



Verona Board of Education

2012-13 District Budget Fact Book

(August 2012)



Strategic Plan & Annual Goals

OUR MISSION:

To prepare students to be scholars and productive citizens through outstanding teaching, challenging curricula* and engaging co-curricular programs in safe and modern facilities.

*All students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

STRATEGY 1

We will align, modify, and develop an integrated K-12 curriculum with built-in assessments to support the achievement of our mission and strategic objectives.

- Result 1:** Train teachers to use a computer software program (Rubicon Atlas mapping software) that will allow them to document the taught curriculum within the classroom.
- Result 2:** Familiarize the content area faculty members with new district model for unit planning and curriculum writing, (Understanding by Design – UbD) as needed for curriculum development in the 5-year cycle.
- Result 3:** Conduct a curriculum audit of the Verona School District to determine the extent to which the district has developed and implemented a sound, valid, and operational system of curriculum management.

STRATEGY 2

We will imbue in students, through curricular and co-curricular programs, traits of character, service, citizenship and social awareness.

- Result 1:** Clarify, emphasize, and enforce a uniform K-12 Code of Conduct.
- Result 2:** Institute service projects within each school that attract student participation.
- Result 3:** Formalize and expand character education programs that promote peer leadership and social awareness.
- Result 4:** Improve student conduct and peer relationships.
- Result 5:** Include citizenship grade on HS report card to reflect school standards.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. All graduates will have mastered a challenging curriculum that prepares them for productive futures as problem solvers, independent thinkers and responsible citizens.
2. All students will demonstrate character, service, citizenship and social awareness through curricular and co-curricular programs.
3. All teachers will meet or exceed the highest level of professional teaching standards.
4. All district facilities will provide students and staff with state-of-the-art, safe learning and working environments.

STRATEGY 3

We will partner with the community to expand curricular and co-curricular opportunities and parenting seminars/programs.

- Result 1:** Create a resource data bank for classroom teachers to augment lessons.
- Result 2:** Enhance the relationship between the school community and families in order to produce a sustained, collaborative effort of education.
- Result 3:** Embrace a philosophy of respectful and trusting relationships between staff and families.

STRATEGY 4

We will provide staff members with the training and support necessary to achieve the mission and strategic objectives.

- Result 1:** Provide personnel support for professional development, curriculum development and grant writing.
- Result 2:** Create a formal program including policies and procedures for professional development.
- Result 3:** Establish a variety of professional development opportunities that support the strategic plan.

STRATEGY 5

We will establish a framework for learning and standards for excellence in teaching.

- Result 1:** Increase the use of a variety of proven instructional strategies to advance the achievement of our diverse learners.
- Result 2:** Use an assortment of assessments.
- Result 3:** Build students' habits of minds.
- Result 4:** Increase collaboration with other education professionals to improve student learning.

STRATEGY 6

We will provide students and staff with necessary technology to achieve excellence.

- Result 1:** Ensure working, reliable computers in each of our classrooms, labs, and offices.
- Result 2:** Improve the technology infrastructure.
- Result 3:** Continue a professional development program that will provide staff with the skills needed to use and integrate technology in every classroom.
- Result 4:** Purchase new equipment to provide for building computer labs and classrooms.
- Result 5:** Provide adequate technology staffing to ensure working reliable computers in each of our classrooms, labs and offices.

STRATEGY 7

We will create safe and inviting learning environments.

- Result 1:** Refurbish the existing structures at all school facilities not addressed during the construction and renovation projects, per LAN Associates Needs Assessment of 2004.
- Result 2:** Create safe and secure school facilities following local, state, and federal recommendations.
- Result 3:** Establish a checklist for safety and quality of life standards to be maintained at each school facility.
- Result 4:** Maximize parental cooperation in the following safety areas: (a) vehicular traffic at school drop-off and pickups and (b) food and snacks brought to and sold in schools.
- Result 5:** Provide a positive, inviting atmosphere in each building through welcoming facilities and courteous personnel.



