

Guiding the Way to a Brighter Tomorrow



2013-2014
Annual Report

Leadership



On the cover:

Aisha Rivera, Trexler Middle School student, spends time mentoring Eddily Polanco, Ramos Elementary School, as part of the schools' partnership in the Common Ground Mentoring Program.

Above (starting at top):

Raub Middle School students enjoy time with Phoebe Home residents as part of the Fun With Phoebe Club.

Karyn Goldman, Special Education Teacher of the Year, shares a special moment with some of her students. (photo courtesy of lehighvalleylive.com)

IBEAM Academy students, faculty, parents and guardians celebrate the schools "No Place for Hate" designation.

Making a Difference Matters

The Allentown School District is privileged to guide promising young students who not only excel in countless ways, but make a positive impact on those around them. This past year was filled with positive stories of students, teachers, administrators, parents and guardians supporting others and receiving regional and national accolades. These stories were shared with the community and highlighted at monthly Board Meetings to bring attention to all the "good" that comprises the Allentown School District.



Every story offers a glimpse into the high-quality individuals who represent this District. I would like to share just a few stories:

- Dieruff High School junior Cara Luff became the school's first student representative on the College Board's Advisory Panel on Student Opportunity (APSO). College Board selects 16 members nationwide to "provide valuable insight in connecting students to college success." For three years, Cara will represent the Northeast region on this Board.
- William Allen High School student Mohamed Bayoumy went out of his way on his walk to school one day. Mohamed happened upon a 4 year-old child running in circles and crying. He didn't walk by, rather he took the time to talk to the child and find an adult to assist him. He calmed the child and found her shelter until police and her mother arrived.
- IBEAM Academy students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents and guardians worked together to complete a year of anti-bias and anti-bullying programs earning their school the distinction as a "No Place for Hate" designation.
- Raub Middle School girls made it their mission to make Phoebe Home residents feel a part of the community. The students spent their Tuesday's after-school engaging the residents in conversation and interactive activities.
- Dieruff High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Drill Team earned a record 22 trophies for the 2013-2014 drill competition season.
- William Allen High School Chorale was the recipient of the Arts Ovation Award for Community Service recognizing their countless community performances to benefit others and William Allen's Latino Leadership Club was honored at the Annual Human Relation Awards Celebration for their commitment to positively serving the community.
- Karyn Goldman, Special Education teacher for the visually impaired and blind, was named the 2014 Teacher of the Year by Council for Exceptional Children – Division on Visual Impairments (CEC-DVI). This national award honors a person who is exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and a skilled, certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments or

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists in any state approved or accredited day or specialized school.

- Muhlenberg and Roosevelt Elementary Schools were selected as PATHS Education Worldwide model schools for their remarkable commitment to the PATHS program.

The stories go on and on, but what they reveal is that we have incredible students; dedicated faculty, staff and administrators; devoted School Board Directors; and engaged parents and guardians; all of whom are backed by supportive legislators, businesses and the community as a whole.

We are so much more than an urban school district. We are a compilation of dedicated individuals driven to guide all of our students on a course for success that is seasoned with a commitment to community.

C. Russell Mayo, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Allentown School District

Mission

To provide safe and rigorous educational experiences that motivate all students to excel in learning and life.

Vision

The Allentown School District's Pathways to Success vision provides every student in the Allentown School District with an individualized academic plan that leads to graduation and success in post-secondary education or a job paying a family-sustaining wage.

ASD Board of School Directors

As of August 1, 2014

Robert E. Smith, Jr., President
Debra H. Lamb, Vice President
Scott Armstrong
Ellen B. Bishop, M.D.
Ce-Ce Gerlach
Elizabeth Martinez
Charles F. Thiel
Michael Welsh
David F. Zimmerman

2013-2014 Exiting School Board Members

Julie Ambrose
Joanne E. Bauer
Andrew J. Weiss

ASD Central Administration

As of August 1, 2014

C. Russell Mayo, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tina M. Belardi, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer
John R. (Jack) Clark, Ed.D., Chief Financial Officer
David M. Wildonger, Chief Operations Officer
Kristin Kruger, Executive Director of Instruction
Christina Mazzella, Executive Director of Human Resources
Karen Baurkot, Director of Assessment
Thomas Derhammer, Director of Technology
David Elcock, Director of Human Resources
Keith Falko, Director of Instructional Initiatives
Kathleen Gill, Director of ESOL & World Languages
Kimberly Golden-Benner, Director of Communications
Leo Henry, Acting Director of Facilities
Cory Lowe, Director of Science, Technology,
Engineering & Mathematics
Michael G. Makhoul, Director of Educational Operations
Belinda Miller, Director of Special Education
Ellen O'Brien, Director of Child Nutrition
Nicolas Perez, Jr., Director of Community & Student Services
Troy Price, Director of Special Projects
Jennifer Ramos, Director of Literacy
Jacquelyn Alotta, Acting Director of Alternative Education
Kimberly Walck, Director of Grants & Development

*The first responsibility
of a leader is to define reality.
The last is to say thank you.
In between, the leader is a servant.*

— Max DePree

New Leadership Serving the District

With every new year, there is change — change in programs, change in services, and, of course, change in leadership. We are pleased to welcome the newest additions to the Allentown School District administrative team who will guide our students through the 2014-2015 school year.



