cheerleading ... 13**
- Cross Country ... 44**
- Field Hockey ... 39**
- Football ... 65**
- Marching Band/Color Guard ... 19**
- Soccer- Boys ... 50**
- Soccer- Girls ... 20**
- Tennis - Girls ... 29**
- Volleyball ... 44**



A Sneak Peek...as the BHS Marching Band prepares for their 2026-2027 show!



Featuring music from:

The Fast and the Furious
Jurassic Park
Pirates of the Caribbean
Star Wars





Mark your calendars!

Join the Somerset Hills Education Foundation as they celebrate 30 years of impact, innovation, and community at **SHEF30** on **Saturday, September 26th** from 3-7 pm.

Bring family, neighbors and friends for an afternoon of live music, food trucks, and community fun.

For three decades, the Somerset Hills Education Foundation has helped bring extraordinary learning opportunities to the Somerset Hills School District students and teachers.

Tickets for SHEF30 are on sale now at the following link: <https://www.shefnj.org/shef-events>. We hope you consider being part of this special community celebration at the Polo Grounds.

2025-2026 Student Achievement Results

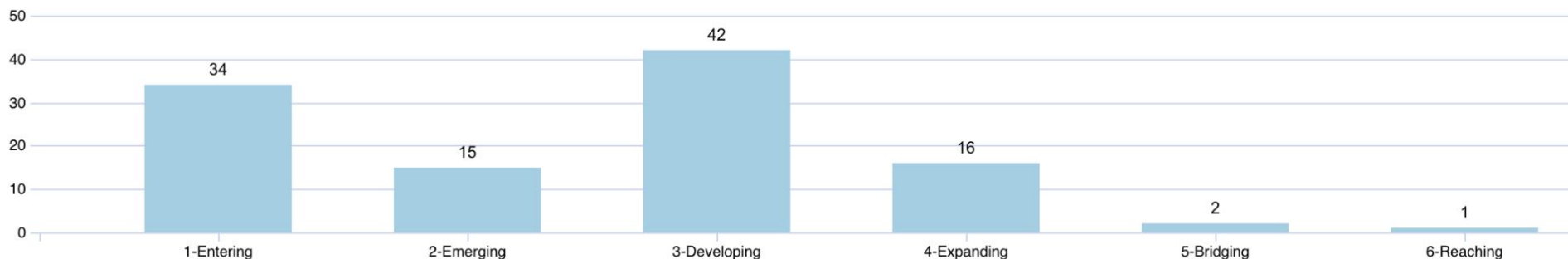
Access 2.0

All Means All: Supporting Multilingual Learners

Access 2.0 Results

- Students score 1-6.
- Information is used for goal setting.
- Students can exit the program at 4.5 overall.
- Each student has an individual growth goal set by the state.

District Composite Levels



Access 2.0: Bedwell Elementary School

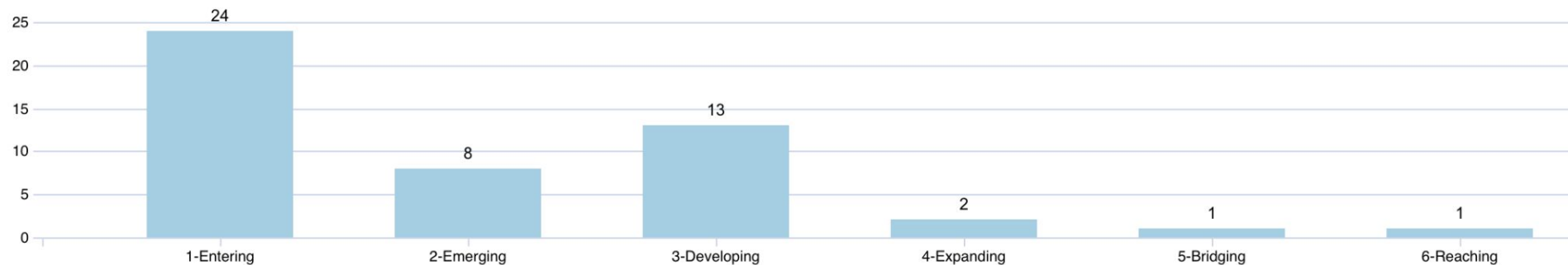
Growth Goal

- Our Exploremos students met their proficiency goals, with strong reading growth.
- We estimated that students who were serviced by our Title 1 teacher had 85% met growth and 47% had double growth.

