



NEW THIS YEAR:

Abington School District Update and Information

Abington School District A GREAT place to live, work, and learn.

One of the primary reasons families tell us they move into and stay in Abington and Rockledge is because of our excellent schools.

Good schools help ensure that property values – the investment in your home or business property – remain high and continue to grow. Real estate professionals tell us that “We see families choosing

to stay here due to local amenities in the area, and primarily, due to the excellent schools.”

We thank you, our Abington and Rockledge taxpayers, for your support that helps to maintain and grow our excellent schools ... and helps to maintain and grow your property value.

Our Points of Pride help secure the investment in your home and property values.

We are especially proud that...

Abington was selected by Bill Gates and Michael Dell as one of only three schools in the US to receive \$250,000 of educational technology in the Dell Computer *FutureReady* competition.

Plus this year ...

- We implemented a very successful all-day kindergarten program where children benefit from the expanded curriculum and dedicated teachers.
- We opened the beautiful new Highland and Overlook Elementary Schools and began work on the new Roslyn Elementary School and renovations to Willow Hill Elementary School.
- The Opportunities to Learn program has been very successful with tenth grade students and will be expanded to other grade levels.
- All seven elementary schools were recognized by the state for the second time for meeting their Adequate Yearly Progress goals for two consecutive years.
- We opened the beautiful Schwarzman Stadium – which was featured in *American School & University* magazine. The stadium has become the place to be on Friday nights, for band competitions, and other events.
- Our students received many awards and recognition in music, mathematics and science, athletics, world languages, and on academic teams... to name just a few areas of excellence.
- Our teachers and staff received many awards and recognition.
- We were selected as one of only 12 teams in the state for the Governor’s Institute for Parental Involvement.
- The Class of 2006 won over \$4.6 million in scholarships.
- We were successful with grant applications submitted by administrators and teachers that brought many hundreds of thousands of dollars into the school district to support programs at no cost to taxpayers.
- The partial refunding and refinancing the Series 1998 General Obligation Bond saved the school district approximately \$800,000.

Additional Points of Pride include:

- Abington was cited by *MONEY Magazine* as one of the Top 100 School Districts in the U.S. in “towns you can afford.”
- We are proud of our FIVE National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence: Abington Senior High School, Abington Junior High School, and McKinley, Overlook, and Rydal Elementary Schools.
- Six Abington teachers received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; no other school district in Pennsylvania has more teachers recognized in this program.
- We have developed intensive initiatives to ensure that all Abington students receive a college preparatory level education.
- We are committed to closing the achievement gap... helping all young people achieve proficiency in their coursework.
- Abington School District students contributed over 83,000 hours to the community in our extensive service-learning activities.
- Abington Senior High School offers the most Advanced Placement courses in the county.
- Our new web-based LetterGrade system helps junior and senior high school students and parents track student progress and communicate with teachers better.
- Abington Senior High School graduates are admitted to the top colleges and universities in the country.
- Abington Senior High School has been recognized by the White House as a National Service Learning Leader School.
- Abington students perform significantly above the state average on Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests.
- Over \$6 million has been committed to technology improvement and expansion at all grade levels.

KEEPING ABINGTON SCHOOLS STRONG KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY STRONG.

We Thank You for Your Support.

Abington School District - Facts & Figures

Enrollment (2005-2006)

Elementary schools (K-6)	3,606
Junior high school (7-8-9)	1,935
Senior high school (10-11-12)	1,984
Total enrollment	7,525

Personnel (2005-2006)

Professional staff positions:	611.2
Supporting staff positions:	399.7

Approved State Cost Per Pupil 2005-2006:

Elementary: \$10,667.35
Secondary: \$9,600.84

Typical Future Plans of Abington Graduates:

Higher Education: 87%
Employment: 12%
Armed Forces: 1%

2006-2007 Budget

Budget Item	Total	Federal Funds included in total	State Funds included in total	Local Funds included in total
Salary Items	\$64,160,082	\$751,168	\$5,595,003	\$57,813,911
Employee Benefits	\$24,226,288	\$267,617	\$6,523,333	\$17,435,338
Non-Salary Items	\$27,380,644	\$732,685	\$2,943,304	\$23,704,655
Budgetary Reserve	\$1,500,000			\$1,500,000
Total Budget	\$117,267,014	\$1,751,470	\$15,061,640	\$100,453,904

Items in our budget over which we have little or no control

There are many items in our budget over which we have no control. These items are responsible for approximately half of our program cost increase. We have little or no control over:

- Charter schools
- Additional enrollment – families with children moving into Abington School District
- Dramatic increases in fuel and utility costs
- Increasing retirement/pension costs
- Skyrocketing medical insurance costs
- Unfunded and under-funded mandated programs including special education classes and other programs and costs
- Low level of state funding for education and decreasing Federal funds
- Increasing costs of textbooks, instructional materials, supplies, and ever-increasing importance and costs of instructional technology.

2006-2007 Taxes

Real Estate Tax:

The 2006-2007 tax rate is set at 25.39 mills. This means that for every \$1,000 of assessed property value, \$25.39 in school taxes is levied. The millage rate reflects an increase of 7.44% when compared to the millage rate for the 2005-2006 school year.

Earned Income Tax:

The 2006-2007 tax rate is set at 0.5% for the school district.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Elizabeth Chavous, President | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Jeannette F. Maitin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond McGarry, Esq., Vice-President | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Barry J. Stupine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey P. Bates, Esq. | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Michele R. Tinsman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Jo Blumenthal | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. S. Shirley Weiss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Peter A. Dreifus | |

Please note that recent and future legislation passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature may affect the budget that the Abington Board of School Directors approved on June 13, 2006. Therefore the information presented here may be subject to change.