Strategic Goals- update

1. All graduates will have mastered a challenging curriculum that prepares them for productive futures as problem solvers, independent thinkers and responsible citizens.
 - 94 % of seniors attend college, prep school or gain gap-year experience
 - 6% begin careers in education, military or work world
 - VHS boasts the highest graduation rate in the County and Comparison Group
 - Agreements signed with SHU, Caldwell College, NJIT, FDU for 12/13 to provide dual enrollment classes for VHS Students
2. All students will demonstrate character, service and social awareness through curricular and co-curricular programs.
 - New VHS electives – Holocaust and Careers in Education for 2012/13
 - Continued investment in Peer Leaders and Heroes & Cool Kids - help to foster K-12 connections
3. All teachers will meet or exceed the highest levels of professional teaching standards.
 - Added two new certified teachers in HBW to continue our focus on subject area expertise in the Middle School
 - Professional Development Program has raised the rigor district-wide
4. All district facilities will provide students with state-of-the-art, safe learning and working environments.
 - Additional funds allocated for Buildings & Grounds efforts in 11/12 and 12/13 budgets
 - Cooperative relationship with township expanded

2012-2013 Goals



Strategic Plan

Annual
Goals

Committee
Agendas

Quarterly
Reviews

District Goals

1. Execute year 5 of the current Strategic Plan
2. Develop the next 5 year Strategic Plan to begin July 1, 2013
3. Expand the use of data to drive instruction district-wide

Superintendent Goals

1. Plan for the implementation a new system of teacher evaluation. The program will commence for the 13/14 school year.
2. Create a system of internships for VHS students. The program will begin for the 12/13 school year.
3. Improve District Technology Department



Curriculum & Professional Development Initiatives

Strategies 1-5 : Expand use of data to drive instructional and curricular decisions, K-12



2012-13 ACTION ITEMS

- Identification of students within 10 points of Proficient or Advanced Proficient on state assessments – focus curriculum
- Cluster score analysis to identify specific areas of curriculum focus
- Development of DRA/NJASK summary performance sheets for each student entering grade 5
- Development of common grading practices at middle and high school levels
- Development and administration of end of grade 4 math assessment
- Expansion of utilization of common assessments
- Implement revised K-4 report card which includes Writers Workshop progress and other indicators more relevant to revised K-4 curriculum
- Continue to utilize release time and department/grade level meetings as collaborative work sessions for development of assessments and analysis of assessment results

BENEFITS

- Identification for all faculty/staff of student assessment needs
- Assure common planning and collaboration of faculty and staff
- Direct comparison of student achievement growth over time
- Create common expectations of all faculty/staff – assures consistent student academic experience

Strategies 1-5 :

Improve curricular articulation, K-12



2012-13 ACTION ITEMS

- Utilization of release time and summer work sessions for development of course Scope & Sequence documents
- Development of online curriculum database accessible by all faculty and community
- Approved over 75 redesigned curriculum documents during 2011-2012 school year
- All new curriculum documents utilize *UbD* framework and are aligned with CCSS.
- Continue to implement revised department meeting structure and collaborative quarterly faculty meetings
- Writing Workshop expanded from K-4 to include grades 5-6 in 2011-2012
- Reading Workshop to be implemented grades 3-4 during 2012-2013 school year

BENEFITS

- Assure consistent implementation of professional development, instructional and curricular initiatives
- Assure both horizontal and vertical articulation of the curriculum
- Allow collaborative development and revision of curriculum
- Align *taught* curriculum to state standards, assure articulation across grade levels



Buildings & Grounds Initiatives

STRATEGY 6-7: We will create safe and inviting learning environments



SUMMER 2012 ACTION ITEMS

District

- 100 new computers and monitors installed
- Maintenance of all computers district-wide

VHS

- New Computer Lab
- Reconfigure Media Center
- Refinish gymnasium floors

HBW

- Renovate room 105
- Refinish gymnasium floor

STRATEGY 6-7: We will create safe and inviting learning environments



SUMMER 2012 ACTION ITEMS

Brookdale

- Renovate front wall

Laning

- Renovate room 105
- Refinish gymnasium floor

Forest

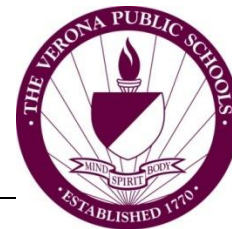
- Installation of new GPS clocks (Pilot program for district-wide rollout)

