



Board of Education Meeting

NOVEMBER 19, 2024



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

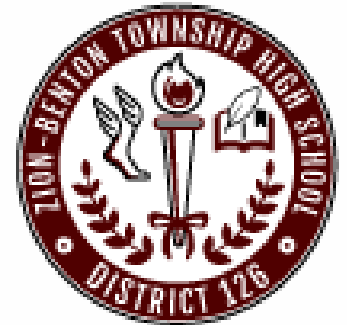
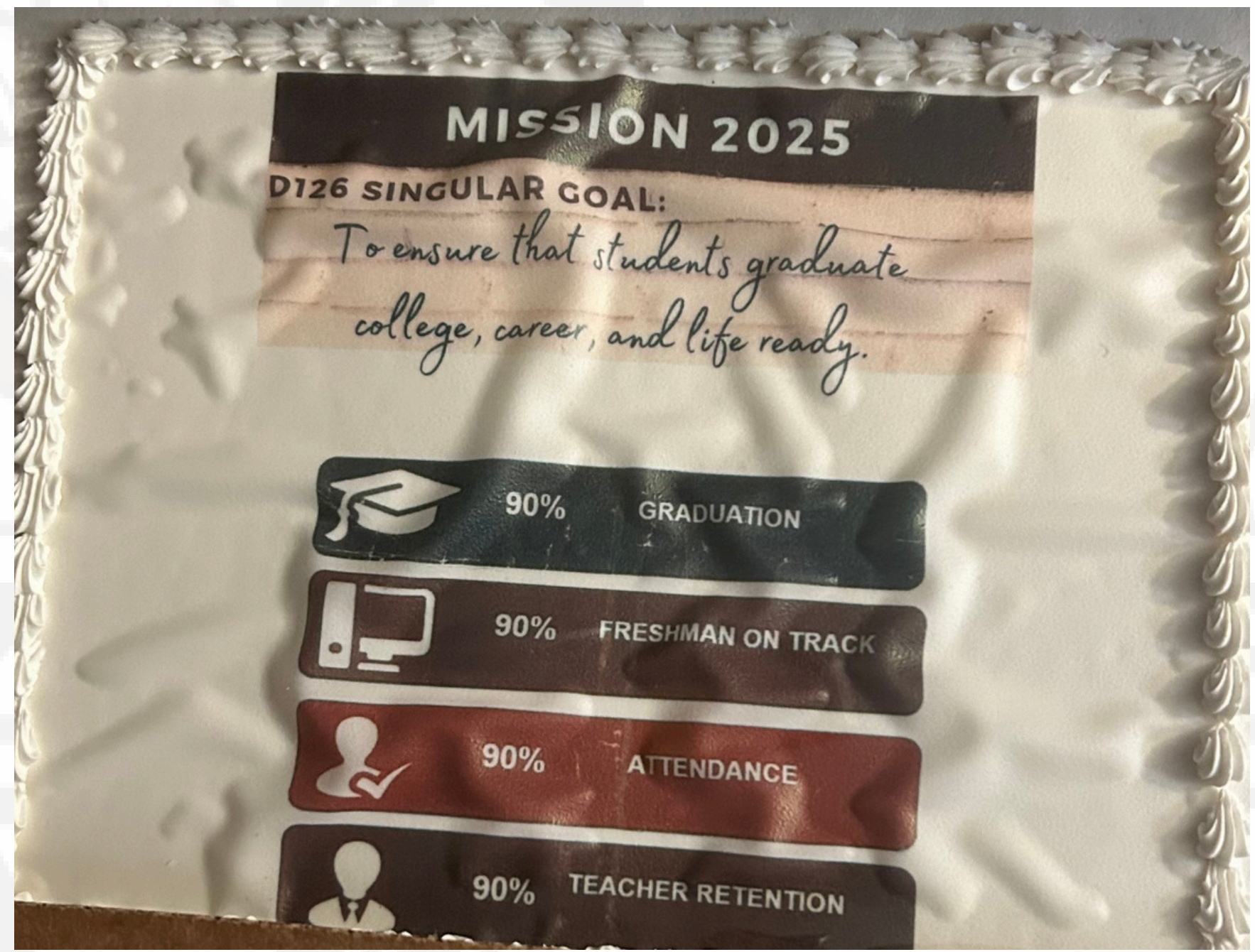


Staff, Student, and Community Celebration



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT **126**
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Public Comment



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
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Consent



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
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Superintendent Report



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
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2023-2024 REPORT CARD DATA



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Celebrate



MISSION 2025

D126 SINGULAR GOAL:

To ensure that students graduate college, career, and life ready.



90%

GRADUATION



90%

FRESHMAN ON TRACK



90%

ATTENDANCE



90%

TEACHER RETENTION

LEGACY STATEMENTS

1

As **ONE** community, our students are provided the resources, holistic support, and inspiration to succeed academically and professionally.

2

Create a sense of belonging for **ALL** students, staff, and our community. Our students will leave with skills, knowledge, and tools to be successful.

3

Our learning community will provide strong communication and transparency to foster community engagement ensuring the emotional, social, and academic development of all **OUR** students.

EXCELLENCE STARTS WITH US

Zion District 6

- Central has advanced to a targeted designation in 2024, with an index score increase from 33.44 to 49.7.
- Shiloh Park moved from a comprehensive designation in 2023 to targeted in 2024, raising its index score from 25.52 to 48.4.

Beach Park District 3

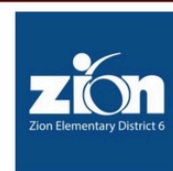
- Beach Park held a comprehensive designation in 2023, is now commendable in 2024, with a score increase from 30.1 to 60.65.

Winthrop Harbor District 1

- North Prairie progressed from a targeted designation to commendable as well, with an index score rising from 62.38 to 77.94.

Zion- Benton District 126

- ZBTHS's index score rose from 56.12 in 2023 to 61.96 in 2024.
- Zion-Benton East saw an increase from 77.64 to 78.98.





JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

LEGACY STATEMENTS

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Strategic Plan
Initiate

Strategic Plan
Implement

Strategic Plan
Institutionalize

*Strategic Plan
Journey*


Vision 2030

VISION

2030

THE FUTURE OF OUR ZEE-BEES





Vision 2030
Preparing Zee Bees
for the Future
They Choose

ares

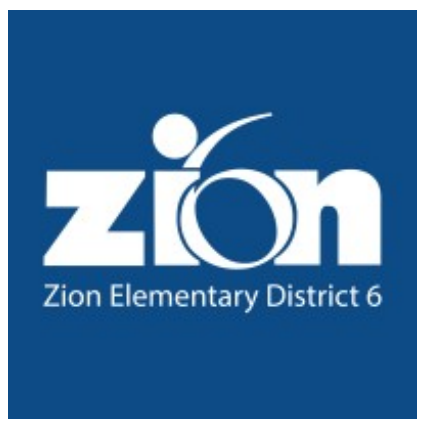
*Life
Ready*

*College
Ready*



ZEE BEE
Graduate
—721 Ready—

*Career
Ready*



Illinois Report Card Designations

Timeline

- Public release: October 30 at 9:00 a.m.

School Designations

- Exemplary
- Commendable
- Targeted Support
- Comprehensive Support
- Intensive Support

2024 Summative Designations

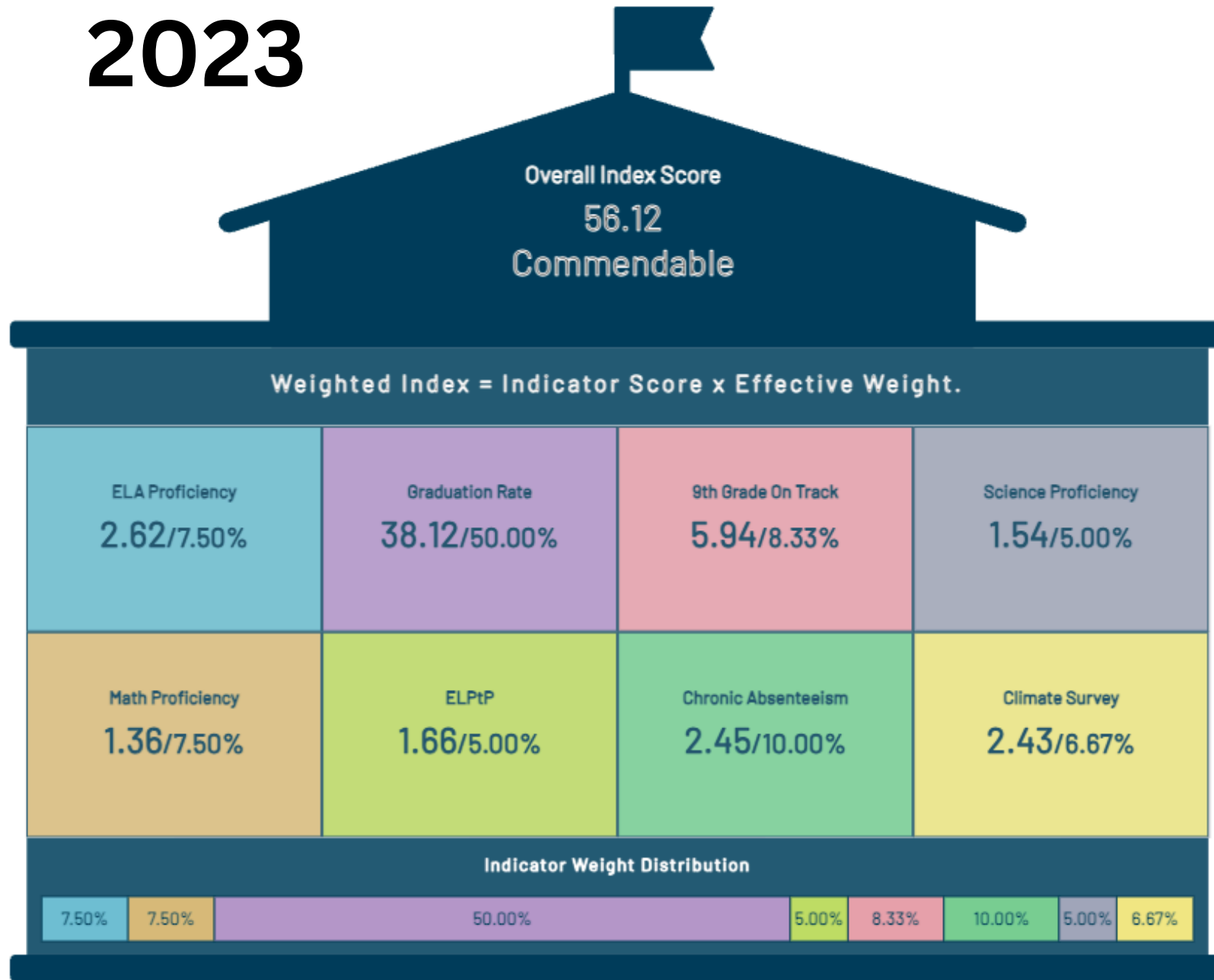
- ZBTHS: Commendable
- ZBE: Commendable



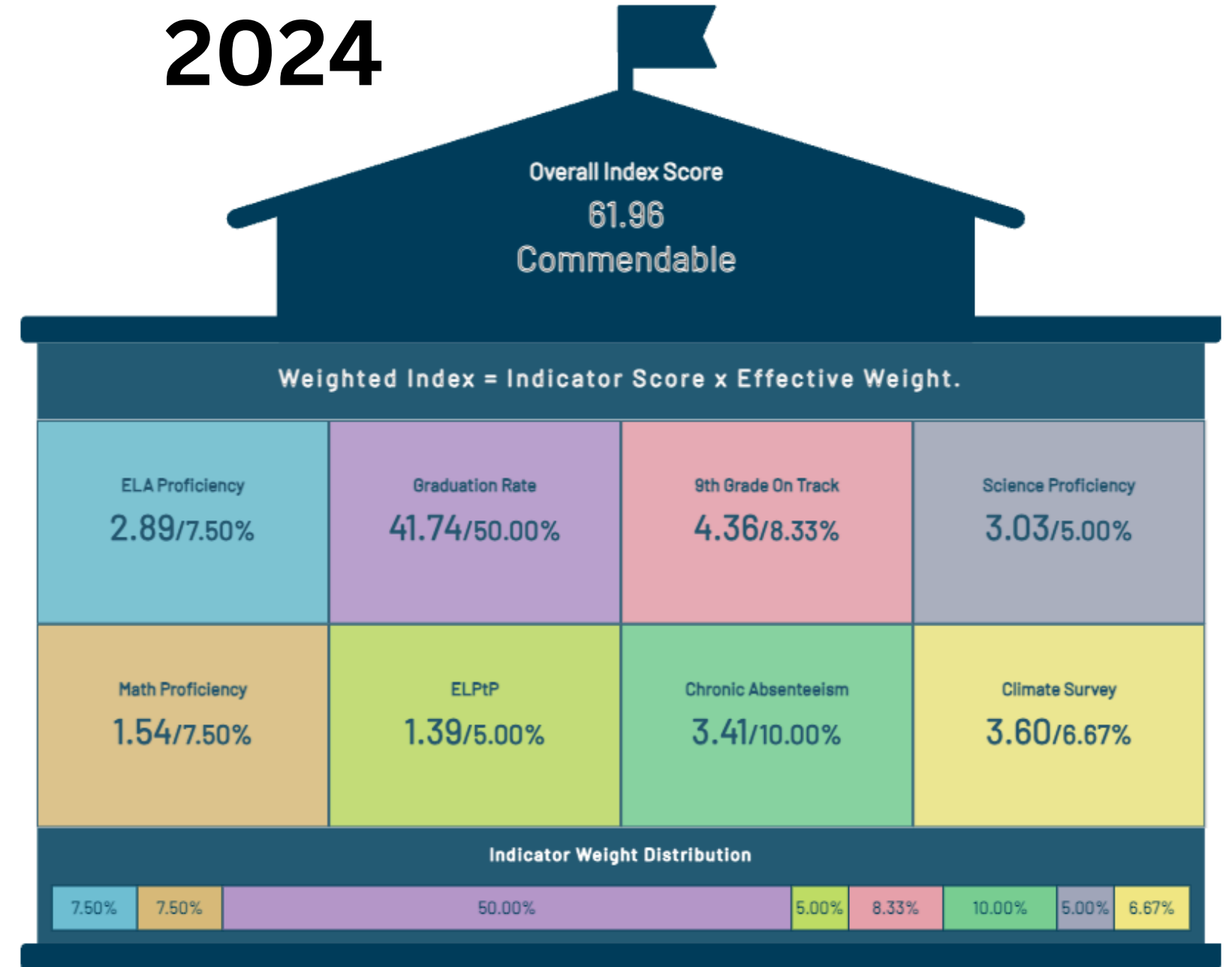
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ZBTHS

2023



2024



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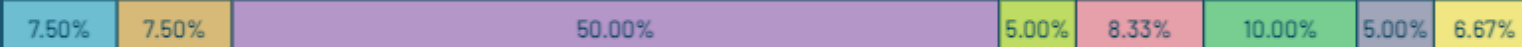
2023

Overall Index Score
77.64
Commendable

Weighted Index = Indicator Score x Effective Weight.

<p>ELA Proficiency 1.57/7.50%</p>	<p>Graduation Rate 50.00/50.00%</p>	<p>9th Grade On Track 8.33/8.33%</p>	<p>Science Proficiency 2.81/5.00%</p>
<p>Math Proficiency 0.49/7.50%</p>	<p>ELPtP 1.84/5.00%</p>	<p>Chronic Absenteeism 6.99/10.00%</p>	<p>Climate Survey 5.61/6.67%</p>

Indicator Weight Distribution



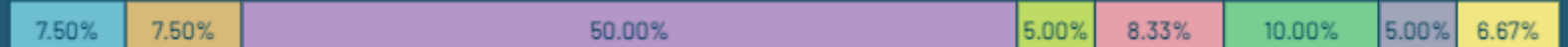
2024

Overall Index Score
78.98
Commendable

Weighted Index = Indicator Score x Effective Weight.

