

Approved October 15th
Board Meeting

BOARD OF EDUCATION
(Official)

September 17, 2026
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Board President Maria Z. Carvalho called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the September 17, 2026, regular agenda/business meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education and read the following statement.

“Good evening and welcome to our Board of Education Meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education. This is a combined regular agenda and business meeting of the Board of Education. This meeting is being held in accordance with the schedule of meetings adopted at the organizational meeting held on January 6, 2026. Adequate notice of this meeting of the Elizabeth Board of Education has been provided to The Star-Ledger on January 12, 2026. Additionally, this notice is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of 500 North Broad Street, and pursuant to this act, a copy has been filed with the City Clerk of Elizabeth, New Jersey.”

“We want to welcome everyone present here at School No. 51 and to our television viewers to this September 17, 2026, meeting of the Board of Education. We are here to govern, provide management oversight, and make policy for the district. The Superintendent manages the district. This is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

“This meeting is being recorded and will become part of the Elizabeth Board of Education permanent record. So that the recording will adequately reflect the proceedings, please refrain from talking while others are speaking.”

“We ask that you silence the sound on your electronic devices. Since it is legally mandated that these proceedings be accurately recorded, we may have to ask for order periodically should noise begin to interfere with our recording capabilities.”

“There will be a public portion for citizens to address the Board. Participants for the public portion must personally sign in prior to the start of the public participation portion so that they may have the opportunity to speak. The sign-in sheet states the name, address, telephone number, and reason that the person wants to comment, whether it is an agenda item or a general education comment.”

“We are pleased that you have taken time this evening to join us here for our Board of Education meeting. Thank you for your interest in the Elizabeth Public Schools.”

Present: Dr. Barbosa, (Arrived at 8:51 p.m.) Ms. Bathelus, (arrived at 5:51 p.m.) Mmes. Clerevoyant-Noel. Chevres, (via Virtual Platform) then in person at 6:57 p.m., Mr. Jacobs (via Virtual Platform) then in person at 6:55p.m., Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mrs. Carvalho. -8

Absent-Mr. Rivera. (1)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Rafael Cortes Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Daryl Palmieri, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy, Jr., Deputy Counsel, Heather Savage Ford Esq, and Co-General Counsel, Edward Kologi Esq., of Kologi Simitz Law Office, were in attendance.

Mrs. Carvalho asked everyone to please stand for the Presentation Of Colors:

Colors were presented during the Flag Ceremony by members of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. Safety Academy.

The National Anthem was played.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Rosa Moreno-Ortega

The Pledge of Ethics was led by Board Member Stephanie Clervoyant -Noel

Mrs. Carvalho then read the following statement:

Citizens may address the Board.

“At this time, the microphones are open for public comment to those who have signed in prior to this session. I shall call individuals to the microphone based on the order of the sign-in. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes in duration. The total time of public comment shall be limited to 60 minutes. No individual is able to yield their time to another individual. All comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board Members individually. Each speaker shall comply in all respects with Board Policy 9322 (copies were provided next to the sign in sheet)”.

“The following rules shall apply:

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced.
2. No personal attacks on individuals or the naming of individuals.
3. No vulgar or indecent language.
4. A person may address the Board no more than once during a single meeting.
5. Comments will not be debated.”

“Any person in violation of the Policy will be warned, and their comments terminated if needed. If such violation continues, this individual may be escorted from the meeting.”

“As a reminder this is a meeting of the Board in public, not a meeting of the public.”

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the first participant, Vanessa Matos, to address the Board.

Ms. Matos spoke about issues with her child’s I.E.P.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Christina Morreira, to address the Board.

Mrs. Morreira spoke about issues with underperforming schools

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Patricia Gallante, to address the Board.

Ms. Gallante spoke about her concerns about the use of Temporary Classroom Units for Special Education Students. .

Mrs. Carvalho thanked her for her comments.

Mrs. Carvalho called upon the next participant, Mr. Samad Siddiqui, to address the Board.

Mr. Siddiqui spoke about issues with his child's permanent placement.

Mrs. Carvalho thanked him for his comments.

Board of Education President Maria Carvalho began a review of the evening's Agenda.

Tab 1a) Official and Private Minutes (August 20, 2026) were added to the Agenda.

Tab 1b) Treasurer/Secretary's Report (July 31, 2026) was added to the Agenda.

Tab 2a and Tab 2b) Personnel Report Dr. Hugelmeyer asked Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Mr. Daryl Palmieri, to provide a summary of the Personnel Report. Mr. Palmieri stated that in this month's report there were appointments, transfers, promotions, retirements, resignations, reappointments, and salary adjustments which were made for a variety of reasons to support the opening of the District. Mr. Palmieri added that the transfers were made due to resignations, retirements, collapsed classrooms, employee and administrative requests and the need to align staff with current school and program needs. Also noted were 6 promotions and internal advancements. Two teachers were promoted to Learning Disabilities Teacher - Consultant (LDTC), while a Child Development Associate (CDA) became a teacher and a multipurpose Attendant was elevated to a CDA. In addition, a System Analyst II was promoted to Network Administrator and a Computer Technician was moved up to a System Analyst II. All these advancements recognize internal talent moving into higher-level instructional, student - support, and technology positions.

