

VIRTUAL Budget Hearing Meeting – March 25, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. BOARD PRESIDENT: In accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, adequate notice of this meeting was posted in the Administration and copies of said notice sent to the Irvington Herald, the Star Ledger and Township Clerk.
- V. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
- VI. **DISTRICT BUDGET STATEMENT FOR 2026-2027**

WHEREAS, the Irvington Board of Education adopted a Tentative Budget on March 18, 2026 and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 25, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget was advertised in the public notice section of the Star Ledger on March 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Final Budget is presented at a public hearing held Virtually on March 25, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in consideration of the above, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Final Budget for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$234,525,434.00 using the State Aid Figures which includes \$17,459,529.00 which shall be funded by local tax levy (no increase).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Irvington Board of Education has allotted maximum travel expenditure for the 2026-2027 school year of \$75,000.00 district wide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Irvington Board of Education includes in the maximum travel expenditure the per person travel amount for Regular Business travel not to exceed \$1,500.00 and no more than \$150.00 per day for Regular Business travel.

ACTION:

Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____

Roll Call:

VII. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Education meetings held on the dates as indicated, as corrected and transcribed, be received and filed.

February 11, 2026 Virtual Meeting

February 25, 2026 Special Virtual Meeting

ACTION:

Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____

Roll Call:

VIII PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. SEPARATION(S)
2. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
3. IRVINGTON TECH TITANS SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP T3 CREATORS
COLLECTIVE - OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, RETENTION, AND
RECRUITMENT
4. FOR THE RECORD

PERSONNEL
MARCH 25, 2026

1. SEPARATIONS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approves the separation of the listed personnel, effective as indicated:

Retirements

Certificated

- (a) Valerie Benn, ELA Teacher, University Middle, Effective July 1, 2026. DOH 04/23/2001.

ACTION:
Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____
Roll Call:

2. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- (a) **AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR 2025-2026 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE SCHOOL**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve an After School Academic Enrichment Program for students in Grades 3-5. Attending high-quality afterschool programs and regular participation can lead to improved social and emotional competencies, including prosocial behavior, intrinsic motivation, better concentration efforts, and higher sense of self-worth, which will enhance students' performance on the NJSLA. The program will begin in March 2026 and conclude June 2026. The program will run on Mondays and Wednesdays for one hour per day. Six (6) teachers Denise Petersen, Gail McNeil, Valerie Lawson, Vendetta Manley-Keyes, Geraldine Emeh, Sandra Frederic will be hired. Each teacher will be paid \$47.00 per hour not to exceed a total of 60 hours and a cost of \$9024.00. Payable from account number 20-TI6-100-100-09-30.

Board approved on Curriculum: November 19, 2025, Item 24, Page 57.

ACTION:
Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____
Roll Call

CURRICULUM
MARCH 25, 2026

3. IRVINGTON TECH TITANS SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP T3 CREATORS COLLECTIVE - OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, RETENTION, AND RECRUITMENT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approves the implementation of the Tech Titans Summer Enrichment Program. Tech Titans is an innovative educational program designed to expose students in STEAM concepts such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Cybersecurity, Esports, Digital Navigator/Civic Technician, Animation Creation and related STEAM disciplines. TTESC will be conducted by T3 Creators Collective, LLC 600 Kings Highway, Suite 8102, Cherry Hill, NC 08002. Students who attend the program will also be exposed to Career Exploration opportunities in preparation for CTE pathways at Irvington High School and Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy. The program will be offered to 150 for students in grades 3 through 8. Students in grade 5 emerging 6th grade who will be attending Anna B. Scott Junior STEAM Academy are required to attend the Tech Titans program. In addition, 8th graders emerging 9th grade who will be attending RLOSA are required to attend the program. The program will be held at Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy. The program will be offered Monday to Friday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm from July 6, 2026 through July 31, 2026. The total cost of the program is not to exceed \$600,000.00. The cost \$216,435.00 payable from 20-TI6-100-500-00-30 and \$350,565.00 payable from 20-TI6-200-500-00-30.

2nd Quote: Jasfel

ACTION:
Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____
Roll Call:

4. FOR THE RECORD

- (a) Item 101, Page 66, Board approved March 18, 2026, the account number should read 11-000-230-610-00-18

ACTION:
Motion by: _____, Seconded by: _____
Roll Call:

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Registration with Superintendent's designee (building principal) prior to Regular Board Meeting required)

Limit of 30 minutes total-three minutes per individual.

CLOSED SESSION

“In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, be it hereby resolved that the Irvington Township Board of Education meet in closed session, April 15, 2026 (Virtually) at 5:00 p.m., to address confidential matters of personnel, negotiations, and/or attorney client privilege.

It is expected that the matters discussed will be made public at the time that the need for confidentiality no longer exists.”

Motion to adjourn:

Roll Call:

2026 – 2027 Budget Hearing

Presented by

Dr. April Vauss, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martin Adegboyega, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction

Sean Evans, Asst. Supt. of Operations

Mr. Craig Smith, QPA, Asst. Superintendent for Business

Roger Monel, Associate Business Administrator

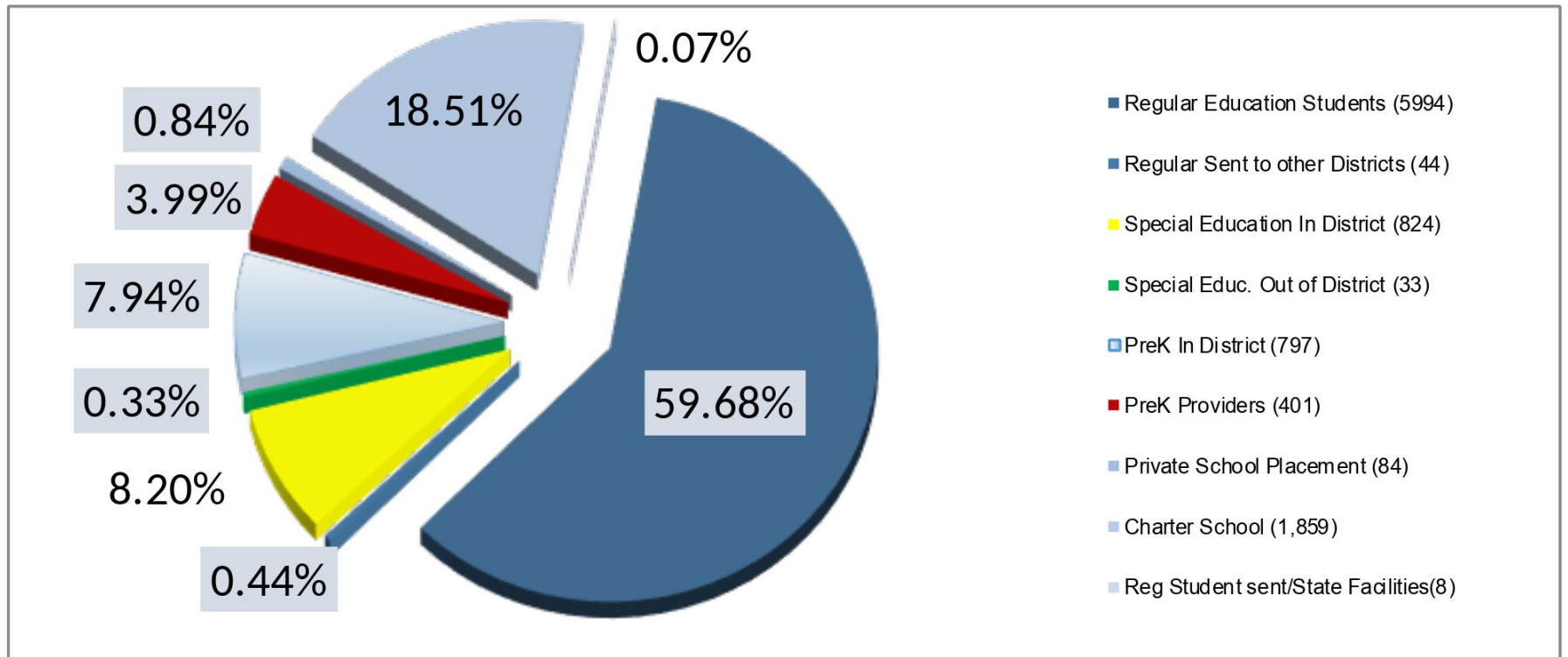
Dr. Edna Correia, Assistant to Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Farrah Irving, Esq. Manager - Human Resources