<p>ELA Proficiency 2.31/7.50%</p>	<p>Graduation Rate 50.00/50.00%</p>	<p>9th Grade On Track 8.33/8.33%</p>	<p>Science Proficiency 4.29/5.00%</p>
<p>Math Proficiency 0.62/7.50%</p>	<p>ELPtP 1.47/5.00%</p>	<p>Chronic Absenteeism 7.12/10.00%</p>	<p>Climate Survey 4.84/6.67%</p>

Indicator Weight Distribution



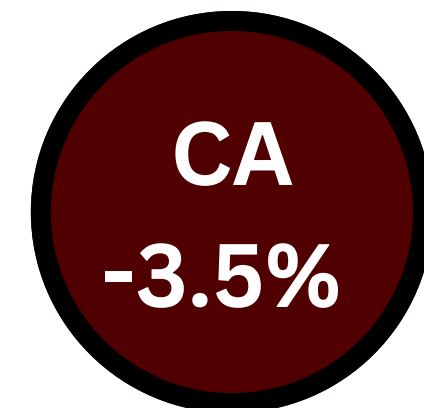
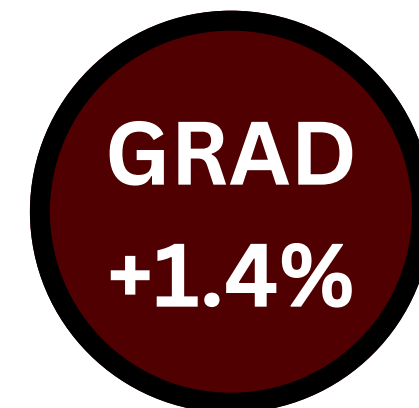
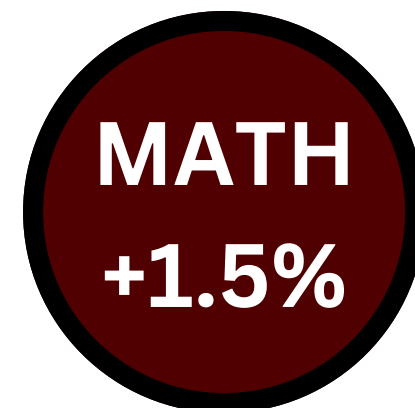
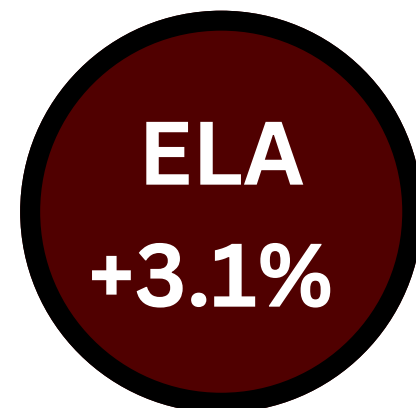
2023-2024 School Report Card Summary

District 126 Indicator Summary - 2023 to 2024 Report Card

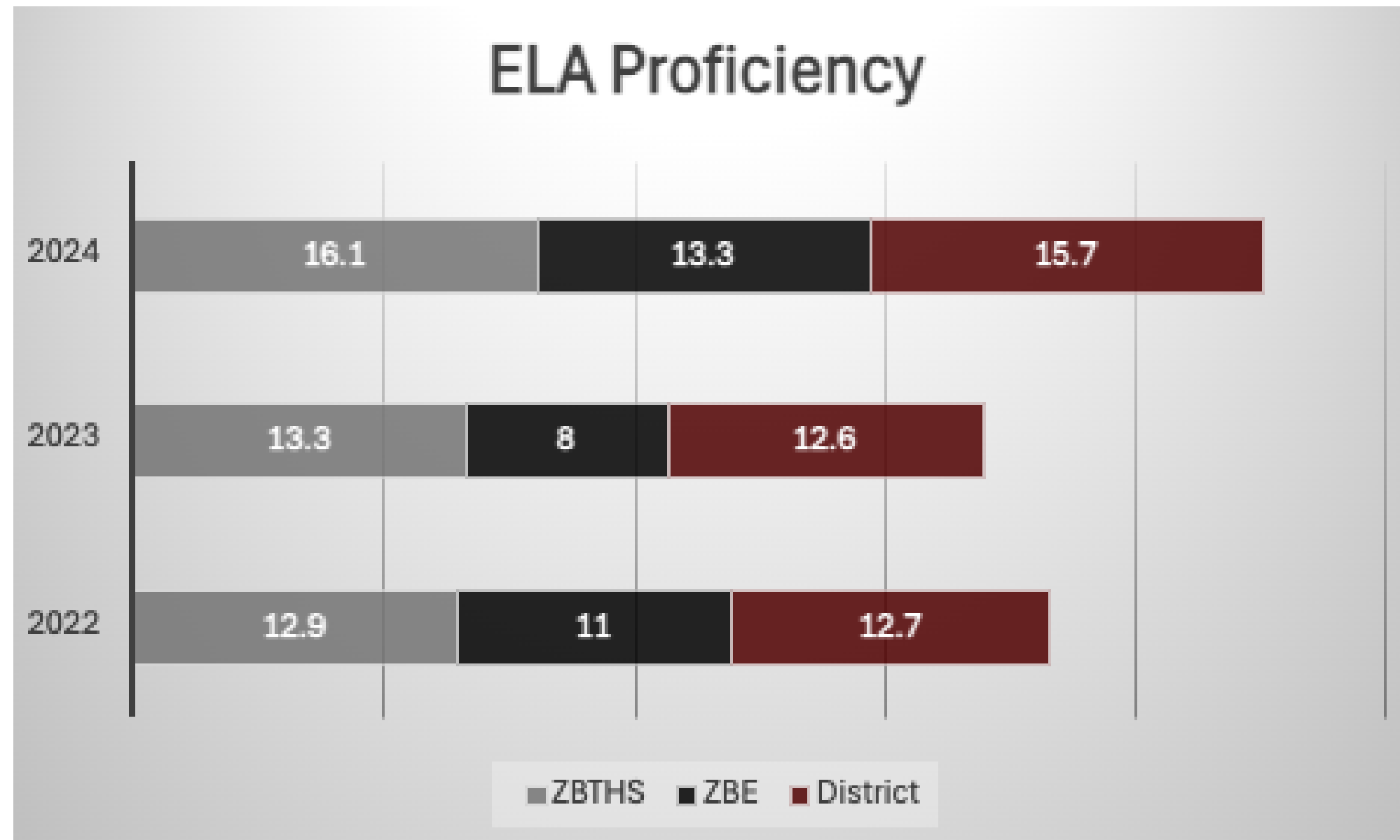
- ELA, Math, and Science proficiency increased
- Graduation rate increased to an all-time high
- Chronic Absenteeism decreased/improved
- 9th Grade on Track rate decreased from 23 to 24 but has improved significantly over the course of the 2021-2025 strategic plan
- Remediation rate remained largely unchanged from 23 to 24 but has improved significantly over the course of the 2021-2025 strategic plan



Report Card Highlights

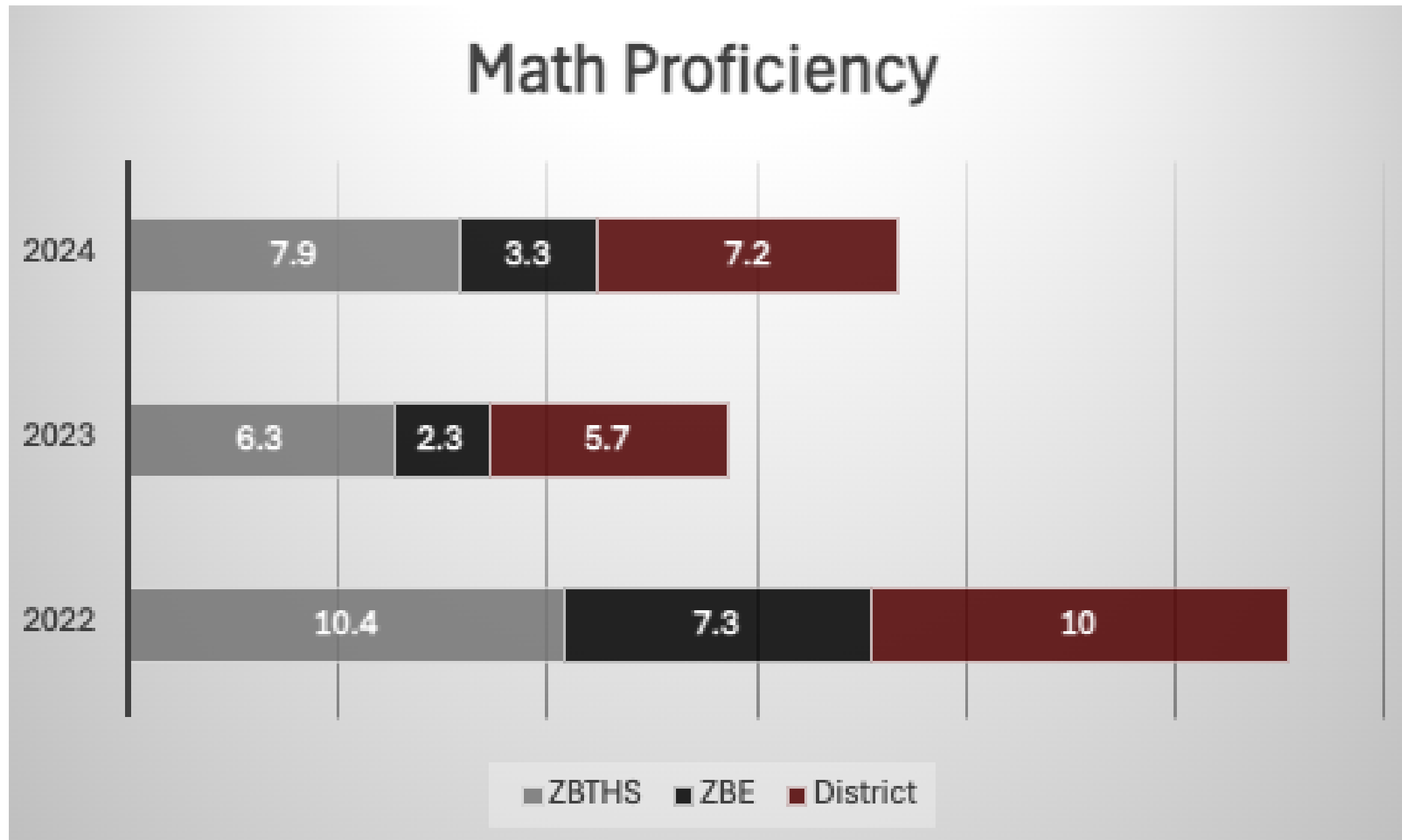


ELA Proficiency



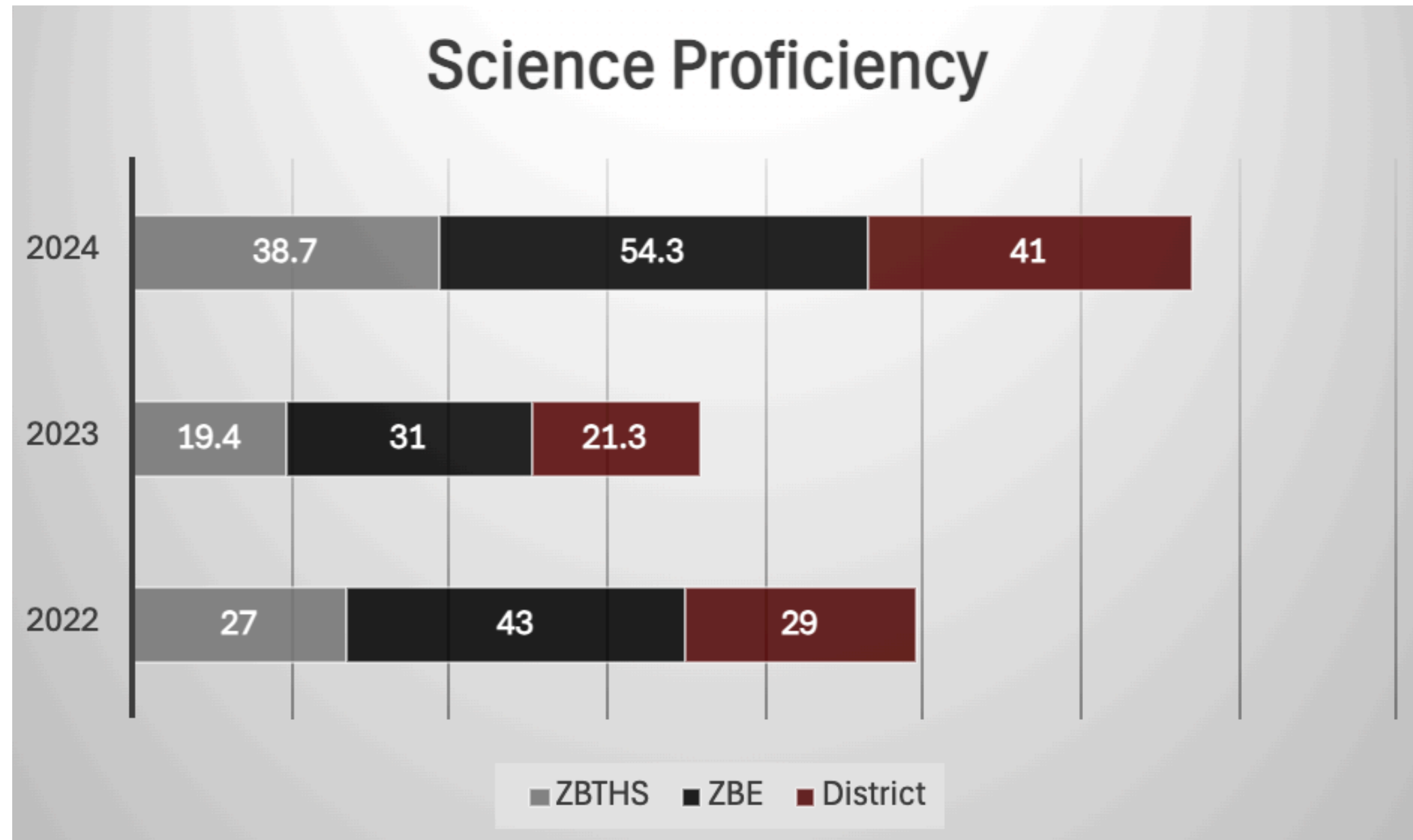
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Math Proficiency



