



# Working Together for Student Success



2014-2015  
Annual Report



# Leadership



## Together We Move Toward the Future

Together we are stronger. Together we meet our challenges. Together we make a difference in the lives of our students and have a positive impact on our community.



Working together – administrators, teachers, staff, parents, guardians, students, community partners, business leaders, legislators, and the citizens of this City – we make a difference. That could not have been more evident this past year. Facing recovery from a fire that ruined the second floor of Cleveland Elementary School could have been a crippling experience. What the days and weeks after the fire revealed, was that this District and the entire community pulls together to support our students and our families. Everyone in the community rose to the occasion and our students continued smoothly on their academic journey.

The Cleveland fire is just one occasion that brought overwhelming support to the District. There are too many to recount all of these positive efforts, but some warrant mentioning.

- Building 21 Allentown High School is the District's new innovative high school that opens its doors in September 2015. Throughout the year, the District along with Building 21, a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization that develops and operates innovative secondary schools, brought awareness of this new initiative to business and community leaders. From the very beginning we had support from local business leaders. When we partnered with Building 21 our dream moved forward, but with the awe-inspiring support from the community the new high school moved to reality. From business leaders who committed to being part of the Executive Committee to A Day of Caring by Wells Fargo employees who spent a day beautifying the school building – every week brought a new element of support from this community. Although there are still fundraising efforts to be met throughout the coming year, more than \$2.2 million was raised this year of the \$3.6 million needed for the school's renovations.
- Communities In Schools, Lehigh Valley, (CISLV) worked in partnership with the District to expand its dropout initiatives. A partnership of CISLV, the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board, Lehigh Carbon Community College and the Allentown

**Above (starting at top):**

**The new Building 21 Allentown High School, 265 Lehigh Street, becomes a reality to open in September 2015.**

**With hard hats in place, Ramos students enjoy participating in ceremonial "first dig" for their new playground.**

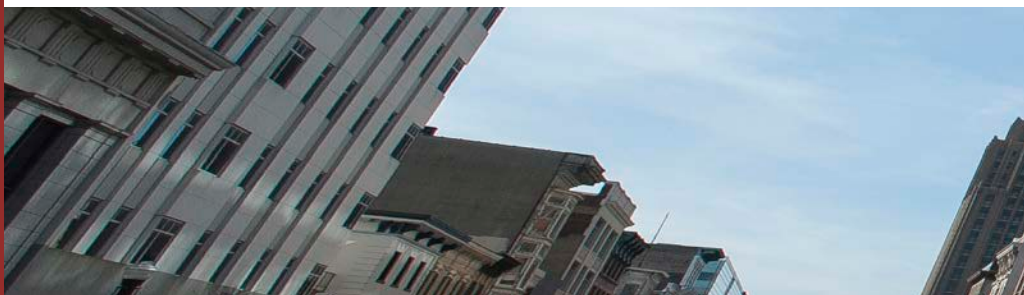
**Bottom:**

**PPL Center at Center City, Allentown.**

**On the cover:**

**Dieruff and William Allen High School students enjoy time together in the City's Arts Park.**

**(Row 1, l-r:) Nathaniel Stuart (WAHS), Dakota Szalacha (DHS), Alison Quach (WAHS), and Mardochee Dade (WAHS); (Row 2, l-r:) Shyanne Santiago (DHS), Susan Figueroa (WAHS), and Tanya Chakif (DHS).**



School District, has led to this City's first ReEngagement Center focused on bringing students who have dropped out of school back into the educational setting to earn their diploma or GED.

- Ramos Elementary School will see a new playground next year thanks to the support of Asbury United Methodist Church who has raised \$12,000 through events like a Celebrity Chili Cook-Off to purchase much needed new playground equipment. Additionally, community and school volunteers gathered in June to repair Ramos' playground equipment that could be saved.
- With the support of teachers, staff, students, parents, guardians and the community, Dodd Elementary School achieved state designation as a Reward—High Progress School. This made Dodd eligible for a special grant funding which they were subsequently awarded. Dodd received a \$50,000 Title I Innovation Reward School Grant to use to develop digital classrooms that will allow their students to access additional materials, individualized extended learning time, increase higher-level thinking, and collaboration opportunities.

It is by working together that we achieve success and move forward. I am humbled by the continued support this District receives. It is our collective dedication and commitment to student success that drives the District.

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 30, 2015

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

## ASD Central Administration

As of August 30, 2015

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  
Peter DeBonis, Director of Finance  
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  
Ralph Lovelidge, Director of Educational Operations  
Cory Lowe, Director of Science, Technology,  
Engineering & Mathematics  
Belinda Miller, Director of Special Education  
Lensi Nikolov, Director of Instructional Planning  
& Monitoring  
Ellen O'Brien, Director of Child Nutrition  
Jennifer Ramos, Director of Literacy  
Jacquelyn Scott, Director of Community &  
Student Services  
Thomas Smith, Director of Facilities  
Kimberly Walck, Director of Grants & Development





*If your actions inspire others to  
dream more, learn more, do more  
and become more, you are a leader.*

— John Quincy Adams  
6th President of the United States

## New Leadership Serving the District

As with every year, there are individuals in new leadership positions (between August 2014 - August 2015) who are leading the charge for our students. We are pleased to welcome the latest additions to the administrative team for the school year.