Board President Carvalho added that the District had lost students and as a result the District had to collapse classrooms and reconfigure staffing needs. However, through the hard work of administrators and Mr. Palmieri every teacher and support person found a home, and no one was laid off, which was a huge accomplishment.

Board Member Rosa Moreno-Ortega, speaking in response to community concerns about the large number of personnel transfers, stated that the Board often cannot speak to the specifics of a transfer, but transfers are made in the best interests of the District. Moreover, if a teacher has a question about a transfer they can contact/email any Board member so that the issue can be addressed by the Administration in a respectful and timely manner.

Tab 2a and Tab 2b) Personnel Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 3) Tuitions Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4a-4c) Considerations – Dr. Hugelmeyer said under considerations there were Professional Development opportunities for District Supervisors to pursue. In addition, the Supervisor of Visual Arts will be attending Art Education and the Law training. Two principals will be attending the 2026NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD conference while two Instructional Science coaches would be attending the 2026 New Jersey Science Convention. Also, the Director of Special Services seeks approval to attend Edu-tech Special Education Conference.

Tab 4a) Considerations was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4b) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4bb) Use of Facilities was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4c) Field Trips was added to the Agenda.

Tab 4d) HIB Report was added to the Agenda.

Tab 5 /Tab 5a) Authorizations Report/Supplemental Authorizations Report. Dr. Hugelmeyer stated that the JVJ Stem Academy would be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and their Toy drive from November 1st, through December 23rd. In addition, the students at JVJ would be conducting their annual Coat Drive. School 19 will be holding a Welcome Back to School Volleyball game between students and Staff on Thursday October 8th. The District will be entering into a partnership agreement with the City of Elizabeth, Department of Health and Human Services, which will be presenting a Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop and Recognizing Exploitation and Protecting Yourself and Others program. Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Jennifer Cedeno highlighted some donations that were coming to the district: Crown Bank is donating school supplies to Chessie Dentley Roberts School No. 30; the Elks Friendship Circle is donating \$ 4,000 to \$5,000 to support School No. 14's LLD Classroom's Field Trip to Turtle Back Zoo; \$1,000 is being donated by Paige Kelly in honor and memory of her father Shawn Kelly and the donation is intended to support youth in the arts and creative and artistic expression among Elizabeth Public Schools students. Assistant Superintendent for Schools, Mrs. Judy Finch-Johnson summarized the Fund-Raising events that were to be approved. There are a total of 117 individual fund-raising events and included in this total are Family Nights, Pink out events in support of Breast Cancer awareness month, Craft Nights, a Box Top program, school store sales and athletic apparel sales. Board member Charlene Bathelus inquired about the Time Capsule opening at Elmora School No. 12 which will be held on Wednesday, October 21st, at 1:00 p.m.

Tab 5 and Tab 5a) Authorizations Report/Supplemental Authorizations Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report - Board Member Jerry Jacobs asked about item #18. -Magic Touch Construction, was this their final bill? Mr. Kennedy replied that this was a progress bill and once the Vestibule upgrades were complete a final bill would be submitted. There was no definitive timeline for completion.

Mrs. Carvalho said that she would bring this to Plant and Property and apprise Mr. Jacobs of the results of their discussion.

Tab 6 and 6a) Finance and Accounting Report/Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report were added to the Agenda.

Tab 7 and 7a) Award of Contracts Report. Board Member Charlene Bathelus asked about the contract with Prizmah Inc and the Women in Leadership Cohort- Superintendent Hugelmeyer explained that this was a contract that the District was facilitating on behalf of the Jewish Educational Center. Mrs. Moreno-Ortega asked that the process for the Dual Enrollment program with local colleges be explained. Dr. Hugelmeyer stated that it was a collaborative effort between the students, guidance counselor, and teacher(s) for students to explore these opportunities. Mrs. Carvalho added that there are 55 students from Halsey, 60 students from Hamilton, 160 students from FJC, 95 students from JVJ, 20 students from Bollwage Academy 25 students from Dwyer, 40 students from Edison Tech, and 35 students from Jefferson Arts Academy enrolled in Dual enrollment programs. In response to a question from Ms. Bathelus regarding funding for Dual Enrollment Programs, Dr. Hugelmeyer said that it is part of the regular District budget. Mr. Jacobs asked for more information regarding the contract with In-Line Heating and Air Conditioning, specifically whether the boiler replacements at Jefferson Academy were new boilers or part of an on-going maintenance project. With Mr. Milanes unavailable to answer the question, Mrs. Carvalho said she would bring it to the Plant and Property Committee and get the answer for Mr. Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs also asked about the contract with College Board. It was explained by Dr. Hugelmeyer that these are the fees that District is covering for our students so that all students can meet the Elizabeth Board of Education graduation requirement of taking the S.A.T. test. The manner in which the contract is detailed in tonight's agenda is in response to Board requests in prior years to break out by high school the funds being expended to help our students be college bound or career ready.

Tab 7a and 7a) Award of Contracts Report was added to the Agenda.

Schools Superintendent, Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer presented the Community Announcements

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th to October 15.