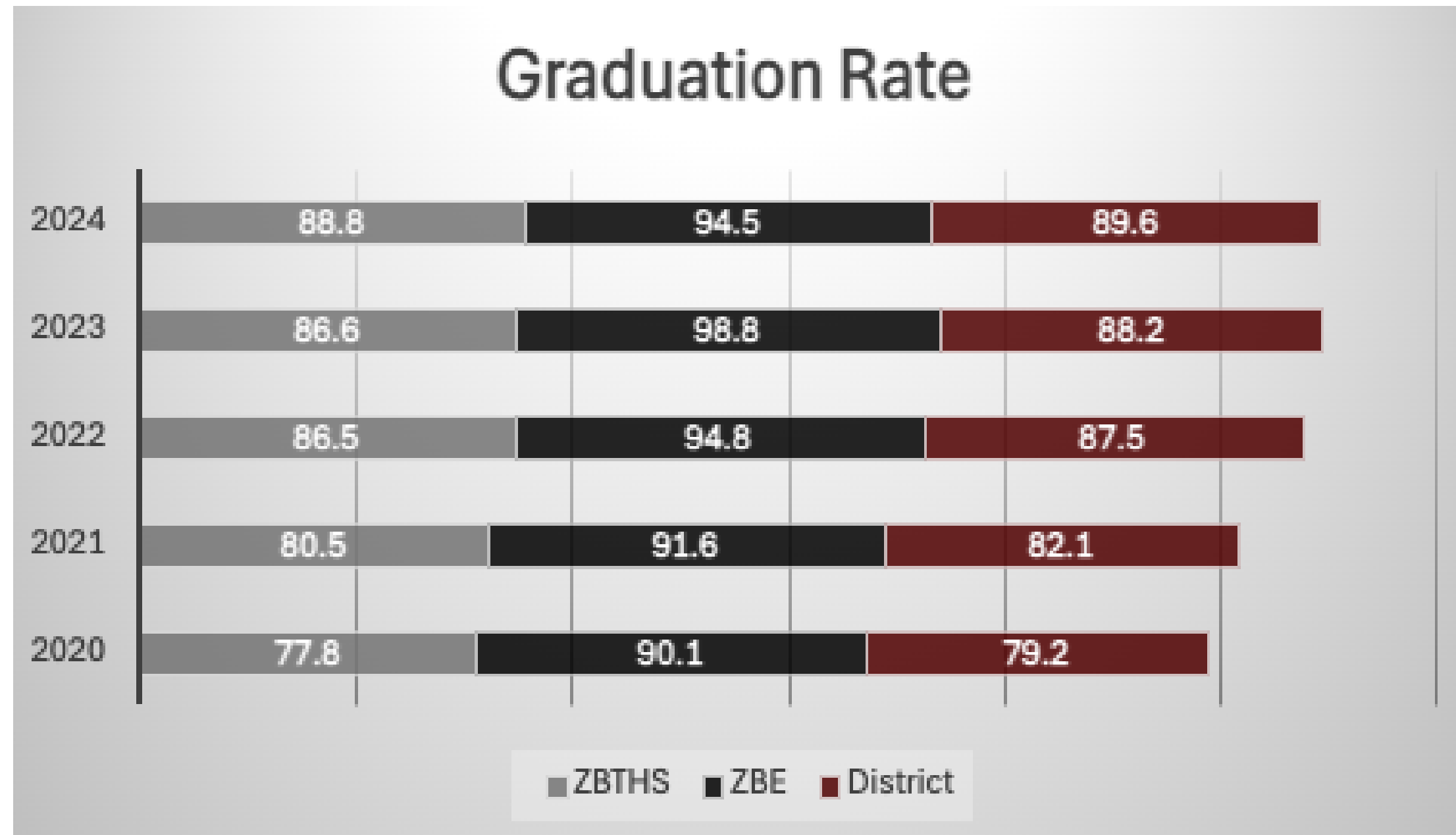
ZION-BENTON
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Science Proficiency



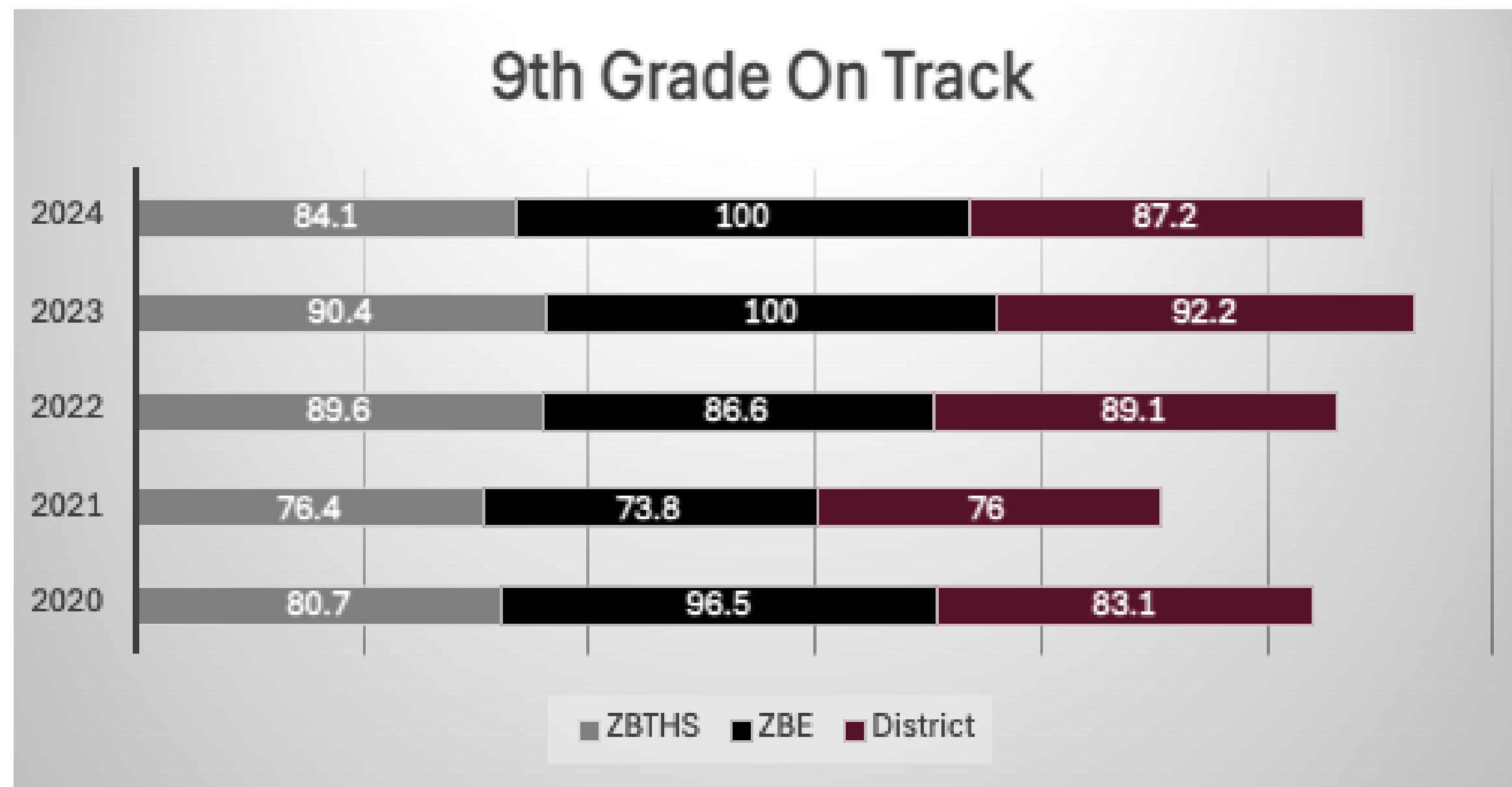
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Graduation Rate



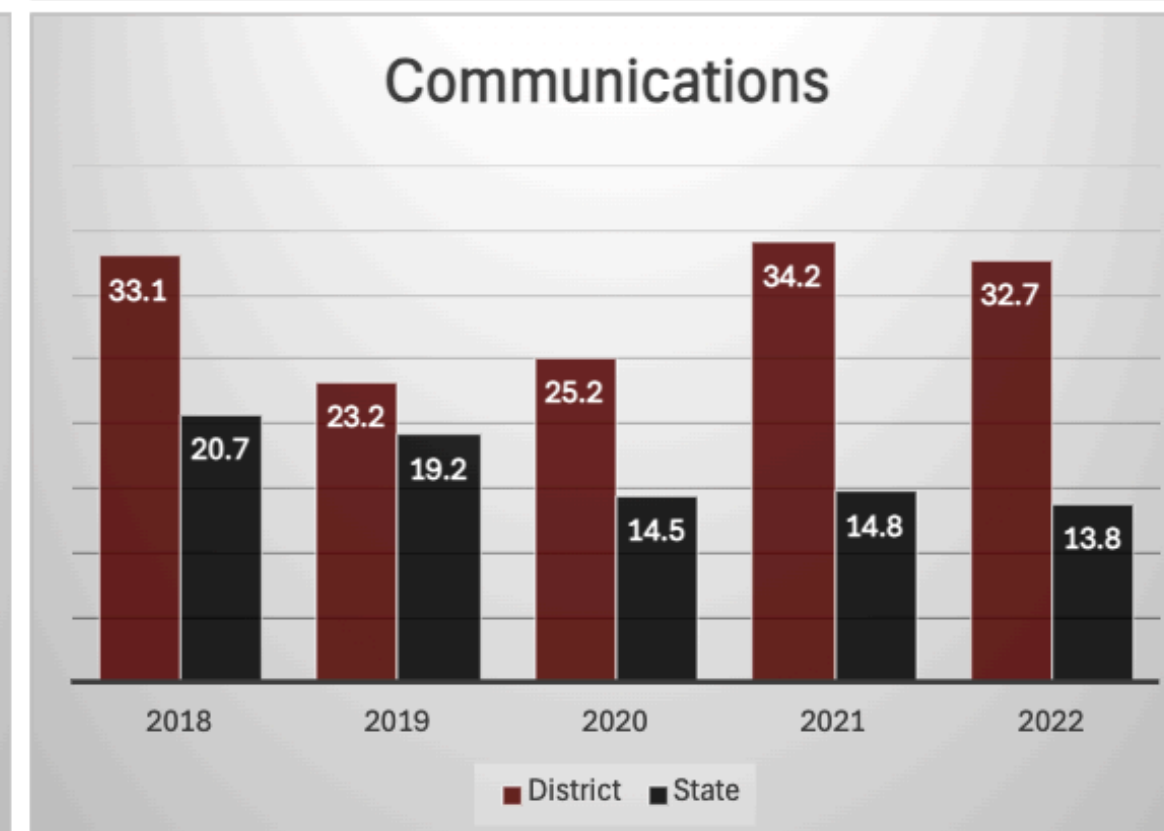
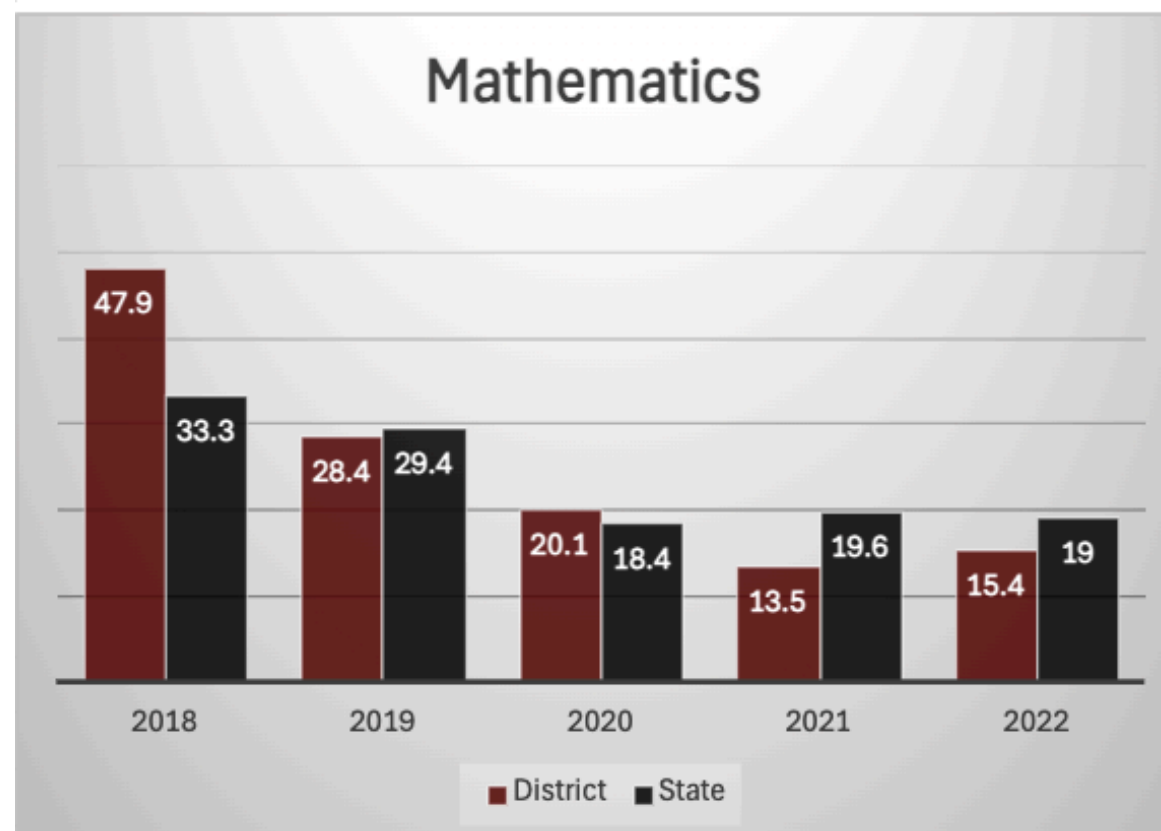
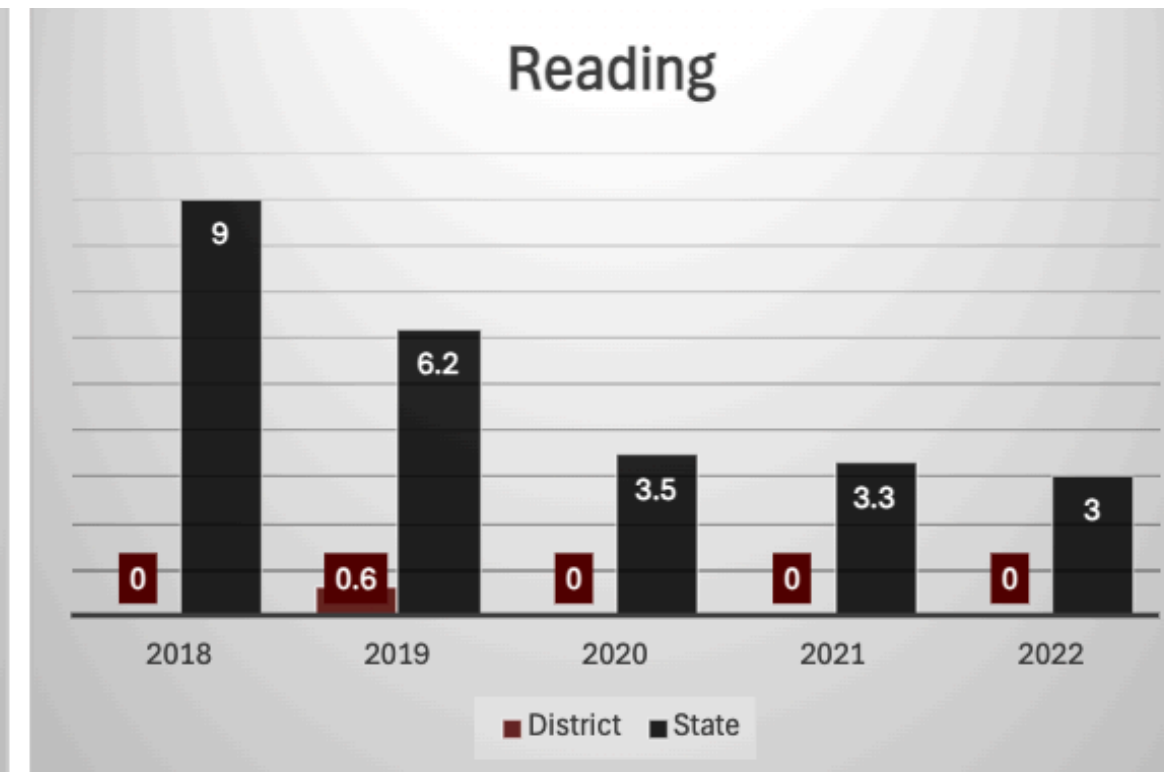
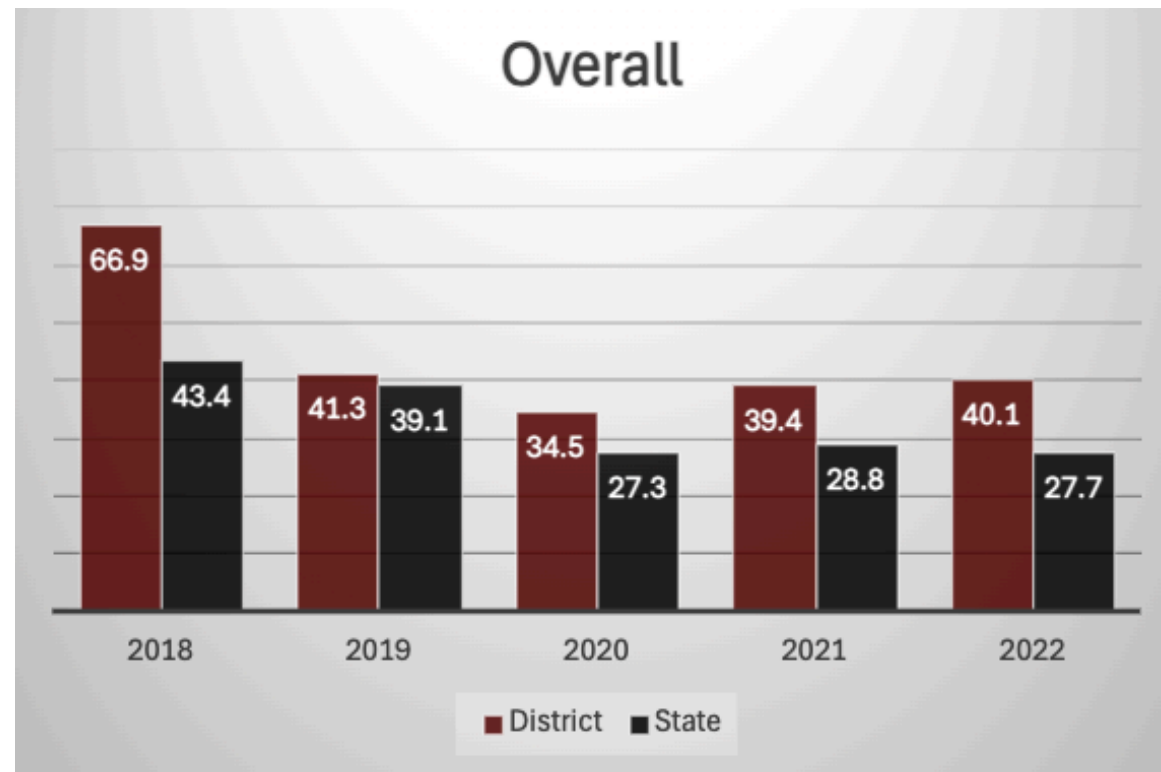
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9th Grade on Track

