Then and Now: 150 Years of Academic Excellence
For 150 years, the Allentown School District has been fulfilling the academic needs of the children of our City. We are deeply rooted in our humble beginnings when the first meeting of the Allentown School District Board of Controllers met in 1866 and officially established the City’s District. The Board of Controllers (now the Allentown School District School Board) was comprised of six directors in each of the City’s five wards. With just 30 classes of students, the District set forth to educating the young citizens of Allentown.

Today, the Allentown School District is comprised of 22 schools and 4 academic programs – 3 high schools; 4 middle schools; 14 elementary schools, an early childhood center (Kindergarten only), Newcomer Academy (serving students attending a US school for the first time); William Penn Building and Jackson Building (providing Alternative Education for high school and middle school students, respectfully); and the ASD Virtual Academy. Collectively, District schools and academic programs serve more than 16,500 students in 2015-2016.

Yes, we have all come a “long way.” Gone are the days of one-room schoolhouses and slate-boards; today our schools have white-boards, computers, and project-based learning. In 2015-2016, the District academic programming realized:

- implementation of Universal Full-Day Kindergarten
- addition of Science Fusion in elementary programming
- expansion of the Journeys Literacy to middle schools
- increased enrollment in ASD Virtual Academy
- the opening of the Allentown Re-Engagement Center

Most importantly, the District saw graduates going on to incredible academic success as they moved on to prestigious higher education institutions, like: American University, Lehigh University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Stanford University, Temple University, University of Central Florida, University of Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt University, West Virginia University, and countless Pennsylvania state universities and area community colleges. In addition, many students joined our military services or are making their way in the workforce.

We have accomplished a great deal in our 150 years. Of course, we face new challenges and ever-changing times, but we stand together in our resolve to provide quality educational opportunities for our students so they attain the skills needed to thrive and succeed.

The Leadership Team
Allentown School District
ASD Board of School Directors
As of August 30, 2016

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

ASD Central Administration
As of August 30, 2016

Gary R. Cooper, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent
David M. Wildonger, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristin Kruger, Assistant Superintendent
Tina M. Belardi, Ph.D., Chief of Alternative Education, Supportive & Virtual Education
John R. (Jack) Clark, Ed.D., Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Ramos, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Ralph Lovelidge, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Christina Mazzella, Executive Director of Human Resources
Karen Baurkot, Director of Assessment
Lucretia Brown, Director of Equity
Peter DeBonis, Director of Finance
Thomas Derhammer, Director of Technology
David Elcock, Director of Human Resources
Keith Falko, Director of Educational Operations
Kathleen Gill, Director of ESOL & World Languages
Kimberly Golden-Benner, Director of Communications
Belinda Miller, Director of Special Education
Ellen O’Brien, Director of Child Nutrition
Brandy Sawyer, Director of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
Jacquelyn Scott, Director of Community & Student Services
Melissa Smith, Director of Literacy
Thomas Smith, Director of Facilities
Kimberly Walck, Director of Grants & Development

2016 Administrative Team

The District moves into the new academic year with a realigned academic leadership team. Leading the charge for the future of the Allentown School District are:

Dr. Gary R. Cooper
Interim Superintendent
David Wildonger
Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristin Kruger
Assistant Superintendent

Jen Ramos
Executive Director of Elementary Education
Ralph Lovelidge
Executive Director of Secondary Education

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

Our 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.
New Leadership Serving the District  (Administrative team named between August 2015 and August 2016.)

