



South Hunterdon Regional School District

301 Mt. Airy – Harbourton Road, Lambertville, New Jersey 08530

www.shrsd.org

Anthony Suozzo, Superintendent of Schools (609) 397-1888 (609) 397-6495 Fax
J. Andrew Harris, Business Administrator/Board Secretary (609) 397-0323 (609) 397-2508 Fax
Geoff Hewitt, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction (609) 397-9311 (609) 397-2470 Fax

For Immediate Release: **South Hunterdon Regional School District Focus on Increasing Student Achievement**

In the Spring of 2022, students in grades 3-11 participated in NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessment) testing for the first time since the 2018-2019 school year due to Covid. South Hunterdon, like many districts in [New Jersey](#) and across the country, saw a decline in scores, with certain grade levels scoring below the state average in English Language Arts, Math and Science ([2021-2022 Achievement Report](#)). Our district scores reflect a need for focused improvement.

Unfortunately, test scores below state average are not new to the district. During my interview process with the South Hunterdon Regional School District, the Board of Education made it clear to me that a major focus for the next Superintendent would be increasing student achievement.

Over the past two years we, as a district, re-examined the systems in place and gathered data to identify areas of improvement with a focus on student achievement. This included a comprehensive review of both our English as a Second Language (ESL) and Special Education programs. We began implementing improvements immediately and early efforts seem to have had some positive effect. When we examined scores from the same student groups over the last three years (students who took the NJSLA in 2018-2019 and again in 2021-2022) we saw higher average scores for several groups. But we have more work to do.

A major key to improving student achievement in education is providing “differentiated instruction” to meet the individual needs of our students. This means all students have the same learning goals but are presented with different pathways to achieve the goals rather than using a one-size fits all approach. To achieve this level of individualized education, we trained staff on [blended and personalized learning](#) techniques starting with a group of teachers in 2021-2022, and expanded by another group in the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, to provide increased direct support to our teachers, the district eliminated an administrator position in favor of hiring two

experienced instructional coaches. They are supporting all staff in the implementation of the district's instructional and assessment model.

The identified improvements are designed to improve student achievement over time. To address the immediate needs of our students who scored below the state average on the spring 2022 NJSLA, we have already begun providing targeted interventions. These interventions may be in the general education setting, small group pull-out or individual instruction based on student needs. If your child is receiving either small group pull-out or individual you would have already been notified by the district. We will also offer after school tutoring sessions as well as a four week Academic Intervention Program during the summer of 2023.

As we know, test scores are not the only metric that determine whether or not a child is successful. But for a district, I realize they are an important indicator. The focus of the South Hunterdon Regional School District has been and will always be focused on developing the “whole” child while making sure that each and every student feels connected to our school community. With that said, we are committed to raising district test scores so that South Hunterdon scores **above** state average on a consistent basis. Additionally, we will increase access to higher level classes such as honors and AP for all of our students. Improvements will not happen overnight but I am confident that the plan, administrative team and excellent teaching staff we have in place will lead to an increase in student achievement.

Anthony Suozzo
Superintendent
South Hunterdon Regional School District