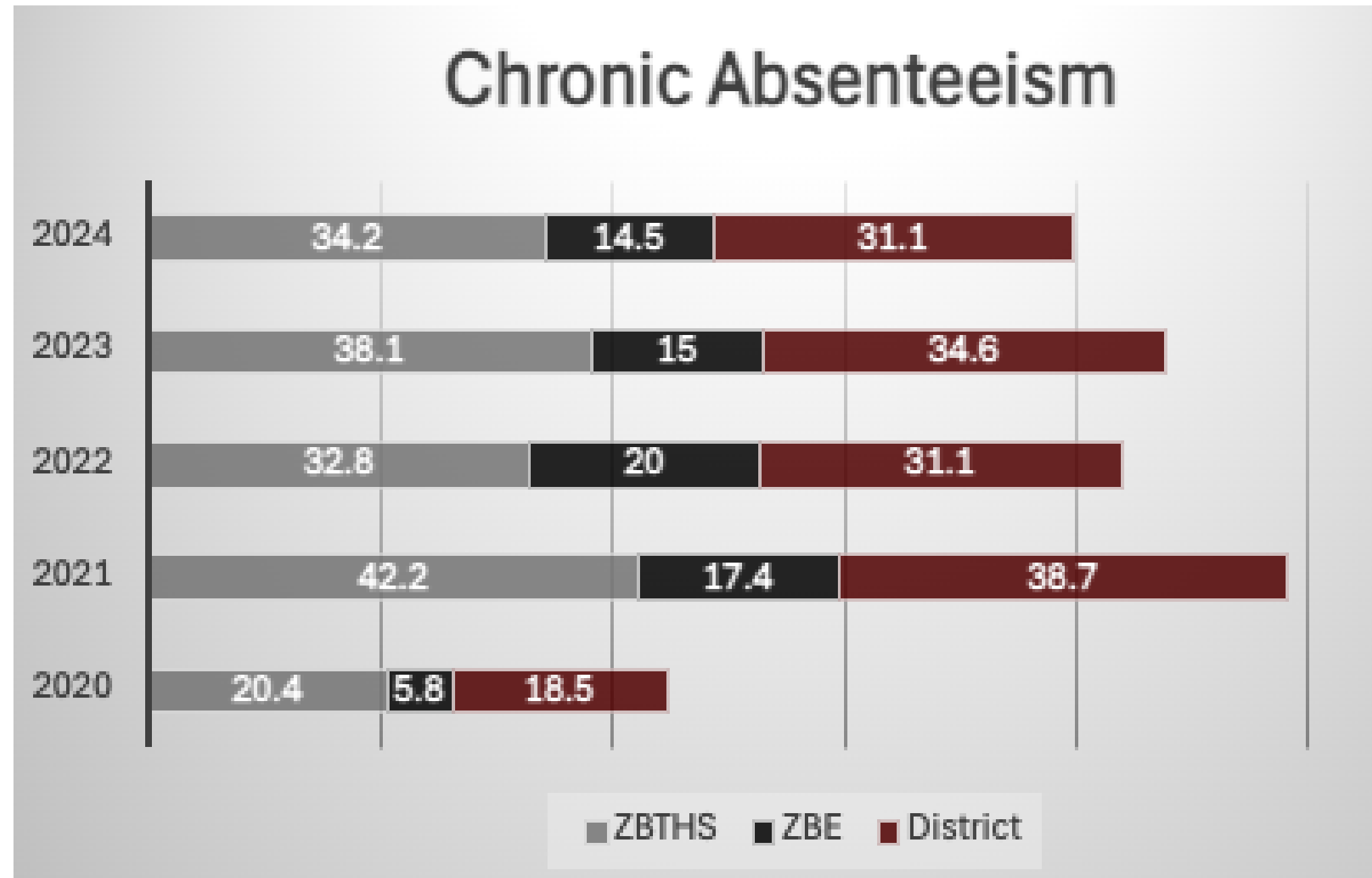


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Community College Remediation



Chronic Absenteeism



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



ZION BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL & ZION-BENTON EAST

SY:25 ATTENDANCE MATTERS CAMPAIGN



Mr. Mike Isaacs
Assistant Principal

Dr. Diallo Brown
Assistant Principal



ZBTHS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Core Team

- Principal/ Assistant Principal
- Attendance/Dean Secretaries
- Dean Office
- Student Engagement Specialist
- Behavior Interventionist
- 2 Counselors
- Language Liason
- 1 Social Worker
- Department Chair

Extended Team

- Core Team +
- Additional Counselors
- Additional Department Chairs
- Outreach Crew
- SRO
- Future will include:
Teachers
Paras



ZION-BENTON EAST

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Core Team

- Principal & Assistant Principal
- Family Engagement Specialist
- Counselors
- Social Worker
- Academic Success Coordinator
- Assistant Director of Safety (as needed)
- SRO (as needed)



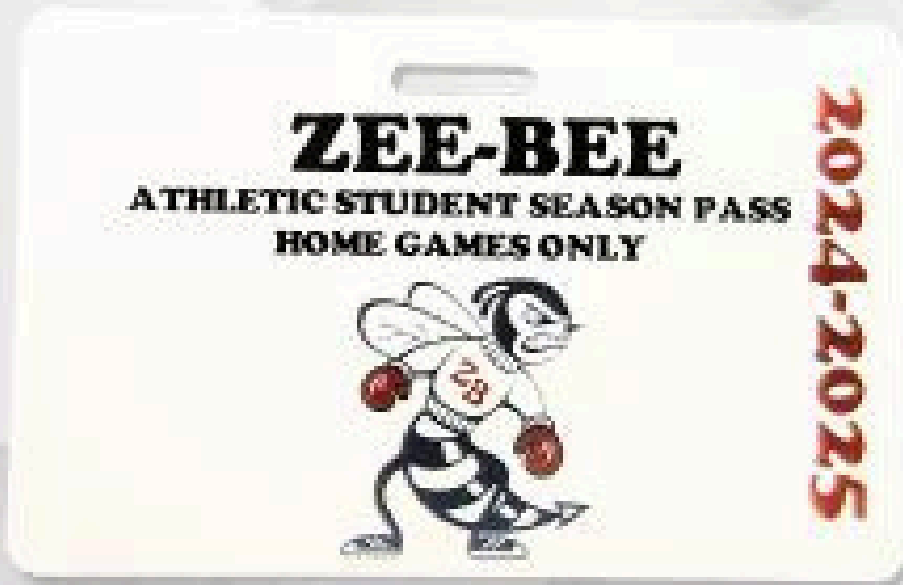
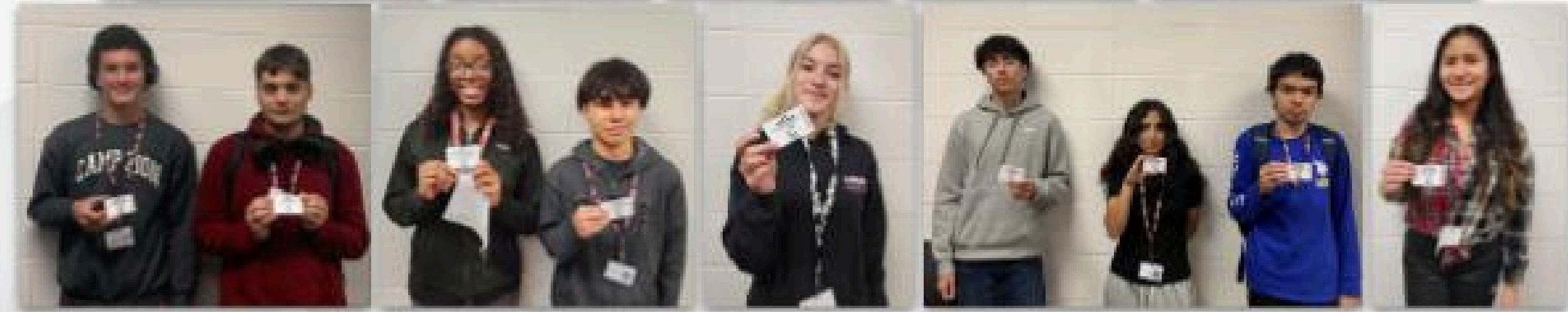


ATTENDANCE REPORTS

Daily & Weekly

- Cumulative Absences
- Consecutive Day Absences
- Daily Absences by periods
- Same Day Building Attendance YTD (weekly)

THANK YOU,
ATHLETICS
DEPARTMENT!

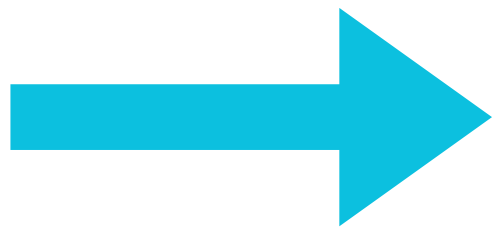


Attendance Incentive winners earned season passes to ZB home games!

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER ATTENDANCE
INCENTIVE RAFFLE WINNERS

Absenteeism Tiers

ZB EAST



ZBTHS &
ZB EAST



Watchlist:

- 5 absences by October 1, or 7 absences by November 1.
- Trending toward chronic absenteeism (avg. 2/month)

Tier 1: Green Tier - 9 & Under absences

- Students should have less than 9 absences in a school year.

Tier 2: Yellow Tier - 10-17 Absences

- Students missing 2+ weeks of school.

Tier 3: Red Tier - 18+ Absences

- On the 18th absence, students are designated as Chronically Absent by the State of Illinois.

ZBTHS

GREEN TIER

Every Absence: Robo phone/text/email messages made

-3 Days



-5 Days



-6-7 Days



-8-9 Days

An attendance letter is mailed home indicating the school policy regarding unexcused absences by the Attendance Office.

Attendance Contract created by the Dean's Office and letters sent.

Student Engagement Specialist makes calls home & letters sent.

Staff home visits.

ZION-BENTON TWP. HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 126
 One Z-B Way • 21st & Kenosha Road • Zion, IL 60099 • www.zb126.org

Dr. Jesse J. Rodriguez, Superintendent
847731-8792 • jesse.rodriguez@zb126.org

Bonnie Felske 287145 Principal 847731-8000 bonnie.felske@zb126.org	Jacob C. Carlson Exec. Director of Student Services 847731-8200 jacob.carlson@zb126.org	Dr. Matthew J. Wilkinson Chief School Business Officer 847731-8707 matthew.wilkinson@zb126.org	Jerrin Lang Director of Specialized Services 847731-8001 jerrin.lang@zb126.org	Dr. Melissa Digangi Exec. Director of Academic Excellence 847731-8707 melissa.digangi@zb126.org	Kevin Willard ZBE Principal 847731-8600 kevin.willard@zb126.org
Dr. Diallo Brown 287145 Assistant Principal 847731-8794 diallo.brown@zb126.org	Dr. Christopher Pawelczyk Exec. Dir. of Leadership Support & Strategic Planning 847731-8902 chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org	Arturo Hernandez Exec. Director of Safety & Prevention 847731-8321 arturo.hernandez@zb126.org	Jack Niemi Exec. Director of Athletics 847731-8361 jack.niemi@zb126.org	Cynthia Moreno Exec. Dir. of Human Resources & Comm. 847731-8796 cynthia.moreno@zb126.org	Michael Isaacs ZBE Assistant Principal 847731-8603 michael.isaacs@zb126.org

To The Parent/Guardian of:

This letter is to inform you that due to your student's attendance to date, your student has been placed on our chronic absenteeism watchlist, specifically in our Green Tier 1. Chronic Absenteeism is defined by the State of Illinois as having been absent from school for more than 10% of the school year, which is the equivalent of 18 absences. Missing just two school days per month will result in Chronic Absenteeism.

To this point in the school year, your attendance numbers are as follows:

# of School Days	Your Absences	Remaining Absences before Chronically Absent
176	3	15

Attendance at school and within each of your classes is a critical indicator of success in school. Attendance at school is *compulsory* in Illinois, meaning mandated by law. Attendance is among the most employable skills and is also one of the best indicators of success in school. It is difficult to find success in school if you are not attending school.

For your remaining absences, this is the number of absences you can still have without being identified as Chronically Absent by the State of Illinois.

Attendance Matters!
 Respectfully,
Dr. DTB
 Dr. Diallo Brown
 Assistant Principal of Operations
 Dr. Diallo Brown
 847-731-9794



YELLOW TIER

Every Absence: Robo phone/text/email messages made

-10 Days



-12 Days



-17 Days

- Parent meeting with Assistant Principal, Counselor, Dean, Student Support Team or Student Engagement Specialist.
- A certified attendance letter is mailed home
- Warning: ROE Referral and Truancy Ticket
- Attendance Contract Consequences implemented
- Behavior Interventionist Referral

- Truancy Ticket issued

- ROE Referral
- Parent meeting

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Dr. Jesse J. Rodriguez, Superintendent
 847731-8782 • jesse.rodriguez@zb126.org

Bonnie Felise, 28716 Principal, 847731-8023, bonnie.felise@zb126.org
 Jacob C. Carlson, Exec. Director of Student Services, 847731-8351, jacob.carlson@zb126.org
 Dr. Matthew J. Wilkinson, Chief School Business Official, 847731-8787, matthew.wilkinson@zb126.org
 Jenn Lang, Director of Specialized Services, 847731-8021, jenn.lang@zb126.org
 Dr. Melissa Digang, Exec. Director of Academic Excellence, 847731-8787, melissa.digang@zb126.org
 Kevin Willard, 286 Principal, 847731-8600, kevin.willard@zb126.org
 Dr. Diallo Brown, 28716 Assistant Principal, 847731-8784, diallo.brown@zb126.org
 Dr. Christopher Pawelczyk, Exec. Dir. of Leadership Support & Strategic Planning, 847731-8352, chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org
 Arturo Hernandez, Exec. Director of Safety & Prevention, 847731-8321, arturo.hernandez@zb126.org
 Jack Niemi, Exec. Director of Athletics, 847731-8382, jack.niemi@zb126.org
 Cynthia Moreno, Exec. Dir. of Human Resources & Comm., 847731-8786, cynthia.moreno@zb126.org
 Michael Isaacs, 286 Assistant Principal, 847731-8600, michael.isaacs@zb126.org

To The Parent/Guardian of:

This letter is to inform you that due to your student's attendance to date, your student has been placed on our chronic absenteeism watchlist, specifically in our Yellow Tier 2. Chronic Absenteeism is defined by the State of Illinois as having been absent from school for more than 10% of the school year, which is the equivalent of 18 absences. Missing just two school days per month will result in Chronic Absenteeism.