Senior Seminar – College Application Boot Camp October 24 Location and time to be determined - This event is for seniors only – Parents are welcome to attend. Please bring fully charged laptop. Sessions include:

- College Application Process
- Essay Writing Workshop
- Navigating the Common App
- Building Your College List
- SCOIR
- Scholarships

Sessions will be in English and Spanish. Please contact Ms. Aimee Saluccio, Director College and Career Coordinator 908-436-6669 saluccioai@EPSNJ.org.

2026-2027 Financial Aid Nights will be held at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy (123 Pearl St.) on the following dates from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.:

October 7
October 21
November 16
December 2
December 16

Over the next several months, the Elizabeth Public Schools Dept. of Student Services will be hosting scholarship and FAFSA Completion Nights. School Counselors are available to assist students with completing FAFSA and applications for upcoming scholarships as well as show students where they may find additional scholarship opportunities. Those attending to complete FAFSA forms should create StudentAID.gov account prior to attending and must bring a laptop and their tax documents. These sessions are for seniors only and parents are welcome to attend. Sessions will be conducted in both English and Spanish.

Residency Verification Appointments start on September 29, 2026.

At Elizabeth Public Schools, our commitment begins with ensuring that every child who calls Elizabeth home has access to the educational opportunities, resources and support they deserve. We take great pride in caring for and serving the students and families of our community, and we remain dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environment for every Elizabeth student

As part of our residency verification process, for current and new students, Elizabeth Public Schools is required to ensure that all students who attend Elizabeth Public Schools reside in the city. As of September 29, 2026, we are conducting mandatory residency verification for the following schools:

Terrence C. Reilly School No. 7
iPrep Academy School No. 8
William F. Halloran School No. 22
Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No.26
Dr Albert Einstein Academy School No.29
Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

On September 29, 2026, parents and guardians will be able to schedule an appointment for residency verification that will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming regarding the necessary documentation for students in grades Kindergarten, Second Grade, Fourth and Sixth grade and how to schedule an appointment.

In January 2026, former New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed a law requiring all K-12 public school districts to adopt policies restricting student cell phones and internet enabled device use during the school day. The bell-to-bell restriction went into effect for the 2026-2027 school year. We have created a dedicated section of our EPS Back-to-School Resources page where families can access the full Board of Education policy, and a quick reference guide.

Catapult Learning is offering both before and after school care services at the following schools:

- George Washington School #1
- Winfield Scott School #2

- Joseph Battin School #4
- Joseph Battin School Annex #. 4 A
- Mabel G. Holmes School #5
- Mabel G. Holmes School Annex #5A
- Toussaint L'Ouverture/Marquis de Lafayette School #6
- Terrence C. Reilly School #7
- Jerome Dunn Academy School #9
- Abraham Lincoln School # 14
- Madison-Monroe School #16
- Victor Mravlag School #21
- William F. Halloran School #22 Annex
- Orlando Edreira School # 26
- Dr. Antonia Pantoja School # 27
- Juan P Duarte-Jose J. Marti School # 28
- Albert Einstein School # 29
- Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School # 30
- Frances C. Smith School # 50
- Donald Stewart School # 51
- Martin Luther King School # 52

This is an optional program for families that need childcare. It will operate Monday -Friday on all regular school days from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 3:05 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. serving PK3-5th Grade students. To qualify for financial assistance for childcare services, families must register at www.mynjhelps.gov. If you are approved for a subsidy, you will receive reduced cost childcare. To participate in the program, families must go to our office at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ECC School No.52 located at 30 Trumbull Street, to complete a registration packet. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the phone number is 908-436-6164.

The Union County Board of County Commissioners, in partnership with RWJBarnabas Health, is holding Back to School Children's Vaccinations and School Physicals event on Monday, September 21 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Union County Family Clinic, located at 40 Parker Road in Elizabeth. The event is open by appointment only, for all children pre-K through 18. Please note that a school referral is required for vaccine appointments.

Dr. Hugelmeyer showed a series of slides captioned Inside EPS – News from Central.

The Elizabeth Public Schools welcomed back administrators to the 2026-2027 school year on September 3, and it welcomed back students and team members to the 2026-2027 School Year on September 10. Elizabeth Board of Education members and Elizabeth Public School's central office administrators were among those who greeted students and families as they arrived for their first day at schools throughout the community. Elizabeth Public Schools and the Elizabeth Board of Education extend all students and families their best wishes for an amazing school year.

Our District welcomed administrators back to the 2026-2027 school year on September 3 at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No.27. The full-day event was highlighted by a presentation from Multi-State Programs AVID Executive Director Patrick Briggs, who spoke with attendees about Strategic Leader Leadership for College and Career Readiness. The Elizabeth Public Schools staff development team helped facilitate the day of professional training that brought administrators

from schools and district instructional and business departments to participate in activities that reflected on past successes, focused on guiding Principles of the District and set expectations for goals for the upcoming school year.

Elizabeth Public Schools also welcomed new team members to the EPS family for the 2026-2027 school year on September 1 at Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27. This event provided an opportunity for newly hired staff members to connect with colleagues, learn about district initiatives, and gain valuable information to support a successful start to their careers. Throughout the welcoming session, EPS team members from Human Resources, Staff Development, Business and Technology Departments helped provide information, guidance and support. New staff members had the chance to ask questions, gather information about professional services, financial planning opportunities, insurance options, and other programs designed to enhance their well-being and professional growth.

