

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-23 School Year

ABOUT WCASD

The West Chester Area School District is a leading public school district in Pennsylvania, serving a diverse student population across multiple campuses. The district is committed to providing a comprehensive education that educates and inspires students to achieve their personal best.

www.wcasd.net

***Educating and Inspiring
Our Students to Achieve
Their Personal Best.***



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Sue Tiernan
Region 1

Gary Bevilacqua
Region 3

Joyce Chester
Region 1

Alex Christy
Region 1

Laura Detre
Region 3

Darryl Durnell
Region 2

Karen Fleming
Region 2

Karen Herrmann
Region 2

Stacey Whomsley
Region 3

THANK YOU FROM

Substitute Superintendent Reynolds

Dear West Chester Area School District Community,

As the Substitute Superintendent of the West Chester Area School District (WCASD), I want to take a moment to express my profound gratitude to our exceptional students, dedicated staff, supportive families, and incredible community.

The 2022-23 school year was nothing short of remarkable. It was a year filled with challenges, resilience, and above all, an unwavering commitment to the well-being and success of our students. Together, we faced uncertainty head-on and emerged stronger, proving that when we work together, we can overcome any obstacle. The smiles we shared, the bonds we strengthened, and the collective efforts that were put forth are a testament to our community.

We achieved many successes throughout the year, from students performing in musical conferences and athletic tournaments to celebrating exceptional staff recognitions and students' commitment to our community through volunteering and charitable initiatives. The dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the determination of our students were the driving forces behind these accomplishments.

As we continue our journey this school year, I am excited to welcome our incoming Superintendent, Dr. David Christopher. Dr. Christopher brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the values and vision of our district. With his leadership, I have no doubt that our district will continue to thrive.

I am incredibly grateful for the trust you placed in me as the Substitute Superintendent, and it has been an honor to serve this extraordinary community. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and progress of the District under Dr. Christopher's guidance and as your Assistant Superintendent.

Together, we have built a strong foundation for the future, and I have every confidence that the rest of this year will be filled with even more successes and moments of joy!

In partnership,

Dr. Kalia Reynolds
Substitute Superintendent of Schools
West Chester Area School District



OUR MISSION

Educating and Inspiring Our Students to Achieve Their Personal Best.

Goal Area One

Access to District Programming

Expand access to comprehensive district programming to provide equitable opportunities for all students.

Goal Area Two

Innovative Teaching and Learning

Use engaging and effective instructional strategies to advance student learning, achievement, and agency.

Goal Area Three

Student Involvement

Create more opportunities for students to engage in school academically, socially and emotionally.

Comprehensive Plan 2022-2025

Together, the WCASD and District stakeholders set goals to make the shared vision for the District a reality over the course of three years.

There are five goal areas with distinct strategies or focus areas that guide the district as it looks toward the future.

Planning a **Bright** Future!

Goal Area Four Goal Area Five

Fiscal and Capital Planning

Create a financial plan that provides annual budgets that adhere to Act 1 regulations, responds to 21st century learning needs and preserves the current level of educational excellence.

Special Education Planning

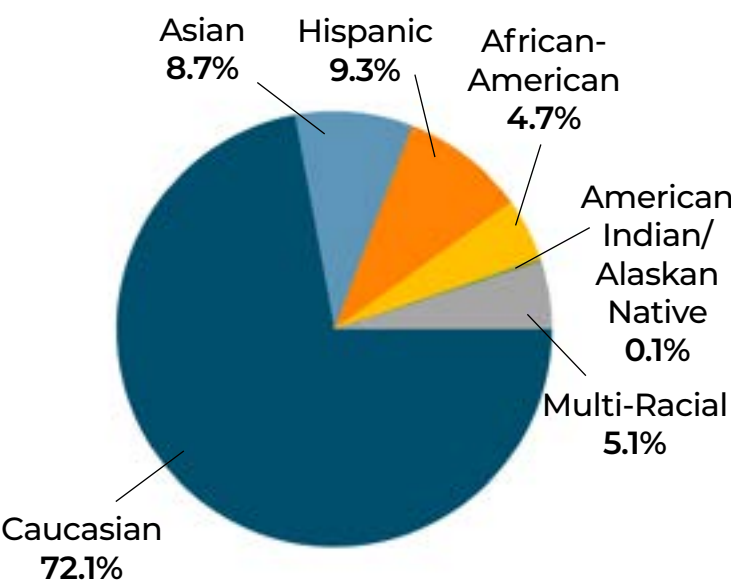
Meet the needs of all students in the least restrictive environment by evaluating indicators of improvement, addressing disproportionality, prioritizing positive behavior support, and through professional development.