Cory Lowe
Director
STEM



Troy Price
Director
Special Projects



Dr. Marie Bey
Assistant Director
ASD Virtual Academy



Richard Joseph
Assistant Director
Special Education



Luke Shafnisky
Principal
William Allen
High School



Christine Piripavel
Principal
Trexler Middle
School



Richard Kern
Principal
Central Elementary
School



Christin Adams
Principal
Jefferson Elementary
School



Scott Cole
Principal
McKinley Elementary
School



Erin Martin
Principal
Roosevelt Elementary
School



Michael Makhoul
Assistant Principal
Louis E. Dieruff
High School



Lilly Figueroa
Assistant Principal
William Allen
High School



Kenneth Fritz
Assistant Principal
William Allen
High School



Benjamin McConnell
Assistant Principal
William Allen
High School



Jeremy Thatcher
Assistant Principal
William Allen
High School



Melissa Petronio
Assistant Principal
Francis D. Raub
Middle School



Joseph LiCausi
Assistant Principal
Harrison-Morton
Middle School



Renee Mosser
Assistant Principal
Jefferson Elementary
School



Lisa Krause
Supvr, Instruction
Louis E. Dieruff
High School



Michele Kloiber
Supvr, Instruction
William Allen
High School



Brandy Sawyer
Supvr, Instruction
Francis D. Raub
Middle School



Lynette Thurmond
Supvr, Instruction
Harrison-Morton
Middle School



Committed to Guiding Our Students on Their Educational Journey

Every school year has its special moments that each of us will fondly remember for years to come. For the Directors of the

School Board, we have many cherished “moments” – they are the moments when we see the decisions we have made throughout the year come to fruition.

The 2013-2014 school year is one for the record books. It will forever be remembered as the year of the “Uniform.” In January 2013, the Board voted to require student uniforms for every grade level beginning in September 2013. To others it may have seemed like a daunting task, but our Board knew that it was the right decision for our students. We had faith that our students, parents, guardians, teachers and administrators would work together to successfully meet this monumental change, and they did not disappoint anyone. On the first day of school, our more than 17,000 students arrived dressed for learning. We witnessed 98% compliance from the beginning and, although there have been non-compliance issues throughout the year, they have mostly involved un-tucked shirts, missing belts and non-approved shoe colors.

We are proud of our students, parents and guardians for being a positive force for this change. We appreciate our administrators, principals, teachers and staff who made certain they were prepared, and worked with families at every turn. Finally, we are grateful to the vendors who worked with us to ensure stock and to this community for their support and donations. The success of the uniform implementation is all of ours to share.

This year, the Board approved several new academic initiatives that will provide our students with the edge they need to succeed and grow. One initiative is a K-5 reading program that pulls together reading fluency, phonics, vocabulary, phonemic awareness and comprehension. Our elementary teachers will be utilizing the latest programming available for their students. This new program is even more critical as it will support our additional full-day Kindergarten classes starting next year. Our full-day Kindergarten option gives our families the supportive programming that they requested for their young children.

Another initiative focuses on enhancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programming for our secondary students that brings new curriculum materials and project-based activities to encourage critical thinking and problem solving. We already started implementing this effort with our first annual District-wide Science Fair in May, generously sponsored by the Allentown School District Foundation. More than 450 students, grades 6 – 12, participated in this competitive event which required them to



*Above (starting at top):
Roosevelt Elementary School student receives a hat from volunteers at First Presbyterian Church.*

Cleveland Elementary School students show off their uniforms.

Students at Union Terrace Elementary School enjoy healthy snacks as part of their day.



Above:
William Allen High School's Studio Dance Academy presented their 19th Annual Dance Concert in March.

Louis E. Dieruff High School's spring production of "Chicago" earned the school four Freddy Awards.

Right:
The School Board of Directors of the Allentown School District (l-r):
Ce-Ce Gerlach,
Deborah H. Lamb
(Vice President),
Michael Welsh,
David F. Zimmerman,
Charles F. Thiel,
Scott Armstrong,
Robert E. Smith, Jr.
(President), and
Ellen B. Bishop, M.D.
Not pictured:
Elizabeth Martinez.

conduct an experiment that solved a specific problem; record and analyze data; create a display explaining their project; and present their findings to a panel of judges. Anyone who had the opportunity to view these well thought-out projects would realize that we have a number of future scientists in our District.

These are just a few of the many initiatives the District has taken to ensure that our students are set along the right educational journey for them. This academic commitment is backed by our dedication to maintaining "Arts at the Core." Our schools have a full complement of art opportunities where many of them have found tremendous success such as our two winners in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Competition and the four Freddy Award recipients.

The Allentown School Board of Directors is committed to helping our District provide a balanced education for all students and will continue to focus on supporting initiatives that offer our students the best educational opportunities possible.

Robert E. Smith, Jr.

President

Allentown School District Board of School Directors



Allentown School District Board Goals

Goals Focused on the “Whole Student”

In the spring of 2014, the School Board of Directors and the Allentown School District administration analyzed the Board Goals and re-focused them to address the needs of the whole student at every age. The revised Board Goals continue to be aligned with the Pathways to Success Framework as well as emphasize the District’s commitment to the Arts and STEM programming to provide a balanced education that sets a tone for success.

The Allentown School District works to improve growth and learning for all students by meeting our Board Goals.

2013-2018 Board Goals

Goal 1: Pathways to Success

Through the Pathways to Success, ALL students will gain skills necessary for college or career readiness, including leadership and collaborative skills, positive work attitudes, analytical skills, and creativity.