Lucretia Brown  
Director  
Equity

Melissa Smith  
Director  
Literacy

Keith Falko  
Director  
Operations

Brandy Sawyer  
Director  
STEM

Rebecca Bodnar  
Principal, Central Elementary School

Jose Delgado  
Assistant Principal  
Louis E. Dieruff High School

Michael Bolinsky  
Assistant Principal  
William Allen High School

Adam Dinney  
Assistant Principal  
William Allen High School

Lisa Frankenfield  
Assistant Principal  
South Mountain Middle School

Dr. Carolyn Headley  
Assistant Principal  
Central Elementary School

Shannin Peters  
Assistant Principal  
Ramos Elementary School

Naaman Schlegel  
Assistant Principal  
Ritter Elementary School

Matthew Pile  
Assistant Principal  
Sheridan Elementary School

Ernesto Ortiz, Jr.  
Assistant Principal  
Union Terrace Elementary School

Katherine Perkins  
Supvr. Instruction  
Harrison-Morton Middle School

Stephanie Deemer  
Supvr. Instruction  
Francis D. Raub Middle School

Katrina Griffin  
Supvr. Instruction  
South Mountain Middle School

Brent Hugo  
Project Manager: Finance/HR/Student Services

Michael Schmauch  
Assistant Manager  
Accounting

Nicole Cummings  
Assistant Manager  
Accounts Payable

Kimberly Billger  
Assistant Manager  
Payroll

Jessenia Perez  
Assistant Manager  
Purchasing

Diane Knotek  
Assistant Manager  
Transportation

Jeanette DeLeon  
Benefits Specialist

April McGovern  
21st Century Project Coordinator: Cohort 8

Daniel Brown  
21st Century Project Coordinator: Cohort 7
Our Commitment to Our Community

The Allentown School District has grown, adapted, and changed a great deal over the past 150 years; but our vision has always been the same – to provide the children of our City with educational skills that will lead them to success in college and career.

At this time in our history, we stand at the cusp of change in our District:

- a change that will focus on ensuring equity for all students
- a change that will support our educators so that they can support and help our students soar
- a change that will be in step with the renaissance of our city.

Everyday, our District works diligently to fulfill our mission of a safe, rigorous, and engaging educational experience that prepares ALL students to excel in learning and life. Of course like all urban school districts, we have our challenges, but we have incredibly dedicated teachers and administrators; we have students who require our care and guidance; we have families who need our support and will give their support in return; and we have a community that stands at the ready to lend their help in fulfilling our mission.

This past year, we implemented some new programs and celebrated the many successes of our students who make us proud. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Board approved the implementation of Universal Full-day Kindergarten.
- We saw the successful opening of our newest and innovative high school – Building 21 Allentown.
- The Allentown ReEngagement Center was successfully launched in partnership with Communities In Schools to work with students who dropped out of school and guide them on their journey to complete their degree.
- We celebrated students moving on to some of the top academic institutions in the country like: Princeton, Stanford, and Vanderbilt, as well as many other distinguished universities and military units.
- Two elementary schools – Hiram W. Dodd and Ritter – were honored as 2015-2016 Distinguished Title I Schools. The Division of Federal Programs honors the top performing Title I schools in Pennsylvania each year, it was an honor for two of ours to be selected.
- Our theatre departments had a stellar year with Dieruff earning five Freddy Awards including the coveted Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical for their production of The Producers. William Allen celebrated Emma Marhefka winning Best Leading Actress for her rendition of Marie in West Side Story.
• William Allen’s Joseph Marte was named the Pennsylvania Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.
• Dieruff Boys Volleyball Team celebrated making it to the District 11 tournament competition.
• The official dedication of Andre Reed Field at J. Birney Crum Stadium was held to name the field after the esteemed graduate and NFL Hall of Famer.
• The District combined all of our parent/guardian workshops under one roof to offer the ASD Title I Parent University – a series of workshops designed to educate and inform parents and guardians on several topics that will help support them throughout their student’s academic years.

We had a year filled with successes, but we know that our continued success cannot be reached alone. The District’s success is a community effort with all of us working together to make a difference for our students and the future of our community. Just as our City is moving toward an incredible transformation; our District must do the same.

We look forward to embracing the changes, instilling equity, and watching the new school year unfold.

David F. Zimmerman
President
Allentown School District Board of School Directors
Allentown School District Board Goals

Goals for 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

Academics Stay the Course of Time

From our humble beginnings in 1866 and the celebration of three Allentown High School graduates at our first commencement ceremony at First Presbyterian Church in 1869, to serving more than 16,000 students and graduating more than 1,100 students at the PPL Center in 2016 – our academics have always focused on implementing programs and initiatives that meet the needs of all students. Our students attend one of the District’s 26 academic facilities as follows: 1 Early Childhood Center (Kindergarten only); 14 Elementary Schools; 4 Middle Schools; 3 High Schools; 2 Alternative Education sites; 1 learning facility that prepares 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 math curriculum, Go Math, for K-5. This new program is a blended approach to learning that combines technology with core standard content, dynamic inter-activities, and a variety of instructional videos to engage the students; all while engaging students to think critically when applying math knowledge.
• Researched, identified, and developed implementation plan for new science curriculum for K-5.
• Implemented Read 180 and System 44 in Grades 4 and 5 learning support classrooms to provide students with increased support at their instructional level and a more cohesive transfer in academic programming to the next grade level.