FN Brown

- Waterproofing of basement and mold remediation



Financial Summary



Financial Summary

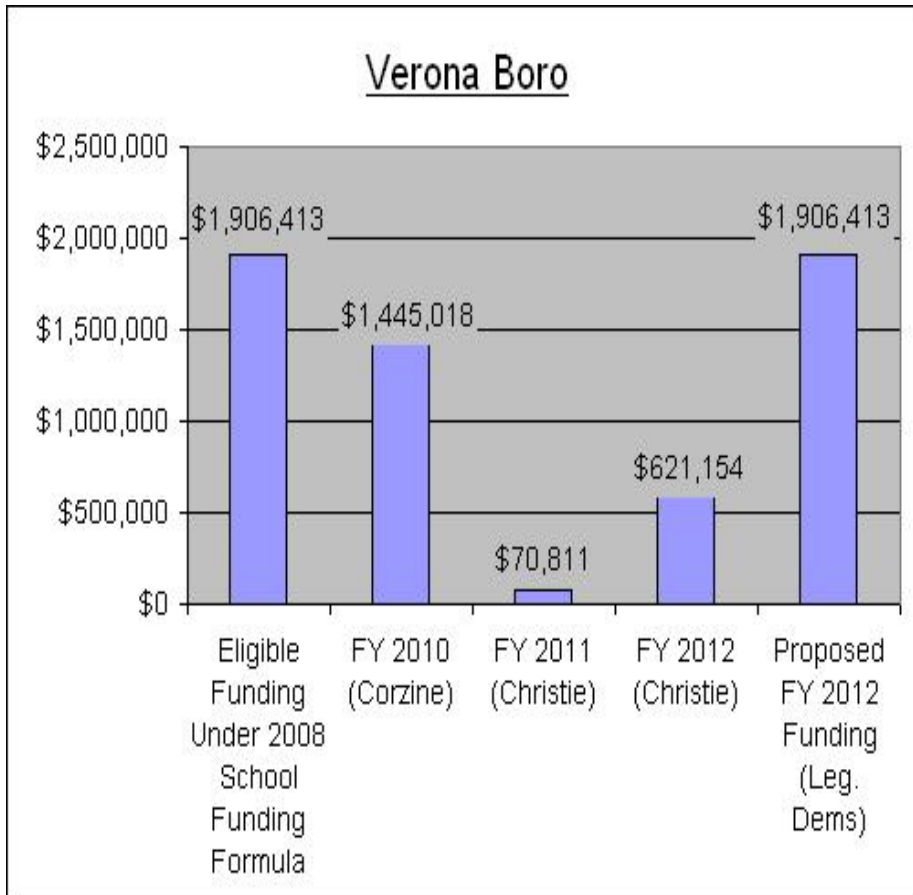
2012-13 budget is \$29,599,47 an increase of approximately \$967,000 from 2011-2012, due to:

1. \$135,000 increase in special education costs
2. \$119,000 increase in discretionary spending
3. \$258,000 increase in salaries
4. \$347,000 increase in benefit and pension costs
5. \$81,000 increase in non discretionary costs

Sources of the additional \$967,000 in revenue:

- \$222,000 in additional state aid
- \$643,000 Tax levy increase
- \$102,000 appropriated fund balance and miscellaneous revenue

State Aid Summary



- Historically, up until 2010, approximately \$1.4 million in aid awarded each year
- 2010-2011: Aid cut to \$70,000
- **State Aid for 2012--2013: \$843,727**

***Total aid for 2012-13 is 44% less than the aid received in 2007-08 (less than half of the \$1.9m we are entitled to by law)



2007-2013 Spending Growth

	2007/2008 ACTUAL	2011/2012 ACTUAL	2012/2013 ADOPTED	1-YEAR CHANGE	5 YEAR CAGR <i>Compounded Annual Growth Rate</i>
SALARIES	\$13,821,517	\$15,872,819	\$16,130,928	1.62%	3.14%
BENEFITS	\$3,270,083	\$4,401,244	\$4,775,612	8.50%	7.87%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$5,433,788	\$5,733,184	\$5,868,276	2.36%	1.55%
NON- DISCRETIONARY	\$1,821,486	\$1,823,522	\$1,904,019	0.30%	.080%
DISCRETIONARY (class supplies, staff development, co-curricular)	\$1,174,518	\$801,460	\$920,642	14.87%	-4.75%
TOTAL	\$25,521,392	\$28,632,229	\$29,599,477	3.12%	2.96%