- Collegiate Options (AP/Dual Enrollment – community and area colleges)
- Career /Trade School Options (LCTI, technical college, certificate/technical exams)
- Apprenticeships & Career Options (internships, career shadowing, preparation and placement)
- Individualized Transition Plan (portfolio)

Goal 2: Balanced Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

ALL students will be engaged in learning through a balanced liberal arts curriculum, supported by rigorous, aligned and sequential instruction and assessment, focused on developing the whole child.

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Language and Literacy
- Social Studies
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education

Goal 3: Safety Nets

Barriers to student learning will be addressed consistently and promptly through an articulated continuum of support focused on increasing achievement and graduation rates for ALL students.

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Tiered Intervention for Academics, Discipline and Attendance (whole group, small group, and individualized)

Goal 4: Community Engagement

ASD will engage the community in supporting the academic growth, physical and social development, and career readiness of ALL students.

- Community School Partnerships
- College and University Partnerships
- Health Care Provider Partnerships
- Community Partner Apprenticeships
- Community Partner Internships
- Mentoring Programs
- Parental Involvement
- ASD Alumni

Goal 5: Student-Centered Decision Making

Each student will be surrounded by a network of District staff focused on meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of the whole child.

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Administrators
- Paraprofessionals
- Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy

Academic Performance

Academics Aligned to Prepare Students for Their Future

The Allentown School District provided support services and the educational needs of more than 17,000 students in 2013-2014. Throughout the City of Allentown, the District has 1 Early Childhood Center (Kindergarten only); 14 Elementary Schools; 4 Middle Schools; 2 High Schools; 2 Alternative Education sites; 1 learning facility focused on preparing students new to the United States (Newcomer Academy); and 1 Virtual Academy — that's 24 buildings and 1 on-line academic program.

Meeting the diverse needs of every student is the driving force behind academic direction. The 2013-2014 school year saw the implementation of new initiatives, growth in long-standing programs and research on program concepts that will set the District on a course for a successful future.



*Above (starting at top):
William Allen student checks out online options.*

ASD Elementary students enjoy viewing projects at the Science Fair.

*On right:
William Allen High School graduate prepares to receive diploma.*

Lehigh Parkway students participate in Math Investigations.

Curriculum Highlights

Elementary Schools

- New Mathematics curriculum was implemented in grades 3 – 5
- Researched and developed an implementation plan for new Literacy curriculum for grades K – 5

Middle Schools

- New Literacy curriculum was implemented for grade 6
- Developed new schedule for grade 6 to provide additional time for focused literacy and social studies instruction
- Developed new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiative
- Students participated in district-wide Science Fair

High Schools

- Implemented new high school schedule allowing students class time to easily participate in Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement programming
- Established ASD Virtual Academy offering Credit Recovery classes with a full-time online high school and supplemental courses offered for next year
- Students participated in district-wide Science Fair that required conducting controlled experiments; recording and analyzing data; creating a display board; and finally presenting their findings to the judges

New Technology

- Internet Safety Lessons for all ASD students
- Lightspeed Web Filtering installed district-wide
- Complete renovation of the District's Video Management System and moving all ASD schools to Video Insight
- NComputing (desktop virtualization) replacement of student stations with new M300 models in 5 schools

State Performance Profile Includes PVAAS (Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System)

This was the first year of Pennsylvania's new State Performance Profile (SPP) which replaces the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reporting systems. The new program is designed to provide a school-level academic score for public schools, charter and cyber charter schools, and comprehensive career and technical centers.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the SPP provides a quantitative academic score based upon a 100-point scale using a compilation of data sources. Results included are taken from academic achievement on PSSAs; closing the achievement gap in Mathematics/Algebra 1, Reading/Literature, Science/Biology and Writing; closing the gap in historically under-performing students; indicators of academic growth (PVAAS); other academic indicators (such as promotion rate, attendance rate, and AP credit); and extra credit for Advanced Achievement.

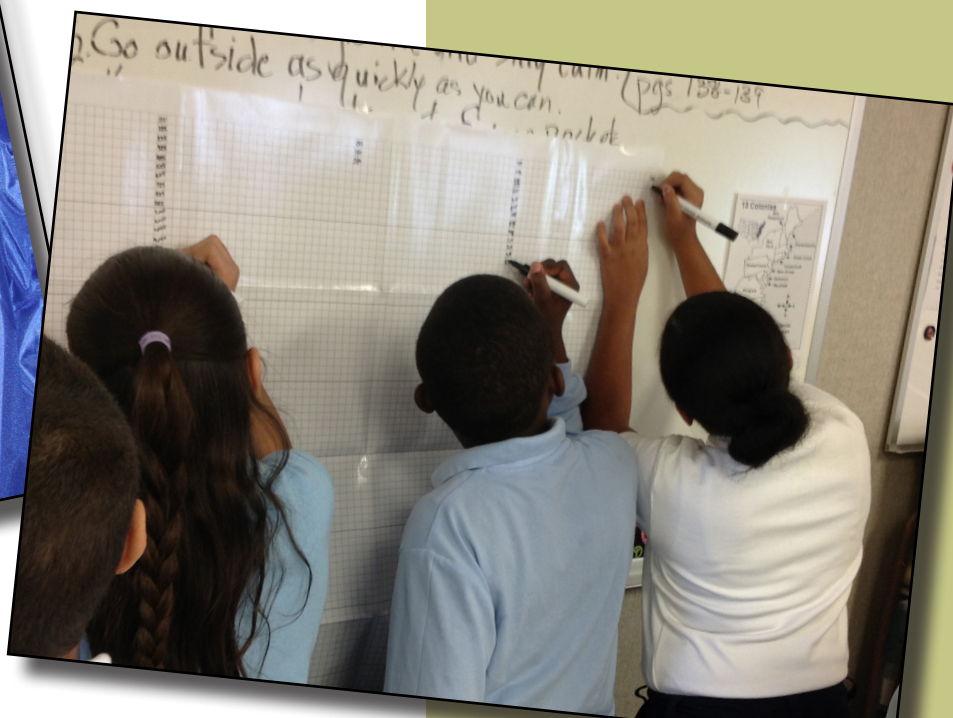
Although students in the Allentown School District were challenged to make the "adequate yearly progress," PVAAS data revealed that most of the District's students are making academic progress.