Middle Schools

• Implemented comprehensive reading program, Journeys, in all Grade 6 curriculum as the District begins to add the new program to our middle school level. This program integrates the K-5 Journeys foundation and takes the writing, speaking, listening and language components to the next level.
• Fueled by an increase in project-based learning activities in math and science in 2015-2016, the 2016 ASD Annual Middle and High School Science Fair realized an increase of nearly 100 additional student projects.

High Schools

• On September 8, 2015, the District opened it’s newest high school, Building 21 Allentown. The school, which was launched in partnership with the non-profit organization Building 21, provides students with a unique approach to academics through a competency-based educational model and hands-on internships/externships within local businesses.
• The Allentown ReEngagement Center was opened in September 2015 to work with young adults who dropped out of school and brings them back to an education environment that tries to remove the obstacles that led to their decision to drop out. This new academic endeavor is a partnership with Communities In Schools and the Workforce Development Board.
State Profiles Still a State-wide Challenge

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s School Performance Profile (SPP) scores rate all schools across the state based on standardized test scores and a number of other factors. For the 2015-2016 SPP calculations, the SPP’s are to include growth measurements on academic success in closing the achievement gap in reading, math, and science. At the time of publication, the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment system scores – which tracks academic growth – had experienced “accuracy issues” and caused some schools to get incorrect SPP scores. Therefore, scores are not available to report in the 2015-2016 Annual Report.

Regardless, preliminary scores indicated that the majority of the schools across the state are still challenged to meet the more demanding PSSA and Keystone tests. Considering that the SPP score is based on the results of these exams, this challenge is duly reflected in the final scores. The calculation of various weighted factors; such as student growth, graduation and attendance rates, and degree of rigorous courses; schools with higher PSSA and Keystone exam results did not necessarily equate to a higher SPP score – often it’s quite the opposite.

On Left:
Unidentified Allentown School District student (circa 1940) works on a loom.

South Mountain Middle School students involved in project-based, hands-on learning activity.

Above:
Allentown students participate in Romper Day – a City celebration – which included physical education-like activities. (undated photo)

Lehigh Parkway Elementary School students take a Zumba lesson as part of a school assembly.

Dodd Elementary School students gather to read books donated to their class.
Climate & Safety

Community Partnerships Create a Supportive Climate

Partnering with community organizations and local businesses has an incredibly positive impact on our school communities. Our students and their families benefit from these additional support services that include everything from health and dental care to district-sponsored parent/guardian/community workshops and school food banks.

Highlights from 2015-2016 community events include:

• Allentown School District combined a selection of free parent/guardian/community workshops this year under the title: ASD Title I Parent University. The workshops are designed to educate and inform parents and guardians on several topics that help support them throughout their student’s academic years. Breakfast, lunch and child care services were provided to support parental attendance.
• Engaging community events were sponsored by numerous schools to benefit their surrounding neighborhoods.
  • Dieruff High School held their annual Husky Fest bringing the entire community and school together for an afternoon of fun and educational activities.
  • William Allen High School’s Annual Community Day featured entertainment, face painting, games, resource information, and lots of food.
  • South Mountain Middle School held their always successful annual Family Fun Night with games, activities, food and resource information.
  • Central Elementary hosted their first Community Block Party to bring the entire community together by SOARing Into A Brighter Tomorrow celebration.
• William Allen High School hosted a free public performance by the Navy Band Northeast’s Pops Ensemble, and the school’s National Honor Society hosted two Open Closet events providing residents of Allentown a place to select free seasonal clothing.
• The District sponsored free Adult ESOL Classes for Allentown residents. Participants, representative of the community’s diversity, honed their English skills and celebrated their accomplishment with a graduation event.
• A new Indoor Rowing Program – Erg Ed™ – was made possible for middle and high school students through a sponsorship by USRowing and the George Pocock Foundation. Erg Ed is a classroom-based indoor rowing education program that teaches teamwork, exercise intensity and goal setting.
• The Allentown Rotary Club Dictionary Project distributed dictionaries to every 3rd grade student throughout the district, which has been an annual commitment for several years.
• Air Products volunteers made the difference at “Sharing With Sheridan” – a day of beautification at Sheridan Elementary School.