For the full 2022-25 Comprehensive Plan: www.wcasd.net/compplan

WINDOW INTO WCASD



Student Demographics



The WCASD serves a 75-square-mile suburban, urban and rural area in central Chester County known for its diversified industries and beautiful historic countryside.

Class sizes average 25 students and over 85% of our graduates seek post-secondary opportunities.



12,135
Student Enrollment



1,120
Classrooms



17
Schools

11 Elementary Schools

East Bradford Elem.....	473
East Goshen Elem.....	519
Exton School Elem.....	450
Fern Hill Elem.....	398
Glen Acres Elem.....	486
Greystone Elem.....	536
Hillsdale Elem.....	554
Mary C. Howse Elem.....	490
Penn Wood Elem.....	465
Starkweather Elem.....	581
Westtown-Thornbury Elem.....	553
Total Enrollment.....	5,505

3 Middle Schools

Fugett Middle School.....	890
Peirce Middle School.....	1,029
Stetson Middle School.....	836
Total Enrollment.....	2,755

3 High Schools

East High School.....	1,234
Henderson High School.....	1,442
Rustin High School.....	1,199
Total Enrollment.....	3,875



Class of 2023 Profile

973 Students Graduated

825 Students Pursued Post-Secondary Education

550 Students Took One or More AP Course

21 Students Entered the Workforce

5 Students Joined the Armed Forces



Super Star Staff!

Our incredible WCASD Staff include more than **950** teachers, **60** administrators, and **400** support staff.

Last year's **43** retirees comprised a combined **940** years of service to the District, while the **15** honorees at the 2023-24 convocation hold around **480** years of service combined.

Apply Today: www.wcasd.net/hiring

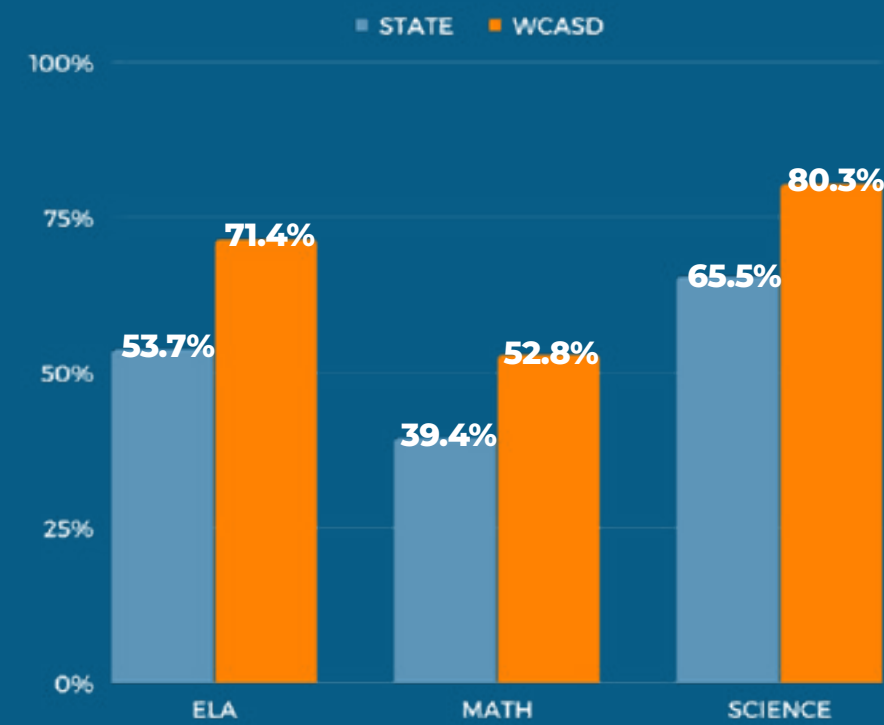


Former Vikings, Warriors, and Knights Return as WCASD Staff!