MARCH 25, 2026

2026-2027 ENROLLMENT ASSA PROFILE (10,044)

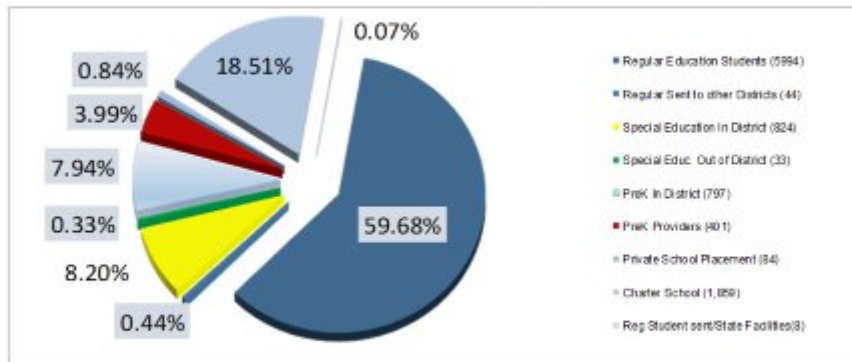


ELL Students included = 3,242



2026-2027 VS 2025-2026

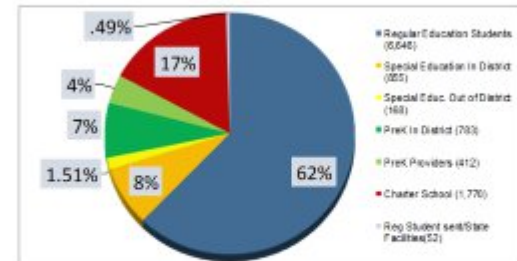
2026-2027 ENROLLMENT ASSA PROFILE (10,044)



ELL Students included = 3,242



2025-2026 ENROLLMENT ASSA PROFILE (10,686)

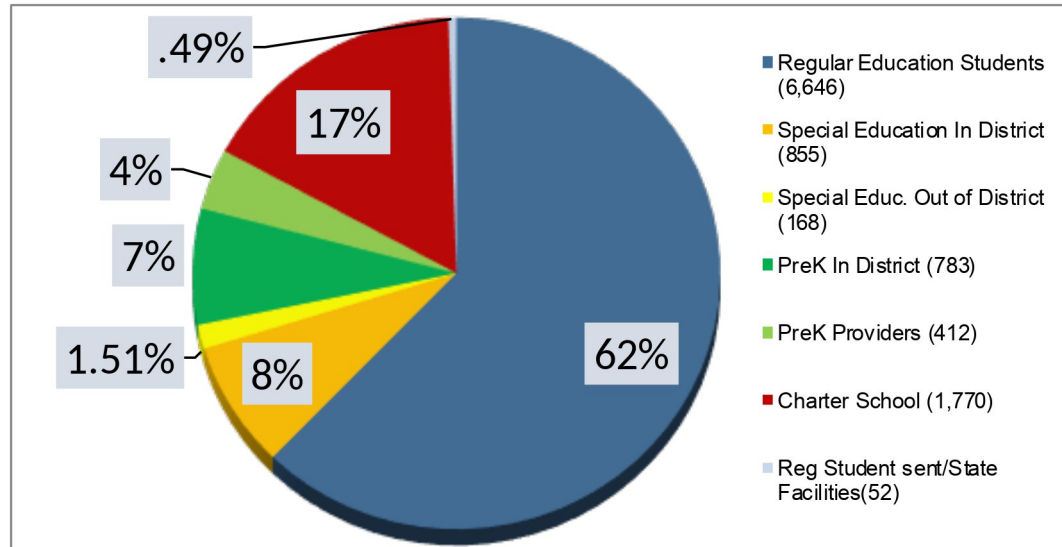


ELL Students included = 3,444



Decrease of 642 in Enrollment. Charter School increase = 89

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT ASSA PROFILE (10,686)