Above (starting at top):
District physical education teachers and coaches spend a day training to implement the new Indoor Rowing Program – Erg Ed™.
Allentown elementary students proudly work on a project to support Sacred Heart Hospital (circa 1950).
Central Elementary School students, families and community members break out their moves at the school’s first Community Block Party.
• The Allentown Police Department continued its support at every grade level, including:
  ◆ Chief Morris and a host of officers distributed a $50 gift card to two students from every school. Student selection, by the school, was based on student academic success and commitment to others.
  ◆ APD Student Panel at both Dieruff and William Allen High Schools continued to provide ASD students with an opportunity to express their concerns and the needs of youth in the community.
  ◆ PAL Basketball in our elementary schools which works to support moral, physical, educational and civic standards of youth and promote friendship, sportsmanship and good will.
• Everything from circuits to web knowledge were part of Best Buy’s Geek Squad Academy for ASD students participating in the summer’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
• Held Youth Scene – an exhibit celebrating the artistic expressions of ASD students. The showcase was hosted by the Boutiques on the ArtsWalk – Sage, Aquarius and 7th & Sole – and featured a compilation of student work from all grade levels and in a variety of mediums. Some of the high school pieces were available for purchase.

Safe Learning Environments

The District is committed to creating a safe and supportive climate where all students have equal access to educational programs and resources. Programs target prevention, intervention, and safety at every level. Staff training, extensive community involvement and partnerships with local law enforcement, prevention services, and treatment agencies support these initiatives.

This year, the District implemented new initiatives that added to existing programs in our quest to ensure safety protocols:
• District added Director of Equity position to work with community organizations to guide the District on a continual focus of equity for all.
• Implemented a pilot program – Navigate Emergency Management System – at William Allen High School. The system, which was sponsored by Highmark, integrates emergency response efforts with speed and efficiency.
• Continued Youth Mental Health First Aid training to new administrators, security officers, and nurses, as well as clerical and a selection of teachers.
• In collaboration with Magellan, the District expanded School-based Mental Health services.

• Expanded APD’s PAL Basketball program to include 6th grade students to continue the supportive and mentoring process of ASD students.
• Expanded early warning signs for drop-out prevention services in partnership with Communities In Schools which allowed for the addition of Case Managers at Dieruff and William Allen High Schools and Trexler and Harrison-Morton Middle Schools.
• The Allentown Police Department implemented their L.I.F.E. program – an Explore-Post style mentoring after-school program designed to help prepare students for career readiness and young adulthood in ASD middle schools.

Technology

The District’s Technology Department looks for new technology initiatives and programs to continually improve and maintain District-wide technology. In 2015-2016, those efforts included:
• Implementation of a new District public website by the Office of Communications which provided substantial savings for the District, as well as the ability to easily translate all District websites for smartphone viewing.
• Introduced BoardDocs LT for the compilation of all Board Meeting minutes, agendas, and policies through this web-based, paperless format.
• Created student accounts that are integrated with Office 365. Through this effort, the benefit of OneNote Notebooks increased the opportunities for collaboration within the classroom and enhanced student outcomes.
• Moved the District to Microsoft System Center Endpoint Protection as the District’s enterprise anti-virus software program.
• Researched and surveyed both Dieruff and William Allen High Schools to move both facilities forward on full wireless capabilities.
• Oversaw the installation of time clocks across the District in support of paperless timesheet reporting.
Strong Basics Still Make the Difference

Reading, writing and arithmetic have been the three staples of education since the Allentown School District opened its doors. Today, the focus continues on the basics, but with so much more. ASD’s Pathways to Success framework guides our curriculum to provide every student with an individualized academic plan to lead them through successful grade-level progression on to graduation.

The District saw the approval of universal Full-Day Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. This move meets the District’s goal of providing a strong academic basis that translates to continued success throughout elementary, middle and high school.

Compared to their peers in neighboring school districts, ASD students often start a bit below their grade-level expectation. Regardless, every student has the capacity for academic success and is expected to experience a year or more of academic growth and progress toward proficiency.

Through the District’s focus on a rigorous academic curriculum, students build a strong foundation at the elementary level that prepares them for future successes.