Instructional Targets

- We targeted writing this year and saw progress.
- We developed strategies to continue growing speaking scores by targeting class discussions.

BES Composite Levels



Access 2.0: Bernardsville Middle School

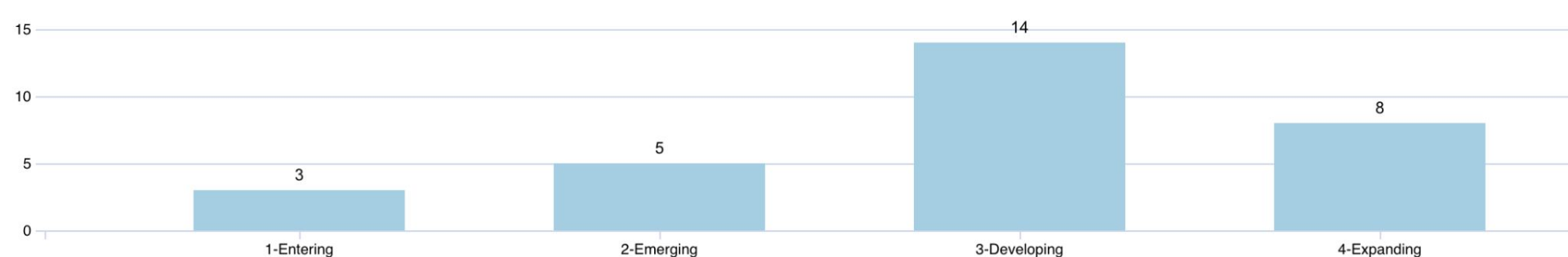
Growth Goal

- BMS had the highest overall proficiency in the district
- Students showed strong growth in speaking and listening after encouraging classroom strategies.

Instructional Targets

- Reading was slower than expected though additional strategies were used.
- We will continue to target reading goals for students and intentionally create accessible reading.

BMS Composite Levels



Access 2.0: Bernards High School

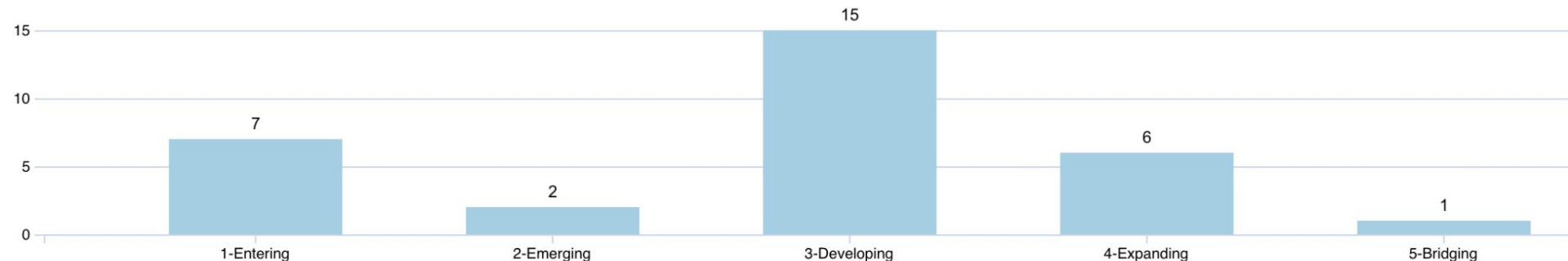
Growth Goal

- SIFEs need 8-10 years for proficiency; the majority met their goals.
- BHS has enrolled less SIFE and had fewer students score at early proficiency levels.