- *Discretionary spending reduced by \$250,000 since 2007-2008*

2005-2010 Spending Growth



	2005/2006 ACTUAL	2009/2010 BUDGET	2010/2011 ADOPTED	1-YEAR CHANGE	Average 5 YEAR CHANGE
Salary	\$12,601,000	\$14,919,542	\$14,972,489	.35%	3.8%
Benefits	\$2,954,000	\$4,097,863	\$4,301,210	5.1%	9.1%
Special Education	\$4,941,000	\$5,507,949	\$5,443,051	-1.2%	2%
Non-Discretionary	\$1,439,000	\$1,905,694	\$1,614,327	-15.3%	2.4%
Discretionary	\$1,333,000	\$1,086,118	\$1,178,347	8.5%	-2.3%
TOTAL	\$23,268,000	\$27,517,166	\$27,509,425	-.03%	3.6%



2000–2005 Spending Growth

	2000-01	2004-05 Adj.	2005-06	5-Yr % Chg	Annual rate
Salary	\$10,967,000	\$11,909,705	\$12,601,000	15%	3.0%
Benefits	\$2,125,000	\$2,623,000	\$2,954,000	39%	7.8%
Special Education	\$3,473,000	\$5,091,295	\$4,941,000	42%	8.6%
Non-Discretionary	\$1,450,000	\$1,388,000	\$1,439,000	-1%	-0.2%
Discretionary	\$1,685,000	\$1,044,000	\$1,333,000	-21%	-4.2%
TOTAL	\$19,700,000	\$22,056,000	\$23,268,000	18%	3.6%



Budget Growth vs. Inflation

Period	Starting Budget	Ending Budget	Inflation rate for period	Budget change	Budget growth over inflation
1950-1970	506,274	3,519,032	60.85%	595%	332%
1970-1990	3,519,032	12,840,662	237.04%	265%	8%
1990-2011	12,840,662	31,671,761	72.86%	147%	43%

Teacher Salary Guide 1999 - 2010 vs. CPIu			
Guide Step	1	12	18
1999-2000	33,902	56,814	58,518
Adj to 2010/CPI	44,710	74,926	77,174
2010	42,593	63,211	78,899
vs. CPIu	-5%	-19%	2%

1990 budget	12,840,662
Inflation adjusted to 2011	22,196,368
Noted Budget Impacts since 1990	
IDEA Mandate (1990/1997)	5,500,000
Construction Bond	2,000,000
Technology, etc	###

- Current budget is about the 1990 spending rate, adjusted for inflation, with IDEA, Construction and select mandates added.
- Teacher salaries illustration shows sample steps on the guide from 1999, adjusted for inflation, vs. current salary guide.

Discretionary Spending



Discretionary spending includes all classroom supplies, co-curricular activities, facilities maintenance, and staff development expenses. This category has been actively managed and is variable across budget years, but continues to be contained/reduced in controlled manner.

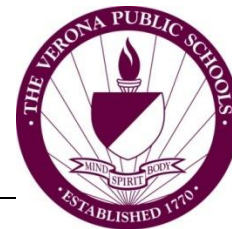
- Down 45% from \$1,685m in 2000-01 to \$920,642 in current budget
- Discretionary Line has \$119,000 more money budgeted for 2012-13 as compared to the actual spend from 2011-12
- Maintain priority to support classroom needs

Shared Services

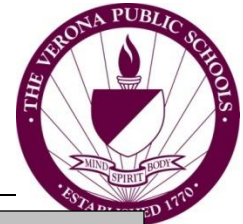


Shared services & efforts with direct & indirect partners are in effect for select functions.

- State mandated professional development shared through North Essex Professional Development Consortium
- EE4NJ New Teacher/Administrator Evaluation System in cooperation with the Glen Ridge Public Schools resulted in a \$7500 savings and a higher quality program.
- Consortiums and cooperative pools used to alleviate costs in the following areas:
 - All supplies
 - Gas and electric
 - Food services
 - Busing
 - Workman's compensation
 - Property insurance
- Increased shared services agreements with the Township for improved building facilities and fields for the benefit of the entire community.