Jacquelyn Scott  
Director  
Community &  
Student Services



Ralph Lovelidge  
Director  
Educational  
Operations



Thomas Smith  
Director  
Facilities



Peter DeBonis  
Director  
Finance



Lensi Nikolov  
Director  
Instructional Planning  
& Monitoring



Dr. Kurt Berbaum  
Assistant Director  
Alternative Education



Beth Mohylsky  
Assistant Director  
Business Administration



Mark McKenzie  
Assistant Director  
External Accounts



Kim Zsitek-Brannan  
Assistant Director  
Health Services



Brian Siket  
Assistant Director  
Special Education



Dr. Janine Mathesz  
School Leader  
Building 21 Allentown  
High School



Joshua Radcliffe  
Principal  
Lincoln Early  
Childhood Center



Jose Rosado, Jr.  
Assistant School Leader  
Building 21 Allentown  
High School



Donna Keeney  
Assistant Principal  
Harrison-Morton  
Middle School



Kenneth Hudlow  
Assistant Principal  
Mosser  
Elementary School



Courtney  
Wertman-Stambaugh  
Assistant Principal  
Roosevelt  
Elementary School



Lisa Frankenfield  
Supvr, Instruction  
South Mountain  
Middle School



Maryann Gross  
Arts Administrator



Robin Miller  
PIMS Administrator



Tammy Thomas  
Benefits Specialist



## Serving Our Students and This Community

Our School Board works diligently to meet the District's goals which are focused on ensuring academic success of all students. In our quest to meet these goals, the Board approved the

implementation of 10 additional full-day Kindergarten classes; we reinstated 20 related-Arts teachers – art, music, physical education and library; we approved new Reading and Math curriculum; and approved the opening of a new high school in partnership with Building 21. These are just some of the new initiatives that provide our students with the support they need to succeed in school and life.

To say it was a busy year may be an understatement. The Board also approved to name the field at J. Birney Crum Stadium in honor of Andre Reed. Andre, a product of our District, attended Muhlenberg Elementary, South Mountain, and Dieruff; then went on to national success in the NFL. He was named to the NFL Hall of Fame in 2014. A special dedication ceremony will be held next year.

As they do every year, our students made us proud with their countless accomplishments and dedication. Here are some student success highlights:

- Dieruff Theatre earned a record winning six Freddy Awards for their production of *In the Heights* – including winning the coveted Overall Production award. They walked away with more “Freddies” than any other school.
- Dieruff's Air Force Junior ROTC Drill Team brought home their first ever national first place trophies – three of them. They had an exceptional year.
- Dieruff football team and coaches were honored with the Sportsmanship Award from the Eastern Pennsylvania Football Officials Association.
- William Allen's Scholastic Scrimmage Team made it to the semi-finals of the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Academic Competition. They came in fourth place.
- William Allen junior, Mardochee Dade, earned a cellist position in the 2015 PA Music Educators' Association All-State Orchestra; and sophomore Mercy Pawlowski made her mark earning a spot to compete at National Debate Championships.
- William Allen Chorale performed hundreds of free community concerts and AllenCapella performed the national anthem at the Phantoms opening game.
- William Allen's Varsity Boys Basketball Team earned the right to compete in the PIAA Class AAAA State playoffs.
- Three student groups – one each from Dieruff, William Allen and Harrison-Morton took first place honors and moved on to PJAS (Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science) State Competition.



*Above (starting at top):  
Scene from “In the Heights”, Dieruff High School's musical production that earned six Freddy Awards.*

*ASD Elementary students perform at the Lehigh Valley Mall during the holiday season.*

*The Phantom's mascot, Melvin, spends time with Kindergarten students at Lincoln Early Childhood Center*



*The thing that lies at the  
foundation of positive change,  
the way I see it,  
is service to a  
fellow human being.*

— Lee Iacocca,  
Retired President and CEO of Chrysler

- Raub Middle School students won the Outstanding Creativity trophy in the 2015 “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” Video Contest.
- Treasure Signorelli, South Mountain 6th grader, was named Outstanding Middle School Student with Visual Impairment by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industries Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- 4th and 5th grade students from Lehigh Parkway, Mosser, Muhlenberg, Ramos, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Union Terrace and Washington Elementary Schools performed a vocal and instrumental holiday medley for shoppers at the Lehigh Valley Mall.

We ended the academic year with the first Student Showcase of Academic Excellence. This compilation of in-depth work from every grade level featured projects, videos/documentaries, websites and more created by more than 150 students. It was inspiring to see our students’ exceptional quality of work.

Our students are successful in many ways. They are guided by our highly-qualified, dedicated teachers; supported by administrators, staff and community organizations; and they have the backing of our School Board Directors who are committed to ensuring that each student has the opportunity to receive a balanced education.