The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) along with Elizabeth Public Schools, the Elizabeth Board of Education, and state and city elected officials, hosted a beam signing ceremony, to celebrate the construction progress of the new Joseph Battin School No.4. Since the groundbreaking ceremony held at the site in April, construction has continued to advance, bringing the project one step closer to its anticipated opening in 2028. As part of the ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to sign a structural steel beam that will become a permanent part of the school building. Once it is placed, the beam will serve as a lasting symbol of the many individuals who played a role in this important milestone in the school's construction. Those who were on site to sign the beam for the new state-of-the-art, facility were SDA Chief Executive Officer Manuel M. DaSilva, City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth City Councilwoman at Large, Patricia Perkins-Auguste, Elizabeth City Councilmen Kevin Kiniery and Nelson Gonzalez, Elizabeth Board of Education President, Maria Carvalho, Board of Education, Members, Charlene Bathelus, Illiana Chevres and Stephanie Clervoyant-Noel, Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent, Dr Olga Hugelmeyer, EPS Assistant Superintendents, Dr Jennifer Cedenio, Rafael Cortes, Judy Finch-Johnson and Daryl Palmieri, EPS School Business Administrator and Board Secretary Harold E. Kennedy Jr. EPS Director of Plant, Property and Equipment Luis E. Milanes Jr., Joseph Battin School No. 4 Principal Jerika Fernandez, and 5th and 6th grade students who may be among the first to attend the new school when it opens its doors and be part of its first graduating class.

Ten schools within the Elizabeth Public Schools District received a gold designation from the New Jersey Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in 2026 as part of the organization's recognition program. SRTS enables and encourages safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environments for children in N.J. through education, training, and research. Schools are required to meet various criteria to receive gold, silver or bronze designations, which may include implementing active transportation best practices, assessing walkability/bikeability around the school, and participation in pedestrian or bicycle safety education programs among other things. The 11 EPS schools to be designated for the gold award in 2026 were:

- Joseph Battin School No.4
- Jerome Dunn School No. 9
- Christopher Columbus School No. 15
- Victor Mravlag School No. 21
- William F. Halloran School No. 22
- Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25
- Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Julian Marti School No.28

- Donald Stewart Early Childhood Center School No. 51
- John E Dwyer Technology Academy
- Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy
- Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy

Additionally, Elmora School No.12, Christmas Columbus School No.15 Annex and Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson STEM Academy received this year's bronze award while Winfield Scott School No. 2 received the first steps award.

The Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy Marine Corps, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp, (MCJROTC), was recently designated a Naval Honor School by the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Training and education Command for the 2025-2026 school year. The Naval Honor School designation means that a Marine Corp Corps JROTC program is in the top 20 percent of all programs. This marks the seventh time in eight years that the MCJROTC at Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy has received this honor. There are 250 MCJROTC programs world wide currently divided among nine regions. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy is among 19 schools that make up Region 9.

On the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, schools throughout the District remembered and honored the heroes who helped save lives and those who passed, including some of those selfless and courageous heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice while saving others. Elizabeth Public Schools especially remembers the six residents who lost their lives because of the attacks: Arcelia Castillo, Carlos S. Da Costa, Colleen L. Fraser, Margaret Susan Lewis, Frankie Serrano and Anthony Tempesta.

Good evening

Tonight I am pleased to share with you our students' performance on WIDA ACCESS from the Spring of this past school year. All Multilingual Learners in grades K through 12 are assessed on their English language acquisition with this assessment. Students are assessed on 4 language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Each student also receives an overall score that is a combination of the four (4) domains. Performance is reported on a six-point scale.

ACCESS scores are used to determine the best placement for a student in the next school year – including whether a student is ready to exit Multilingual Learner status.

WIDA ACCESS

All Multilingual Learners (MLs) in Grades K-12 are administered the ACCESS to determine: 1) The level of English language that each student has acquired. 2) The best placement for each student moving forward.

ACCESS assesses 4 language domains:

- 1) Listening
- 2) Speaking
- 3) Reading
- 4) Writing.

ACCESS scores are reported as performance in each domain and a composite (overall) score combining all 4.

Performance is reported as performance on a scale of 1.0 to 6.0.

Average scores reported here include all levels of Multilingual Learners from those newly arrived to those ready to exit ELL status. There are several different versions of the ACCESS for ELLs, and they are administered based on the students' grade level. The average score for each domain is shown here reported by the grade bands that are assessed together. Kindergarteners are assessed by the teacher using paper-based materials.

Students in grades 1-3 are assessed online for the Listening, Reading, and Speaking domains and use a paper-based booklet to complete the writing domain because of their limited typing skills.

Students in grades 4 through 12 complete all domains online.