Instructional Targets

- Upperclassmen and long-term MLs showed slower reading growth.
- We are re-evaluating our supports and curriculum for these students.

BHS Composite Levels



Who are our Multilingual Learners?





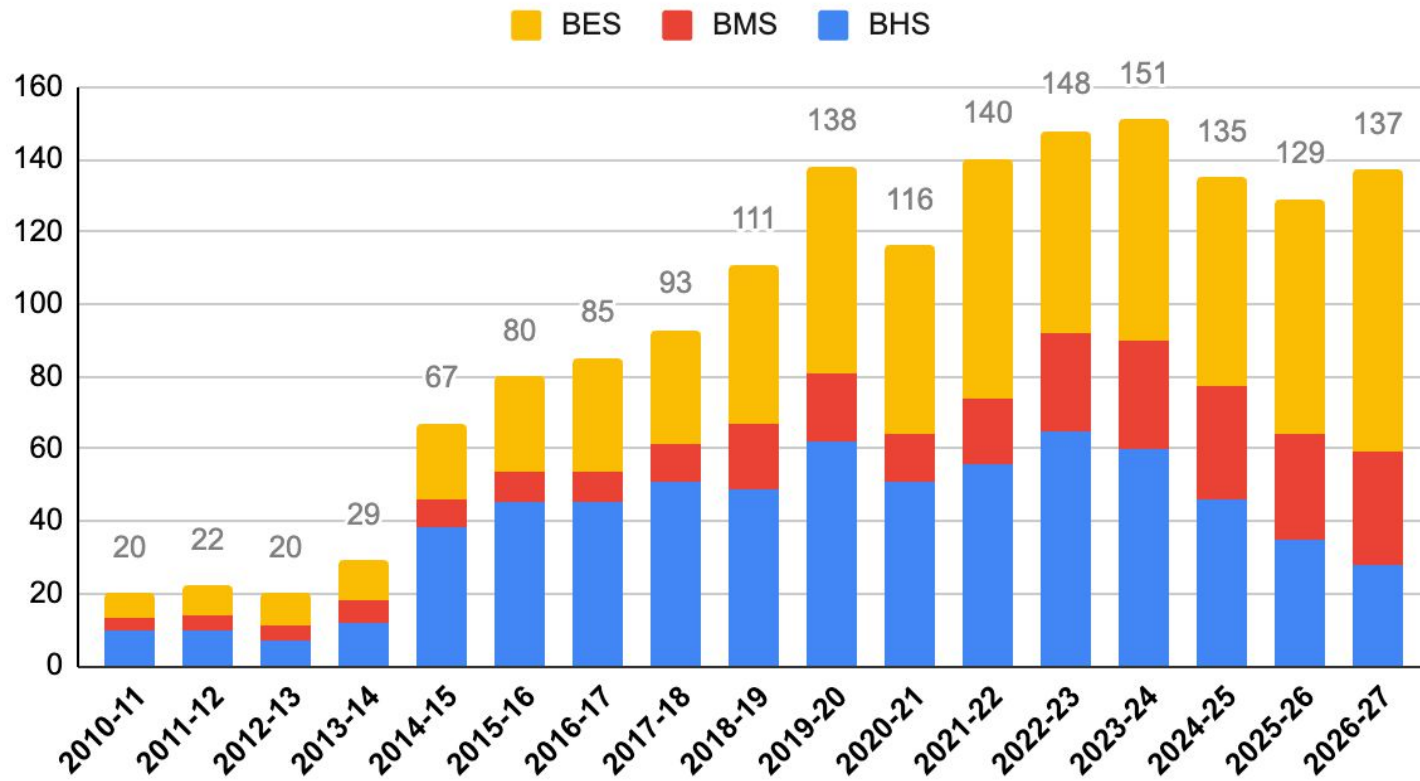
21.7%

The amount of students who hear or use a language other than, or in addition to, English at home.