ELL Students included = 3,444



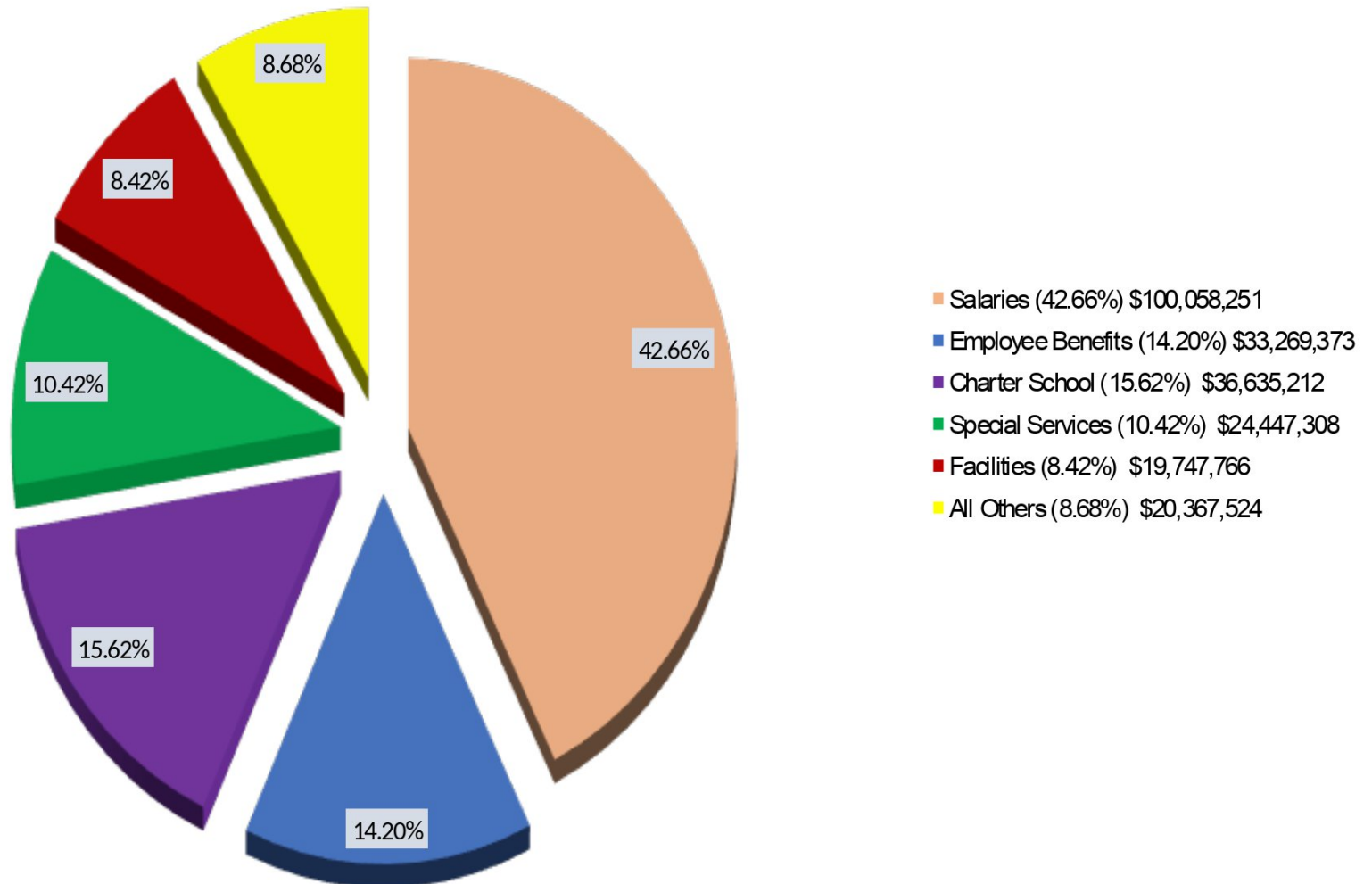
2026 - 2027 Budget

• School Budget	*\$ 102,977,383
• Federal Sources	(\$ <u>2,500,000</u>)
• Subtotal School Budget	\$ 100,477,383
• General Fund	\$ <u>134,048,051</u>
TOTAL Budget	<u><u>\$ 234,525,434</u></u>

* Includes Title 1 blended schoolwide



TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET \$234,525,434 BY CATEGORY



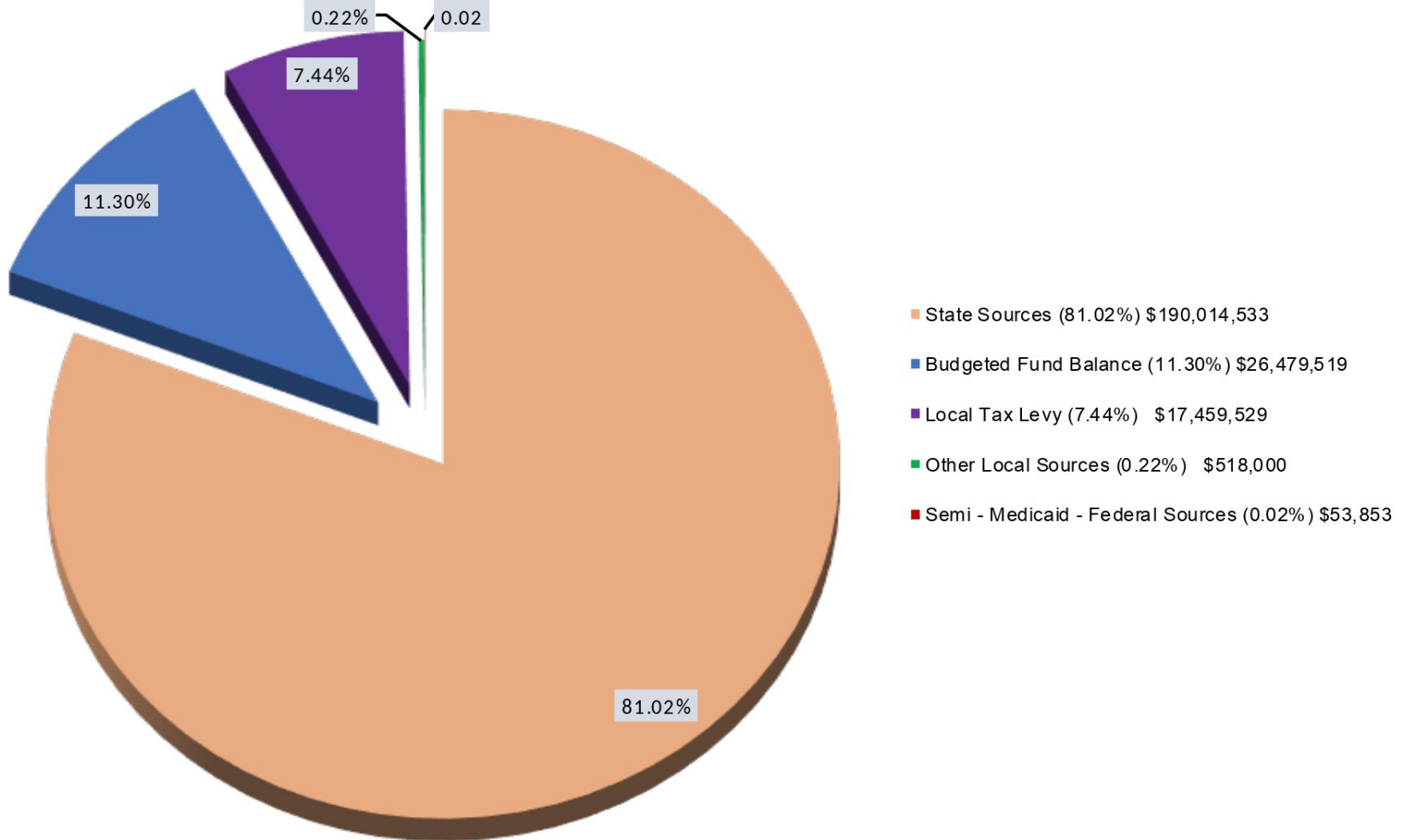
TOTAL REVENUE

\$234,525,434 BY SOURCE

• State Sources	\$190,014,533
• Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 26,479,519
• Local Tax Levy	\$ 17,459,529
• Other Local Sources	\$ 518,000
• Semi – Medicaid – Federal Sources	\$ <u>53,853</u>
Total	<u><u>\$234,525,434</u></u>



TOTAL REVENUE \$234,525,434 BY SOURCE



Budget Highlights

- Slight Increase in State Aid of \$10.7 million for 2026/2027.
- **Academic Programs**
 - Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy now serves grades 9-12 funding continues
 - Curriculum and new initiatives to connect classroom activities to real life opportunities in areas such as electrical engineering, biomedical, computer media & film production & culinary arts.
 - We've open anna B. Scott Jr. Steam Academy for grades 6,7 and 8 to serve as pipeline to our Rita L. Owens funding continues
 - Professional Development for Teachers
- **Special Education & Support Services**
 - Providing additional Resources for special education like in class support programs
 - Increase counselling and behavioral mental health services such as Behaviorists, Psychologist, Groups and outside referrals
- **Technology**
 - Upgrade District technicians' knowledge of networking and cybersecurity
 - Upgrading the WAN for the next school year
 - Integrating AI into various school programs



Budget Highlights (continued)