SPRING 2026 ACCESS FOR ELLS

Grade Span Kindergarten Total Tests 720 / Listening 3.1/Reading 1.4/Speaking 2.6 /Writing 1.7/Composite 1.8

Grade Span Grade 1 Total Tests 786/Listening 3.3/Reading 2.9/Speaking 2.2/Writing 1.9/Composite 2.2

Grade Span Grades 2-3 Total Tests 1,644/ Listening 3.3/Reading 3.6/Speaking 2.5/ Writing 2.9/Composite 3.0

Grade Span Grades 4-5 Total Tests 1,507/Listening 4.9/Reading 3.6/Speaking 3.0 Writing 3.4/ Composite 3.5

Grade Span Grades 6-8 Total Tests 1,698/Listening 4.3/Reading 2.9/Speaking 2.6/ Writing 3.1/Composite 3.0

Grade Span Grades 9-12 Total Tests 2,129/Listening 3.9/ Reading 3.6/Speaking 2.3/Writing 3.2/ Composite 3.1

Total 2026 -Total tests 8,484 Listening 3.9/ Reading 3.2/ Speaking 2.6/ Writing 2.9 / Composite 2.9

Total 2025 Total Tests 9,417 Listening 3.7/ Reading 3.0/ Speaking 2.5/ Writing 2.8 / Composite 2.9

Multilingual Learners with significant cognitive disabilities are also required to participate in the ACCESS for ELLs using the Alternate ACCESS. Like the kindergarten version, it is administered to the students individually and using paper-based materials.

Because of the limited number of students who participate, the data above is not broken out by grade level, but by proficiency level.

Spring 2026 Alternate ACCESS for ELL's

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLS is administered to Multilingual Learners with significant cognitive disabilities.

In the 2025-2026 school year, 136 students were assessed with the Alternate ACCESS.

- Proficiency Level PL 1-Entering/Listening 22% / Speaking 52%/ Reading 30% Writing 50% / Overall Score 36%.

- Proficiency Level PL-2 Emerging/ Listening 10% /Speaking 21%/Reading 19% Writing /15% /Overall Score 28%.
- Proficiency Level PL-3 Developing/ Listening 22% /Speaking 16% /Reading 21%/Writing 15%/Overall Score 15%.
- Proficiency Level PL 4 Expanding /Listening 29%/Speaking 2%/ Reading 14% /Writing 8% /Overall Score 11%.
- Proficiency Level PL 5 Bridging/ Listening 17%/ Speaking 9% / Reading 15% /Writing 12% / Overall Score 10%.
- Total Students = 136.

Dynamic Learning Maps –(DLM)

All students in identified grade levels and subject areas are required to participate in statewide assessments

Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) assessments are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom general state assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations

DLM assessments offer these students a way to show what they know and can do in Mathematics and English language arts/Literacy

DLM assessments are administered in Grades 3-8 and 11 instead of NJSLA Assessments

Nearly 3% of students in Elizabeth meet the guidelines to take the DLM

Here you see the numbers of students scoring at each level because there are so few students who take the DLM. In total, we had 333 students take ELA DLM assessments, and 37.2% passed

Dynamic Learning Maps 2026 ELA Performance Elizabeth

Grade 3 Tested 60/ Emerging 32/Approaching 12/ At Target 16/ Advanced 0/ Tot-Target & Adv -16 / % At Target & Advanced 26.7%

Grade 4 Tested 56/ Emerging 29/Approaching 13/ At Target 14/ Advanced 0/ Tot-Target-Adv -14 % At Targeted and Advanced. 25.0%

Grade 5 Tested 38/ Emerging 15/Approaching 11/ At Target 12/ Advanced 0/ Tot-Target-Adv -12 / % At Target & Advanced 31.6%

Grade 6 Tested 53/ Emerging 18/Approaching 16/ At Target 10/ Advanced 9/ Tot-Target-Adv -19/ % At Target & Advanced 35.8%

Grade 7 Tested 42/ Emerging 12/Approaching 16/ At Target 11/ Advanced 3/ Tot-Target-Adv -14 / % At Target & Advanced 33.3%

Grade 8 Tested 46/ Emerging 13/Approaching 7/ At Target 23/ Advanced 3/ Tot-Target-Adv -26 / % At Target & Advanced 56.5%

Grade 11 Tested 38/ Emerging 8/Approaching 7/ At Target 12/ Advanced 11/ Tot-Target-Adv -23 / % At Target & Advanced 60.5%

Total 333/Emerging 127/ Approaching 82/At Target 98 /Advanced 26/Total at Target & Advanced 124/At Target & Advanced 37.2%

Those same 333 students also took math DLM assessments and have a very similar pass rate of 39.6%

Dynamic Learning Maps Spring 2026 Math Performance Elizabeth.

Grade 3 Tested 60/ Emerging 23/Approaching 9 / At Target 16/ Advanced 12/ Tot-Target-Adv -28 / % /at Target & Advanced 46.7%

Grade 4 Tested 56/ Emerging 20/Approaching 5/ At Target 23/ Advanced 8/ Tot-Target-Adv – 31 / % /at Target & Advanced 55.3%

Grade 5 Tested 38/ Emerging 16/Approaching 10/ At Target 4/ Advanced 8/ Tot-Target-Adv – 12 / %/ at Target & Advanced 31.6%

Grade 6 Tested 53/ Emerging 21/Approaching 16/ At Target 13/ Advanced 3/ Tot-Target-Adv -16 / %/ at Target & Advanced 30.2%

Grade 7 Tested 42/ Emerging 16/Approaching 11/ At Target 13/ Advanced 2/ Tot-Target-Adv -15 / % /at Target & Advanced 35.7%