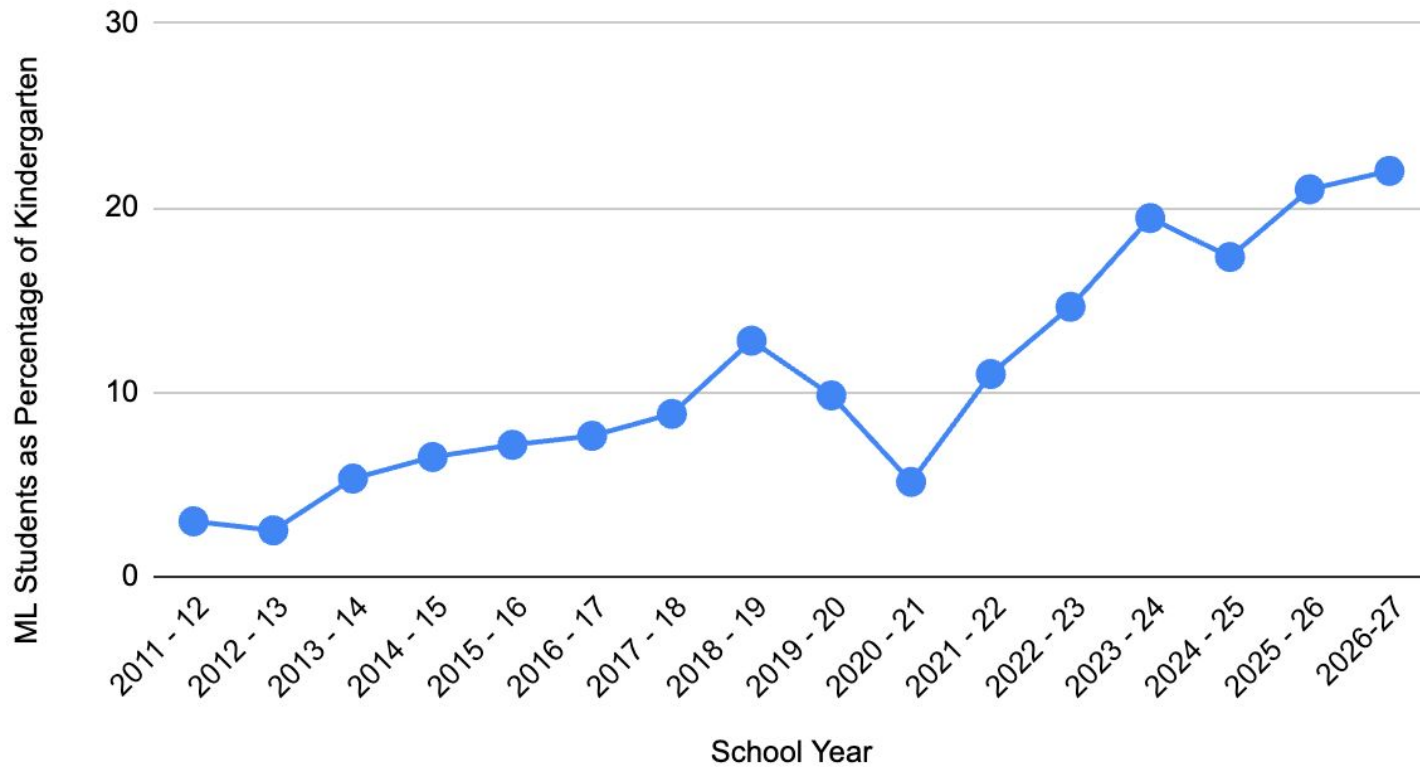
28

Number of different languages used by families in SHSD.

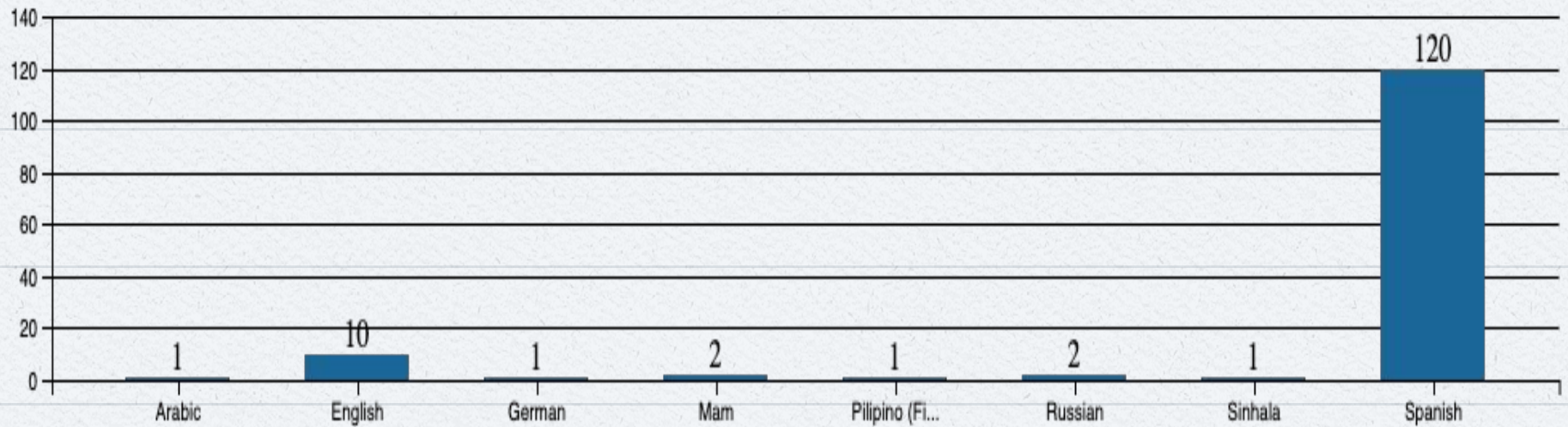
SHSD ML Enrollment 2010 - Present



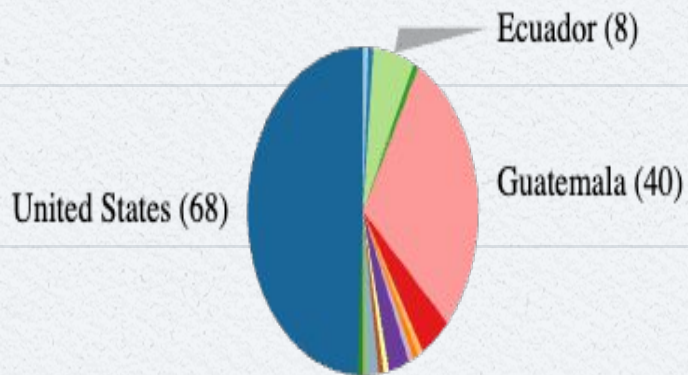
ML Students as Percentage of Kindergarten 2011 to Now



Home Language



Birth Country



91% of MLs are on free and reduced lunch. 68% of former MLs are on free and reduced lunch.

How does that compare?

District	ML Percentage	F&R Percentage
Somerset Hills	8.9	20.1
Bernards Township	2.9	2.5
Mendham (B / T)	2.8 / 0	3.8 / .2
Madison	3.9	10.4
Millburn	2	1.7
Parsippany-Troy Hills	8.7	19.9
Princeton	6	13.9

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Approximate Execution of Projects: Initial Round

November 2026/December 2026: Bidding Process begins

January 2027: Bid Opening (Administration)

February 2027: Bid Awards (Board)

March 2027-May 2027: Construction Preparation
(Administration/Project Managers)