It’s been an exciting year and we look forward to seeing how the new school year unfolds.

Robert E. Smith, Jr.

*President*

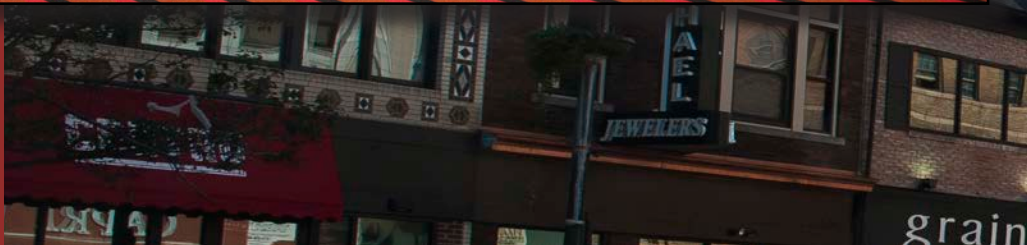
Allentown School District Board of School Directors

**Right:**  
**The School Board of Directors of the  
Allentown School  
District (l-r):**

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



**Bottom:**  
**Hamilton Street, between 5th and 6th  
Streets in Allentown.**



# Allentown School District Board Goals

## Goals Committed to Student Success

The Allentown School District School Board of Directors establishes the goals of the school district to ensure the academic success of all students. In 2014, these goals were re-focused to be aligned with the Pathways to Success Framework as well as emphasize a commitment to STEM and the Arts. Under the leadership of the School Board of Directors, the District's mission, vision and core beliefs are based on these 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

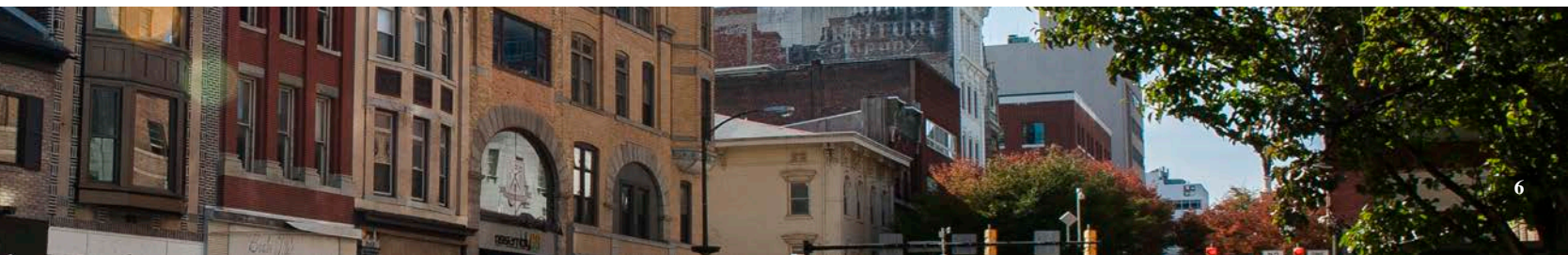
ASD will engage the community in supporting the academic growth, physical and social development, and career readiness of ALL students.

- 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

## Academic Initiatives Set Stage for Student Success

The decisions made, the changes adopted, and the new initiatives implemented this year were all done with one purpose in mind: providing our students with the best educational opportunities that we can offer and that they so richly deserve. During the 2014-2015 year the District provided support services and the educational needs of more than 17,000 students in 24 academic buildings. 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 online academic program, the ASD Virtual Academy.

## Curriculum Highlights

### Elementary Schools

- Implementation of a comprehensive reading program, *Journeys*, for K-5 that integrates reading with foundation skills, writing, speaking, listening, and language to provide a balanced approach to literacy in every elementary grade-level
- Researched, identified, and developed implementation plan for new math curriculum for K-5.

### Middle Schools

- Implemented new math program, *GO Math*, that combines math practice, math reasoning, and technology into a more engaging and interactive approach to learning; and reinforcing standard math concepts.
- Launched new science curriculum, *Science Fusion*, offering virtual labs and hands-on activities for every lesson in a real-world challenged environment.
- Implemented Project-Based Science Initiative, supported by Lehigh University, into the middle school curriculum that is working to integrate project-based learning into classroom practices.

### High Schools

- Launched ASD Virtual Academy offering Credit Recovery classes, Supplemental courses for William Allen and Dieruff High School students, and a full-time online high school option.
- Developed plans to implement a new high school, Building 21 Allentown, that will provide a unique approach to academics through a competency-based educational model that provides flexibility in how, what and where students learn.
- In partnership with Communities In Schools and the Workforce Development Board, the District began plans to launch the ReEngagement Center. The Center will work with young adults who dropped out of school and bringing them back to the fold trying to overcome those obstacles that led to dropping out in the first place.





## More Changes in State Performance Profile

The Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) scores released on November 6, 2014, reflected that eight Allentown School District elementary schools' overall scores increased and revealed growth for the District's high school graduation rate for both Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools. This was the second year for the Commonwealth's new State Performance Profile, although the SPP will be not be part of the District assessment for the next school year.