Grade 8 Tested 46/ Emerging 12/Approaching 17/ At Target 8/ Advanced 9/ Tot-Target-Adv -17 /% at Targeted and Advanced 37.0%

Grade 11 Tested 38/ Emerging 13/Approaching 12/ At Target 13/ Advanced 0/Tot-Target-Adv – 13 / %/ at Target & Advanced 34.2%

Total Tested 333/ Emerging 121/ Approaching 80 / At Target 90 / Advanced 42/Total At Target & Advanced 132/ At Target and Advanced % 39.6%

Like the NJSLA, Science is only assessed in grades 5, 8, and 11. We had 122 students take the DLM in those grade levels, and again, a very similar pass rate at 40.1%

Dynamic Learning Maps 2026 Science Performance Elizabeth

Grade 5 Tested 38/ Emerging 21/Approaching 10/ At Target 7/ Advanced 0/ Tot-Target-Adv – 7/ % at Target & Advanced 18.4%

Grade 8 Tested 46/ Emerging 18 /Approaching 5/ At Target 15/ Advanced 7/ Tot-Target-Adv – 22 / % /at Target & Advanced 47.8%

Grades 11 Tested 38/ Emerging 13/Approaching 5/ At Target 12/ Advanced 8/Tot-Target-Adv –20 / % at Target and Advanced 52.6%

Total 122/ Emerging 52 / Approaching 52 /At Target 34 /Advanced 15 / Total # at Target & Advanced 49 / % at Target and Advanced 40.1%

NEW JERSEY GRADUATION PROFICIENCY ASSESMENT – ADAPTIVE (NJGPA-A)

March 2026 was the first administration of the new adaptive version of the NJGPA assessment

The NJGPA-A measures the extent to which students are “Graduation Ready” in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.

ELA graduation readiness is based on grade 10 standards

Math graduation readiness is based on Algebra 1 and Geometry standards.

Scores range from 300 to 650 with 2 scoring levels:

Not Graduation Ready Level 1 300-449

Graduation Ready Level 2 450-650

March 2026 NJGPA- Elizabeth Compared to New Jersey

Performance in Elizabeth as well as throughout New Jersey is better in English Language Arts than it is in Math. In each subject, our performance is about 15 percentage points behind that of the state as a whole.

Elizabeth Public Schools ELA Graduation Ready 62.0
New Jersey ELA Graduation Read 76.0

Elizabeth Public Schools Math Graduation Ready.49.0
New Jersey Math Graduation Ready 61.0

March 2026 NJGPA- Elizabeth by Demographic Group

We see the difference in performance between ELA and math across all demographic groups with the exception of Multilingual Learners who performed slightly better in math than in ELA.

Black Graduation Ready ELA 59.0/Math 43.4
Hispanic Graduation Ready ELA 59.8/Math 47.3
White Graduation Ready ELA 67.1 / Math 48.7
ED Graduation Ready ELA 60.5/Math 47.4
ML Graduation Ready ELA 25.0/Math 27.0
SE Graduation Ready ELA 30.8/Math 16.1

Superintendent Hugelmeyer began her next Power Point Presentation where she stated “ each year, we report on the achievements of our most recently graduating class including our District’s Promise goals and our graduation rate and pathways. It was noted that the Class of 2026 was comprised of 2,012 students.

Goal – 90% of EPS Graduates will enroll in at least one (1) Advanced Placement Course-In pursuit of excellence for all students, the District has set a goal of 90% of our graduates will take at least one Advance Placement course during their time in high school. The range of percentages of high schools stretches from 22.6% to 99.7%.

- District 59.4%
- Bollwage Academy 26.9%
- Cicarell Academy 99.7 %
- Dwyer 62.8%
- Edison 22.6%
- Halsey 26.0%
- Hamilton 90.7%
- Jefferson 45.3%
- JVJ STEM 76.6%

Goal -90% of EPS Graduates will Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA – Another Goal that the District has set for our students is to earn at least a 3.0 GPA. The average GPA for the class of 2026 was 3.178 with 59.2% of graduates achieving that goal.

District 59.2%/ Average GPA 3.178

- Bollwage Academy 69.4%/Average GPA 3.158
- Cicarell Academy 95.6 /Average GPA 3.788
- Dwyer 47.6 / Average GPA 3.066

- Edison 39.5% / Average GPA 2.910
- Halsey 48.5%/Average GPA 2.974
- Hamilton 55.6%/ Average GPA 3.075
- Jefferson 59.7%/ Average GPA 3.177
- JVJ STEM 59.1%/ Average GPA 3.101

Goal – 90% of EPS Students will Graduate on Time. Upon entering high school in the 9th grade students are put in a 4-year graduation cohort. Students who entered in September of the 22-23 school year were placed in Cohort 2026 because they were expected to graduate high school within 4 years to be considered an on time graduate. 87.2% of the District’s students who entered high school in September of 2022 accomplished that feat.