June 2027: Construction Begins

September 2027-January 2028 Construction Ends, Initial Round

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

**Bernards High School: Chemistry (C-Wing),
Physics (C-Wing and E-Wing),
and Biology (E-Wing)**

***Anticipated Completion: Biology (September 2027),
Physics E-Wing (September 2027), Physics C-Wing
and Chemistry (January 2028)***

- Status
 - Detailed architectural site survey completed
 - Scanning of existing drawings being completed and shared with engineers
 - Detailed Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing site survey completed
 - Revised layouts produced and District feedback given
- Look Ahead
 - Design in process of being finalized

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

Bernards High School Life Skills Wing (Annex Wing)
Anticipated Completion January 2028

- Status
 - Detailed architectural site survey completed
 - Scanning of drawings complete
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Surveying completed
 - Preliminary layouts have been distributed to the District for review
- Look Ahead
 - District will schedule a site walkthrough of a coffee shop/student store
 - Architect meeting with kitchen equipment vendor/designer
 - District to provide equipment list to guide architects

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

Bernards High School Roof Replacement (B-Wing and Auditorium)

Anticipated Completion September 2027

- Status
 - Architects have completed the design package
 - Roofing report offered feedback on projects
- Look Ahead
 - Follow-up survey with Tremco to verify existing conditions
 - Site survey of the BMS roof is taking place in September through Tremco
 - Review of final project scope forthcoming

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

Bernardsville Middle School Science Classrooms

Anticipated Completion September 2027

- Status
 - Detailed architectural site survey completed
 - Scanning of existing drawings is underway
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Surveying
 - Preliminary layouts and design concepts have been shared with the District
- Look Ahead
 - District to review the plans and provide feedback

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

Bedwell Security Vestibule

Anticipated Completion September 2027 (with variable start date)

- Status
 - Preliminary layout and design being developed
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Surveying
 - Civil engineering site survey has been completed
- Look Ahead
 - Design and layout to be shared with District

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Design Phase

Bedwell Kindergarten Toilets

Anticipated Completion September 2027 (with variable start date)

- Status
 - Developing preliminary layout and design
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Surveying
- Look Ahead
 - Design and layout to be shared with District

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project in Bidding/Contract Approval/Construction Phase

Bernards High School Bleacher Replacement *Anticipated Completion Fall 2026*

- Status
 - Attorney review for electrician proposal for bleacher electrical connections
 - Floor vendor approved
 - Bleachers removed and disposed of
 - Partition removed
- Look Ahead
 - Floor work completed September 1st-10th; Electrical work prior to October 1; and Bleacher installation TBD (likely by November 1)
 - Determine wall painting

Referendum 2026: Status Report

Project	Anticipated Start	Anticipated Completion
BHS Chemistry	June 2027	January 2028
BHS Physics (C-Wing)	June 2027	January 2028
BHS Physics (E-Wing)	June 2027	September 2027
BHS Biology	June 2027	September 2028
BHS Life Skills/Annex	June 2027	January 2028
BHS B-Wing/Auditorium Roof	June 2027	September 2027
BMS Science	June 2027	September 2027
Bedwell Vestibule/Kindergarten Renovations	Spring 2027	September 2027
BMS Roofing	Potential June 2027	Potential September 2027

Capital Project: Status Report

Project in Construction Phase

Tennis Court Renovation: Completed

- Status
 - Courts complete
 - Punch List items
- Look Ahead
 - Examining benches
 - Ribbon cutting on August 31st

Capital Project: Status Report

Project in Construction Phase

Renovation of Security System

- Status
 - Bedwell, BMS and BHS nearly complete
 - Punch List items
- Look Ahead
 - Olcott

Academics: 2026 Advanced Placement Testing Results

Number of AP Tests taken by BHS Students	BHS Mean Score on 784 AP Tests taken by BHS Students	NJ Mean Score on Subject Tests	Global Mean Score on Subject Tests	Scores of 3 or Above
784 (+6)	3.91 (3.7% increase)	3.51 (2.9% increase)	3.35 (3.4% increase)	In 23 of 27 Subject Tests, the percent of BHS 3+ scores was higher than NJ and Global average

Summary of AP Results

Tests taken in 27 subjects by BHS students

24 subjects had an average score above the NJ average

25 subjects had an average score above the Global average

BHS students generally outperformed their NJ and Global peers.