It is important to note that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) saw significant statewide decline in the annual PSSA test scores taken this year. Realignment to the new more rigorous Pennsylvania Core Standards are noted as the reason for this statewide phenomenon. These PA Core Standards are intended to better prepare all students in the state for college and career readiness when they graduate. However, schools throughout the state – including the Allentown School District – are working feverishly to adapt to these new standards and provide students with new curriculum to meet these challenges so students are prepared for the state's annual PSSA and Keystone exams. Therefore, the 2014-2015 PSSA results will be the benchmark for future testing.

## 2014 School Performance Profile Summary

As reported by  
Pennsylvania Department of Education

Elementary Schools	SPP Score
Central	61.9
Cleveland	57.8
Hiram Dodd	75.2
Jefferson	65.7
Lehigh Parkway	61.8
McKinley	61.1
Mosser	58.3
Muhlenberg	74.1
Luis A. Ramos	56.7
Ritter	72.3
Roosevelt	66.1
Sheridan	63.5
Union Terrace	63.2
Washington	60.9

### Middle Schools

Harrison-Morton	57.4
Francis D. Raub	55.7
South Mountain	63.8
Trexler	57.9

### High Schools

Louis E. Dieruff	54.5
William Allen	50.8



On Left:

McKinley Elementary students show off their classroom work.

Trexler Middle School students take a hands-on approach to learning for "Pi Day" by measuring the elements of fresh baked pies.

Dodd Elementary students show off their ladder that was included in the "Ladder Project" sculpture in the Arts Park.

*Develop a passion  
of learning.  
If you do,  
you will never cease to grow.*

— Anthony J. D'Angelo,  
American Writer and  
Founder of Collegiate EmPowerment



# Safety & Climate

## Being a Good Neighbor in Our Community

Partnerships make the difference in success. Corporate and non-profit partnerships supporting the Allentown School District make a difference each day in student success; just as ASD students, teachers, administrators and staff supporting the community makes a difference in the neighborhoods where our schools are located.

Highlights from 2014-2015 community events include:

- Each high school held free events with live entertainment, food, games and access to helpful information for their communities. In the fall, William Allen held its Annual Community Days and in the spring Dieruff held its Annual Husky Fest.
- Dieruff held “Nutrition in a SNAP” — a workshop on how to eat healthy on a supplemental nutrition assistance program budget for their neighbors. The program offered nutritional information, cooking demonstrations, hands-on activities, and tastings of healthy foods.
- Allentown School District held free workshops for parents, guardians, families and the community to provide a better understanding of educational processes. Sessions, held at schools throughout the City, included: Keystone and PSSA Workshops; How to Connect with ASD Services; Understanding the IEP and GIEP; and ELL/ESOL Workshop.
- Both Francis D. Raub and South Mountain Middle Schools are recipients of PPL and PBS39 Caring For Our Community grants, with Raub earning one grant and South Mountain receiving two grants. The \$500 grants, provided in partnership between PPL and PBS39, were awarded to middle school student groups who have identified a need in their community and developed a project to address that need. The grant monies will be used to implement the student groups’ proposed projects. Raub and South Mountain grants supported:
  - Raub Middle School project title: We can Make a Difference! funds were used by Raub students to purchase sanitary equipment so they could clean-up selected areas which resulted in making Allentown a better place for families.
  - South Mountain Middle School project title: Helping the Shelter grant helped fund a collection drive to gather donations for the Lehigh County Humane Society.



**Above (starting at top):**  
**Cleveland Elementary students hold up “Thank You” signs to express their gratitude to everyone in the District and the community who came to their aid after the school fire.**

**Harrison-Morton Middle School students proudly volunteer to help senior citizens.**



**Bottom:**  
**A view of Hamilton Street between 9th and 8th Streets in Allentown.**





- South Mountain Middle School project title: Community of Step supported the school's Step Team members in their goal to expand efforts as role models through their anti-bullying intervention posse.
- Eleven Allentown School District teachers – 10 from Louis E. Dieruff High School and 1 from South Mountain Middle School – represented the District as a Cool School's Team in the 3rd Annual Lehigh Valley Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Pennsylvania.
- As they have done for many years, the Allentown Rotary Club Dictionary Project distributed dictionaries to every 3rd grade student throughout the district.
- PPL Corporation and the Lehigh Valley Phantoms partnered to present the Get Out and Live (GOAL) program to Allentown School District students in the third, fourth and fifth grade at Cleveland Elementary which included a visit from Phantoms mascot, MeLVin.