Elementary students acquire this foundation through the following:

- District-wide elementary school implementation of new Go Math curriculum for Grades 1 – 5.
- Finalized research and received approval of a new K-5 science curriculum, Science Fusion, which allows students hands-on learning through digital and physical labs. Implementation begins next year.
- Universal Full-Day Kindergarten to build skills and confidence early in a child’s academic career.
- Continued to increase rigor at the elementary level to prepare students for a smooth and successful transition to middle school.
Academics Focused for Their Future

The *Leader in Me* program, which was launched in three elementary schools last year, received Board approval for implementation in every ASD elementary school by the 2018-2019 school year. The program is a whole-school transformation process that teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

Academic curriculum is supported throughout the year with focused community partnerships. This year, ASD 5th grade students enjoyed the Pop-Up Maker Space experience. Taught by Da Vinci Science Center and Baum School of Art staff, this program allowed students hands-on exploration of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts, such as electronics, circuits, drawing, and bookmaking in concentrated 4-day periods. The students’ final projects focused on creating a future STEAM job or invention.

Four elementary schools — Central, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt — were supported with intense after-school programs from two community partner programs: United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Community Schools and Communities In School’s Integrated Student Supports program with Site Coordinator assistance. Through both of these community partnerships, students were able to take advantage of quality after-school programs that included tutoring and a variety of academic enrichment programs and family-focused activities and events.

Elementary Schools By-the-Numbers

The District provided the educational services for approximately 8,000 students in 14 elementary schools and 1 early childhood center (Kindergarten only). As part of the District’s extensive support services network, these young students were able to receive their medical, dental, and emotional support needs through their schools.

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 on their family economic base.

### 2015-2016 ASD Elementary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Mobility</th>
<th>Low Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,968</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reported in ASD 2015-2016 District Demographics on December 3, 2015.*
Strengthening Academics

Whether students go on to higher education or the workplace, their academic journey needs to be engaging and rigorous to place them on the path to a successful future. The 2015-2016 school year saw the implementation of new initiatives that included a focus on a whole new approach to learning.

- The new Building 21 Allentown High School developed academic partnerships with organizations such as: Baum School of Art, Da Vinci Science Center, Digital Feast, IBEW 375, Lehigh University, Lehigh Valley Health Network, and Muhlenberg College to enable students to develop their skills in real world environments.

- *Journeys* Literacy was integrated into all 6th Grade curriculum as the middle school literacy program aligns with the State’s Common Core Standards. This program incorporates foundation skills, writing, speaking and listening and language to provide a balanced Literacy academic program.

- The Third Annual ASD Science Fair for middle and high school students, saw an increase in participation by approximately 100 more research-based projects over the previous year. This influx is a result of the additional focus on integrating project-based learning into secondary classrooms.

- ASD Virtual Academy had nearly 500 students (an increase from the 130 students in 2014-2015) taking on-line course options. This included full-time virtual students, ASD high school students enrolled in Advance Placement courses and middle and high school students taking credit recovery course options.

Secondary Education By-the-Numbers

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>3,592</td>
<td>4,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Rate</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported in ASD 2015-2016 District Demographics on December 3, 2015.
150 Years of Graduations Continue

In June 2016, Louis E. Dieruff and William Allen High Schools celebrated commencement by graduating 436 seniors (Dieruff) and 657 (William Allen) at the PPL Center in downtown Allentown. (NOTE: These numbers were reported on June 1, 2015 and may have fluctuated.)

This year there was a special addition to each school’s graduation ceremony – Operation Recognition. This program provides an honorary diploma, posthumously, to individuals who left high school before graduating to serve in the United States military. In accordance with the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dieruff High School presented two Vietnam War US Marines and William Allen presented one diploma to a World War II US Army Sergeant. The degrees were presented to surviving family members.

Students from this year’s graduating classes moved on to everything from the workforce to the military to such prestigious universities as Stanford, Vanderbilt, Princeton, and New York University as well as outstanding area universities like Lehigh, Moravian, and Muhlenberg. Many students have moved on to local community colleges and other two-year academic institutions.