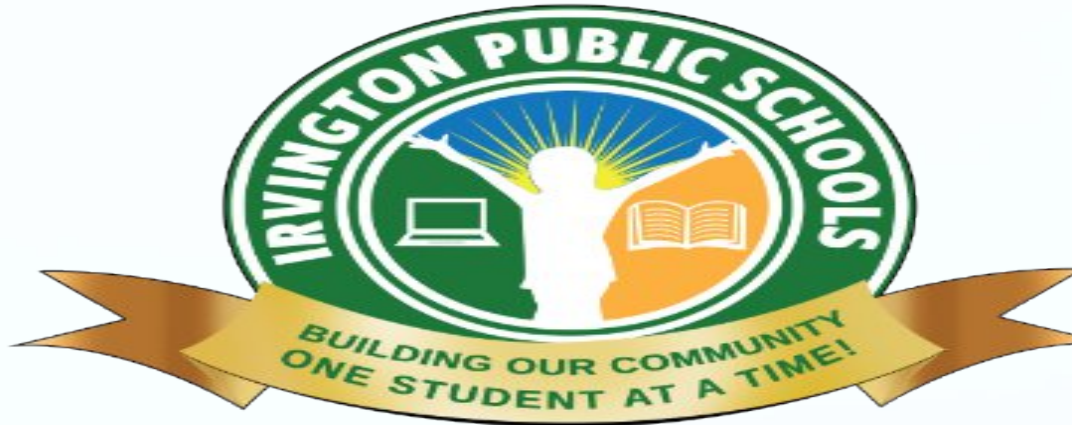
- Facility upgrades – Major Projects District Wide
 - Irvington High School
 - High School Gym Floor Refinishing
 - Chancellor Avenue School, Thurgood Marshall & University Middle School
 - New roof, Chimney and Boiler replacements
 - Orange Park Pool
 - Conversion of the pool to a year-round facility to provide Irvington students a swimming curriculum



COMMENTS/QUESTIONS???



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Budget Review for 2026-2027

March 25, 2026

2026-2027



**We are Changing the Narrative and
Creating Self-Directed Learners,
Nurturing our Why, while Building
Our Community, One Student at a
Time.**

2026-2027



Mission Statement

Irvington Public Schools inspires and instructs all students to think critically, creatively, and responsibly, to embrace diversity, and to pursue their dreams with purpose.

We will achieve our vision by exposing all Irvington students to our.....

Core Beliefs

- Each student is entitled to a quality education that the entire community of invested stakeholders value and support, and enlarge by collaborating with one another.
- Teacher quality is vital to engaging students in relevant, authentic tasks, and improving student achievement.
- Each student possesses the ability to achieve their potential in any learning environment when the adults provide the most appropriate support for success.
- The educational environment must be safe, respectful, and guided by skilled administrators who focus on advancing teacher effectiveness and student achievement.
- Parents and guardians are essential partners in providing students with high-quality education.



2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- Expand student enrollment into Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy and Anna B. Scott Junior STEAM Academy
- Expand Opportunities for Dual enrollment courses at Irvington HS & Rita L. Owens STEAM Academy (RLOSA)
- Strengthen partnership for college credits with St. Elizabeth University, Syracuse University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Grand Canyon University, Essex County College, & Hudson County Community College
- Maintain Food Truck for Culinary Arts Program & Construct Culinary Kitchen in phases *(Pending availability of funds)*
- Purchase New instruments and repairs for the K-12 VAPA programs
- Develop CTE work-based learning/school-based enterprise for grades 9-12 at Irvington HS
- Afterschool for k-5 & Promotional Summer school for 6-12 *(Pending availability of funds)*



2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- Expand “Drop Everything and Win” to include middle schools
- Implement Tech Titans as a Summer program for 3-8 (*Pending Availability of funds*)
- Continue to upgrade Science Laboratories District wide (*Pending Availability of funds*)
- More CTE courses as programs of study for Perkins grants
- Implement CTE Courses as electives for scholars in grades 6-8
- Invest in Proximity Learning to provide in-person virtual instruction
- Continue to use Imagine Edgenuity for initial & credit recovery
- Continue to invest in Magnetic reading for K-5 ELA
- Continue to invest in Linkit as an Assessment & Data Analytic tool
- Continue to invest in materials for Hands-On Science Activities: K-12
- Invest in Social Studies programs for K-12



2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continue the Principals' Walkthrough Initiative with an outside consultant
- Continue to invest in NEWSELA to implement literacy across content areas of ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE/Health, & ESL/Bilingual/WL (*Pending availability of funds*)
- Continue to invest in i-Ready as intervention program for K-5 ELA & Math(*Pending availability of funds*)
- Continue to invest in IXL as intervention program for 6-12 ELA & Math (*Pending availability of funds*)
- Construct engineering workshop/Fabrication Lab at RLOSA
- Continue to address mental health needs of students, teachers, and parents(*Pending availability of funds*)
- Revive the Fiber Optics Program for selected students in grades 11&12(*Provided the grant is still available*)
- VAPA Dept. will continue to implement the Music Award at Irvington HS (*Provided the grant is still available*)
- Expand Band & Dance programs at Irvington HS



2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- CTE/Government Programs will implement the Youth Transitions to Work Program will selected students from Irvington HS & RLOSA *(Provided the grant is still available)*
- Continue to Implement Newcomers' program for Multilingual learners *(Pending availability of funds)*
- Continue to implement Mentoring program for multilingual learners at Irvington HS *(pending availability of funds)*
- Continue to implement Adult ESL program for members of the community *(Pending availability of funds)*
- Continue the Irvington Academy in partnership with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC)
- Continue to explore a Swimming Program in collaboration with Irvington Township *(Pending availability of funds)*
- Enhance Extra-Curricular Activities district wide *(Pending availability of funds)*



2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

Technology Upgrades

- Purchase of Chromebooks: We will continue to purchase smaller amount of Chromebooks to replace old devices that no longer support software
- Purchase subscription for the firewall
- Revamp all the technologies at the new Anna B. Scott Junior STEAM Academy location
- Build new Access points at University ES & Grove Street ES
- Add new switches at Irvington High School
- Install Key Fob at University MS/Augusta Preschool Academy
- Replace Qwo controllers at Madison Ave. ES
- Purchase computers/desktops for new staff & Refurbish the intercom at Berkeley Terrace & Madison Ave. Elementary schools
- Continue to use the district wide Technology Help desk and MIS (Management Information Systems) Unit

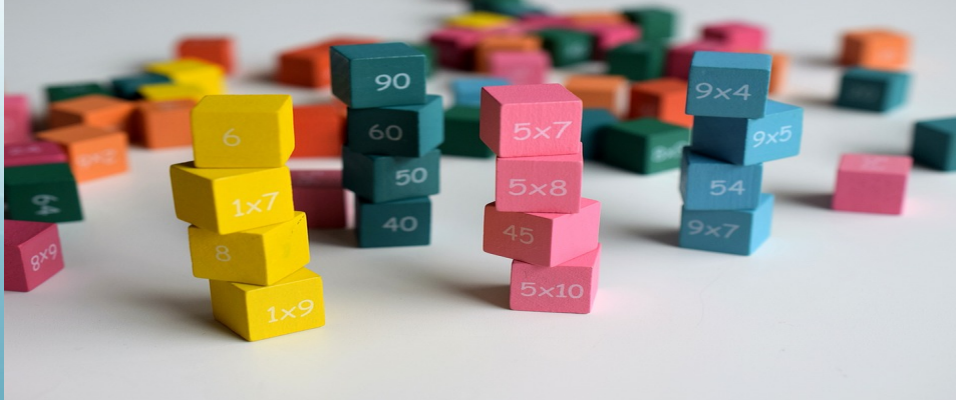


2026 - 2027 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continue to invest in Teacher Professional Development (*Pending Availability of funds*)
 - Continue to provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training
 - ESL/Bilingual certification program at College of New Jersey
 - Continue to invest in Vista Learning for World languages
 - Continue to invest in Off2class online program for newcomers and adult programs
 - Continue with Flashlight 360 online program for Afterschool Enrichment for MLs
 - Implement Dual Language Immersion program at a specialized ES
 - Kagan strategies & Coaching: Engagement Strategies for scholars
 - Co-Teaching & Coaching for Effective Teaching and Learning
 - Restorative practice strategies: Training as a proactive way for staff, students, and parents to work together
 - Strengthen the MLs & Bilingual programs
 - Teaching Strategies to ensure learning in every classroom