STATE ASSESSMENTS

PSSA Scores

Percent of Students Proficient and Advanced



Keystone Proficiency Rates

Class of 2023



PSSA Scores by Grade Level

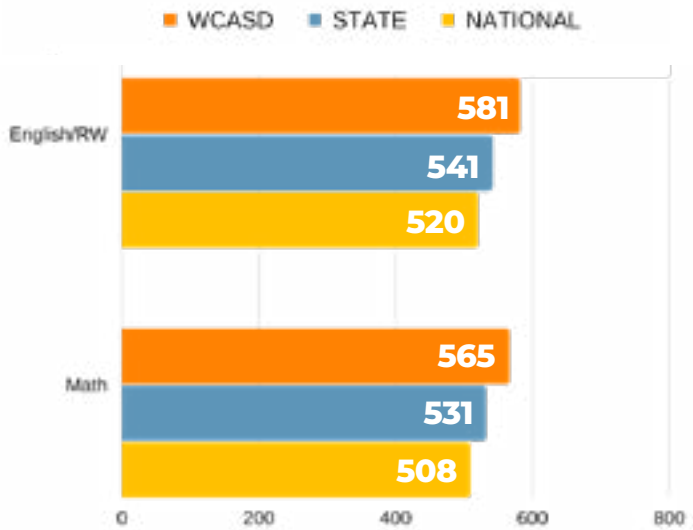
Percent of Students Proficient and Advanced

Grade	ELA		Math		Science	
	WCASD	STATE	WCASD	STATE	WCASD	STATE
3rd	70%	54%	68%	52%		
4th	75%	52%	69%	47%	90%	74%
5th	74%	54%	59%	43%		
6th	69%	56%	46%	37%		
7th	72%	55%	46%	33%		
8th	68%	53%	29%	26%	71%	57%

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

SAT Scores

College Entrance Exam Comparison



AP Exams

- **957** students took **1888** AP exams in **25** subject areas. Scores of three or better on these exams constitutes a "passing score."
- **75%** of the exams taken by WCASD students received a score of 3 or above.
- **57%** of exams taken by WCASD students received a score of 4 or above.
- **AP Scholar with Distinction Award:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of three (3) or higher on five or more AP exams. **127** WCASD students received this honor.
- **AP Scholar with Honor Award:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of three (3) or higher on four or more AP exams. **82** WCASD students received this honor.
- **AP Scholar Award:** Granted to students who receive scores of three (3) or higher on three or more AP exams. **146** WCASD students received this honor.
- **AP Excellence and Equity:** Percentage of students in the graduating class who passed (Score of 3,4,or 5) at least one AP exam at some point in their high school career. For WCASD, this score was **34.9%**.

17 SCHOOLS, UNIQUE STORIES!



East Bradford Elementary CELEBRATING THE 76ERS IN STYLE

EBE Cougars appeared on Fox29, hosting an exciting pep rally in honor of the 76ers. The cafeteria was filled with Sixers' red, white, and blue as these spirited kids rallied to support the home team during the playoffs. The energy was electric!

East Goshen Elementary EMBRACING SCREEN-FREE FUN

EGE celebrated "Global Unplugged Day" with engaging activities like a math scavenger hunt, board games, collaborative storytelling, and conquered STEM tasks. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect without screens and foster interactions among our young learners.



Exton Elementary KINDNESS BLOSSOMS AT EXTON

EXE students hand-decorated 'kindness rocks' during art classes, which are now proudly displayed in the Kindness Rocks Garden. This space invites visitors to take a rock for inspiration or leave one to contribute to the growth of kindness and the garden itself. Spreading the love, one rock at a time!

Fern Hill Elementary BAKING SMILES FOR THE SPCA

FHE PBIS winners embarked on a heartwarming mission to create and bake dog treats for furry friends at the SPCA. With staff guidance and the helping hands of 5th Grade Student Council members, these young philanthropists spread love and joy to our four-legged companions.



Glen Acres Elementary

A NIGHT OF READING MAGIC

GAE transformed into a realm of reading wonders during a delightful Reading Night for students and their families. With the support of West Chester University literacy students, GAE featured a variety of interactive literacy and S.T.E.A.M. stations from sentence stacking to color-changing milk.



Greystone Elementary KINDER-FIREFIGHTER DAY

Local fire company heroes made a special visit to Greystone, enlightening kindergarteners on the crucial roles of firefighters as dedicated helpers and the importance of fire safety tools and techniques. It was a day of learning, inspiration, and appreciation for our local heroes.

Hillsdale Elementary SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

HDE students rolled up their sleeves and dug into the dirt, sowing the seeds for success in the school's garden. With unwavering dedication, guidance from staff and families, and a whole lot of care, they're not just nurturing plants; they're cultivating valuable life skills and knowledge that will flourish for a lifetime.