When all results were in, 5 schools (Central, Cleveland and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, and Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools) received Title 1 Federal Designation as "Focus" schools. South Mountain Middle School was denoted a "Priority" school based on the fact that the school received federal funding from a School Improvement Grant (SIG).

2013 School Performance Profile Summary

*As reported by
Pennsylvania Department of Education*

Elementary Schools	SPP Score
Central	56
Cleveland	57
Hiram Dodd	65.4
Jefferson	59.4
Lehigh Parkway	67.3
McKinley	69.5
Mosser	60.1
Muhlenberg	67.5
Luis A. Ramos	60.7
Ritter	72.1
Roosevelt	58.9
Sheridan	65
Union Terrace	65.7
Washington	52.8
Middle Schools	
Harrison-Morton	68.6
Francis D. Raub	58.8
South Mountain	68.6
Trexler	53
High Schools	
Louis E. Dieruff	60.3
William Allen	53.1



Safety & Climate

Working Together for the Good of All

The adage “It takes a village” is an appropriate sentiment in urban education. It takes administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents and guardians, community and business partners, and the good citizens of the City of Allentown working together to support the mission of the District and positively influence our students.

There are too many community groups and corporations who support our schools to mention them all, but here are some highlights from the 2013-2014 school year:

- When community volunteer, Linda Williams, retired she made certain that she incorporated a tribute to Jefferson Elementary School by asking her Parkside Commons neighbors to donate supplies or monetary donations to the school in her honor.
- Every year, the Allentown Rotary Club donates and delivers dictionaries to every 3rd grade student in the District for their personal use. In addition to continuing this endeavor, the Club donated to the District’s Uniform Bank to purchase uniforms for needy students.
- The Student Assistance Team at Francis D. Raub Middle School was named the recipient of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals’ (SAP) Distinguished SAP Team of the Year Award. The team of teachers, counselors, outreach workers and psychologists from the school, earned the award for going above and beyond to identify student learning barriers; supporting their efforts with research-based programs and skilled identification; and fostering positive connections with students, parents, guardians and the community.
- The Lehigh Valley Road Runners supported Louis E. Dieruff High School’s Cross Country Team with a donation that was used to support the teams athletic efforts.
- St. Luke’s Allentown Hospital employees volunteered their time and talents reading to the students at Union Terrace Elementary School as part of Read Across America Day.
- Students at Francis D. Raub, South Mountain and Trexler Middle Schools learned about nutritional values and how to cook healthy meals through a free Cooking Matters program provided by Second Harvest Food Bank in partnership with Share Our Strength.

The students of the Allentown School District understand that supporting those who support you is important – it goes both ways. Throughout the year, students spend much of their own time helping others and doing their part to make a difference in the City of Allentown. Here are just a few highlights:

- For Spirit Week, Louis E. Dieruff High School seniors from fall sports and the marching band raised nearly \$450 in a fundraising competition to benefit the Allentown School District’s Homeless Children and Youth Initiative.



- The William Allen Chorale performed at community and special events throughout the year at such a level that they received the City's Arts Ovation Award for Community Service.
- The Boy Scout group at Washington Elementary actively participated in the Scout's annual food drive.
- The City honored five ASD students in it's "Catch a Young Person Doing Something Right" campaign which pays tribute to young citizens who work to contribute to the well-being of the community. Students recognized were: Yaritza Rodriguez, William Allen High School junior; Genesis Dejesus, freshman at William Allen High School; Rian Ramos, 7th grader at Francis D. Raub Middle School, and two William Allen High students – senior Nick Kelly and junior David Washington – who were honored as part of the St. John's Youth Group.

Safe Learning Environments

Providing a safe learning environment is of the utmost importance to the Allentown School District. The District is committed to providing an environment in which all students have equal access to educational programs and resources including everything from learning strategies to medical care. Throughout the school year, the District worked to offer programming and looked for ways to work with available resources to meet this goal. The results include:

- By the end of the school year, 12 elementary schools and all 4 middle schools implemented PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) program over the last three years. This Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) initiative is delivered by ASD teachers who provide resources to and have a positive impact on more than 11,000 ASD students.
- Two elementary schools – Muhlenberg and Roosevelt – were selected as PATHS Education Worldwide model schools for their remarkable commitment to the program. Selection was based on the schools' ability to implement the program with enthusiasm and fidelity, on welcoming the PATHS coaches into their classrooms, and for meeting or exceeding expectations for outcome data completion.
- 21st Century Community Learning Center's after-school programming offered in 9 District schools received an "Exemplary" level review from the Pennsylvania Department of Education Review Panel in providing a safe learning environment.
- The District became part of the Virtual Health Village which connects school nurses and local health care providers (doctors, nurses, other clinicians, Good

Shepherd Rehabilitation, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Sacred Heart HealthCare System, St. Luke's University Health Network) and allows them to share the most current information regarding ASD students' medical care.