For semester one, your attendance numbers are as follows:

# of School Days	Your Absences	Remaining Absences before Chronically Absent
176	5	13

Attendance at school and within each of your classes is a critical indicator of success in school. Attendance at school is *compulsory* in Illinois, meaning mandated by law. The Lake County Truancy Officer can become involved in cases of chronic absenteeism, which may result in truancy tickets and fines.

Attendance is among the most employable skills and is also one of the best indicators of success in school. It is difficult to find success in school if you are not attending school.

For your remaining absences, this is the number of absences you can still have without being identified as Chronically Absent by the State of Illinois.

Attendance Matters!
 Respectfully,
Dr. DTB
 Dr. Diallo Bown
 Assistant Principal of Operations



RED TIER

Every Absence: Robo phone/text/email messages made

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Dr. Jesse J. Rodriguez, Superintendent
 847731-8792 • jesse.rodriguez@zb126.org

Bonnie Felske 28TH Principal 847731-6223 bonnie.felske@zb126.org	Jacob C. Carlson Exec. Director of Student Services 847731-6351 jacob.carlson@zb126.org	Dr. Matthew J. Wilkinson Chief School Business Official 847731-6752 matthew.wilkinson@zb126.org	Jenn Lang Director of Specialized Services 847731-6521 jenn.lang@zb126.org	Dr. Melissa Digangi Exec. Director of Academics Excellence 847731-6757 melissa.digangi@zb126.org	Kevin Wiland 28E Principal 847731-6802 kevin.wiland@zb126.org
Dr. Diallo Brown 28THS Assistant Principal 847731-6754 diallo.brown@zb126.org	Dr. Christopher Pawelczyk Exec. Dir. of Leadership Support & Strategic Planning 847731-4332 chris.pawelczyk@zb126.org	Arturo Hernandez Exec. Director of Safety & Prevention 847731-6321 arturo.hernandez@zb126.org	Jack Niemi Exec. Director of Athletics 847731-6361 jack.niemi@zb126.org	Cynthia Moreno Exec. Dir. of Human Resources & Comm. 847731-6796 cynthia.moreno@zb126.org	Michael Isaacs 28E Assistant Principal 847731-6803 michael.isaacs@zb126.org

Al padre / tutor de: Diciembre 23, 2023

Esta carta es para informarle que debido a la asistencia desde el primer semestre (SM1), el estado de Illinois ha designado a su estudiante como ausente crónico. El estado de Illinois define el ausentismo crónico como haber estado ausente de la escuela durante más del 10% del año escolar, lo que equivale a 18 ausencias. Faltar sólo dos días escolares por mes resultará en un ausentismo crónico.

Para el primer semestre, sus números de asistencia son los siguientes:

# de días escolares	Tus ausencias	Ausencias restantes permitidas antes del ausentismo cronico
176	8	10

La asistencia a la escuela y a cada una de sus clases es un indicador crítico para el éxito en la escuela. La asistencia a la escuela es obligatoria en Illinois, es decir, obligatoria por ley. El Oficial de Ausentismo del Condado de Lake puede involucrarse en casos de ausentismo crónico, lo que puede resultar en multas y multas por ausentismo escolar.

La asistencia es una de las habilidades más empleables y también es uno de los mejores indicadores de éxito en la escuela. Es difícil tener éxito en la escuela si no asistes a la escuela.

Además, esperamos que usted haga de la asistencia diaria una prioridad durante el resto del año escolar. Comuníquese con nosotros si necesita ayuda con respecto a este asunto.

¡La asistencia importa!

Respetuosamente,

Dr. DTB

Dr. Diallo Brown
Subdirector de Operaciones

**-18 Days
or more**

- Continued Parent meeting with Assistant Principal, Counselor, Dean, Truancy, and Counselor.
- ROE Referral follow-up

ZB Celebrations!



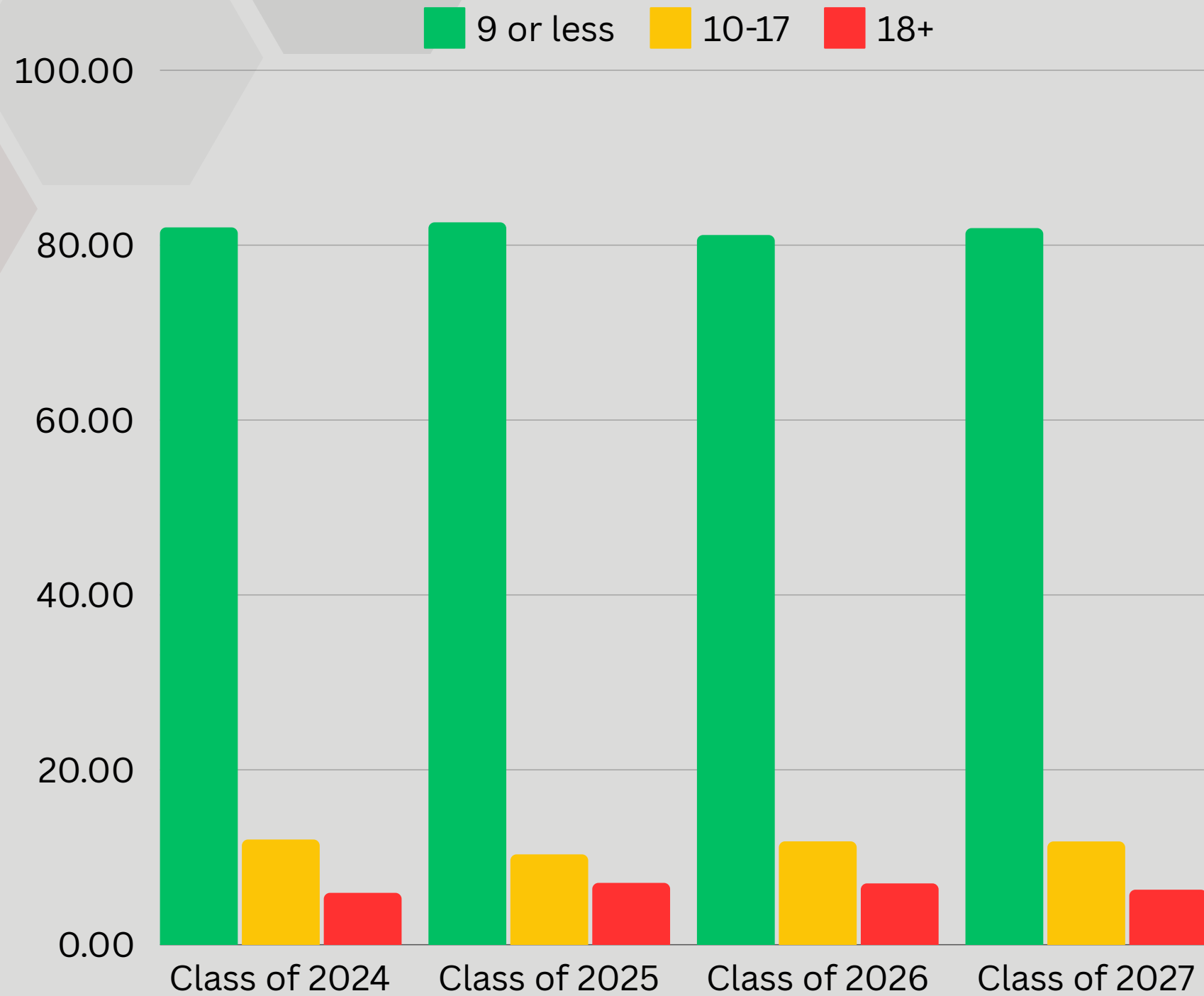
ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

Monthly

- Progress monitoring for watchlist (weekly)
 - 90% attendance recognition
- Tracking of monthly perfect attendance
 - Student raffle
- Advisory Attendance Contests



ZION - BENTON HIGH SCHOOL DATA

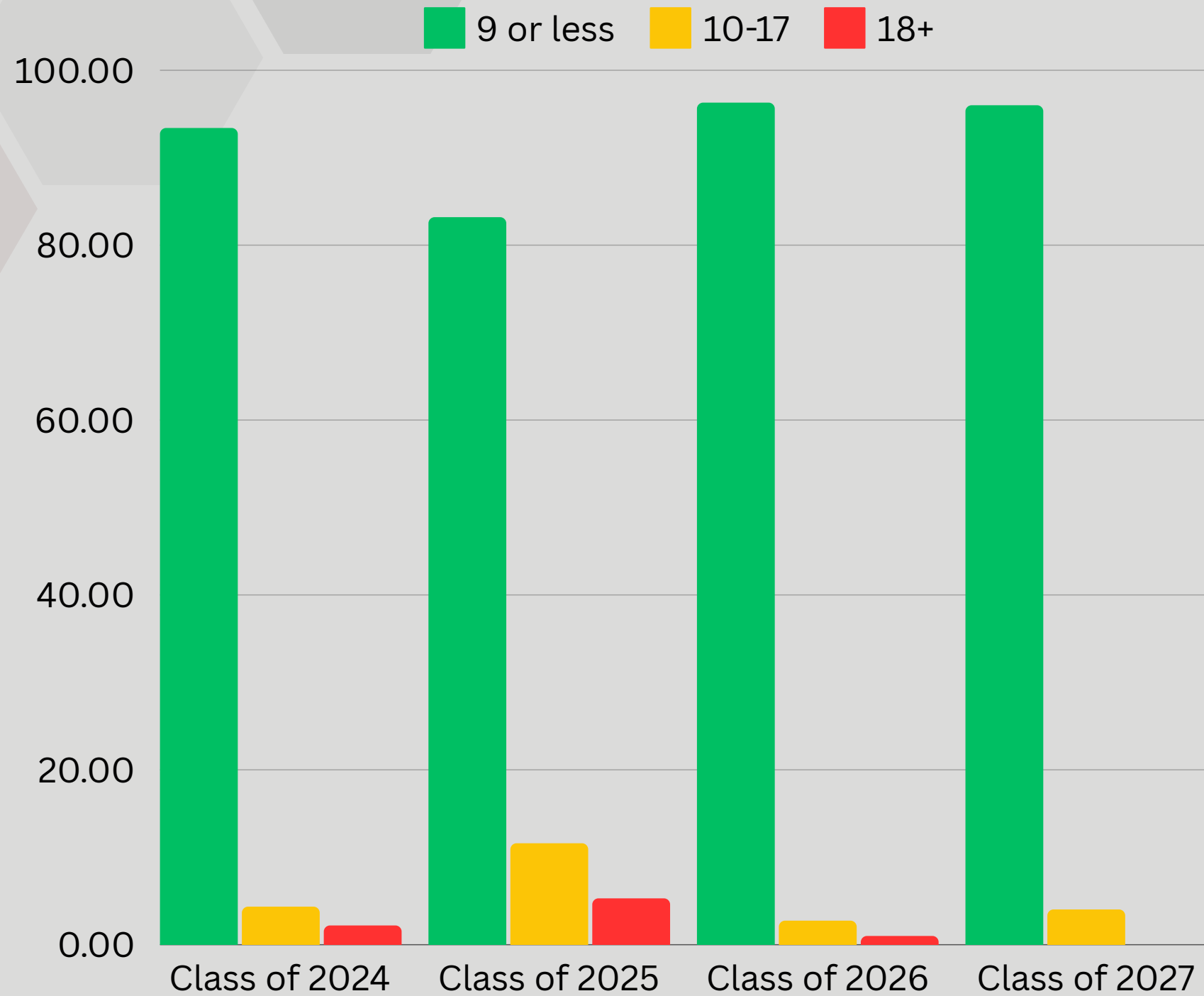


**FY24 ATTENDANCE
MATTERS CAMPAIGN:**

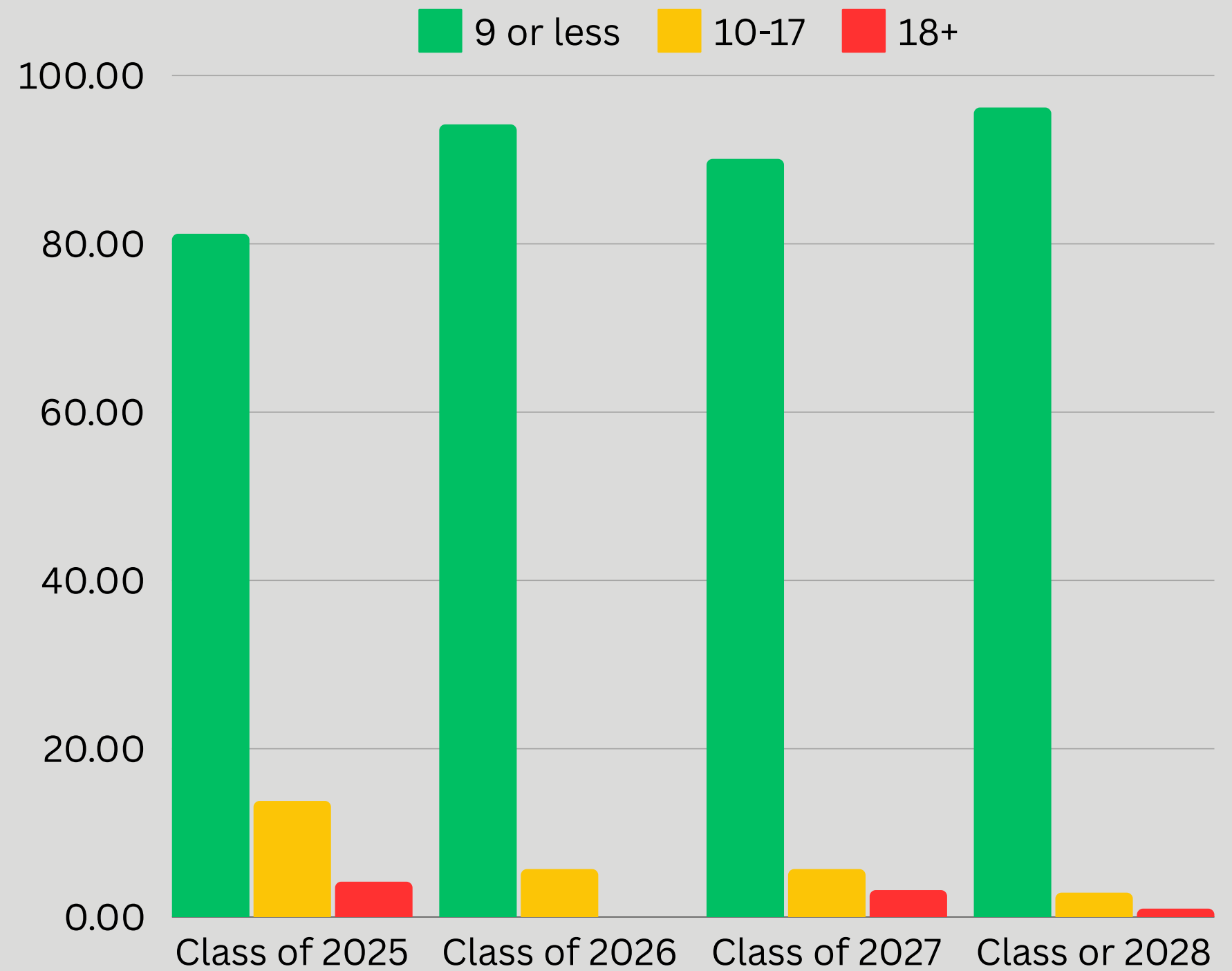


**FY25 ATTENDANCE
MATTERS CAMPAIGN:**

ZION-BENTON EAST HIGH SCHOOL DATA

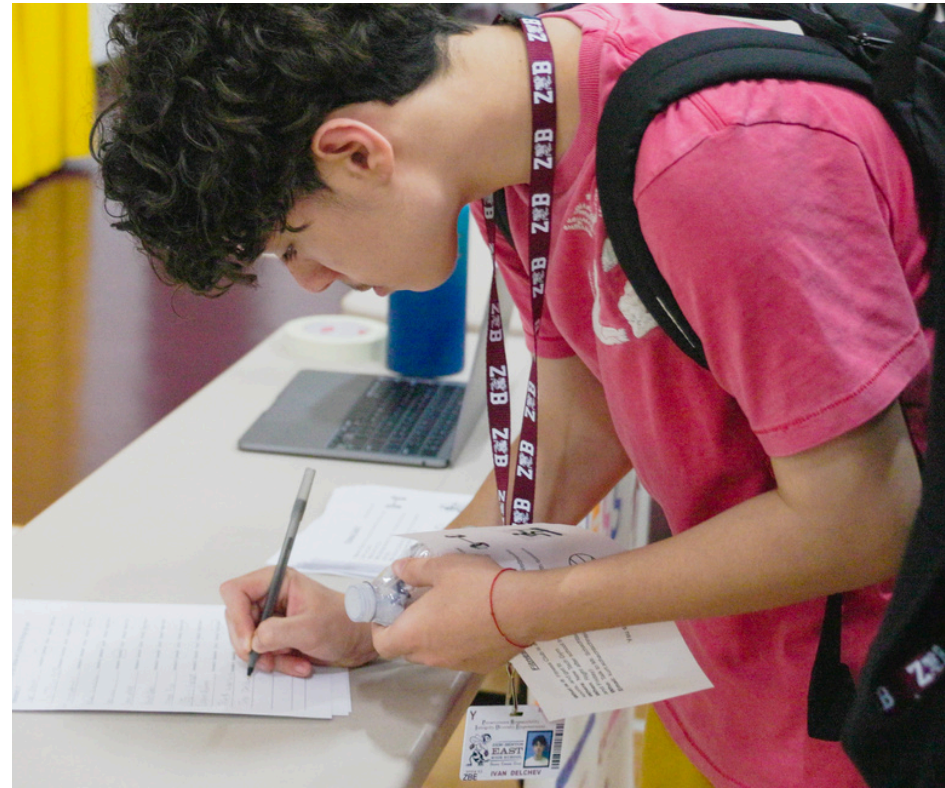


**FY24 ATTENDANCE
MATTERS CAMPAIGN:**



**FY25 ATTENDANCE
MATTERS CAMPAIGN:**

ZB Celebrations!



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 126
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Strategic Plan Focus: 2024-2025

Proficiency

Chronic Absenteeism

Our Future: The Pathway to Proficiency



- 1 ACT SKILLS ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION**
Critical skills in literacy, mathematics, and science purposefully embedded in curriculum coupled with a culture focused on achievement
 - 2 STRATEGIC INSTRUCTIONAL/ LEADERSHIP CHOICES**
A focus on intentional instruction -- the collective implementation of high-impact instructional strategies that are proven to support learning
 - 3 3-YEAR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
Leveraged learning that centers skill alignment and integration with intentional instruction
- EQUITY IN ACTION**
Collective and purposeful work that leads to academic excellence in literacy and numeracy





Facilities Master Plan



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MASTER PLAN

Master Planning Process

PHASE I

Identify the Needs

Gathering facts to develop agreement on needs

- Educational Programming
- Safety & Security
- Energy and Technology Goals
- Community/District Vision
- Physical Conditions
- Capacity & Enrollment
- Activities and Community Use

Methodology:

- Inclusive Process
- Broad Stakeholder Input
- Compressive Approach
- Consensus on Needs

PHASE II

Options Development

Establishing guiding principles and criteria to develop options to address needs

- Prioritization of needs
- Establishing criteria that any option must meet
- Working within established financial and timing parameters
- Community Communication Plan

Methodology:

- Establish Criteria and Evaluate Options
- Scope, Schedule and Budget Development of Options

PHASE III

Final Recommendation

Refine final plan to support selected approach for implementation

- Funding options, build-ability and phasing
- Alignment with funding strategies
- Reflects ZB Community and Goals
- 5 & 10-Year Long Range Plans

Methodology:

- Stakeholder Ownership
- Community Support
- Presentation to the Board
- Next Step: Implementation



FMP CHARGE:

Develop a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan with one “best” scenario for recommendation to the School Board

FMP OUTCOME:

Zion-Benton Township High School District 126 will have a comprehensive long-range Facilities Master Plan to accommodate enrollment, instruction, programs and supports over the next 10 years that is financially sustainable

District and Community Outreach



Internal Stakeholder Input

Overarching themes :

- **Facility Challenges**
- **Student Engagement Opportunities**
- **Creating a Future-Focused Environment**



FMP Feedback Form



Zion-Benton THSD 126 Facility Master Plan Staff Feedback Form

This form is intended for District 126 Staff only as a follow up to the three Facility Master Plan (FMP) staff meetings held at Zion-Benton East on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at Zion-Benton High School on November 19, 2024, and again at Zion-Benton High School on Thursday, November 21, 2024. Please complete this form if you were unable to make any of the in-person meetings previously scheduled or if you have any other ideas that came to mind after the meetings. This form will be open until the end of the day on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 and may be used multiple times by any staff member.

cynthia.moreno@zb126.org [Switch account](#)

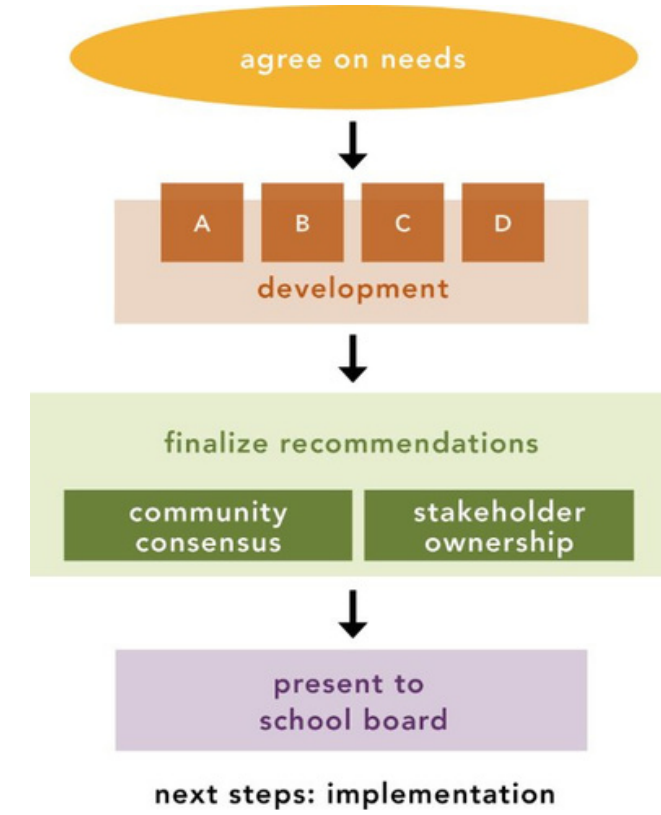


* Indicates required question

Email *

Record cynthia.moreno@zb126.org as the email to be included with my response

FMP Schedule



OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- October 14, 2024 – BBF Committee Proposal Presentation
- October 22, 2024 – Board of Educational Proposal Presentation

- November 6, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #1*
- November 13, 2024 – Facility Team Meeting, 8:00AM – 9:30AM
- November 13, 2024 – ZBTHS Admin Meeting, 9:30AM-11:00AM
- November 13, 2024 – ZBE Admin Meeting, 12:00PM – 1:00PM
- November 14, 2024 – ZBE Staff Meeting, 2:35PM – 3:50PM
- November 19, 2024 – ZBTHS Faculty Meeting, 2:50PM – 4:05PM
- November 20, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #2*
- November 21, 2024 – ZBTHS Faculty Meeting, 2:50PM – 4:05PM

- December 3, 2024 – ZBTHS Community Town Hall**
- December 5, 2024 – ZBE Community Town Hall**
- December 17, 2024 – Board of Education Update
- December 11, 2024 – FMP Committee Meeting #3*

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

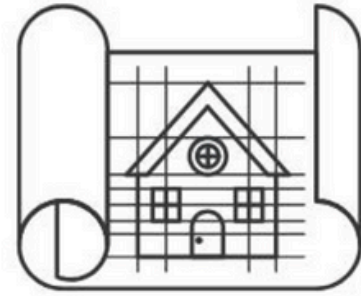
- January 8, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #4*
- January 22, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #5*

- February 3, 2025 – ZBTHS Community Town Hall**
- February 4, 2025 – ZBE Community Town Hall**
- February 5, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #6*
- February 19, 2025 - FMP Committee Meeting #7*
- February 25, 2025 - Board of Education Update

- March 5, 2025 – FMP Committee Meeting #8*
- March 10, 2025 – BBF Committee Presentation
- March 18, 2025 – Board of Education Meeting

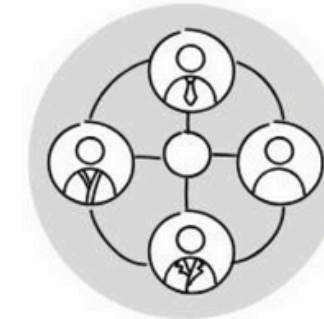
* FMP Meetings will be 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on the dates listed above
 **Community Town Halls will be 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM on the dates listed above

Mark Your Calendar!



Town Hall

Meetings



Facility Master Planning

Join us to help shape the future of our school facilities—come share your ideas and collaborate at our Facilities Master Plan Community Town Hall!

Dec 3 @ ZBTHS

Dec 5 @ ZB East

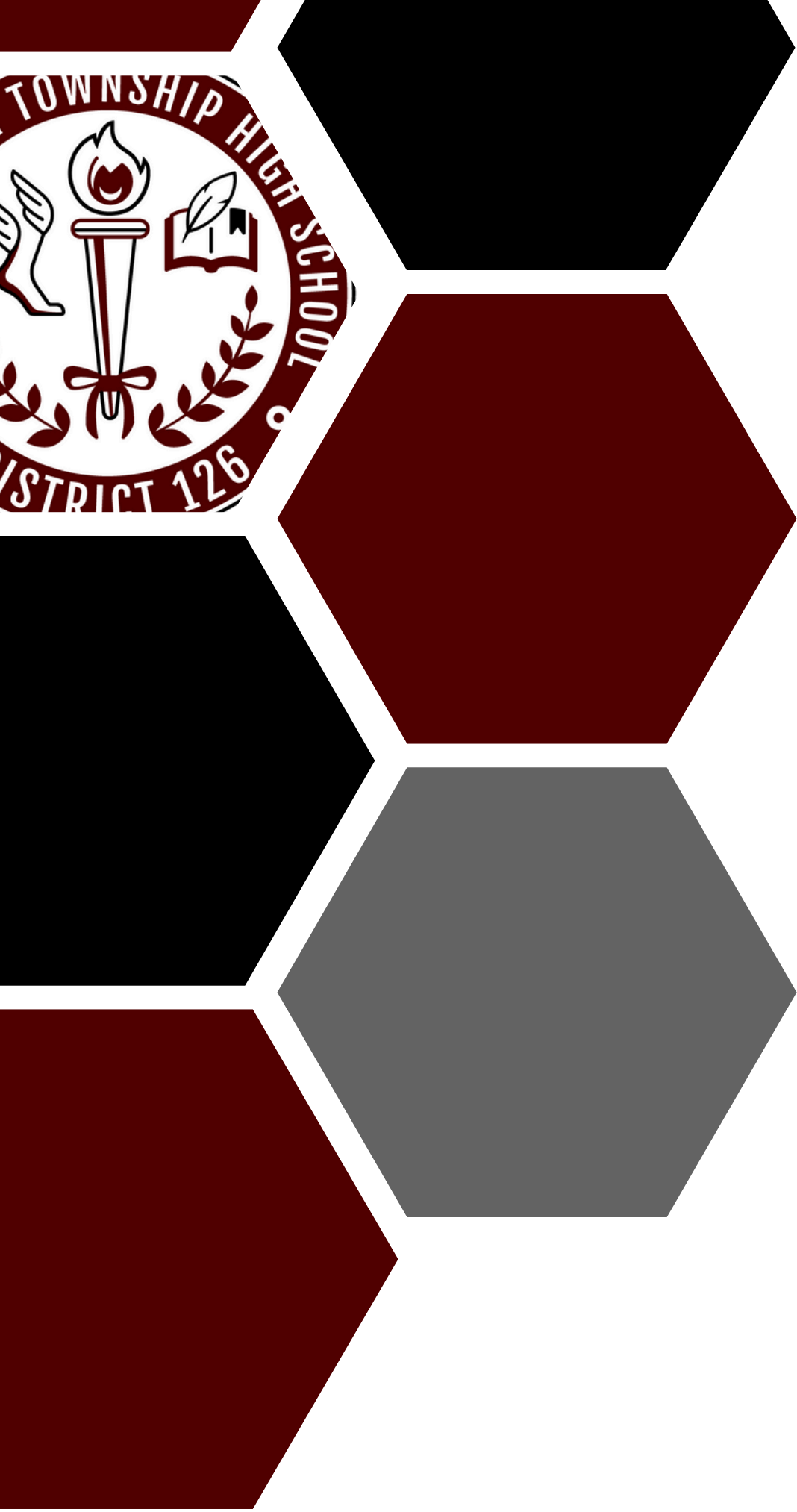
Feb 3 @ ZBTHS

Feb 4 @ ZB East

5:30– 7:00 pm



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Reports & Discussion



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



ZBTHS

Principal's Report

ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



HOME OF THE ZEE BEES

PRINCIPAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

BONNIE FELSKE

ZBTHS Principal
bonnie.felske@zb126.org



Instructional Updates

This month staff engaged in professional learning centered on the digital ACT. They received an overview of the digital assessment and explored specific subject tests in depth within the TestNav platform. This hands-on experience provided staff with insights essential for aligning course materials to support student readiness.

9th and 10th-grade teachers began designing or refining course content while 11th-grade teachers focused on developing their second-semester ACT prep plans, aiming to equip students with the skills, confidence, and practice needed for success on this new format.

In preparation for spring testing, many specialized services staff also began planning IEP and 504 accommodations, ensuring equitable access for students with diverse needs. This early planning reflects a proactive commitment to inclusivity and comprehensive student support.

Operational Updates

This month the focus has been on examining our operational procedures, practices, and policies to ensure we maintain a safe, secure learning environment for all stakeholders. Several collaborative meetings were held to determine consistent investigation protocols and review student behavioral interventions.

Deans and safety staff participated in a training session on conducting fair and effective investigations to maintain trust and integrity in our operations. Student management strategies are being evaluated and supports are being developed for students and staff. A holistic examination of the student handbook is in progress to ensure our student management practices are aligned to our student policies. Updates will be provided in future reports to reflect new practices or policy recommendations for BOE approval.