Mary C. Howse Elementary STUDENTS CELEBRATE HISTORY

MCH students celebrated Black History Month by crafting and presenting an extraordinary tour for their fellow students, families, and the community. The tour featured inspirational figures, pivotal historical moments, and so much more, making history come alive in a truly remarkable way.

Penn Wood Elementary PENN WOOD'S ROOFTOP GREETING

PWE students experienced an unexpected and delightful morning when Principal Garvin greeted them from atop the school's roof. With waves, the morning announcements, and an infectious smile, he brought joy to everyone's face.





Starkweather Elementary

A PEP RALLY TO REMEMBER

Excitement and 'pep' took center stage at Starkweather during their schoolwide Pep Rally. The Rustin Cheer Squad, Principal Meanix, and teachers and staff rallied around students as they engaged in spirited relays, earned wolf bucks for positive behavior, and celebrated a great year ahead!

Westtown-Thornbury Elementary

HONORING LOCAL VETERANS

For Veterans Day, WTE honored and celebrated 40 veterans from the WTE community. Students and staff conducted a special performance, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their dedicated service to our nation through presentations and musical tributes.



Fugett Middle School

BEST BUDDIES BINGO BASH

Fugett Middle School hosted a Best Buddies Bingo night, bringing together students and their families for a fun-filled evening of games and friendship. Laughter, camaraderie, and bingo thrills filled the room as the school community celebrated inclusivity and the power of lasting connections.

Peirce Middle School

SHINING BRIGHT IN 'ANNIE JR.'

The talented students of Peirce Middle School graced the stage with their incredible performance of 'Annie Jr.' Their musical numbers, impressive choreography, and acting skills left audiences in awe, spreading joy and applause throughout the school. A standing ovation-worthy show that truly lit up the stage!



Stetson Middle School

SLAM DUNKING FOR A HEALTHIER HEART!

Stetson hosted its "Hoops for Heart" Basketball Tournament, dedicated to supporting The American Heart Association's American Heart Challenge. The tremendous efforts of SMS students, staff, and families raised nearly \$6,000. The event also instilled in students the values of teamwork and volunteerism!



East High School

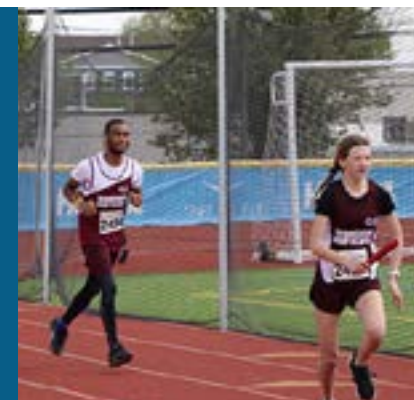
FROM 23 SCHOOLS TO LOCAL CHAMPS

After an intense season, East emerged triumphant in an epic showdown against the final three teams of twenty-three high schools participating in the Chester County Academic Championship. They claimed the trophy, scholarship money, and the chance to compete in the State Championship.

Henderson High School

UNITING THROUGH COMPETITION

Henderson High School hosted a remarkable Special Olympics Unified Track Meet, where students not only competed but also offered their support to each other. In this inclusive event, they forged valuable connections and created incredible memories.



Rustin High School

SPOTLIGHT ON RUSTIN'S LEGACY

RHS staff collaborated with People's Light and Theater Company to create an enlightening performance honoring civil rights leader and school namesake, Bayard Rustin. Students were immersed in the story of his life, his impactful work, and his contributions to the community and our nation.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

2022-2023 BUDGET



Moody's AAA Bond Rating

The WCASD is one of only eight school districts out of the almost 500 located in Pennsylvania to receive an Aaa credit rating, the highest rating Moody's awards.

This rating reflects a robust financial position that is expected to remain healthy, above national average income, and stable.

For the eleventh year in a row, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) awarded West Chester Area School District the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE).

ASBO International's COE recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended 2022.

The district is one of only eleven other districts across the Commonwealth to be awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.



For additional budget information, visit the following link on our website: www.wcasd.net/business.

Our community's engagement and understanding are essential as we work together to shape the district's financial future.