Globally, students did better in 2026.

In NJ, students did not increase to the rate of their Global peers.

Student Safety Data System Submission

Any incident that meets Incident Type Definitions for one of the SSDS incident types must be reported through the SSDS system, regardless of whether any disciplinary action was taken.

The incident types are as follows:

Arson • Assault • Computer Trespass • Damage to Property • False Public Alarm • Fight • HIB Alleged • HIB Confirmed • Kidnapping • Restraint • Robbery/Extortion • Seclusion • Sexual Assault • Sexual Contact • Substance Offense • Theft • Threat – Criminal • Threat – Simple • Trespass • Weapon Offense • Other Incident Leading to Removal

Student Safety Data System Submission

School Name	Incidents**	Other Incidents Leading to Removal	Restraint/ Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
030-BES	0	0	4	1	0	2
040-BMS	11	13	0	10	0	0
020-BHS	8	35	0	6	0	0
District	**	**	**	**	0	0

School Regionalization Study

A data review is being conducted by G. Kennedy Greene, LLC; both Bedminster and SHSD have uploaded all requested documentation.

In-District meetings with applicable staff on October 12, 2026

Scope of work adjusted to reflect a January 2027 completion

Public Meeting forthcoming

2026 Demographic Study

To Be Presented at Board Retreat

Enrollments (PK-12) were computed for a five-year period, 2026-27 through 2030-31, in two separate projections (baseline and adjusted for housing growth).

- In the baseline projection, which reflects only developments under construction and excludes those proposed or approved but not yet under construction, enrollments are projected to decline in 2026-27 before reversing the trend. Enrollment is projected to be 1,603 in 2030-31, a gain of 71 students over the 2025-26 enrollment of 1,532.
- In the adjusted projection, which reflects all proposed and approved developments regardless of their construction status, enrollments are also projected to decline in 2026-27, then reverse the trend. Enrollment is projected to be 1,655 in 2030-31, a gain of 123 students over the 2025-26 enrollment.

2026 Demographic Study

To Be Presented at Board Retreat

For grades PK-4 at Bedwell Elementary School, enrollments are projected to increase throughout the projection period in both projections.

- In the baseline projection, enrollment is projected to be 585 in 2030-31, a gain of 132 students from the 2025-26 enrollment of 453.
- In the adjusted projection, enrollment is projected to be 593 in 2030-31, a gain of 140 students over the 2025-26 enrollment.

2026 Demographic Study

To Be Presented at Board Retreat

For grades 5-8 at Bernardsville Middle School, enrollments are projected to be fairly stable for the next three years before increasing near the end of the projection period in both projections.

- In the baseline projection, enrollment is projected to be 423 in 2030-31, a gain of 35 students from the 2025-26 enrollment of 388.
- In the adjusted projection, enrollment is projected to be 436 in 2030-31, a gain of 48 students over the 2025-26 enrollment.

2026 Demographic Study

To Be Presented at Board Retreat

For grades 9-12 at Bernards High School, enrollments are projected to decline for the next four years before stabilizing in both the baseline and adjusted projections.

- In the baseline projection, enrollment is projected to be 595 in 2030-31, a decline of 96 students from the 2025-26 enrollment of 691.
- In the adjusted projection, enrollment is projected to be 626 in 2030-31, a decline of 65 students from the 2025-26 enrollment.

Looking Ahead

Return of SHSD Staff

First Day of School

Back-to-School Nights

Board Retreat

FY28 Budget Development begins in October

Joint District Staff meet with Regionalization Study