Our Attendance Matters initiative continues to evolve with weekly Core team meetings, daily automated calls, and in-person attendance meetings. Our Chronic Absenteeism rate is trending downward and in the right direction as compared to last year's YTD data.

Celebrations

Navy Band Great Lakes comes to ZB!

Students had an unforgettable experience watching the Navy Band Great Lakes! The band's energy and pride in service resonated with our students, showing them how music can honor and connect people across the country.



Honoring Heroes Through Service

ZB students visited Mt. Olivet Memorial Park cemetery to honor our fallen veterans by cleaning their headstones.



ZB Celebrates Veterans Day

We are proud to host a special Veterans Day program to honor the brave men and women who have served our country.





ZBE

Principal's Report

Z·B·E PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



MR. KEVIN WILAND • ZION-BENTON EAST PRINCIPAL • kevin.wiland@zb126.org

November 19, 2024

Instructional Updates

Zion-Benton East is thrilled to share outstanding achievements from the Illinois Report Card released on October 30th:

- **Freshmen On Track:** For the second consecutive year, an incredible 100% of our freshmen are on track.
- **Graduation Rate:** Our graduation rate is an impressive 95%.
- **Attendance Rate:** With an average attendance rate of 94%, we are proud to be above the state average,
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** Our chronic absenteeism rate is significantly below the state average at just 15%.

These results are a testament to the dedication of our students, families, staff, and the entire Zion-Benton East community. Our dedicated team helps ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed at ZB East.

In terms of academics, we're seeing great progress:

- **Math proficiency** has increased by 1%.
- **English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency** is up by 5%.
- **Science proficiency** has risen a remarkable 23%!

These gains reflect our ongoing focus on District 126's Pathway to Proficiency initiative, and we look forward to even more progress in the coming spring.

Our teaching staff is deeply committed to enhancing their practice through professional development. This year, staff members chose between two pathways focused on improving student-centered learning and assessment:

- The Student-Centered Classrooms Pathway, led by **Kaitlin Dressel**, focused on strategies to foster active, critical engagement.
- The Assessment Pathway, led by **Mallory Biddle**, concentrated on techniques to better support our multilingual learners.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff, who continue to refine their skills to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Operational Updates

Our **Family Information Night** on October 23 was a fantastic success! Families enjoyed an evening filled with fun, valuable resources, and exciting giveaways. Attendees had the chance to win a variety of prizes.

A special thank you to **Dr. Bridge** for providing helpful tips on managing students' technology use at home, offering practical advice to create a balanced and healthy digital environment.

Zion-Benton East is proud to announce impressive progress in our freshman class! As of November 1, 99% of our current **freshmen are on track**, a significant increase from 89.2% in September. This improvement highlights the success of our focused efforts to support our freshmen as they transition into high school.

Our **"Attendance Matters" Campaign** is making a meaningful impact as well. We have seen a 4% decrease in the number of students on track to be chronically absent compared this time last school year. This positive trend demonstrates the effectiveness of our initiatives to encourage regular attendance and keep students engaged.

Celebrations

The week of October 28th was **National Red Ribbon Week**. Here at ZBE, students and staff alike celebrated with a different theme each day and a Healthy YOUTH Assembly where we focused on making healthy choices and staying drug free.

ZBE's **Interact, National Honor Society, and Health YOUTH clubs** joined in the Halloween excitement at Zion Park District's "Trail of Treats," passing out over 1,000 pieces of candy to families enjoying the festive Halloween atmosphere.

[Don't miss out on more details and photos—check out ZB East's November Parent Bulletin!](#)



Committee Report

Business, Bid, Finance

Committee



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Committee Report

Long Range Planning

Committee



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





New Business



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Approval

IASB Resolution &
Direction for
Delegate Voting



Resolution & Direction for Delegate Voting

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

For all of the below resolutions, numbered 1 through 6, the Resolutions Committee recommends **DO ADOPT**.

1. Dual Language
2. EBF Authorized Charter School Funding
3. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Accountability
4. Faith's Law — Centralized State Agency for EHRs
5. Health Care Coverage
6. Polling Place— Amendment to Position Statement 7.08



Approval

First Reading Press Plus 115-116



Press Plus 115

- **OPERATIONAL SERVICES 4:70 Resource Conservation**
- **General Personnel 5:130 Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information**
- **Professional Personnel 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal**
- **INSTRUCTION 6:140 Education of Homeless Children**

Press Plus 116

- **BOARD OF EDUCATION 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure**
- **General Personnel 5:100 Staff Development Program**
- **STUDENTS 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited**
- **STUDENTS 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited**



Approval

Conduct Public Hearing
for the Purpose of
Interfund Transfers



WAUKEGAN NEWS SUN (November 6, 2024 Edition)

NOTICE OF HEARING

ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 126
COUNTY OF LAKE
STATE OF ILLINOIS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing will be held on November 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Zion Benton Twp. High School District 126, 3901 W. 21st St., Zion IL to discuss the intention of the Board of Education of Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126, Lake County, Illinois, to transfer Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund pursuant to Section 17-2A of the *School Code* (105 ILCS 5/17-2A).

Dated this 22nd day of October 2024.

Patricia Stephen
Secretary, Board of Education



Approval

Resolution

Authorizing Section

17-2A Interfund

Transfer



RESOLUTION

OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 126 LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND TRANSFER

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 17-2A of the *School Code* (105 ILCS 5/17-2A), the Board of Education ("Board") of the Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126, Lake County, Illinois ("School District"), by proper resolution, may authorize the Treasurer of the School District to make interfund transfers between the Educational, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation Funds; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such resolution must follow a public hearing set by the Board or Board President; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was required to be preceded by at least one published notice occurring at least seven (7) days and not more than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the School District, and a notice posted at least forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing, at the principal office of the School Board or the building where the hearing was held, if no principal office exists, with both notices setting forth the time, date, place and subject matter of the hearing.

WHEREAS, such hearing was held on November 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting held at 3901 W. 21st Street, Zion, IL, pursuant to the notice published on November 6, 2024 in the Lake County News Sun and the notice posted on November 15, 2024 at the District's main campus located at 3901 W. 21st St., Zion, IL; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the School District to transfer money currently in the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, It Is Hereby Resolved by the Board of Education of Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126 as follows:

Section 1. The Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the School District to transfer the following amounts between the following funds:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>
\$3,000,000.00	Educational	Operations and Maintenance

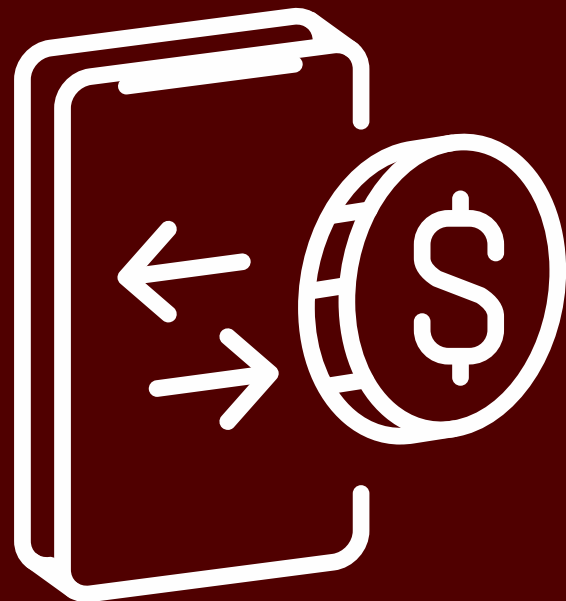
Section 2. The Treasurer is authorized to transfer said amount and record the transfer on the books of the School District.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.



Approval

Accounting Transfer to Capital Projects Fund



RESOLUTION

OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 126 LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

AUTHORIZING ACCOUNTING TRANSFER(S) TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND TO IMPLEMENT STATE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 2-3, 2-3.27, and 2-3.28 of the *School Code*, the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") has the power and duty to formulate and approve forms, procedures and regulations for school district accounts and budgets; and

WHEREAS, ISBE Regulation Section 100.40(a), effective as of FY2009, requires the establishment of a Capital Projects Fund to replace the fund formerly known as the Site and Construction Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education ("Board") of Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126, Lake County, Illinois ("District"), has previously established a Capital Projects Fund in compliance with these regulations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to expenditures which were in previous fiscal years properly made out of the Site and Construction Fund, ISBE Regulation Section 100.50(d)(2) provides that when revenues or other sources of funds are pledged to pay for a capital project or acquisition, the moneys shall be transferred for accounting purposes into the Capital Projects Fund and expended from that Fund, except in case of acquisition of any equipment that must be financed from the transportation fund pursuant to Section 17-8 of the *School Code*.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Education of Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126, Lake County, Illinois that:

Section 1: The Preamble above is hereby incorporated into the body of this Resolution.

Section 2: The accounting transfer of revenues and other sources of funds into the Capital Projects Fund by the Treasurer is hereby approved for the pledged expenditures itemized on Exhibit A.

Section 3: All such accounting transfers shall be reflected in District financial reports in accordance with ISBE regulations.

Section 4: All expenditures from District Funds shall continue to be approved by the Board in accordance with law and Board Policy.

Section 5: All inter-fund transfers expressly authorized by statute shall continue to be approved by the Board as provided in the applicable statute.

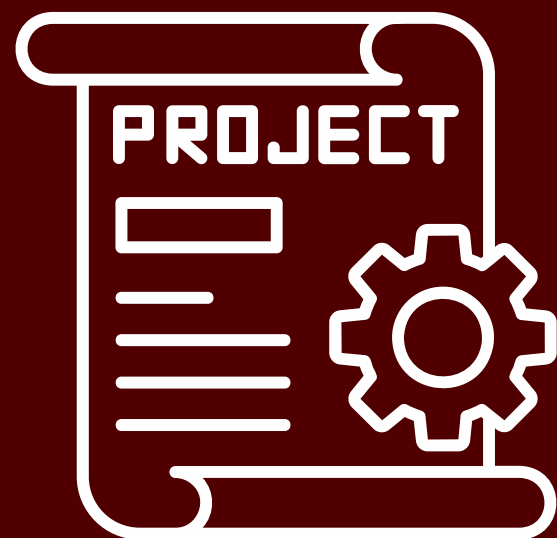
Section 6: The Treasurer is directed to implement this Resolution.

Section 7: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.



Approval

Approval of Resolution
Abating the Working
Cash Fund For Capital
Projects



STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education, Zion-Benton Township High School District No. 126, Lake County, Illinois, and that as such official I am the keeper of the records and files of the Board.

I do further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a meeting of said Board held on the 19th day of November 2024.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Board on the adoption of said resolution were conducted openly, that the vote on the adoption of said resolution was taken openly, that said meeting was held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of said meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that said meeting was called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and that the Board has complied with all of the provisions of said Act and said Code and with all of the procedural rules of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed by official signature this 19th day of November 2024.



Approval

Conduct Public Hearing for
the Purpose of 2024 Tax Levy



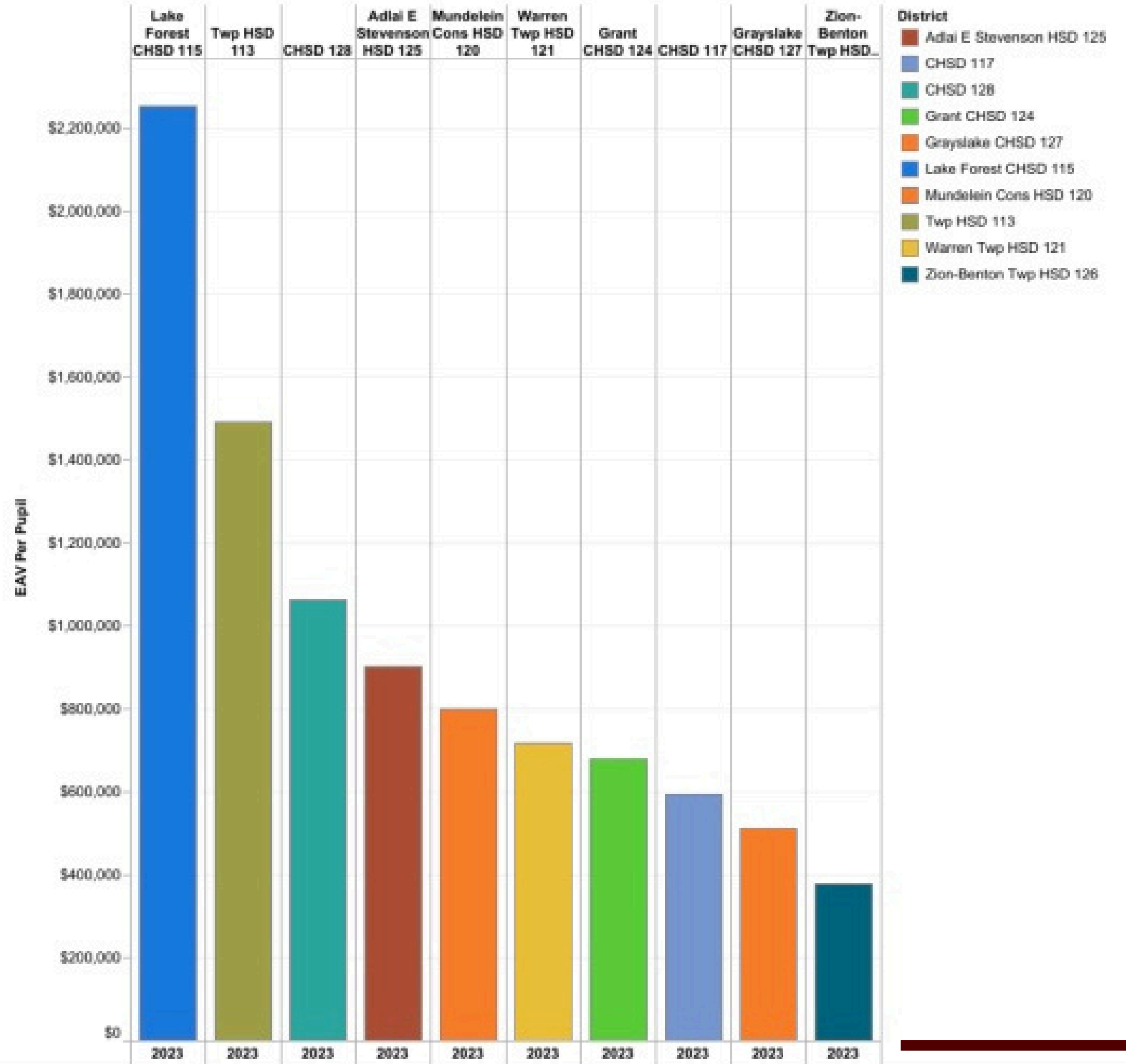
Tax Levy 2024

- Determination of Need (Largest Local Revenue Funding Source)
- PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limination Law) Limited to CPI, plus New Construction.
- Increasing aggregate levy more than 105% of prior year's extension requires a public notice and truth-in-taxation hearing.
- The levy request is only an estimate figure based on an estimate of total Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV)-actual amount unknown until April.
- Historically, the District increased the levy over the previous actual extension to protect the District in case of upward fluctuations in the assess valuation.
- The District will only receive funds based on actual EAV, not what is requested.

ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 126

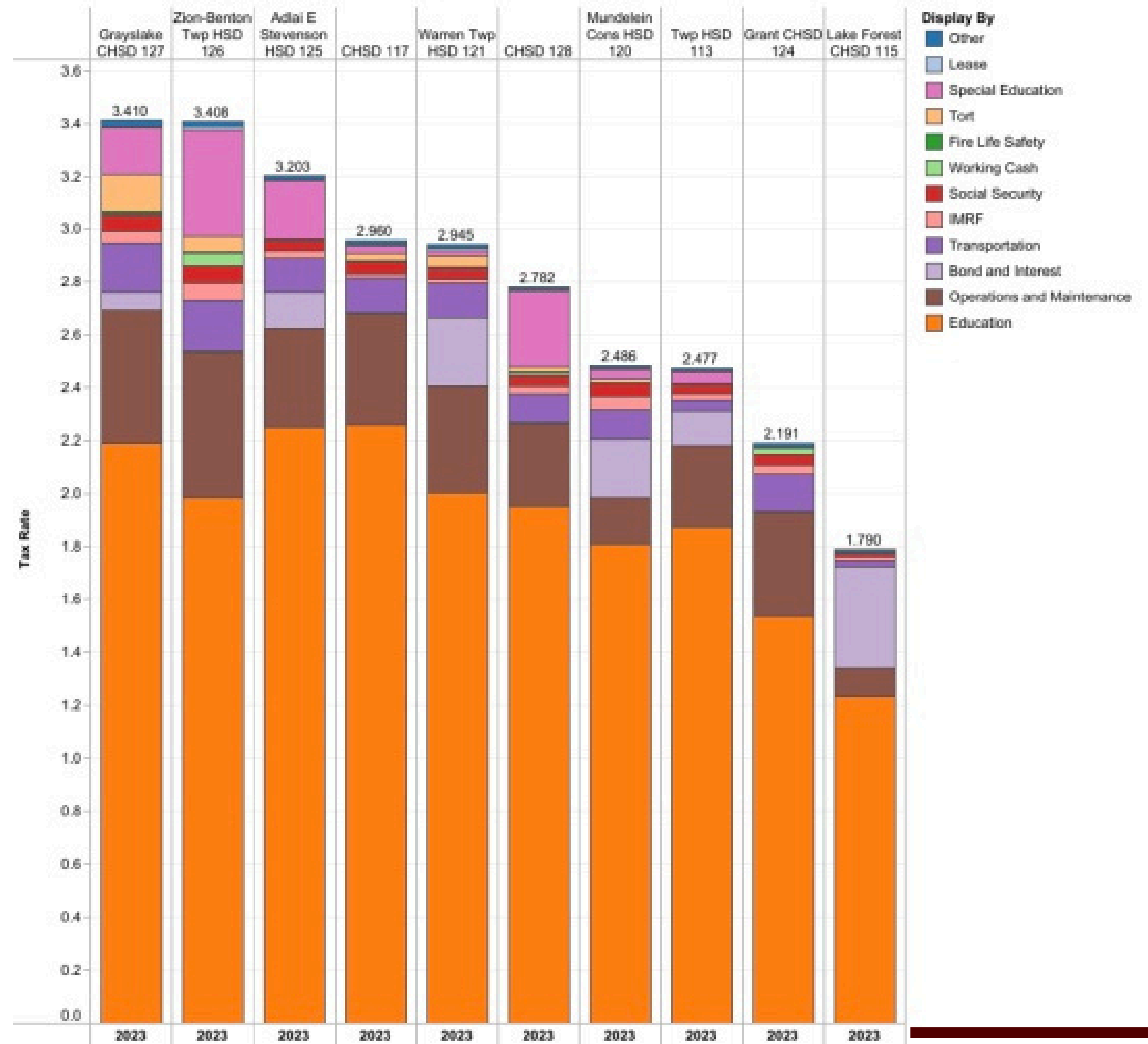
EAV Per Pupil

Source: ISBE General State Aid and Fall Housing Enrollment Data



Tax Rates

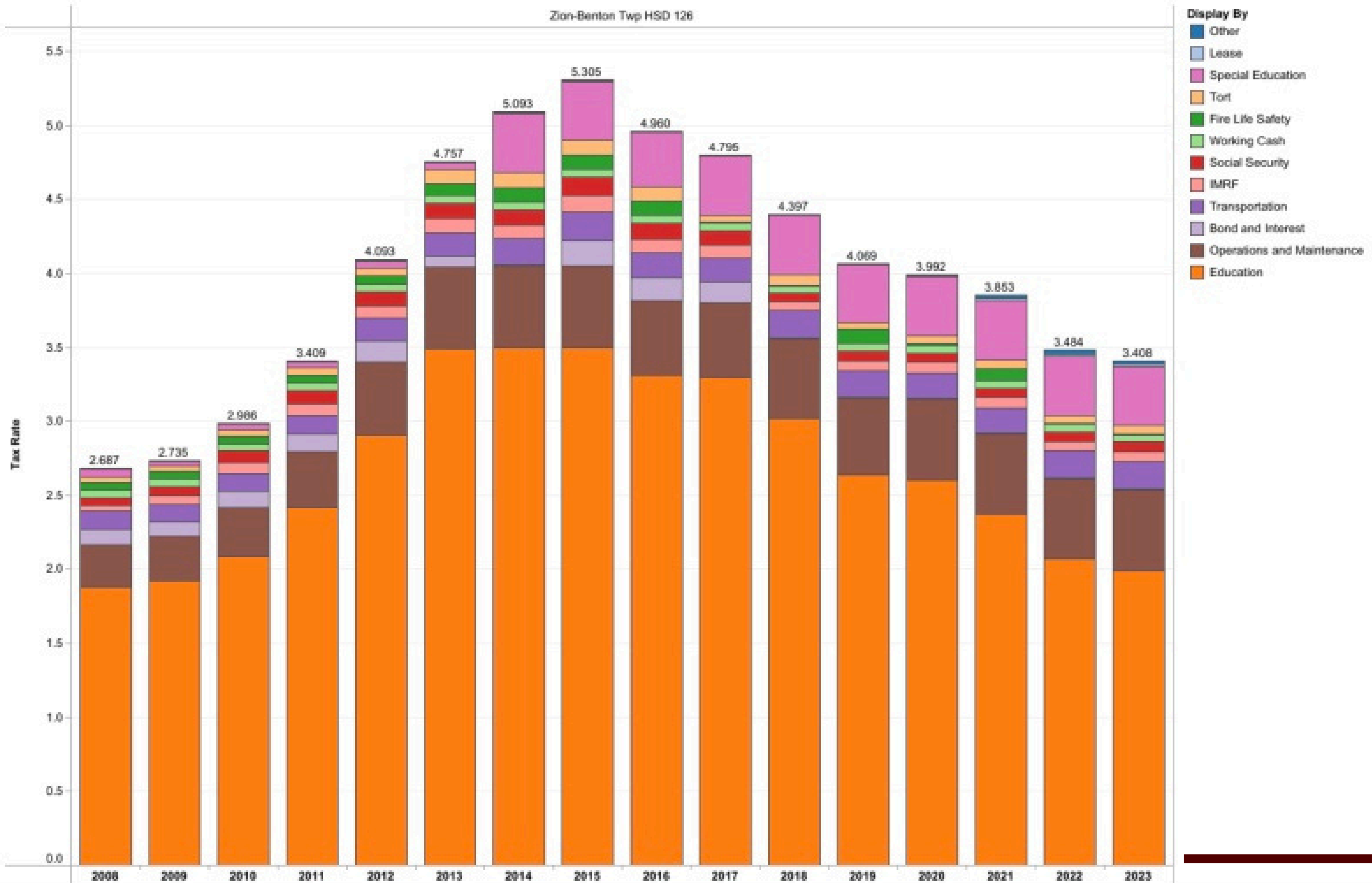
Source: ISBE General State Aid data



Tax Rates

Source: ISBE General State Aid data

Zion-Benton Twp HSD 126





Approval

2024 Certificate of Tax Levy and Resolutions



Original:
 Amended:

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 School Business and Support Services Division
 (217) 785-8779

CERTIFICATE OF TAX LEVY

A copy of this Certificate of Tax Levy shall be filed with the County Clerk of each county in which the school district is located on or before the last Tuesday of December.

District Name Zion Benton Township High School	District Number 126	County Lake
---------------------------------------------------	------------------------	----------------

Amount of Levy

Educational	\$ 18,130,000	Fire Prevention & Safety *	\$ 100,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 5,200,000	Tort Immunity	\$ 625,682
Transportation	\$ 1,900,000	Special Education	\$ 3,775,000
Working Cash	\$ 510,764	Leasing	\$ 132,799
Municipal Retirement	\$ 600,000		\$ 0
Social Security	\$ 600,000	SEDOL IMRF Extension	\$ 16,044
		Total Levy	\$ 31,590,289

* Includes Fire Prevention, Safety, Energy Conservation, Disabled Accessibility, School Security, and Specified Repair Purposes.

See explanation on reverse side.

Note: Any district proposing to adopt a levy must comply with the provisions set forth in the Truth in Taxation Law.

We hereby certify that we require:

the sum of 18,130,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for educational purposes; and
 the sum of 5,200,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for operations and maintenance purposes; and
 the sum of 1,900,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for transportation purposes; and
 the sum of 510,764 dollars to be levied as a special tax for a working cash fund; and
 the sum of 600,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for municipal retirement purposes; and
 the sum of 600,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for social security purposes; and
 the sum of 100,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, disabled accessibility, school security and specified repair purposes; and
 the sum of 625,682 dollars to be levied as a special tax for tort immunity purposes; and
 the sum of 3,775,000 dollars to be levied as a special tax for special education purposes; and
 the sum of 132,799 dollars to be levied as a special tax for leasing of educational facilities or computer technology or both, and temporary relocation expense purposes; and
 the sum of 0 dollars to be levied as a special tax for _____; and
 the sum of 16,044 dollars to be levied as a special tax for SEDOL IMRF Extension
 on the taxable property of our school district for the year 2024



Approval

FY2025 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) Application



ZION-BENTON TWP. HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 126
One Z-B Way • 21st & Kenosha Road • Zion, IL 60099 • www.zb126.org



Dr. Jesse J. Rodriguez, Superintendent
847/731-9792 • Jesse.rodriguez@zb126.org

Bonnie Felske
ZBTHS Principal
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Dr. Matthew J. Wilkinson
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Jacob Carlson
Exec. Dir. of Student Services & Specialized Services
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jacob.carlson@zb126.org

DATE: November 13, 2024
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Jesse J. Rodriguez, Superintendent
Dr. Matthew J. Wilkinson, CSBO
RE: Approval of FY2025 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) Application

As part of the District's capital improvement needs plan, we are planning to continue the replacement of HVAC classroom pneumatic actuator/dampers and hallway Variable Air Volume (VAV) boxes that are obsolete and in poor condition to improve overall air-quality and efficiency.

The Horizon Campus project will be utilized for an application for the FY2025 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG). The SMPG is a \$50,000 matching grant. The Horizon Campus project is estimated to cost \$100,000. Operations and Maintenance funds for this project are estimated to be \$50,000 and \$50,000 is expected to be covered by SMPG.

Recommendation: The Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the FY2025 Round 1 School Maintenance Project Grant Application as presented.



Other Business



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE





Capital Improvements Update



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received on November 21, 2024 from 8am – 10am at the Main North Entrance of Zion-Benton Township High School, at 3901 W. 21st Street, Zion, IL 60099 for the following project: Zion Benton Township High School 2025 Renovations.

Facsimile and electronic bids will not be accepted. Contractors are responsible for ensuring timely delivery of their bids; no late bids will be accepted. If a contractor is unable to submit a bid during the timeframe listed above, please contact Candy Crawford at Camosy Construction.

Contractors may secure, at no cost, electronic copies of the plans and specifications from the Construction Manager – Camosy Construction, by contacting Candy Crawford via email at candycrawford@camosy.com or by phone at 847-395-6800. Any costs associated with printing hard copies of the electronic files are the responsibility of the bidding contractor. Plans will be available on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

The bids will be publicly opened and read in the Business Office located at Zion Benton Twp. H.S. Campus, 3901 W. 21st St. Zion, IL on Thursday, November 21, 2024 starting at 11:00 AM. Contractors may only attend the bid opening remotely via videoconference. A link to attend the bid opening can be obtained by contacting Camosy Construction via email at candycrawford@camosy.com.

There will be a pre-bid conference at the job site on October 31, 2024 starting at 3:30 PM. Please meet in the South Parking Lot at the Camosy job trailer. This pre-bid is mandatory for contractors bidding on bid package 2.10 Demolition and 6.01 General Trades.

Bids shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, considering conformity with specifications, terms of delivery, and quality and serviceability, as determined by the Board. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informality therein.

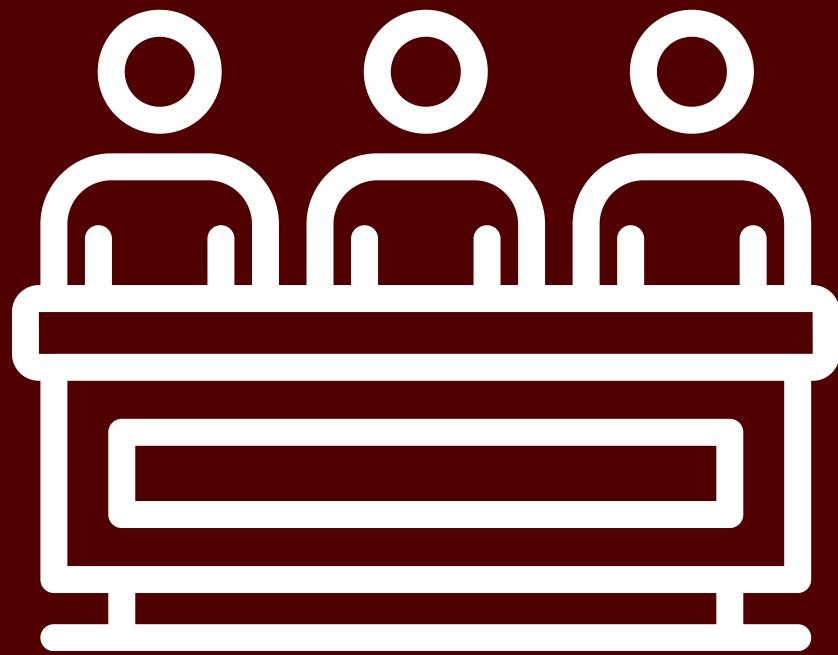
The successful bidder shall comply with the provisions of the Illinois *Prevailing Wage Act*, specifically including the payment of the applicable prevailing wages to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the contract.

The Owner has set a participation goal for minority-owned or women-owned or disadvantaged business contractors, suppliers, or companies on this project. The entities must be registered with the Illinois Unified Certification Program (IL UCP)/ Business Enterprise Program (BEP) and prospective bidders must provide IL UCP/BEP certificate(s) with their bid proposal to be included in the goal for this project. The bidder shall identify on the spaces provided on the bid form names of certified vendors which will perform any portion of the work specified and the dollar value of the provided services that are part of the bid amount.

All proposals submitted shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days after official opening of bids.



Other Items



Lake County Board of Review Hearing Notice

This notice is to inform you that, pursuant to your filing of an appeal, a hearing will be held before the Board of Review on the assessment of the property listed below.

PIN: 04-21-404-027

Date of Notice: 11/08/2024

Township: ZION

Assessment Year: 2024

SENAGORE, ANTONIO
HODGES, LOIZZI, EISENHAMMER, RODICK & KOHN
500 PARK BOULEVARD SUITE 1000
ITASCA IL 60143

Owner: NORTHEAST ILLINOIS MEDICAL PROPERT.
Situs Address: 2600 SHERIDAN RD
ZION IL 60099

Date of Hearing:
11/21/2024

Time of Hearing:
03:00 PM

Appearance Type:

Hearings are time sensitive and scheduled in fifteen (15) minute intervals. **Hearings cannot be rescheduled.** During the hearing, the Board of Review will review evidence, hear testimony from the Appellant and Township Assessor, ask questions and render a decision. If you do not attend your scheduled hearing, your case will be heard and a decision rendered based on all submitted evidence.

Please join the meeting five minutes before your hearing to allow our Zoom coordinator to check you in.

To Join by Phone: Call 312-626-6799 and follow the prompts. The Meeting ID is 885 8097 3633 and the Passcode is 002259.

To Join by Zoom Video Meeting: There is no need to sign up for Zoom as a customer. Just go to www.zoom.us/join. Enter the Meeting ID 885 8097 3633 and the Passcode 002259.



Closed Session



ZION-BENTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT *126*
COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