Expenses

Salaries and Benefits:
\$187,196,156 (63.0%)

Debt Service:
\$27,956,931 (9.4%)

Transportation:
\$15,636,256 (5.3%)

Charter School Tuitions:
\$10,306,125 (3.5%)

Professional Services
- **Special Education:**
\$9,969,082 (3.4%)

Tuitions - Other:
\$8,003,125 (2.7%)

Utilities:
\$2,915,515 (1.0%)

Fund Transfers:
\$12,457,500 (4.2%)

Other:
\$22,531,251 (7.6%)

\$296,971,941
Total Revenue

\$296,971,941
Total Expenses

Revenue

Total Local Revenue:
\$244,651,756 (82.38%)

Real Estate:
\$186,970,736

Earned Income:
\$22,682,367

State Total:
\$48,669,663 (16.39%)

Basic Educational Subsidy:
\$9,575,763

Special Education Subsidy:
\$5,843,253

State Property Tax

Reduction:
\$4,282,501

PA Accountability Grants:
\$399,095

Total Federal Revenue:
\$3,650,522 (1.23%)

Other PA Public Schools-IDEA:
\$1,621,749

Medical Access:
\$992,000

Lowest Millage Rate in Chester County

The budget included a **1.7** percent tax increase for Chester County property owners (about \$70 per average household) and a **4.4** percent increase for Delaware County property owners (about \$208 per average household).

The property tax millage rates for West Chester remained the lowest in Chester County. The District utilized savings from the 2021-22 operations to help offset the millage increases needed for the 2022-23 budget.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

East and Fugett Campus

In the summer of 2023, East High School and Fugett Middle School's exterior lights were upgraded.

The lighting in parking lots throughout the shared campus was difficult to maintain and the lighting quality was low. With the upgrade to LED fixtures, the WCASD is able to reduce the amount of fixtures and reduce electrical spending, but above all, increase the lighting quality on campus for \$33K.

Glen Acres Elementary

Constructed in 1966, Glen Acres Elementary School saw a minor renovation in 1997, and is currently in the middle of a multi-year complete renovation.

As part of this renovation, the building increased by more than 15,300 square feet to create a new art and music wing, as well as a brand new cafeteria and boiler room. The additions also increase educational space within the building to allow the removal of portable classrooms.

Completion of this renovation is scheduled for August of 2024.

Rustin High School

Bayard Rustin High School had the final portion of its new Tremco standing seam metal roof installed to replace the traditional shingled roof that was failing.

The new roof is designed to last 50 years, and is a nice compliment to the building's exterior design.

This was a two-year, three part, project with a budget of over \$3M.



UPCOMING MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PLANS

The WCASD's next major construction project to be completed is the additions and renovation of Mary C. Howse Elementary. Mary C. Howse Elementary was originally built in 1962 and saw some renovations in the mid 1990s.

The proposed construction budget for this project is \$22M, and will include about **8,000 square feet on additional educational space**, as well as an **increased parking** lot area. Through the completion of this project, we will be modernizing the educational experience, building in new systems, and improving traffic flow during arrival and dismissal time. The anticipated start of the project is in the late spring of 2024.

WEST CHESTER AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Foundation is an independent non-profit organization whose mission is to supplement creative, meaningful, real-world experiences for students in the District.

Foundation Impact From 2011-2022

\$290,300	Funded 252 Educational Mini-Grants
\$272,350	390 PFEW Student Scholarships
\$29,805	Funded 19 Community Mini-Grants
\$20,000	Internet Services to Families

“

As the CEO of my group's company, I gained leadership skills, learned the value of teamwork, and experienced a first-hand look at the career field I wish to pursue in the future!”

**Jimmy Helferty,
East High School**



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AT PFEW!

The Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week program offers high school students an opportunity to see what it's like to run a business and learn from local experts!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

17,000

pounds of food were provided to over 1,250 children during the summer of 2022 thanks to collaborative efforts between the WCASD and the West Chester Food Cupboard!

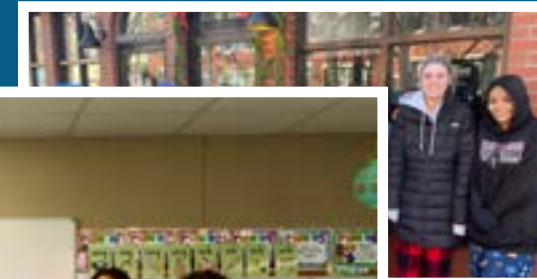


850

handmade cards delivered residents of local care homes.

1,000

food bags packed by East Goshen Elementary Road Runners for delivery to local food shelters during their Fall Food Drive.



WCASD students and staff volunteer time to brighten the West Chester Borough for the holidays!



40,000

dollars donated from local Giant Food Stores provide resources and support for students facing food insecurity and access.



**WC West Chester
Area School District**

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484-266-1000

📍 **Spellman Education Center**
782 Springdale Drive, Exton, PA 19341