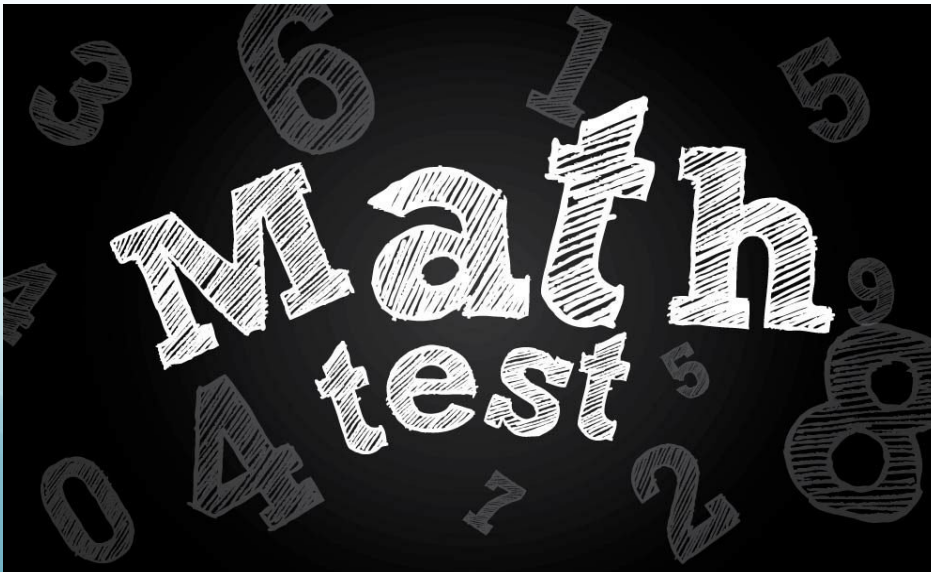
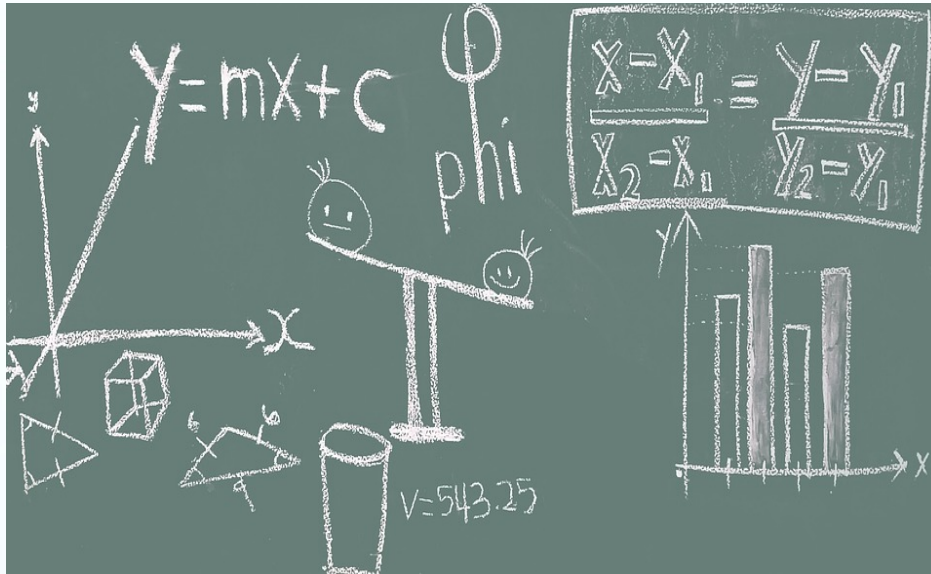
Mathematics: K-5



- Continue to use of Envision/ i-Ready as an adaptive learning program
- Continue to provide professional development and coaching - differentiated instruction and small group instruction, rotation/learning centers, and data analysis
- Revise the Curriculum Guides if the need arises
- Continue the “*Drop Everything and WIN*” initiative
- Extend students’ existing skills and knowledge through the use of manipulatives to develop understanding.



Mathematics: 6-12



- Math series - Envision Savvas for year-to-year continuity
- Continue to provide professional development and coaching on differentiated instruction, rotation/small group instruction, and IXL (6-12)
- Increase enrollment in AP courses at Irvington HS & RLOSA
- Connect new learning to prior knowledge and use manipulatives to deepen conceptual understanding
- Expand Dual Enrollment courses for college credits
- Revise the Curriculum Guides if the need arises
- Implement the Drop Everything and WIN



LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY: K – 5

& READING WONDERS

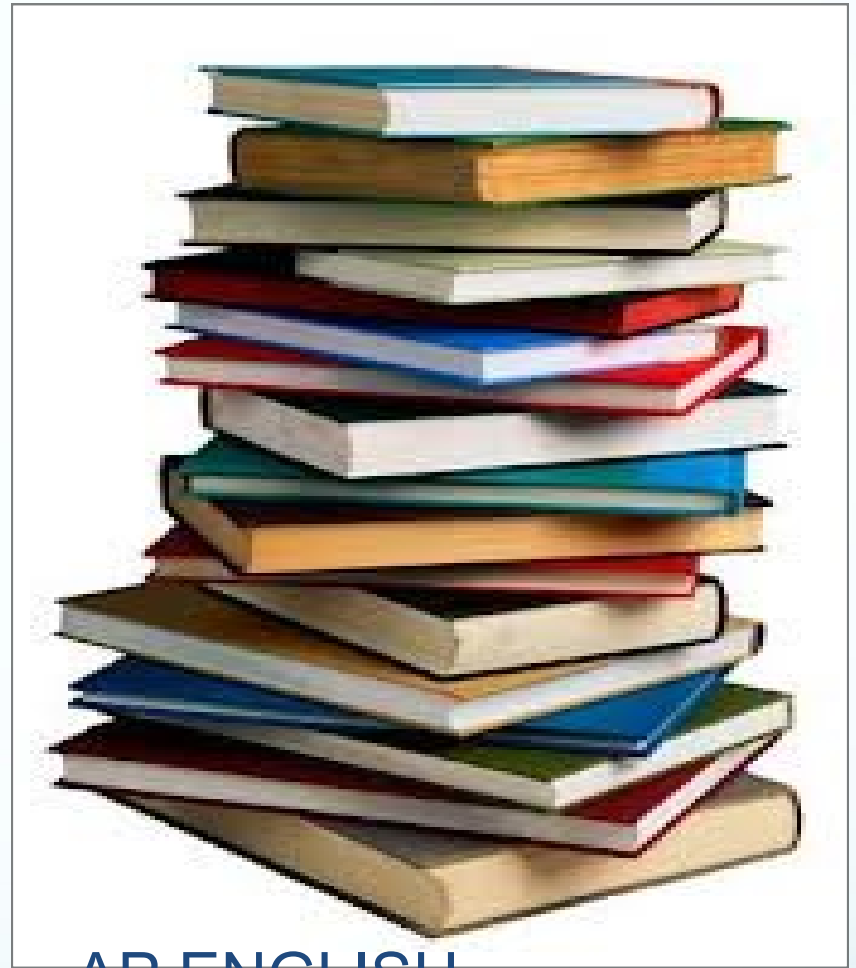


- Continue to implement the Guided practice in the instructional block
- Provide professional development for K-2 for Phonics and Phonemic Awareness
- Provide professional development for 3-5 Closed reading instruction
- Continue to use i-Ready for diagnostic & growth monitoring
- Expand Classroom Libraries
- Continue the “*Drop Everything and WIN*” initiative
- Continue to implement Magnetic Reading

LANGUAGE ARTS

LITERACY: 6 - 12

- Continue to implement the novel-based curriculum
- Continue to use NEWSELA to support ELA instruction
- Continue the emphasis placed on Close Reading Strategies
- Purchase licenses for IXL
- Expansion of Classroom Libraries
- AP Courses & Dual Enrollment courses
- Implement the “*Drop Everything and WIN*” initiative



- AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION
- ENGLISH LITERACY & COMPOSITION



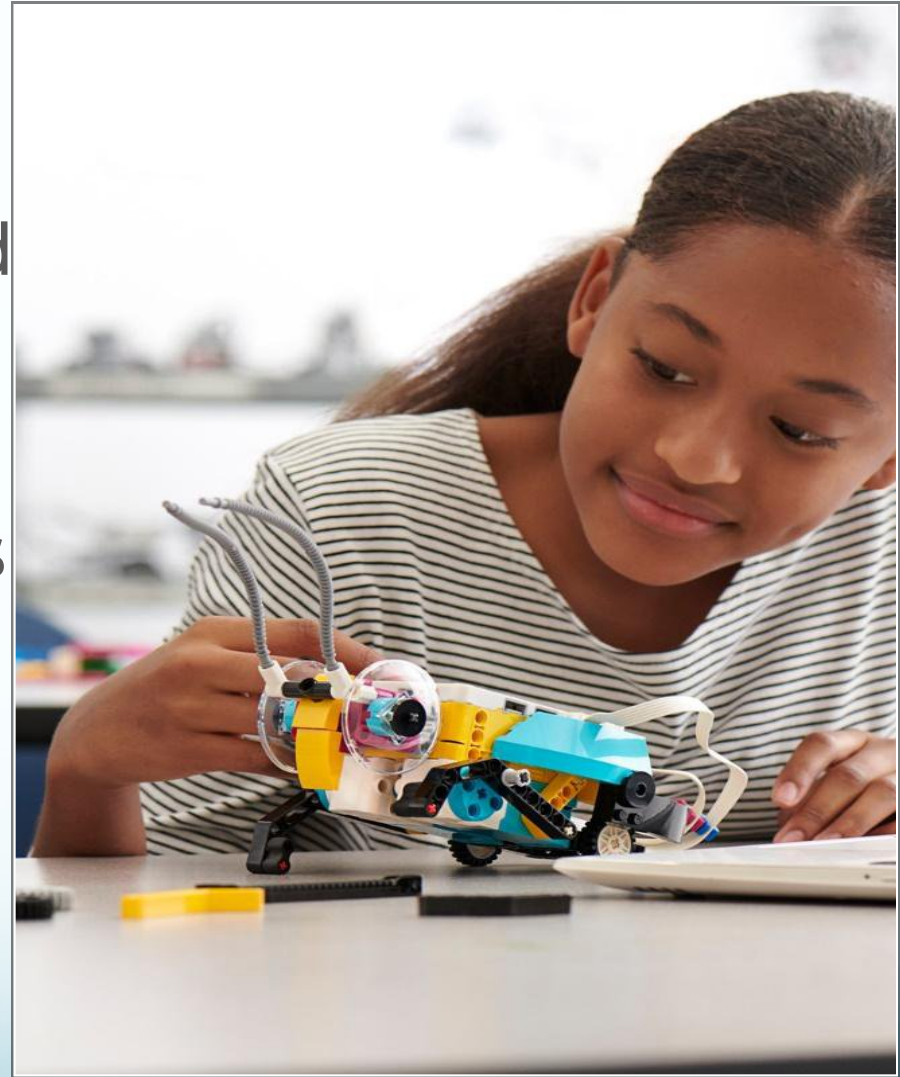
SOCIAL STUDIES

- Continue to implement new curriculum for grades K - 12
- Purchase new programs for grades K-5, 6-8, & 9-12
- Purchase Studies Weekly Periodicals for grades K-5
- Purchase online resources to support instruction
- Purchase Historical Novels (class sets)
- Continue to use NEWSELA to support instruction
- Purchase maps & globes for instructional purposes
- Increase the number of students in the US History, AP World History, AP African American History

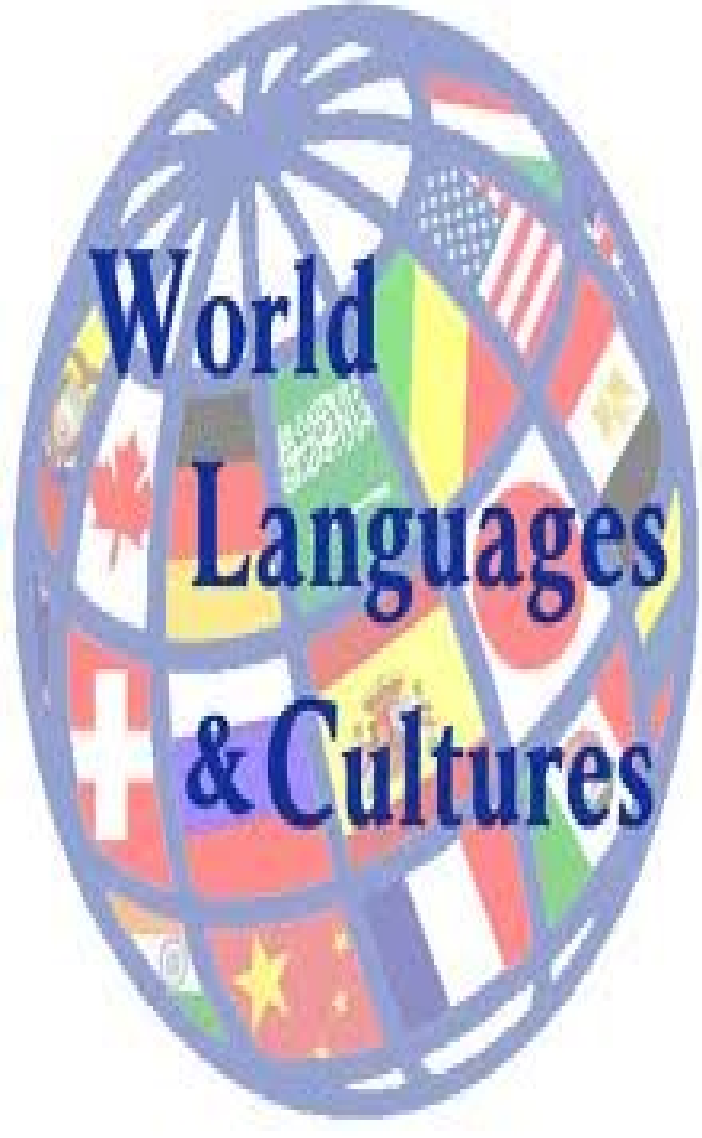


GIFTED PROGRAM

- Continue to use multiple measures to identify and select students
- Strengthen the Gifted and Talented Education
- Provide professional development opportunities to teachers
- Expand the STEM units and student goal setting
- Explore programs/Field trips for scholars
- Purchase screening licences for the Gifted services program



World Languages & Cultures



- Spanish is being offered in grades 4-12
- French will continue to be offered in grades 6 - 12
- Plan to implement Chinese Mandarin at secondary level
- Newcomer's programs for K - 5, 6-8, & 9-12
- Provide professional development to teachers
- Online licenses for Language program will continue to be provided to teachers, scholars, and parents
- Additional Honors and AP Spanish and French courses at the High School
- Continue the Dual enrollment courses at RLOSA and Irvington High School
- Continue with the Adult ESL program to members of the community
- Continue the use of Off2Class online program for the newcomers and adult program
- Continue to use NEWSELA to support language development
- Implement Dual Language Immersion program at a specialized Elementary School



ESL EDUCATION

- Elementary Program: Push-In ESL Classes for K - 5
- Middle School Program:
 - ELA classes offered with Language support
 - High School Program:
 - ELA classes offered with Language support
- Provide targeted training and coaching for ESL teachers
- Continue to use NEWSELA to support to language development
- Continue the ESL & Bilingual Certification programs with College of New Jersey

ELL & ESL Strategies

ELL & ESL Education hi Frank Avello

Overview WICOURT/BOAL

Accommodations Common Examples Keep Up With Work

Second Language Acquisition Pre-production Early Production Speech Emergence Intermediate Fluency Advanced Fluency

BICS and CALP Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)

Sheltered Instruction Develop Proficiency in English

Communicating Communicating with ELLs

Culture Str... Cultural Proficiency

Realia Realia

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

- Spanish Bilingual Program
 - Florence Ave (proposed K-5)
 - Berkeley Terrace (proposed K-5)
 - Mt. Vernon (proposed K-5)
- Haitian-Creole Bilingual Program
 - Chancellor Ave (proposed K-5)
 - Mt. Vernon (proposed K-5)
- Train and Coach Bilingual Teachers
- Expand the Newcomer program for new bilingual students
- Language Immersion program K-2





GUIDANCE

- Career Readiness Planning are embedded in all curricula
- Naviance is being implemented grades 6-12
- Continue Dual enrollment program with neighboring Colleges/Universities
- Continue training and implementation of Social Emotional learning
- Continue to explore Mental Health certification for HSSC & School Counselors

GUIDANCE

- SAT study skills is integrated into all junior English classes at the high school
- PSAT to be offered to all sophomores
- ASVAB to be administered
- SAT course to be offered in Fall 2026/Spring 2027
- Explore Irvington HS as a center for SAT & ACT administrations



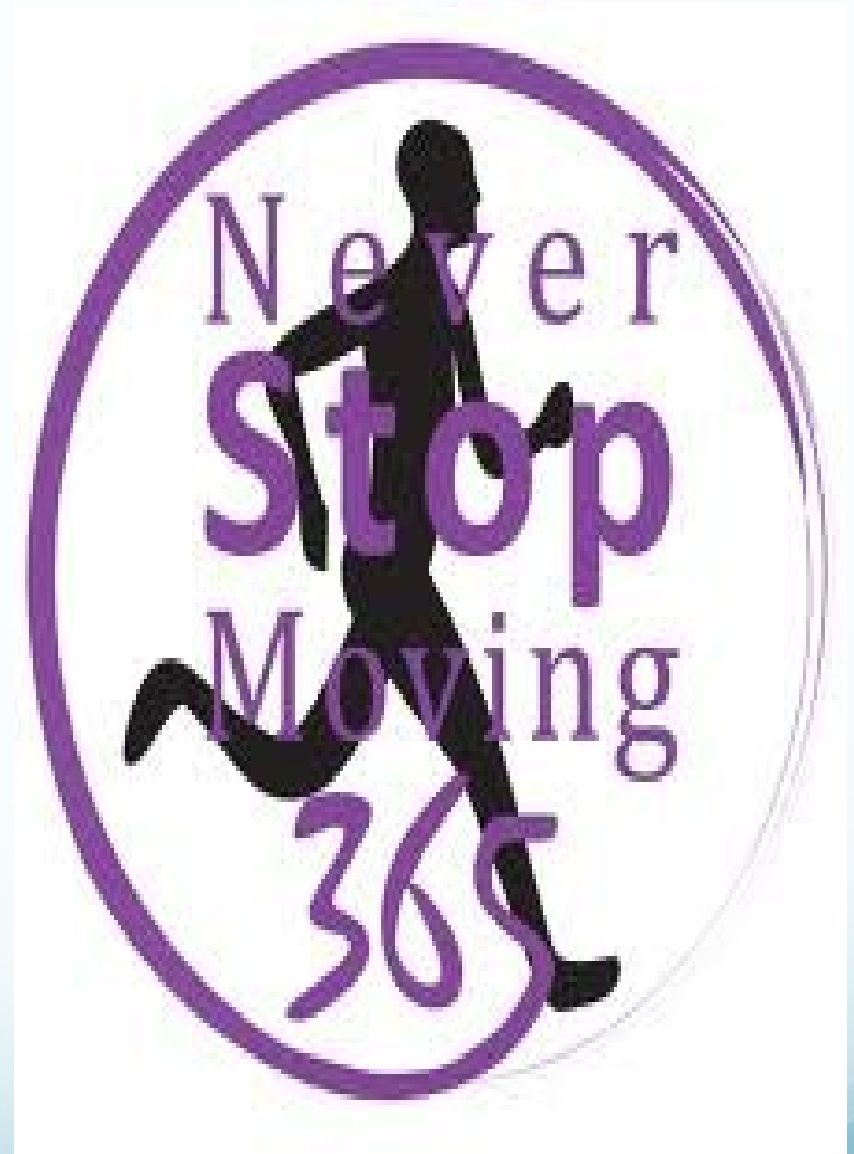
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- Continue to offer Music and Art Magnet programs at both middle schools
- Strengthen the Music Technology for the high school
- Expand dual enrollment credit program offerings with universities/colleges
- Increase student participation in statewide competitions
- Provide new equipment, uniforms, and repairs
- Provide professional Development training / workshops for teachers
- Increase the size of Band & Dance programs

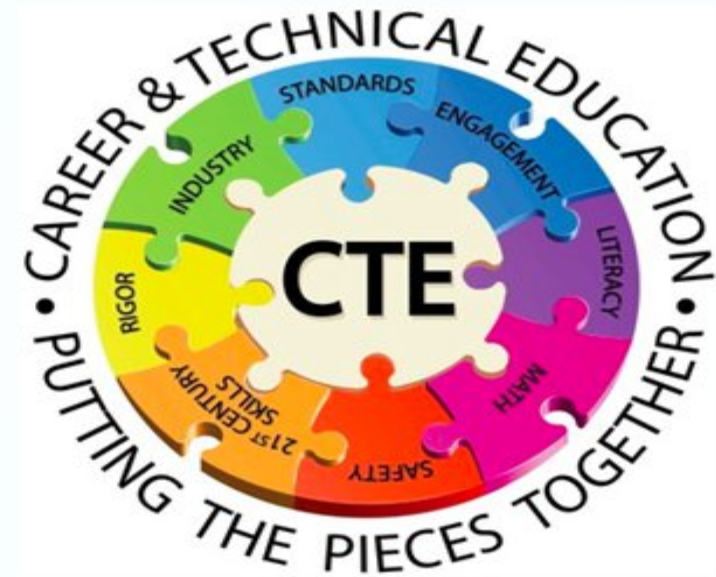


HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Explore some grants in the area of Health and Physical Education
- Spark is being used to infuse technology into Health classes.
- Continue to use NEWSELA for Health and Physical Education
- Continue to implement Physical education curriculum with the state mandates
- STEAM-based health class, and strength and conditioning programs
- Expand program to accommodate all areas of fitness/physical activity



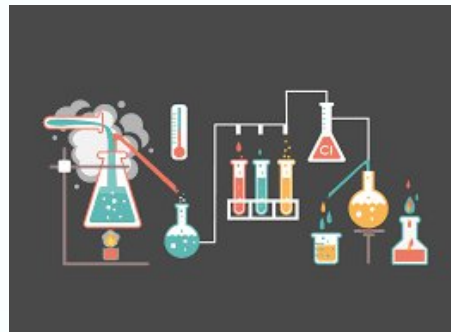
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAM



- Continue CTE Basic Academy After School program for middle grades
- Explore Broadcast Journalism as a program of study
- Promote more CTE courses as electives for middle grades
- Maintain the food truck & Explore the options for the kitchen
- Explore the Implementation of National Academy Foundation (NAF) curriculum
- Expand work-based learning opportunities with industries/companies
- Continue to develop more programs of study
- Provide CTE Professional development opportunities for teachers

Irvington Public Schools

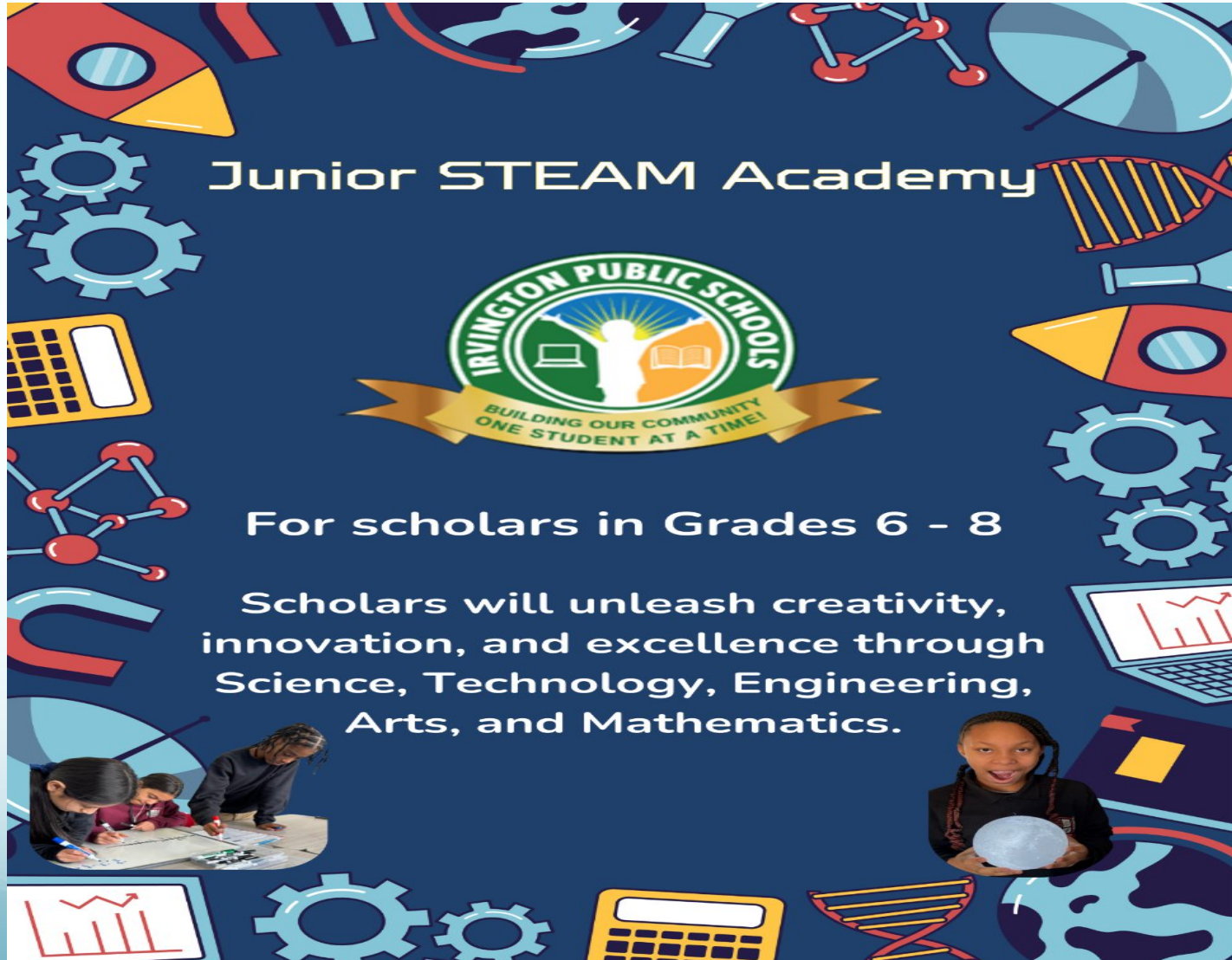
RITA L. OWENS STEAM ACADEMY



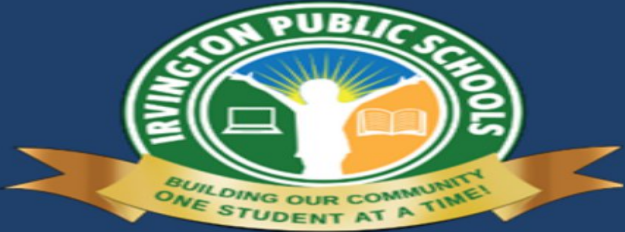
- Biomedical Science Track
- Electrical Engineering Track
- Computing Sciences Track
- Culinary Arts Track
- Journalism & Broadcasting Production Track
- Dual Enrollment College credits program



Irvington Public Schools Anna B. Scott Junior STEAM Academy





Junior STEAM Academy



For scholars in Grades 6 - 8

Scholars will unleash creativity, innovation, and excellence through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.



REFLECTIONS

GRADUATION RATES*

<u>Cohort</u>	<u>District</u> (Accountable)	<u>Irvington HS</u> (Attending)
2019	80.0%	82.9%
2020	81.6%	82.1%
2021	81.3%	81.3%
2022	78.4%	78.7%
2023	79.6%	80.4%
2024	83.0%	84.4%
2025	84.4%	84.6%
2026	NA	NA

NA – Not available

*4-Year graduation rate from NJSMART now Known as NJSLEDS





Keys to 21st Century Skills



TOGETHER WE ARE READY TO WIN BIG!





As we Keep Learning
together, and Building Our
Community One Student At a
Time...We are changing the
narrative and creating self-
directed learners, and still
Nurturing our Why
Thank you

