



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent

Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Jennifer Bland, Director of Special Services

Dec. 8, 2023

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Budget Larger Context; \$17 Hourly Rate for new Lunch Aides and Bus Aides starting on Jan. 2, 2024; Positive recent state and national datapoint related to our district; Opportunities and Resources.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– proverb with variations tracing back to multiple continents

(our 2023-24 District Theme is “Cooperation is Key”)

“ANNIE”, Cherokee’s Fall Show, Tonight and Tomorrow @ 7 pm

Tickets info www.cherokeedrama.org: Can’t Miss!

Township Light Parade, Dec. 15, 7 pm: See you there!

Dec. 20, 5 pm, MS Jazz Band Performances w/Cherokee Jazz Band, Cherokee North Cafeteria

HDK parents, great news, please look for the email sent yesterday regarding the transition to FDK classes on Jan. 2, 2024.

All parents, thank you for your understanding with bus delays. Please see my Nov. 22 Update for info about bonuses for new drivers.

Budget Larger Context

Over the past 3 years, I’ve communicated info from the NJ Department of Education’s Taxpayer Guide to Education Spending with staff and families as we’ve navigated state aid losses and increasing costs. We are currently in Year 6 of seven straight years of state aid reductions and working on the 2024-25 budget, Year 7. The metrics in that guide show our district has become ever more fiscally efficient, as reflected in our rankings in various indicators showing where we compare to the other K-8 districts in the state with at least 751 students or more. Of particular note: ETSD spends \$2,765 less per student than does the average K-8 district w/751+ students statewide. With our enrollment of 4,457 students, our budget, if equal to the state average, would be over \$12 million dollars greater (\$12,323,605).



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What we could do for students, to have even a portion of that. Incredible, what we are able to do without. Fewer financial resources means fewer staff, and means our staff are working harder than ever, even as student needs increase. This is the important reality that impacts every aspect of our district.

Sources for the chart below: <https://www.nj.gov/education/guide/2023/ind.shtml>;
<https://www.nj.gov/education/guide/2019/district.shtml>

NJDOE Taxpayers' Guide to Education Spending: 2022-23 compared to 2018-19

Indicator	ETSD	State Average (K-8 Districts w/751+ students)	Rank in 2018-19** (of 74 K-8 districts w/751+ students)	Rank in 2022-23*** (of 71 K-8 districts w/751+ students)
Budgetary Cost per Pupil 2018-19	\$16,376	\$17,138	30	n/a
Budgetary Cost per Pupil 2022-23	\$16,692	\$19,457	n/a	12
Total Classroom Instruction 2018-19	\$9,980	\$10,402	31	n/a
Total Classroom Instruction 2022-23	\$10,070	\$11,677	n/a	13
Total Support Services 2018-19	\$2,966	\$2,786	46	n/a
Total Support Services 2022-23	\$3,203	\$3,334	n/a	35
Total Administrative Cost 2018-19	\$1,283	\$1,804	1	n/a
Total Administrative Cost 2022-23	\$1,293	\$1,964	n/a	1
Operation & Maintenance of Plant 2018-19	\$1,866	\$1,931	41	n/a
Operation & Maintenance of Plant 2022-23	\$1,830	\$2,239	n/a	21



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Indicator	ETSD	State Average (K-8 Districts w/751+ students)	Rank in 2018-19** (of 74 K-8 districts w/751+ students)	Rank in 2022-23*** (of 71 K-8 districts w/751+ students)
Extracurricular Cost 2018-19	\$122	\$139	36	n/a
Extracurricular Cost 2022-23	\$147	\$162	n/a	39
Student/Teacher Ratio* 2018-19	12.7	10.6	7	n/a
Student/Teacher Ratio* 2022-23	13.3	10.3	n/a	3
Student/Support Service Ratio 2018-19	64.3	67.6	46	n/a
Student/Support Service Ratio 2022-23	71.0	59.2	n/a	19
Student/Administrator Ratio 2018-19	214.3	136	1	n/a
Student/Administrator Ratio 2022-23	235.4	131.9	n/a	1
Faculty/Administrator Ratio 2018-19	20.2	14.8	4	n/a
Faculty/Administrator Ratio 2022-23	21.1	15.1	n/a	4

**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 74, with the number 1 representing the lowest per pupil cost amounts or highest ratio of students per administrator.*

****The K-8 Districts (enrollment of 751+) are ranked from 1 to 71, with the number 1 representing the lowest per pupil cost amounts or highest ratio of students per administrator.*

Hourly rate for lunch and bus aides rising to \$17 an hour starting Jan. 2, 2024. Every lunch/bus aide wage guide step will rise starting Jan. 2. [Apply to be a Lunch Aide!](#) [Apply to be a Bus Aide!](#) (openings for both roles)



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Positive recent state and national datapoint related to our district (my highlighting):

Schools are pivotal to property values/zip code desirability, especially in NJ with hundreds of local districts.

<https://www.nj.com/realestate-news/2023/12/23-nj-towns-rank-in-top-150-hottest-real-estate-markets-in-the-nation-see-latest-list.html>

The article (it is short): "A whopping 23 N.J. towns ranked among the top 150 hottest housing markets in the nation in November, the latest Realtor.com data showed. **New Jersey's highest entry on the list was Marlton in Burlington County at the 22nd spot,** with a median listing price of \$423,725. New Jersey had 15 towns in the top 100....Realtor.com determines demand based on unique views of properties on Realtor.com, and supply through the number of days a property has been actively listed on Realtor.com. These two scores are then averaged to create a hotness score, and then ranked."

PS: Couldn't resist sending this to relatives on the West Coast.

Opportunities and Resources

- <https://raproom.org/home>: Local resource to help and advocate for families and their loved ones struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.
- [2.2.24: Give Kids A Smile Day! \(español\)](#)
- [Going on Now: Holiday Business Scavenger Hunt Card w/Scavenger Hunt Prizes](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith

Superintendent of Schools