- The Pennsylvania State Police conduct a Risk Vulnerability Assessment in every building. The District's security team and building administrators worked with Pennsylvania State Police to complete comprehensive building safety and implement recommendations.
- All District building exterior doors were changed to a Swipe Card Entry System allowing access only to faculty, staff and administrators approved.



On left (starting at top):

A member of the Allentown Rotary Club shows Sheridan Elementary students how to look up words in their new personal dictionaries.

South Mountain Middle School students learn how to prepare and cook healthy meals in the Cooking Matters program.

Russell "Rooster" Valentini, ASD Homeless Student Liaison, accepts a check from Louis E. Dieruff senior football player Jeremy Allen.

Above:

Two Boy Scouts from Washington Elementary School box up canned goods collected from their Community Canned Food Drive.

Elementary Education

Setting the Stage

Pathways to Success is the framework that provides every Allentown School District with an individualized academic plan that is intended to lead them through successful grade-level progression on to graduation. This approach is based on the belief that all students can learn and succeed with the support and guidance of family, educators, and the community.

The curriculum and additional support programs are aligned to Core Standards beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through elementary, middle and high school. Although, often ASD students start a bit below their grade-level expectation, every student is expected to experience a year or more of academic growth and progress toward proficiency and beyond.

To ensure that every student achieves academically, there must be a strong foundation beginning at the elementary level.

Elementary students acquire this foundation through:

- increased rigor at the elementary level to prepare students to transition successfully to middle school;
- increased emphasis in core subjects, including literacy, mathematics, science and social studies, with additional instructional time for each;
- early intervention services for students who are struggling academically and socially; and
- expanded full-day kindergarten to build confidence early in a child's academic career.



*Above (clockwise):
Mosser Elementary students enjoy reading activities as part of Dr. Suess Day celebration.*

Muhlenberg Elementary students create an art project throughout the school's hallways.

Students spend time outside on the school playground at Ritter Elementary School.

Elementary Schools By-the-Numbers

The Allentown School District's 14 elementary schools and 1 early childhood center guide the young students of Allentown along their early-year academic journey, as well as see to most of their medical, health and emotional support needs.

For 2013-2014, ASD elementary schools reported the following for enrollment, attendance rate, mobility (transferring in and out of schools) and the percentage of students receiving free and /or reduced lunch and breakfast based on their family economic base.

2013-2014 ASD Elementary Schools

Enrollment	Attendance Rate	Mobility	Free and/or Reduced Meals
8,853	93.8%	48%	86.9%

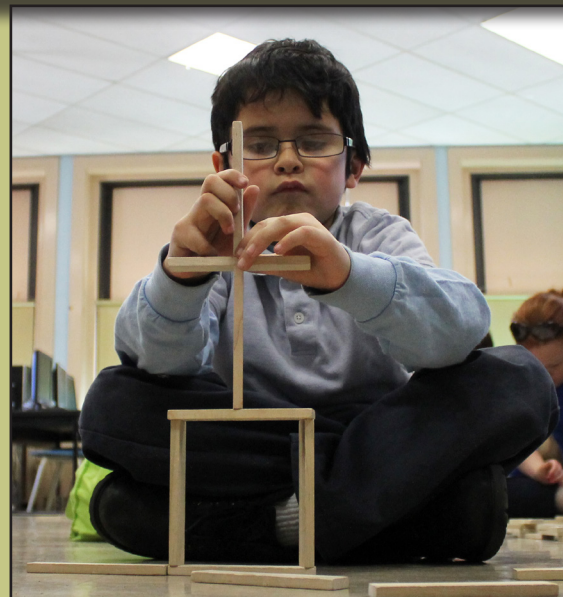
Reported in ASD 2013-2014 District Demographics on October 1, 2013.

Programming for a Difference

During the school year, 12 elementary schools fully implemented PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) Education Program providing additional resources for these students. PATHS training and curriculum, the research-based and proven-effective social and emotional learning (SEL) curricula for children in preschool through grade 6.

Three elementary schools — Central, McKinley and Roosevelt — were served by the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley as Community Schools. Community Schools bring together local partners to provide support services, programs and opportunities for the schools children, families and neighborhoods. The focus of this program is to integrate academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement to strengthen the community, support the families and impact the learning process for the students.

Seven elementary schools — Central, Cleveland, McKinley, Mosser, Luis A. Ramos, Sheridan and Washington — and South Mountain Middle school were part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. With this funding, ASD teachers and paraprofessionals were able to provide students with a quality after-school program that included meals, homework help, individualized tutoring in reading and math, and academic enrichment activities involving music, art, science, and physical education. As a result 53% of students improved in math assessments and 31% improved in reading assessments.



*Above (starting at top):
Hiram Dodd Elementary students work on geometric shapes.*

A Jefferson Elementary student enjoys the school's Book Blast with his Mom.

McKinley Elementary student spends time on building concepts, literally.

Secondary Education



Above (starting at top):
South Mountain Middle School student explores what jobs are like at Olympus America in Center Valley.

Harrison-Morton Middle School students participate in hands-on science projects.

Louis E. Dieruff High School Boy's Basketball Team gathers for a "team spirit" moment before a game.

Academic Programming for Success

Inspiring middle and high school students to achieve academic success and guiding them on their own personal journey to a prospective future — whether it's on to higher education or the workplace — is what secondary education is all about. During the 2013-2014 school year, new initiatives led the way to inspiring students to seek the best in themselves.

- Emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), paved the way, with support from the Allentown School District Foundation, for a district-wide competitive Science Fair.
- The ASD Virtual Academy was launched to offer ASD high school students with online academic opportunities. Supported by school guidance teams and their teachers, students were able to take Credit Recovery courses to keep them on track for graduation. The Virtual Academy also began enrolling students into the Full-Time High School and set into motion the development of future online enhancement course options for ASD students at both high schools.
- Students challenged themselves this year, by taking more rigorous courses. There was an increase in participation in Dual Enrollment (DE) and in Advance Placement (AP) courses. DE course "seats" (number courses taken, not number of students) increased by 47%. Students participating in AP courses rose slightly by 5.69%.

Secondary Education By-the-Numbers

The Allentown School District's 4 middle schools and 2 high schools, as well as the District's stand-alone programs for ESOL students and alternative education, focus on building upon the academic abilities of our students.

For 2013-2014, ASD middle schools and high schools reported the following data for enrollment, attendance rate, mobility (transferring in and out of schools), and the percentage of students receiving free and/or reduced lunch and breakfast based on their family economic base.

2013-2014 ASD Middle and High Schools

Middle School			
Enrollment	Attendance Rate	Mobility	Free and/or Reduced Meals
3,744	92.9%	41%	91.5%
High School			
4,726	85.7%	59%	83%

Reported in ASD 2013-2014 District Demographics on October 1, 2013.

Graduation Day

In June 2014, Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools celebrated commencement by graduating 447 seniors (Dieruff) and 602 (William Allen). (*NOTE: These numbers were reported on June 1, 2014 and may have fluctuated.*)

Data for high school Graduation Rates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education is always reported for the previous year. For the 2012-2013 school year, both high schools realized an increase in the Graduation Rate as follows:

- Louis E. Dieruff High School Graduation Rate: 76.9 (an increase of 6.14%)
- William Allen High School Graduation Rate: 62.23 (an increase of 7.66%)

Seniors were asked to complete a survey reporting their plans after graduation. Survey results revealed that 77.4% of the Louis E. Dieruff students plan to move on to higher education; while 56.65% of William Allen students plan to continue their education after high school. The results overall were:

	Louis E. Dieruff	William Allen
4-Year Colleges	19.24%	19.6%
2-Year Colleges	52.57%	32.4%
Other Post Secondary Degree Programs	5.59%	4.65%
Military	5.37%	4.32%
Employment	6.71%	16.8%
Undecided/No Response	10.3%	21.25%
Homemaker/Independent Living	.22%	.98%

Class of 2014 Valedictorians

Louis E. Dieruff High School



Nadim Ammari

GPA: 5.3125

Attending: Lehigh University

Activities: National Honor Society; Spanish Honor Society; AP Scholar; Scholastic Scrimmage (Captain); Upward Bound; Air Products and Chemicals Summer Intern (2013 and 2014)

William Allen High School



Brielle Gemberling

GPA: 5.1575

Attending: Lehigh University

Activities: National Honor Society; Mathematics National Honor Society; Student Government Association (President); William Allen Construction Co. (Vice President); Debate Team (President); Relay for Life; Special Buddies

Gifts and Grants

Providing Additional Funding to Meet Student Needs

Faced with financial challenges, urban school districts seek additional revenue sources to help meet their students many needs. In 2013-2014, the Allentown School District received nearly \$117 million in state funding, which is an increase from the previous year by more than \$11 million. Each grant makes a positive impact on the students in the Allentown School District in some way. Whether it's through tutoring services, professional development for teachers, healthcare services, safety issues, or special programs ASD students and their families can access; it all makes a difference. Grant and gift highlights, include:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration provided funding for A Safe Routes to School program grant. Five ASD elementary schools — Lehigh Parkway, Muhlenberg, Roosevelt, Mosser, Luis A. Ramos — benefited from this funding which supported activities that promoted, educated, and encouraged walking and biking to school. In addition to programming, funds were used for such things as purchasing supplies to enforce safety around the schools, (i.e.: safety vests, cones), and guest speakers on safety issues.
- The U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid program (Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) provided financial assistance to offset the cost of programs that run in conjunction with the District to support the Minsi Trails Council for their Learning for Life Program.
- The Title II-B Math–Science Partnership grant, a Federal Competitive grant funded through PDE, provided intensive professional development in the areas of mathematics and science for District teachers in grades K through 12. To address District needs, this project expanded development opportunities in Algebra and Biology in an effort to promote success of all students taking the PA Keystone Exams. ASD partnered with the DaVinci Science Center, Muhlenberg College and Moravian College to secure and implement the grant.
- The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant continued to provide academic and enrichment opportunities for ASD students. The grant provided services for students at Central, Cleveland, McKinley, Mosser, Sheridan, and Washington Elementary Schools and South Mountain Middle School during non-school hours. The program's goal is to improve academic performance, as well as offer enrichment activities and programs for students, parents, guardians and families. 21st Century Community Learning Center providers included Mosser Village Family Center and Communities in Schools Lehigh Valley.

2013-2014 Federal Grant Summary by Category

Funding Type	Number of Awards	Award
Federal Formula through State	6	\$13,479,079
Federal Competitive through State	6	\$2,643,135
Federal Competitive Direct	1	\$2,490,256
TOTALS	13	\$18,612,470

The 2013-2014 Grant Summary total indicates a reduction in federal grant funding from the previous year by \$3,964,623.

ASDF Promotes Enrichment and Innovation

The Allentown School District Foundation promotes excellence at all ASD grade levels by providing funding for enrichment and innovation in the classroom by supporting programs in the arts, STEM, history, physical fitness and social studies. Last year, the Foundation attracted record support from the local business community, which allowed programs like the Science Fair, National History Day, Allentown DRIVE and Ballroom Dancing to flourish. Heading into its sixth year, the Foundation continues to focus on increasing corporate support through grant opportunities and the Commonwealth's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. The annual High Notes Gala continues to be a strong revenue source while showcasing the incredible talents of ASD students.

ASDF Highlights

High Notes Gala was attended by more than 600 community members and students who “unleashed their footloose spirit.” Students performed selections from the ASD spring musicals. More than \$50,000 was raised, of which the Foundation allocated \$2,000 to each middle school and \$3,000 to each high school to support theatre programs. Student performers earned the opportunity to attend a Broadway play.

Teacher Innovation Grants totaling more than \$7,000 were awarded to: Jeffrey Holzman (Trexler Garden Club: Trexler); Kathleen Schaffer and Jennifer Priestas (Community Art: Sheridan); Jan Wills (Health Careers Club: Harrison-Morton); William Busolits (Robotics: William Allen); Brigid McDonnell (Spanish for Native Speakers: Mosser); Susan Stifel (Incredible Kid Concoctions: Central); Amanda Riggle and Peter Iles (The Canary Explores Media Ethics at Newseum: William Allen); and Jessie Armbuster (GrowABLE Gurus Project: Raub).

Science Fair attracted more than 450 student participants from all ASD middle schools, high schools and the alternative education program. Grade level winners received trophies, cash awards and summer camp scholarships. More than 30 students went on to compete in the regional PJAS Science Fair, with more than a dozen students advancing to the state competition at Penn State University.

National History Day (NHD) offered ASD middle school students the opportunity to collaborate with the Lehigh County Historical Society on history projects resulting in NHD displays and papers.

Lines and Spaces Summer Camp was attended by approximately 60 elementary band and string students. Led by ASD instrumental teachers Joseph Busolits, Lawrence Flynn and William Wagner, the summer camp taught ASD elementary school students new skills while providing community performance opportunities.

Ballroom Dance Program allowed middle school students the opportunity to learn the salsa, merengue, bachata and cha-cha and compete in a district-wide Ballroom Dance Competition. Last year, more than 75 students participated.



*Above (starting at top):
ASD students perform at the annual High Notes Gala.*

*ASD students, teachers and community view the results
of the district-wide Science Fair.*

Financial Review



Above (starting at top):
Central elementary students spend time with Ferrous and Chris P. Bacon from the Iron Pigs during a school visit.

Kindergarten students at Lincoln Early Childhood Center enjoy hands-on learning activities.

A Trexler Middle School student reviews homework with a Luis A. Ramos student during their mentoring time.

Meeting Student Needs in Economically Challenging Times

Meeting the economic challenges of an urban school district, while still meeting the many needs of students is a fine balancing act. In spite of local tax increases and additional state funding, the Allentown School District remains an economically strapped school district.

The District has three primary sources of revenue: federal grants, state funding and local taxes. Their impact is as follows:

- Federal grant monies for special programs have seen a major decline. With the end of major funding and the effects of Federal Sequestration, school districts endured federal funding losses.
- State revenue has increased over the past few years for the Allentown School District, primarily because of the efforts of our local legislators who have been able to negotiate additional funds to help reduce the budget shortfall.
- Local revenue increased from property tax increases, as well as a slight increase in property value due to downtown redevelopment. Additionally, EIT (Earned Income Tax) which is the next largest local source of revenue (behind Real Estate Taxes), has declined.

Significant increases in the Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS); medical insurance expenses; debt service; and costs to Charter Schools have greatly impacted the District's budgetary expenses.

The reduction of personnel costs absorbed most of the budget, however the Districts' per pupil personnel expenses have never been excessive when compared with other districts in our state. The Allentown School District is among the bottom 10% in spending per student on administrative staff. Additionally, operations costs rank low, while instructional costs, which include teachers, is average.

The retirement benefit, a part of personnel costs, was the fastest growing expense the District faced — a fund controlled at the state level, not by the School Board. There was incredible growth in Charter School enrollment, adding to the District's expense increase. Operations costs declined for two years, but increased recently, because of major building repairs that could not be left undone.

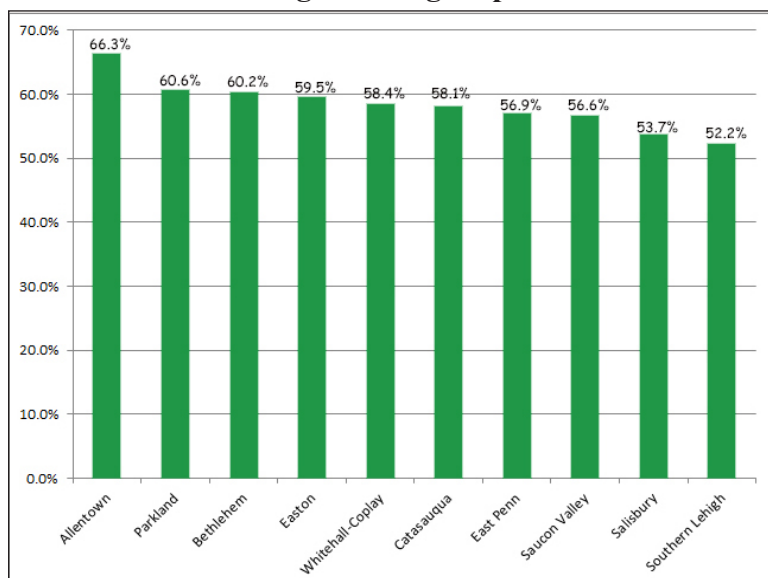
To meet these financial challenges, the District implemented the ASD Virtual Academy, which should draw students back from cyber and charter schools, as well as offer ASD high school students online supplemental courses and credit recovery options. Next year, the District is looking to increase partnerships with businesses by establishing a Professional Careers Institute — a stand-alone high school focused on programs such as engineering, health sciences and leadership.