EPS Cohort 2026/ Official Federal Calculation

- District 87.2%
- Bollwage Academy 84.7%
- Cicarell Academy 97.3%
- Dwyer 80.5%
- Edison 84.3%
- Halsey 75.3%
- Hamilton 98.0%
- Jefferson 91.9%
- JVJ STEM 92.9%

4 Year High School Graduation Rate Elizabeth Public Schools – 10.8 % increase in Federal Graduation Rate from Cohort 2021 to Present

- 2021 = 78.7
- 2022 = 78.5
- 2023 = 87.9
- 2024 = 88.3
- 2025 = 87.5
- 2026 = 87.2

On Time Graduation by Academy – Federal High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by Academy 2021-Present-The majority of our high schools continue to demonstrate progress in raising graduation rates. In the past six years the largest increase has been at Edison where the graduation rate has risen by 21 basis points.

Hamilton

- 2021-97.1
- 2022-93.3
- 2023-97.5
- 2024-97.7
- 2025-98.3

- 2026-98.0

- Bollwage
- 2021-90.0
- 2022-81.0
- 2023-92.1
- 2024-88.3
- 2025-90.3
- 2026-84.7

Halsey

- 2021-63.4
- 2022-77.1
- 2023-79.1
- 2024-78.1
- 2025-75.8
- 2026-75.3

Cicarell

- 2021-95.1
- 2022-93.6
- 2023-97.4
- 2024-99.1
- 2025-99.0
- 2026-97.3

Dwyer

- 2021-71.4
- 2022-67.9
- 2023-83.0
- 2024-83.9
- 2025-81.5
- 2026-80.5

Edison

- 2021-63.3
- 2022-63.3
- 2023-86.0
- 2024-77.9
- 2025-85.6
- 2026-84.3

Jefferson

- 2021-81.6
- 2022-74.7

- 2023-88.3
- 2024-91.7
- 2025-89.5
- 2026-91.9

JVJ

- 2024-93.3
- 2025-90.9
- 2026-92.9

-On Time Graduation Trend by Ethnicity-The District has seen consistent gains in all reportable demographic groups. Since 2021, Graduation rates among Black students has risen 23.9%.

Asian

- 2021-86.2
- 2022-85.3
- 2023-84.6
- 2024-100.0
- 2025-91.7
- 2026-97.0

Black

- 2021-70.8
- 2022-72.1
- 2023-84.8
- 2024-85.0
- 2025-86.0
- 2026-87.7

Hispanic

- 2021-79.5
- 2022-79.9
- 2023-88.7
- 2024-89.0
- 2025-87.6
- 2026-86.6

White

- 2021-87.3
- 2022-77.4
- 2023-85.2
- 2024-86.3
- 2025-89.0
- 2026-89.9

On-Time Graduation by Gender. The District sees a small gap between genders with females graduating at a slightly higher rate than males.

Males	Females
2021 - 73.6%	2021-84.3%
2022 - 73.0%	2022-84.3%
2023 - 85.7%	2023-90.2%
2024 - 85.7%	2024-85.7%
2025 - 83.9%	2025-83.9%
2026 - 85.0%	2026-85.0%

Summarized Review of Cohort 2026

- Total number of students in Cohort 2025=2112
- Total Number of Students graduated =1868
- Number of students denied graduation from the 12th grade class =62
- Number of students denied graduation solely because of failure to pass the NJGPA, substitute competency tests, or portfolio appeals process =0
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- Number of students graduated passing the NJGPA = ELA 1388/Math 1002
- Number of students graduated under the substitute competency test process = ELA 41/ Math 159
- Number of students graduated under the portfolio appeals process = ELA 413/Math 681
- Number of Students receiving a State-endorsed high school diplomas as a result of meeting any alternate requirements for graduation as specified in their IEPs = ELA 26/Math 26

Post Graduation Plans by Academy/EPS Class of 2025 And finally, we survey our graduates each year to learn of their plans after they leave our district.

- 66.7% of our graduates told us they were planning to go to college after graduation.
 - An additional 8.3% were continuing their education in a technical or trade school.
 - 4.8% were planning to serve our county or community in the military or by joining the police force or fire department.
 - Just over 3% were planning to go directly to work and just about 17% had not made a final decision.
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- District- College = 1202 66.7%/ Technical-Trade School 150 8.3%/ Military-Police Fire 96 4.8%/Workforce 58 3.2%/Undeclared 305 16.9%
 - Bollwage College =67.7%/Technical-Trade School 8.3%/Military or Police & Fire 8.3%/Workforce 7.3%/Undeclared 8.3%
 - Cicarell College =89.4% Technical-Trade School 1.4%/ Military or Police & Fire 4.5%/Workforce 0.0% /Undeclared 4.8%

- Dwyer – College =57.4%/Technical-Trade School 12.9% / Military or Police & Fire 4.6%/Workforce 4.9% Undeclared 20.2%
- Edison – College = 53.8% /Technical-Trade School 16.0%/ Military or Police & Fire 7.7%/Workforce 4.1%/ Undeclared 18.3%
- Halsey – College = 60.8%/ Technical or Trade school 10.2%/Military or Police & Fire 6.0 %/Workforce 5.3% /Undeclared 17.7%
- Hamilton – College = 80.2%/Technical or Trade School 7.9%/Military or Police & Fire 3.6%/Workforce 2.2%/Undeclared 6.3%
- Jefferson – College = 71.5%/Technical or Trade School 11.6%/Military or Police & Fire 1.7%/Workforce 4.0% /Undeclared 15.7%
- JVJ STEM – College =69.9 % /Technical or Trade School 3.5%/Military or Police and Fire 4.1%/ Workforce 2.7% /Undeclared 11.6%
- Tab 9) Claims List was added to the Agenda.
- Tab 10-10q) Resolutions were added to the Agenda

Ms. Bathelus left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Mrs. Carvalho stated the following: “The President requests a motion to go into Private Session to consider matters exempt under the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically for discussion of:

Personnel Matters specifically, K.S, S.Z.M., J.B., Food Service job descriptions,

Legal Matters specifically, Workers Compensation specifically Z.C. and I.W.