Class of 2016 Valedictorians

Louis E. Dieruff High School: Co-Valedictorians

Tanya Chakif  
GPA: 5.445 
Attending: Lehigh University 
Activities: National Honor Society; National Art Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; Senior Class Council

Jayson Saleet  
GPA: 5.445 
Attending: Princeton University 
Activities: National Honor Society; National Art Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society; Senior Class Council; Boys’ Volleyball Manager

William Allen High School

Lauren Drabenstott  
GPA: 5.462 
Attending: New York University 
Activities: National Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta; Chorus; Chorale; Drama Club; Girls Tennis Team (Captain)

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
— Henry David Thoreau  
American essayist, poet and philosopher
Gifts and Grants

Funds that Support Our Student Needs

Throughout much of our history, the Allentown School District has been supported by additional revenue sources to assist in providing for the needs of students and their families. Each grant makes a positive impact on the students in the Allentown School District in some way. This additional funding, from a variety of sources, helps provide a host of services including tutoring, after-school programming, professional development for teachers, and safety trainings, to name a few.

2015-2016 Grant Highlights

- The District was one of 50 recipients of a new 21st Century Community Learning Center grant receiving funding of $399,000/year (renewable for three years). This grant supports a Cohort 8 program at Dieruff and William Allen High Schools, and Raub, Harrison-Morton, and Trexler Middle Schools by providing students with after-school academic and enrichment opportunities. South Mountain Middle School continues to benefit from a 21st Century Grant, Cohort 7, which runs through 2017. The program’s goal is to improve academic performance, as well as offer enrichment activities and programs for students, parents, guardians and families.
- ASD received a 2015-2016 PA State System of Higher Education GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant – a college readiness initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant funds student achievement programming at all four ASD middle schools and follows the students from 7th grade through graduation (class of 2020) to assist students in realizing their dreams of attending college.
- For the second year, 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 for the second year, was eligible to compete for grant funding because of their Title I designation. The grant will continue to support digital classrooms allowing students the ability to obtain additional reading and math materials, individualized extended learning time, increase higher-level thinking, and create opportunities for students to collaborate.
- A second Title II-B Math–Science Partnership grant was received this year. This is a Federal Competitive grant funded through PDE that 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 Da Vinci Science Center and is supported by Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College, and Northampton Community College.

2015-2016 Federal Grant Summary by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Formula through State</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$14,543,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Competitive through State</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2,025,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$16,568,881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2015-2016 Grant Summary total indicates a $1.5 million increase in federal through state grant funding to the District.
In the 2015-2016 school year, generous area donors helped the Allentown School District Foundation (ASDF) contribute more and touched the lives of more than 2,600 Allentown School District students with innovative, enriched programming.

2015-2016 Foundation Highlights

**Artist-in-Residence Program** involved nearly a dozen well-known art and theatre professionals who integrated six-week visual arts projects with integrated studies in civic education, history, math and nature for the benefit of almost 1,500 elementary children.

**Historical and Cultural Site Visits** provided 4th and 5th Graders from Central, Lehigh Parkway, Mosser and Union Terrace Elementary Schools with the opportunity to participate in *An Allentown Adventure*. Students read ASD teacher Janice Altieri’s book (of the same title) and created art based on what they learned.

**Music Enrichment** offered all grade levels learning opportunities from flutophones to summer string weekly lessons. It also led a drive to collect, refurbish and/or purchase instruments, which is an ongoing commitment to secondary music education.

**Middle School Latin Dance Program** culminated in the 5th Annual Competition at William Allen’s Dr. John McHugh Auditorium with students from the four middle schools displaying their newfound dance skills and teamwork that they learned over several weeks.

**Allentown School District Endowed Scholarship Program** under the guidance of ASDF, provided scholarships to seniors at William Allen and Dieruff High Schools with 63 scholarships totaling $28,000+.

**Teacher Innovation Grants (TIG)** have been offered since 2012. Grants are provided for unique and creatively compelling enrichment projects. Eighteen ASD educators received 2015-2016 grants and were honored at a June reception.

**Allentown DRIVE Baseball** had all four middle schools recruiting baseball teams to teach players the basics of the game. A championship game was held at Coca-Cola Park and South Mountain Middle School took home the trophy.

**ASD Annual Science Fair and Academic Showcase** were sponsored by ASDF and allowed students the opportunity to showcase their academic strengths and shine among their peers, teachers and family.

**HIGH NOTES Gala**, the ASDF signature fundraising event provided significant gifts to the middle and high school theatre programs who participated in the event. This event continues to provide the operational funds for the Foundation.