## 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.

During the 2014-2015 school year, a number of initiatives were implemented that blended into the safe learning programs already in place within the District. New initiatives included:

- Implemented the Allentown School District/Allentown Police Department Student Panel at both Dieruff and William Allen High Schools. This program allowed secondary students – several from each high school and middle school – the opportunity to share their opinions and express their concerns with law enforcement officials. Students met directly with former Chief Joel Fitzgerald and other APD Officers.
- ASD along with other districts partnered with Lehigh County Department of Human Services for the purpose

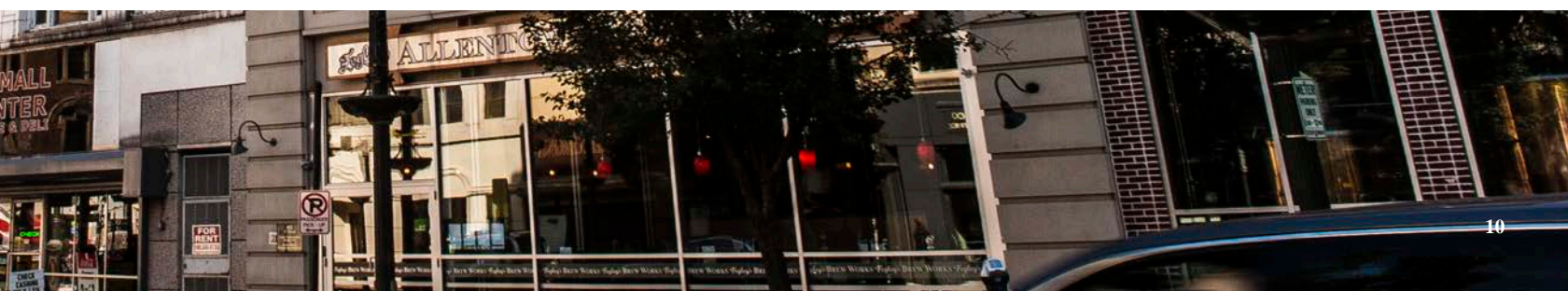
of taking a public health approach to the promotion and implementation of Youth Mental Health First Aid. All District Administrators and Security Officers were trained over the summer, while training will be held throughout the upcoming year for all ASD teachers and staff.

- In conjunction with the Allentown Police Department, a pilot online emergency management program was established with William Allen High School. The pilot program will run throughout next year and could be considered for implementation in other schools.
- Grant funding was secured to provide for all ASD school fire alarms to report directly to the Allentown Fire Department upon activation.

## Technology

Every year, the IT Department incorporates new technology initiatives to continually improve and maintain District-wide technology. To that end, the 2014-2015 year technology efforts included:

- District-wide implementation of Office 365, OneDrive, and OneNote for professional collaboration.
- Development of Student Login Accounts for ASD high and middle school students. Student accounts are provisioned and licensed within Office 365.
- Support of project-based learning in all ASD middle schools through distribution of 1,170 new Dell laptops in 39 carts.
- Began distribution of Microsoft Surface 3 Pros, which are detachable tablets, to all Principals, Assistant Principals, and Supervisors of Instruction to use in conducting classroom walkthroughs and evaluations.
- Implementation of Clarity BrightBytes to survey all building administrators, teachers and students in grades 3-12 regarding effectiveness of current technology.





# Elementary Education

*Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.*

— Nelson Mandela  
former President of South Africa



## Starting Students Off on the Right Foot

The Allentown School District continues to implement the Pathways to Success framework which provides every student with an individualized academic plan 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.

With the addition of 10 full-day Kindergarten classes this year, the District is well on it's way to moving all Kindergarten classes to full-day. This initiative meets the District's goal of providing all ASD students with a strong academic basis that continues throughout elementary, middle and high school. ASD students often start a bit below their grade-level expectation compared to their peers in other school districts. Regardless, every student is expected to experience a year or more of academic growth and progress toward proficiency. To ensure that every student achieves academic success there must be a strong foundation beginning at the elementary level.

Elementary students acquire this foundation through the following:

- Increased rigor at the elementary level to prepare students to transition successfully to middle school;
- The implementation of *Journeys* Reading program for grades K - 5. This comprehensive program integrates reading with foundation skills, writing, speaking and listening, and language to provide a balanced approach to literacy at every elementary grade-level.
- Launched a pilot program of *Go Math* for grades 1 - 5 at Muhlenberg and McKinley Elementary Schools.
- Increased the number of art, music, and physical education teachers as well as librarians to increase the arts curriculum for all students.
- Expanded full-day kindergarten to build confidence early in a child's academic career.

On Left:  
The classroom goes outdoors at Union Terrace where  
students participated in learning about their  
school's garden and landscaping.

Lehigh Parkway Elementary students enjoy  
spending time at the Family Game night.



## 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.

This year, four elementary schools — Central, Cleveland, 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 program focuses on strengthening student learning by integrating academics; health and social services; youth and community development; and community engagement.

The Leader in Me program was launched in three ASD elementary schools as a test program for the 2014-2015 school year. McKinley, Roosevelt, and Sheridan students were the first to become part of this program based on the 7 Habits of Happy Kids.

Five elementary schools — Cleveland, Jefferson, Mosser, Sheridan and Washington — along with South Mountain Middle School were part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. This funding provided students with 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.

## 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 2014-2015, ASD elementary schools reported the following data for enrollment, attendance rate, mobility (transferring in and out of schools), and low income which is used to align students with needed services based their family economic base.