The Board will reconvene in public and may take formal action.

A motion was made by Mrs. Moreno-Ortega and seconded by Mrs. Clervoyant -Noel to go into private session at 6:58 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Carvalho. - 6

Negative: None

Ms. Bathelus rejoined the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

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Dr. Barbosa joined the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Chèvres, to return to public session at 8:53 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Clervoyant Noel Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Mrs. Goncalves Pestana, Carvalho. - 8

Negative: None

The Following items were added to the Agenda

Resolution -Appointment of Interim Principal – Stefanie Marie Marino – School No. 6

Resolution -Transfer of Vice Principal – Jelsie I. Basso – School No. 4 Annex

Resolution -Termination of Employment – K.S.

Mrs. Carvalho asked for a motion and second to adopt the following agenda.

Opening Calendar

Official and Private Minutes (August 20, 2026)

Treasurer/Secretary's Report (July 31, 2026)

Personnel Reports

Tuitions Reports

Superintendent's Reports

Authorizations Reports

Finance and Accounting Report – Pay Vouchers

Supplemental Finance and Accounting Report – Transfer of Funds

Award of Contracts Reports

Claims List

Resolutions:

Anti-Bullying Week of Respect

Christopher Columbus Day

Italian American Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month

School Violence Awareness Week

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Modification to Transfer of Current Year Surplus to Maintenance Reserve

Approval of Superintendent of Schools Contract – Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer

Revised Contract with First Managed Care Options, Inc.

Payment for Unused Sick Days

Payment for Unused Vacation Days

Rental of School Building – Our Lady of Fatima Church

Revised Rental of School Building – Holy Rosary/St. Michael Church

Approving Purchase Agreement – 545 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ

Transfer of Capital Reserve Funds

Transfer of Maintenance Reserve Funds

Appointing Seashore Fruit & Produce

Capital Improvement Project – School No. 28

Appointment of Interim Principal – Stefanie Marie Marino – School No. 6

Transfer of Vice Principal – Jelsie I. Basso – School No. 4 Annex

Termination of Employment – K.S.

A motion was made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Board Vice President Mrs. Goncalves Pestana to approve the entire agenda.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative: Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mrs. Chevres, (with an abstention on Resolution 10g Approval of Superintendent's Contract) Mrs. Clervoyant-Noel (with an abstention on Tab 2a pg. 10 Appointment of Adam M. Grova, as a teacher., Tab 4b No. 2 City of Elizabeth Dept of Health and Human Services use of Elizabeth H.S. – F.J.C. 5 classrooms, gym library and Nurses office for Future Leaders Program Mon – Fri. 9/10 to 6/17/2027 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tab 4b No.3 City of Elizabeth Health and Human Services use of Schools 1 & 9 5 classrooms, gym, library and Nurses office -Safe Haven after School Program. Every Mon-Friday 9/10/2026-6/17/2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tab 4b No 4 City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services use of School No.23 – 5 classrooms, gym library and Nurses office Every Mon-Friday 9/10/2026-6/17/2026 SOAR Afterschool Program Tab5 pg. Authorization to enter partnership with City of Elizabeth Dept of Human Services 2 Workshops, Resolution 10g Approval of Superintendent's Contract.) Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno-Ortega, Goncalves Pestana, Mrs. Carvalho, (with an abstention on Tab 2a pg. 10 Appointment of Adam M. Grova, as a teacher on Tab 4b No. 2 City of Elizabeth Dept of Health and Human Services use of Elizabeth H.S. F.J.C. 5 classrooms, gym library and Nurses office for Future Leaders Program Mon – Fri. 9/10 to 6/17/2027 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tab 4b No.3 City of Elizabeth Health and Human Services use of Schools 1 & 9 5 classrooms, gym, library and Nurses office -Safe Haven after School Program. Every Mon-Friday 9/10/2026-6/17/2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tab 4b No 4 City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services use of School No.23 – 5 classrooms, gym library and Nurses office Every Mon-Friday 9/10/2026-6/17/2026 SOAR Afterschool Program Tab5 pg. Authorization to enter partnership with City of Elizabeth Dept of Human Services 2 Workshops, Resolution 10g Approval of Superintendent's Contract). -8

Negative: none

Mr. Kennedy stated the Entire Agenda had passed.

On a motion made by Ms. Bathelus and seconded by Mrs. Chevres, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative. Dr. Barbosa, Ms. Bathelus, Mmes. Chevres, Clerevoyant-Noel, Mr. Jacobs, Mmes. Moreno Ortega, Pestana, Carvalho - 8

Negative: none

Harold E. Kennedy, Jr.

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary