



# Evesham Township School District Summary Report

*Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.*

*-Marian Wright Edelman*

## **District Goals for 2015-2017:**

1. Transition to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with a focus on scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to enhance student achievement in the area of science.
2. To implement the twenty-three objectives contained in Goals 2017 – Experience Evesham Education 2012-2017 Strategic Alignment Plan.

**Evesham Township Schools believe that meeting the needs of all students is paramount to providing a thorough and efficient education. In order to identify and provide for the many diverse talents of our students, we have a variety of program offerings:**

- The Evesham Township School District has 19 different curriculum programs, which all students have an opportunity to experience during their K-8 career. These include core subject areas (Writer's Workshop, Math, Social Studies, Reading, Health, Science, etc.), as well as related arts programs (Music, Computers, Physical Education, Art, Applied Design & Technology, etc.).
- Six specialized programs are offered to students based on need and/or interest (Special Education, Tier III, English as a Second Language, Instrumental Music, etc.). Two of our most unique offerings are elaborated below.
  - Reading Recovery is an early intervention program that targets at-risk readers and writers. Last year, 67% of students became independent readers and writers who are able to problem-solve and progress alongside their initially higher achieving classmates in a short space of time without continuing to need specialized interventions. Of all first grade students who received a complete program, 85% met grade level benchmarks in Reading. This program served 121 first grade students during the 2015-2016 school year.
  - ETSD offers three types of preschool programs in district. One is a half-day preschool disabled program for three and four-year olds needing early intervention. Another is a full-day preschool disabilities autism program for preschool children with significant autism spectrum disorders. In addition, we offer a half-day tuition-based integrated pre-school program for three and four-year olds. These programs are all great early childhood experiences that enable students to attend Evesham's schools prior to kindergarten.
- ETSD also offers a full-day tuition based kindergarten program. The curriculum used in this program is aligned to what is currently being offered in our half-day program; however, extends early reading and math concepts, language development, fine and gross motor skills, related arts and social skills.
- The district also offers a few programs outside of the typical school day or school year, such as CAPPS, Metamorphosis, and Summer Literacy Support for Primary Grades and Saturday Enrichment Clubs.

- Additional program offerings also occur through partnerships with outside organizations such as LEAD, Art Goes to School, and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance.
- The district also offers a selection of after school clubs and activities in each of our nine schools. Clubs and activities include a variety of offerings such as athletics, arts and academic enrichment. There is an annual participation fee associated with non-service related clubs that allows students to participate in unlimited clubs throughout the year. Individual activities vary from school to school.

**Students in ETSD have wonderful educational opportunities and do well on district and state assessments:**

- In order to provide a well-balanced view of students' individual progress in any one year, the district uses multiple measures to indicate progress. Of primary importance are the various on-going assessments used in the classrooms, as well as district assessments.
  - All students in grades K-8 take an end-of-year district math assessment that specifically targets skills taught throughout the school year. The majority of the students continue to meet established grade-level benchmarks. In the 2015-2016 school year, 96% of all 7<sup>th</sup> graders assessed met the benchmark.
  - Students in grades 1-5 take an individualized reading inventory in the fall and spring to determine growth made throughout the school year, as well as achievement of grade-level benchmarks. In the 2015-2016 school year, 84% of all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders assessed using the Benchmark Reading Assessment were promoted reading on grade level.
  - ETSD administers an annual district writing sample in grades 3-8 that is used to not only determine growth, but also to inform instruction in the classroom prior to administration of state assessments.
  - Developmental Spelling Inventories are utilized to assess students' knowledge of key spelling features. This assessment is used in grades 1-8 to document student spelling development and as a basis for word study instruction.
- Standardized assessments are an additional tool used to measure students' levels of performance. Results of these assessments are also used to identify trends and inform decisions related to curriculum and cohorts. These assessments include the CogATs and NJASK.
  - The Cognitive Abilities Tests (CogATs), which are nationally-normed assessments, are administered in grades 3, 5, and 7 annually. These tests measure student aptitude in areas of verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning.
  - The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) for Science is a state-mandated annual assessment administered to all students in grades 4 & 8. This assessment is designed to evaluate student proficiency in meeting the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards in the area of Science.
  - For the 2015-2016 school year, 96% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders assessed on the NJASK Science scored proficient.
  - The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of state mandated computer-based assessment that measures student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (M) based on learning standards contained in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for grades 3-8 and high school.
- ETSD partners with Lenape Regional School District to offer high school credit for three courses (Algebra, Geometry, and Spanish).
- ETSD builds a solid foundation for our students' high school years. The graduation rate for the LRHSD class of 2016 was 95.5% with 92.6% of the graduates enrolling at 286 of the nation's colleges and universities. The graduation rate for the Cherokee class of 2016 was 96.1%.

### **ETSD offers quality special education services:**

- ETSD currently serves 1,244 students who are classified either as eligible for Special Education (1,060) or receive support under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (184). This includes students receiving speech-only services (199).
- Evesham exceeds the state average for including classified students in general education classes.
- In-district programs enrich the overall experience of special education and general education students alike. In addition, they provide cost-effective benefits and eliminate travel time to out-of-district schools.
- ETSD offers specialized programs and related services beginning in preschool and continuing through middle school to support Learning Disabilities, Multiple Disabilities, Behavioral Disabilities, Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders, as well as Other Health Impairments.
- A variety of related services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral intervention, and on-going case management support by the child study team, are also offered to support special education student needs.
- ETSD ensures that all schools have an Intervention and Referral Services Team in place that provides educational supports to students in general education. This includes supports for students prior to child study team referrals.

### **Evesham has open communication and access to information with parents and the community:**

- Parents can access grades, attendance and other student information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Genesis Parent Portal.
- Developmental Progress Reports/Report Cards and Parent Teacher Conferences are the main vehicles used to formally document progress made throughout the school year. Additional informal parent-teacher communication occurs throughout the school year on a regular basis.
- All professional staff utilize district-based email. Contact information, including email addresses, is available on the website for parents/guardians.
- ETSD maintains a district website that provides an overview of our district's programming, along with updates on various events/activities occurring within the district. The website also directs individuals to key personnel in the district who will be happy to further assist them should questions still remain.
- ETSD also has a mobile app that is available in the iTunes and Google Play store with an update coming out in 2017.
- The district has a Facebook page as well, that is utilized as an additional tool to enhance communication. The page has over 2,016 "likes" to-date.
- Each of our nine schools also maintains its own website in order to provide specific information about events and occurrences happening at the building level.
- Many teachers also maintain individual websites to communicate classroom highlights, expectations, assignments, and additional resources.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, we had 733,856 total visits to our website, with 687,093 targeted visits.
- ETSD uses SchoolMessenger, which is an emergency alert system for parents and staff. Currently it is being utilized for delayed openings and snow days; however, in the future additional alerts may be added, such as automatic attendance notification.
- SchoolMessenger is also utilized by the schools for electronic communication about upcoming events and activities.

- District publications are sent out electronically in the form of eNews to update the community on highlights from within the school buildings, as well as at the district level.
- Individual school publications are also sent periodically to provide details about events and activities. These publications may include school and/or grade level updates, as well as individual classroom newsletters. Schools also utilize email alerts and/or text messaging.
- Additional communication is also facilitated by the school PTA/PTO through various sources such as a website, which may be maintained on the school site or linked separately.

### **ETSD Staffing Overview:**

- ETSD has a total of 952 employees.
- There are 431 highly qualified teachers and other certificated staff.
- There are 391 non-certificated staff members that include paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerical workers, maintenance and custodial workers, bus drivers and other support staff.
- The district has 22 administrators within the district.
- Evesham Child Care (ECC) and Teddy Bear Academy (TBA) have approximately 108 staff members.
- Every certificated staff member completes a minimum of twenty hours of professional development annually as per State mandates.

### **ETSD Administrative Structure:**

- Based on NJDOE Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending, July 2016, Evesham's administrative staffing levels are well below state averages.
  - ETSD's administrator-to-student ratio is 1:232.3, and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 79 similar districts.
  - ETSD's administrator-to-teacher ratio is 1:21.2, and ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 79 similar districts.
- Each ETSD administrator has a distinct and essential function within the district.
- The Superintendent, School Business Administrator, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Director of Personnel oversee the management of all school business and finance, educational policy, design and implementation of curriculum and instruction, and the supervision and evaluation of employees. Together, they share responsibility for community and intra-district communications, conflict-resolution, and all other issues identified by the superintendent or management team.
- Each of the eight buildings within the ETSD has one principal who is ultimately responsible for the building management and supervision of all students and staff within. Principals create master schedules, and act as the liaison between the school and community. Along with central administrative staff, they supervise the school's implementation of the district's educational program as well as oversee all professional, paraprofessional, and non-professional personnel.
- Vice Principals ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment by enforcing the code of conduct and managing about 400 students within their house. Enforcement of the student code of conduct involves extensive communication with teachers, parents, and outside agencies. They also assist with student supervision and building management at various academic, extracurricular, and athletic events which occur not only during the school day, but also on evenings and weekends.

- Supervisors of instruction are responsible for interpreting and applying current research in curriculum, teaching, and learning for both general and special education students, evaluating student performance on district and state assessments, selecting instructional materials, providing professional development, and recommending the adoption of new programs. They oversee the operation of all departments within the district. Each supervisor observes, evaluates, and makes recommendations to improve the instruction at each of their assigned grade levels.
- ETSD has state-of-the-art curriculum for 25 core subjects, related arts, and specialized programs which is developed in-house by curriculum supervisors in conjunction with teachers and building-level administrators.
- ETSD has extensive special education programs that are overseen by a Director of Special Services and Child Study Teams responsible for assuring compliance with all district policies and regulations, state and federal monitoring mandates, code and law. Overall programming of special education students, including referrals, recommendations, and placement, is overseen by this supervisor.

**Quality Schools benefit all homeowners:**

“Every realtor knows what surveys and studies confirm: The quality of public schools influences where people buy a home and what they pay for it. Regardless of whether they have children, buyers care about the reputation of the local schools because they know that schools directly affect a community’s vitality as well as a home’s resale value.”

*Source: National Association of Realtors: Schools and Real Estate*

**Budget Facts:**

<b>2016-2017 General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$73,241,041</b>
2015-2016 General Fund Budget	\$71,579,866
2014-2015 General Fund Budget	\$69,648,464
2013-2014 General Fund Budget	\$68,883,339
2012-2013 General Fund Budget	\$67,358,420
2011-2012 General Fund Budget	\$65,939,119
2010-2011 General Fund Budget	\$67,494,576
2009-2010 General Fund Budget	\$71,812,785

**Actual Audited Per Pupil Costs 2014-2015 School Year- NJ Department of Education Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending July 2016:**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Evesham</b>	<b>State Average (K-8 Districts)</b>	<b>Rank ** (of 79 K-8 districts)</b>
Budgetary Cost per Pupil	\$13,904	\$14,407	35
Total Classroom Instruction	\$8,753	\$8,859	39
Total Support Services	\$2,104	\$2,220	35
Total Administrative Cost	\$1,255	\$1,583	10
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$1,567	\$1,573	41
Extracurricular Cost	\$93	\$107	41
Student/Teacher Ratio*	13.1	11.2	8
Student/Support Service Ratio	66.4	72.5	55
Student/Administrator Ratio	232.3	152.4	7
Faculty/Administrator Ratio	21.2	15.6	8

*\*Includes all certificated staff such as School Counselors, Child Study Team, Nurses, etc.*

*\*\*The K-8 Districts (enrollment of 751+) are ranked from 1 to 79, with the number 1 representing the lowest per pupil cost amounts or highest ratio of staff to administrators. When reviewing the above data, the rankings should be used as a way to evaluate how the district allocates its resources. The above clearly represents the Evesham Township School District's emphasis on directing resources to classroom spending rather than administrative non-classroom spending.*

**Partnerships in the Community/Corporate Sponsorships:**

- Parents and local organizations often volunteer their time to come in and work with students & staff at each of our schools. They may be guest speakers on a designated topic, provide a school-wide assembly, participate in Science Fairs, read-aloud books to classrooms, etc.
- The Evesham Township School District works collaboratively with each of our buildings' PTA/PTO organizations.
- PTA/PTOs across the district generate approximately \$300,000 annually, which directly goes to the students.
- ETSD partners with the Evesham Education Foundation, which sponsors the district's CAPPs (Coordinated Arts Program for Primary Students), Metamorphosis, Summer Literacy & Genesis programs. EEF was also able to donate framing for several student art projects that are currently on display in both the district administration building and the township municipal building.
- ETSD works closely with the Evesham Township Police Department on an on-going basis. Officers from the department offer special programs and safety lessons to our students. The LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program is offered for all of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- ETSD also partners with the Marlton Rotary Club who annually donates supplies and materials to the students of Evesham.
- The district sponsors an annual Senior Dessert Theatre at Marlton Middle School for various senior groups in our community.
- The district has developed a three-tiered donations form that is used to enhance program offerings. The form can be found on the home page of our district website.
- ETSD is continuing to explore new long-term sustainable corporate sponsorships. This includes opportunities such as advertising on school busses, building advertising, classroom sponsorships, and other such activities.

## **Current Shared Services:**

- Shared Services have been occurring in the ETSD for many years. Shared service partnerships are currently in place with other school districts, the Evesham Township Municipal Government, local police and fire departments, and the State of New Jersey.
- A variety of cost savings can be attributed to shared services in the district. Some of our current and most successful shared services include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - ACES – “Alliance for Cooperative Energy Services” (joint purchasing of electricity and natural gas);
  - ACT – “Alliance for Cooperative Telecommunications” (joint purchase of communication services);
  - Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund – Cooperative Property & Casualty / Worker’s Compensation Insurance;
  - Burlington County Special Services School District – shared PT/OT/ST and related services for special education students;
  - Burlington County Educational Services Unit – shared transportation services;
  - Ed-Data Services – consortium for the purchase of school supplies;
  - Township of Evesham – shared services in fuel purchase and snow plowing services;
  - Evesham Township Municipal Utilities Authority – fuel purchasing/bio-diesel/gasoline;
  - Burlington County Recycling – joint materials recycling with County;
  - Lenape Regional Curriculum Consortium Council – shared professional staff development;
  - Burlington County Curriculum Consortium – county-wide shared professional staff development;
  - Professional Development Provider
    - ETSD provides an extensive fall and spring professional development calendar to our staff members. Outside districts are able to attend these workshops for a participation fee;
    - Evesham is the only Reading Recovery Training Site in Southwestern New Jersey. The district provides the required on-going professional development that is part of this early intervention program to outside districts for a fee;
  - Police Programs – LEAD & School Resource Officers (SRO) - safety/security programs;
  - RAP Room – social services for students;
  - e-Rate – federal technology discounts through cooperative purchasing;
  - Princeton Food Services – cooperative food purchasing for cafeteria;
  - US Healthworks – drug testing/employee physicals;
  - Lenape Regional Schools – emergency alert system;
  - Lenape Regional Consortium – banking services/trash removal;
  - NJ State Health Benefits Program – state-wide cooperative jointure on health benefits purchasing.

## **Evesham Township School District has well maintained facilities:**

- The ETSD is among the largest K-8 districts in the state of New Jersey. There are seven elementary schools and two middle schools in the district.
- The facilities in the ETSD have long been some of the best maintained throughout the State. This has been achieved through a comprehensive and continuous program of preventative maintenance, as well as hospital-level standards for cleanliness.

- The Buildings and Grounds Department maintains 790,000 square feet of building space and 220 acres of grounds. In maintaining the district's property, the department is involved in the following services: construction, renovation, maintenance, grounds, custodial, fire and security systems.
- ETSD complies with all the applicable codes pertaining to educational facilities, such as building, electrical, plumbing and fire codes; environmental areas such as indoor air quality, Integrated Pest Management, Hazards Communications, Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, and NJ Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures:**

- Energy conservation efforts have been undertaken in both the design and operation of all school facilities.
- Some of the highlights from the many utility cost management strategies currently being utilized include:
  - **Demand Response Shut-Down** – ETSD partners with CPower where periodically when notified the district shuts down power to air conditioning units on demand for a brief period of time. CPower then annually compensates the district for the temporary shut-down. ETSD achieves additional revenues of approximately \$25,000 annually.
  - **Lighting Retrofit** – Lighting retrofit projects have been completed in various locations throughout the district in order to install more energy efficient lighting. **All** of the work was done by district employees so as to avoid additional costly labor charges. This project enabled the district to reduce its energy usage for lighting.
  - **Solar Projects** – The district completed solar power installations at Beeler and Van Zant Elementary Schools through power purchase agreements. These projects required no up-front capital expenditure, and allowed the district to lock-in fixed energy prices for the duration of the agreement. These projects save the district approximately \$70,000 annually. ETSD is looking to expand this solar power initiative to other district facilities at DeMasi, Jaggard, Marlton Middle and Rice. Once completed, it is anticipated that these new projects will save the district approximately an additional \$190,000 annually.
  - **Composting** – The district is in its third year of a successful composting program, where suitable materials from the cafeterias are composted as opposed to diverted to landfills. During the 2015-2016 school year, the district kept approximately 40 tons of material out of landfills.
  - **Paperless Initiative** – Along with many of the district's large-scale initiatives, there also continues to be a focus on the day-to-day usage of paper. This effort to use less paper not only reduces district costs, but also positively impacts the environment. ETSD's paperless initiatives include:
    - Paperless Board meetings;
    - Electronic completion, submission, and approval of several frequently-used forms within the district;
    - Increased electronic communication with staff, parents, and the community;
    - Email/paperless correspondence with State and County Offices whenever possible.

