

Spring-Ford Area School District



Testimony before the Basic Education Funding Formula Commission
October 16, 2014

Presented by Dr. David Goodin, Spring-Ford Area School District Superintendent

About Spring-Ford Area School District

Spring-Ford Area School District is located in Montgomery County, straddling the border between scenic northern Chester County and western Montgomery County in southeastern Pennsylvania. Spring-Ford Area School District, in cooperation with home and community, is committed to promoting academic excellence in a safe learning environment, recognizing the diverse needs of all students and empowering them to become lifelong learners and contributing citizens.

The Spring-Ford Area Community

- Western Central portion of Montgomery County
 - Townships of Limerick and Upper Providence
 - Boroughs of Royersford and Spring City
- District is bisected by Route 422 and has a combined land area of 44.4 square miles
- 2010 U.S. Census Population - 47,368
 - 29.84 % increase in population since 2000 census
 - From the 2000 census to the 2010 census, Spring-Ford Area School District has seen a 39% increase in student population – 5,553 students in 2000 to 7,724 students in 2010

Spring-Ford Area Economy: Major Contributors

- Pfizer Pharmaceutical
- Glaxo SmithKline Pharmaceutical
- SEI Investments – global provider of asset management & individual technology solutions
- Iron Mountain – global company focused on outsourced records & information management services
- Philadelphia Premium Outlets
- Providence Town Center

Fast Facts about Spring-Ford Area School District

2013-2014 school year

- 7,876 students
 - 594 teachers
 - 33 administrators
 - 326 support staff (maintenance/custodial, instructional, food service)
 - Average teacher salary - \$70,687
 - 89% with advanced degrees
 - Transport 7,866 students daily – using a total of 124 vehicles
 - 1,128 go to private/charter schools
 - 6,738 go to public School District
 - 245 students require special transportation @ a cost of \$1,400,545
- Total transportation cost of \$6,908,411 (5.3% of budget)

State Reimbursement for transportation is approximately 26% (\$1,814,809) of total cost to district.

- Out of 21 Montgomery County School Districts Spring-Ford's per pupil costs of approximately \$15,000 per student and puts us near the lowest per student cost, 19/21, in the county.
- For the 2012-2013 school year all district buildings received a School Performance Profile Score of 80 or above
- The 2011-2012 SPP District calculation was 97.6/100

Special Education as a Cost Driver

- From 2009 we have seen a 9% increase in students (1,292 students to 1,408 students) receiving special education services. If you go back to 2007-08 school year the increase has been 21% (1,164 students to 1,408 students)
 - 2013-14 Special Education Population – 1,408 students
- In 2013-14 15.5 % of our budget comprised of expenditures for special education
- While we have seen a 9% increase in students receiving special education services from 2009-10 to 2013-14, we have seen a 10.8% decrease in special education funding from all sources (Federal Pass Through, Special Education State, Contingency & Medical Access)
- In 2009-10 Spring-Ford spent \$19,713,937 in Special Education services and received \$4,711,258 in special education revenues = \$15,002,679 local effort
- In 2013-14 Spring-Ford spent \$24,573,607 for special education services with \$4,201,243 special education revenues = \$20,372,364 local effort
 - Equals 35.8% increase in local effort with a 10.8% decrease in revenue from state and federal sources for the same time period