### 2014-2015 ASD Elementary Schools

Enrollment	Attendance Rate	Mobility	Low Income
8,412	94%	41.7%	90.3%

*Reported in ASD 2014-2015 District Demographics on November 19, 2014.*



*Above (starting at top): Washington Elementary students collect canned food items for the community.*

*Students at Sheridan Elementary were the benefactors of a "New Sneaker Drive" by a former Sheridan student who went on to graduate from Dieruff High School.*



# Secondary Education



Above (starting at top): William Allen High School students explore their futures at the school's annual College & Career Fair.

South Mountain Middle School Girls on Track team completed their 12 week season by participating in the Candy Cane 5k in Bethlehem.

Louis E. Dieruff High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Drill Team competed at the Air Force Mid-West National Drill Competition in Dayton, Ohio, and brought home their first ever national first place trophies.

## Building Strength in Academic Programming

Implementing curriculum that engages middle and high school students so they achieve academic success was the focus of changes in the District's secondary academic programs. Whether students go on to higher education or the workplace, secondary education is about guiding each student on their journey to a successful life.

During the 2014-2015 school year, new initiatives focused on a change to include a more hands-on approach to learning.

- *Go Math* – an engaging, interactive approach to the State's Common Core Standards in Math – was implemented in all four middle schools, as well as at Newcomer Academy and the Jackson Building.
- *Science Fusion*, a science program that includes virtual labs and hands-on-activities that develop critical thinking skills, was also implemented in all four middle schools, Newcomer Academy and the Jackson Building.
- Students in ASD middle and high schools participated in a *Project-Based Science Initiative*, supported by Lehigh University, focused on integrating project-based learning into the classroom.
- Communities In Schools of the Lehigh Valley (CIS) partnered with ASD to expand Dropout Prevention programming efforts. ASD and CIS also developed plans for a ReEngagement Center to guide dropouts on a path that would lead them to earning a diploma or GED. The Center plans to open in September.

## Secondary Education By-the-Numbers

Allentown School District middle schools and high schools reported the following data for enrollment, attendance rate, mobility (transferring in and out of schools), and low income which is used to align students with services based on their family economic base.

### 2014-2015 ASD Middle and High Schools

Middle School			
Enrollment	Attendance Rate	Mobility	Low Income
3,592	92.8%	38.9%	94.4%
High School			
4,792	86.2%	47.6%	87.6%

Reported in ASD 2014-2015 District Demographics on November 19, 2014



## Graduation Day Something Special

In June 2015, Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools celebrated commencement by graduating 430 seniors (Dieruff) and 514 (William Allen). (*NOTE: These numbers were reported on June 1, 2015 and may have fluctuated.*)

Allentown School District's graduating seniors were excited to have their Commencement Services brought back to their hometown this year with back-to-back high school ceremonies at the new PPL Center, downtown Allentown. Students, their families and friends, and school and District administrators gathered to celebrate this special lifetime moment with a reignited sense of pride. With their photos and class video airing on the Center's jumbotrons and applause ringing from throughout the center, Commencement was filled with excitement at a whole new level. To say the least, this special day did not disappoint.

Data for high school Graduation Rates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education is always reported for the previous year. For the 2013-2014 school year, the Graduation Rate was as follows:

- Louis E. Dieruff High School Graduation Rate: 79.18
- William Allen High School Graduation Rate: 62.18

## Class of 2015 Valedictorians

Louis E. Dieruff High School



**Antonyous Chakif**

GPA: 5.11250

Attending: Lehigh University

Activities: President of Senior Class; National Honor Society; Student Government; Chess Club; Computer Club

William Allen High School



**Michael Buss**

GPA: 5.188

Attending: Drexel University

Activities: National Honor Society (Secretary); Mu Alpha Theta; Cross Country (Captain); Orchestra; Chorus; Key Club; Scholastic Scrimmage (Captain); Ski and Snowboard Club; Special Olympics Buddies

*All that stands between the graduate and the top of the ladder is the ladder.*

— Author Unknown





# Gifts and Grants

## Funds that Support Our Student Needs

Urban school districts seek additional revenue sources to assist in providing the needs of their students and their families. In 2014-2015, the Allentown School District received nearly \$122 million in state funding which represents an addition of \$5 million compared to the previous year. Each grant makes a positive impact on the students in the Allentown School District in some way. This additional funding helps provide a host of services including tutoring services, after-school programming, professional development for teachers and safety concern, to name a few. The 2014-2015 grant highlights, include:

- Hiram W. Dodd Elementary School received a \$50,000 Title I Innovation Reward School Grant. Dodd, which was designated as a Reward—High Progress School in December, was eligible to compete for additional grant funding this year because of their Title I designation. The grant will be utilized to develop digital classrooms within Dodd providing students with access to ASUS Transformer Books that will connect to the District's Reading and Math programs. Through these digital classrooms, students will be able to obtain additional reading and math materials, individualized extended learning time, increase higher-level thinking, and create opportunities for students to collaborate.
- A \$25,000 Safe Schools Initiative Targeted Grant was awarded to the District to focus on assisting schools with comprehensive safe school plans. This includes the planning and implementation of activities that prevent or reduce violence by and against youth on school property and/or transportation to and from school and for security-related training and equipment.
- The Title II-B Math–Science Partnership grant, a Federal Competitive grant funded through PDE, is in its second year. This grant provides K-12 District teachers with professional development in mathematics and science. This includes expanded development opportunities in Algebra and Biology in an effort to promote success of all students taking the PA Keystone Exams. This grant was secured by partnering with the DaVinci Science Center, Muhlenberg College and Moravian College.
- The second year of the District's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant continues to provide after-school academic and enrichment opportunities for ASD students at Cleveland, Jefferson, Mosser, Sheridan, and Washington Elementary Schools and South Mountain Middle School. The program's goal is to improve academic performance, as well as offer enrichment activities and programs for students, parents, guardians and families.

## 2014-2015 Federal Grant Summary by Category

Funding Type	Number of Awards	Award
Federal Formula through State	6	\$13,221,650
Federal Competitive through State	4	\$1,676,734
Federal Competitive Direct	1	\$2,429,281
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$17,327,665</b>

*The 2014-2015 Grant Summary total indicates yet another reduction in federal grant funding from the previous year by \$1,284,805.*



## ASDF Makes a Difference

In it's seventh year, the Allentown School District Foundation continued to provide funding for enrichment programs throughout all grade levels. Through the support of programs in the arts, STEM, history, physical fitness and social studies, the Foundation has offered programming that positively impacts ASD students. In 2014-2015, the Foundation supported programs such as the first ASD Student Showcase of Academic Excellence, ASD Science Fair, National History Day, Allentown DRIVE Baseball, PowerUp, and many more. The Foundation focuses on increasing corporate support through grant opportunities, Commonwealth's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, and events like High Notes Gala and the Allentown Color Run.

## 2014-2015 Foundation Highlights

**High Notes Gala** saw record attendance with the community and students coming together to celebrate the bygone era of the 1960s. Attendees were treated to performances showcasing the incredible talents of ASD students who performed selections from the high school and middle school spring musicals.

**Teacher Innovation Grants** were awarded to: Stanley Broyles (William Allen and Ramos); Judy Buda, Beth Pope and Jennifer Hoch (Jefferson); Lauren Carber, (Dodd); Melanie Christopher (Sheridan); Jeffrey Dutt (William Allen); Nicole Leskosky (William Allen); Trev Marcks (South Mountain); Virginia Mervine (Raub); Tracey Miller and Roseanne Kratzer (Dieruff); Kathleen Resnick (Raub); Babette Schaffer (Dieruff); Ellen Stocker (Trexler); Amy Talaber (Jefferson); and Christa Wolak (Newcomer Academy).

**ASD Science Fair** saw 540 budding scientists from all ASD middle schools, high schools and the alternative education program competing at an exceptional level. 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.

**See the Music, Hear the Art** merged visual art and music under the guidance of Satori musicians and resident artist Bill Christine. Third, fourth and fifth grade students at Union Terrace Elementary School watched the performance then created their own unique artist response that they presented at a live ensemble performance at the end of the school year.

**Middle School Latin Dance Program** (formerly Ballroom Dance) provides students from all four middle schools the opportunity to study Latin dances from professional dance instructors. Students learned dance routines for salsa, bachata, merengue and cumbia, then participated in the Annual Dance Competition.



*Above (starting at top): Mosser Elementary students enjoy PowerUp, a morning fitness and nutrition program led by the Weller Center and funded by Highmark Blue Shield.*

*Participants enjoy being coated in a rainbow of colors at the Allentown Color Run benefiting ASDF.*

*Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.*

— Les Brown  
Motivational Speaker and Author



# Financial Review



*Above (starting at top):  
Raub Middle School students accept the award for  
Outstanding Creativity in the "What's So Cool About  
Manufacturing Contest"*

*Students and families from Central Elementary  
school enjoy the Annual Elementary Art Exhibit.*

*Mardochee Dade, William Allen High School junior,  
earned a spot on the Pennsylvania Music Educators'  
Association (PMEA) Northeast District 10 Orchestra.*

*At right:  
A view of the 600 block of Hamilton Street, Allentown.*

## Budgeting for a Stronger Tomorrow

The Allentown School District has faced repetitive years of economic challenges, but we continue to rise to the challenge in our quest to meet the needs of students.

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

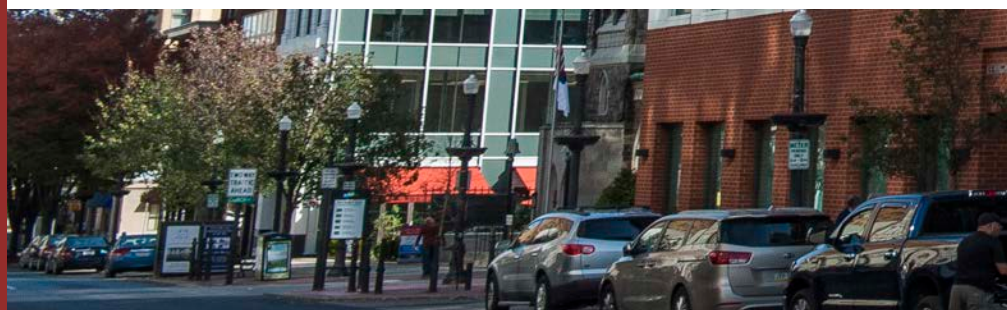
- Federal grant monies for special programs have seen a major decline. With the end of major funding and the effects of Federal Sequestration, school districts endured federal funding losses.
- State revenue has increased over the past few years for the Allentown School District, primarily because of 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.

It's all a fine balancing act that, in spite of local tax increases and additional state funding, has put the District in the position of facing reductions throughout every level. Continued increases, especially a significant rise in Charter School costs, have impacted the District's budgetary expenses.

This year, however, the District realized an increase in revenues and savings that provides a pathway for the improvement of student success. An additional \$2.6 million in delinquent real estate funds that broke past trends. While a \$3 million PSERS Reimbursement – a far different amount than the State budget indicated when the FY15 Budget was passed – attributed to additional funds. Two other areas, Group Healthcare Insurance and the budgeted Unemployment Compensation that was not necessary for furloughs, were areas of savings for the District.

Despite economic uncertainties, the District continues 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.

The administrators, teachers, and all support staff of the Allentown School District recognize that the goal of academic success for all of ours students is our first priority. By controlling costs the District will be able to restore additional services for our students and their families.



## Expenditure Where it Counts

### Instructional Expense

\$8,149.20/pupil

61.75% of the Total Budget

ASD is ranked 73 out of 500 Pennsylvania School Districts in terms of percentage of total costs spent on instruction.

### Administration Expense

\$670.14/pupil

5.08% of the Total Budget

- ASD is ranked 391 out of 500 Pennsylvania School Districts on total expenditures spent on administration costs.

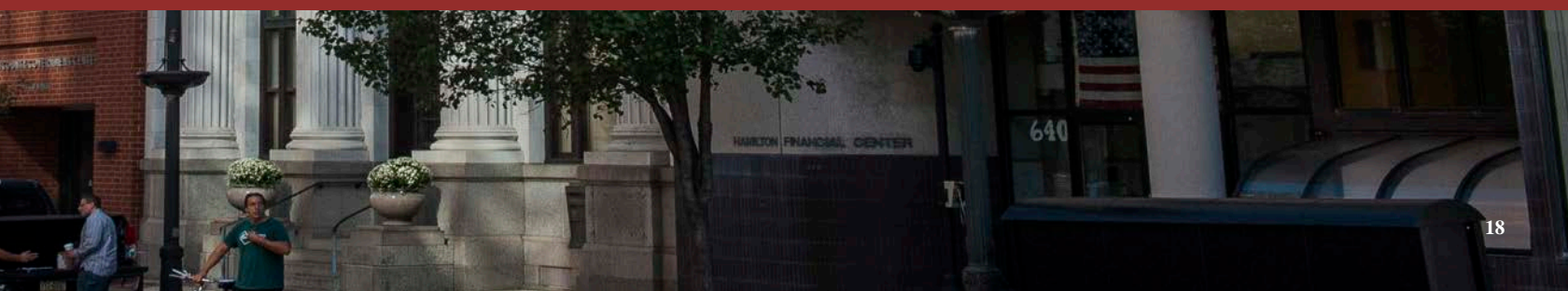
## District General Fund Chart and Projected Budget Estimates

Baseline	FY-12 (Actual)	FY-13 (Actual)	FY-14 (Actual)	FY-15 (Budget)	FY-16 (Projected)	FY-17 (Projected)	FY-18 (Projected)
Total Revenues	\$229,853,497	\$238,712,388	\$265,876,972	\$253,225,948	\$258,421,660	\$267,514,541	\$275,018,082
Total Expenditures	\$230,034,444	\$239,596,696	\$257,817,534	\$255,651,313	\$267,415,267	\$284,862,635	\$301,365,576
Operating Balance	(\$180,947)	(\$884,308)	(\$8,059,438)	(\$2,425,365)	(\$8,993,607)	(\$17,348,094)	(\$26,347,494)
Fund Balance (End of Year)	\$24,968,596	\$24,084,287	\$32,143,725	\$129,718,360	\$20,724,753	\$3,376,659	(\$22,970,835)

### 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 District Equity Coordinator, Allentown School District Administration Center, 31 South Penn Street, PO Box 328, Allentown, PA 18105 or by calling 484-765-4109.

*Photo credits: The annual report features photos from both professional and amateur photographers. Many thanks are extended to: Lee Butz, Christmas City Photography, Kimberly Golden-Benner, Brent Hugo, Dr. C. Russell Mayo, Hub Willson, and the faculty and staff from our schools who have offered photographs throughout the 2014-2015 year.*







Allentown School District • 31 South Penn Street • PO Box 328 • Allentown, PA 18105  
484-765-4000 • [www.allentownsd.org](http://www.allentownsd.org)