ASD will continue to adapt and meet these financial challenges as we meet our mission of providing safe and rigorous educational experiences that motivate all students to excel in learning and life.

A Comparison to Neighboring Districts

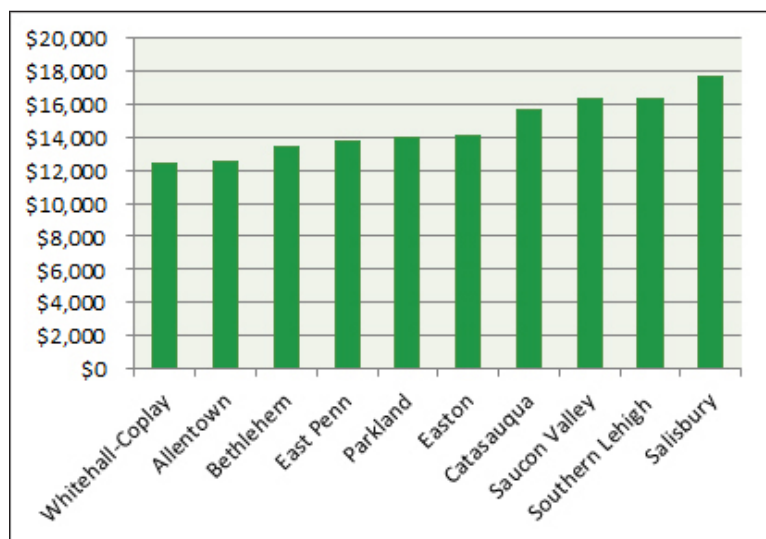
The Allentown School District has done an exceptional job of reducing expenses while keeping a focus on instruction. The District spends 66.3% of its budget on instruction, which ranks the District in the top 3% of districts in Pennsylvania.

2012-2013 Percentage of Budget Spent on Instruction



Although ASD spends more of its budget on instructional expenses, the District ranks 391 out of the state's 500 school districts on total expenditures per Average Daily Membership (ADM) – all students for whom the district is responsible.

2012-2013 Total Expenditure per Average Daily Membership



Charts above are based on 2012-2013 data which is the current information available from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

District Projected Figures

Baseline	FY-11	FY-12	FY-13	FY-14	FY-15	FY-16	FY-17
Total Revenues	\$229,233,979	\$229,853,497	\$232,289,740	\$239,835,489	\$251,776,780	\$258,535,068	\$264,157,596
Total Expenditures	\$231,043,073	\$230,034,444	\$240,111,422	\$246,068,643	\$256,132,455	\$271,934,780	\$288,611,461
Operating Balance	(\$1,809,094)	(\$180,947)	(\$7,821,682)	(\$6,233,154)	(\$4,355,675)	(\$13,339,712)	(\$24,453,865)
Fund Balance (Year End)	\$25,149,542	\$24,968,595	\$17,146,913	\$10,913,759	\$6,558,084	(\$6,841,628)	(\$31,295,493)

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Allentown School District is an equal rights and equal opportunity agency. The District provides all persons equal access, regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, transgender identity, ancestry, national origin, citizenship, marital status, pregnancy or disability. The Allentown School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. The District shall make reasonable accommodations for those with physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state law and regulations. For information about the policy, please contact the Director of Human Resources, ASD Administration Center, 31 South Penn Street, PO Box 328, Allentown, PA 18105 or by calling 484-765-4129.

Photo credits: The annual report features photos from both professional and amateur photographers. Many thanks are extended to: Ainsley Benner (*Cooking Matters*), Sue Beyer (*lehighvalleylive.com*), Lee Butz, Christmas City Photography, Lynne Hanna, Dr. C. Russell Mayo, Phil Stein, Hub Willson, and the faculty and staff from our schools who have offered photographs throughout the 2013-2014 year.

The Mascots of the Allentown School District

William Allen High School
Canaries



Louis E. Dieruff High School
Huskies



Harrison-Morton
Middle School
Minutemen



Francis D. Raub
Middle School
Indians



South Mountain
Middle School
Mountaineers



Trexler
Middle School
Bulldogs



Central
Elementary School
Golden Eagle



Cleveland
Elementary School
Cubbie Bear



Hiram Dodd
Elementary School
Bulldog



Jefferson
Elementary School
Thunderbolt (Stallion)



Lehigh Parkway
Elementary School
Parky (Panther)



Lincoln Early
Childhood Center
Teddy Bear



McKinley
Elementary School
Mustangs



Mosser
Elementary School
Husky Pups



Muhlenberg
Elementary School
Owliver (Owl)



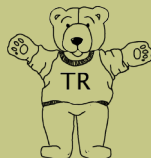
Luis A. Ramos
Elementary School
Rookie (Retriever)



Ritter
Elementary School
Raccoon



Roosevelt
Elementary School
Teddy Bear



Sheridan
Elementary School
Mustangs



Union Terrace
Elementary School
Terrific (the Tiger)



Washington
Elementary School
Wildcats