The Foundation appointed Susan L. Williams – a former District consultant (2001-2013) – as Executive Director this year.
Budgeting Today for a Better Tomorrow

School districts across the state held off expenditures and tightened their “economic belts” as everyone weathered Pennsylvania’s lengthy budget impasse. Although Allentown School District has faced repetitive years of economic challenges, the 2015-2016 school year saw the District researching the best options to borrow funds from local banks to remain open and continue educating students. A brief one-week loan was closed when the State moved forward with partial funding. As borrowing options were again being pursued, the budget impasse was settled and state funding was released to all school districts in April 2016, just two months before the end of the fiscal year.

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

- The District saw an increase in federal grants of over $1.5 million from the previous year.
- The new fair funding formula directed $1.3 million in additional funds to ASD this past year. The formula predicts an additional 5.5% increase for the coming year.
- ASD realized a slight increase in local revenue from property tax increases, as well as a slight increase from the downtown redevelopment. For the second year, the District did NOT raise property taxes for the citizens of Allentown.

The budget impasse caused the District to delay filling vacant positions and refrain from purchasing all non-essential items through much of the entire year. Since approximately 54% of ASD’s budget comes from State funding, the impasse caused extreme financial pressure. Budgeting was a constant struggle throughout the year, as the District was forced to draw down fund balance and seek alternative financing to pay staff and vendors.

Financial management is always a fine balancing act, in spite of additional state funding. Although the District is grateful for the additional funds and the predicted increases, there is still reason for concern as these funds do not appear to be aligned with the continued increase in the number of school-aged children in the city nor the ongoing exponential growth of charter schools. The District also continues to deal with increasing pension and healthcare costs that out-pace revenue gains.

Through it all, ASD continues to respond to and meet the needs of the community with implementation of initiatives such as the opening of Building 21 Allentown, universal Full-Day Kindergarten, and hiring of additional staff to respond to a growing population of special needs students.

Regardless of any financial challenges, the administrators, teachers, and staff work together to provide the educational services and support our students need to succeed academically.
Expenditures Focus on Instruction

**Instructional Expense**

$8,672.30/pupil

72.65% of the Total Budget

ASD is ranked 257 out of 500 Pennsylvania School Districts in terms of percentage of total costs spent on instruction.

**Administration Expense**

$677.10/pupil

5.67% of the Total Budget

- ASD is ranked 465 out of 500 Pennsylvania School Districts on total expenditures spent on administration costs.

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**District General Fund Chart and Projected Budget Estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY-13 (Actual)</th>
<th>FY-14 (Actual)</th>
<th>FY-15 (Actual)</th>
<th>FY-16 (Budget)</th>
<th>FY-17 (Projected)</th>
<th>FY-18 (Projected)</th>
<th>FY-19 (Projected)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$238,712,388</td>
<td>$265,876,972</td>
<td>$257,654,303</td>
<td>$266,251,907</td>
<td>$273,863,109</td>
<td>$283,590,899</td>
<td>$294,620,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$239,596,696</td>
<td>$257,817,534</td>
<td>$253,015,375</td>
<td>$265,737,077</td>
<td>$289,028,440</td>
<td>$304,473,449</td>
<td>$321,878,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Balance</strong></td>
<td>($884,308)</td>
<td>$8,059,438</td>
<td>$4,638,928</td>
<td>$514,830</td>
<td>($15,165,332)</td>
<td>($20,882,549)</td>
<td>($27,258,047)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund Balance</strong> (End of Year)</td>
<td>$24,084,288</td>
<td>$32,143,726</td>
<td>$36,782,654</td>
<td>$37,297,484</td>
<td>$22,132,152</td>
<td>$1,249,603</td>
<td>($26,008,444)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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, trans-gender 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 Director of Equity, Allentown School District Administration Center, 31 South Penn Street, PO Box 328, Allentown, PA 18105 or by calling 484-765-4109.

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*Photo credits: The annual report features photos from both professional and amateur photographers. Many thanks are extended to: Eric Butz, Lee Butz, Christmas City Photography, Kimberly Golden-Benner, Lynne Hanna, John Hughes, Brent Hugo Photography, Hub Willson Photography, US Rowing, Susan L. Williams, Dave Zerbe Studio of Photography, and the faculty and staff from our schools who have offered photographs throughout the 2015-2016 year.*