Property and Comparative Group Data



Property Tax Data 2011 – Essex County

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	Total County Levy	Total School Levy	Total Local Municipal Tax Levy	Total Levy on Which Tax Rate is Computed	School Levy as % of Total	Average Total Property Taxes
Millburn Township	Essex	\$38,601,356	\$75,120,680	\$37,705,026	\$151,427,061	50%	\$19,989
Glen Ridge Borough	Essex	\$6,549,824	\$26,030,506	\$9,537,942	\$42,118,273	62%	\$17,218
Essex Fells Township	Essex	\$3,520,796	\$6,959,833	\$3,163,848	\$13,644,477	51%	\$16,659
Montclair Township	Essex	\$30,232,466	\$102,222,167	\$51,438,657	\$183,893,289	56%	\$16,392
South Orange Village	Essex	\$11,962,057	\$43,299,689	\$21,263,713	\$76,525,459	57%	\$15,682
North Caldwell Borough	Essex	\$7,486,704	\$18,957,151	\$5,731,870	\$32,175,725	59%	\$14,496
Maplewood Township	Essex	\$16,128,313	\$58,960,360	\$26,709,645	\$101,798,317	58%	\$13,118
Livingston Township	Essex	\$34,053,225	\$95,135,065	\$30,092,877	\$159,281,167	60%	\$12,929
West Orange Township	Essex	\$27,829,630	\$120,287,738	\$51,225,748	\$199,343,116	60%	\$11,822
Nutley Township	Essex	\$17,852,057	\$50,584,374	\$38,070,507	\$106,506,938	47%	\$9,970
Caldwell Township	Essex	\$4,901,170	\$11,750,554	\$7,143,743	\$23,795,467	49%	\$9,906
Verona Township	Essex	\$10,319,746	\$29,396,707	\$14,865,208	\$54,581,661	54%	\$9,849
West Caldwell Township	Essex	\$10,618,353	\$26,042,046	\$12,237,415	\$48,897,814	53%	\$9,466
Bloomfield Township	Essex	\$21,031,195	\$62,714,092	\$54,931,295	\$138,676,582	45%	\$9,356
Cedar Grove Township	Essex	\$10,608,493	\$23,930,225	\$8,544,393	\$43,083,111	56%	\$9,101
Roseland Borough	Essex	\$7,780,556	\$15,554,120	\$10,480,245	\$33,814,921	46%	\$8,963
Fairfield Township	Essex	\$13,014,732	\$24,346,036	\$12,867,263	\$50,228,031	48%	\$8,621
Irvington Township	Essex	\$13,188,859	\$18,831,226	\$69,400,948	\$101,421,033	19%	\$8,454
Orange City	Essex	\$7,580,656	\$11,051,000	\$35,647,913	\$54,279,569	20%	\$8,183
East Orange City	Essex	\$14,706,304	\$20,416,089	\$78,693,769	\$113,816,162	18%	\$8,072
Belleville Township	Essex	\$15,282,334	\$32,959,663	\$42,712,844	\$90,954,841	36%	\$7,947
Newark City	Essex	\$74,477,510	\$112,010,666	\$174,220,970	\$360,709,146	31%	\$6,062

http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property_tax.html

Percentage of property taxes allocated to BOE has varied from 53%-55% from 1998-present.

Property Tax Data 2011



Comparison Group

Property Tax Data 2011 - Comparison Group							
MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	Total County Levy	Total School Levy	Total Local Municipal Tax Levy	Total Levy on Which Tax Rate is Computed	School Levy as % of Total	Average Total Property Taxes
Glen Ridge Borough	Essex	\$6,549,824	\$26,030,506	\$9,537,942	\$42,118,273	62%	\$17,218
Kinnelon Borough	Morris	\$5,378,061	\$32,852,998	\$8,666,525	\$46,897,584	70%	\$12,840
New Providence Borough	Union	\$10,855,382	\$31,936,573	\$11,943,074	\$54,735,029	58%	\$12,016
Ramsey Borough	Bergen	\$7,671,355	\$49,109,082	\$15,993,238	\$72,773,675	67%	\$11,174
Madison Borough	Morris	\$8,497,952	\$34,733,011	\$13,593,420	\$56,824,383	61%	\$11,120
Berkeley Heights Township	Union	\$14,603,529	\$37,606,723	\$11,636,446	\$63,846,697	59%	\$11,027
Verona Township	Essex	\$10,319,746	\$29,396,707	\$14,865,208	\$54,581,661	54%	\$9,849
West Caldwell Township	Essex	\$10,618,353	\$26,042,046	\$12,237,415	\$48,897,814	53%	\$9,466
Mahwah Township	Bergen	\$13,022,492	\$55,129,066	\$22,448,768	\$90,600,325	61%	\$7,431
Park Ridge Borough	Bergen	\$3,623,439	\$23,505,631	\$8,472,640	\$35,601,710	66%	\$10,390
Cedar Grove Township	Essex	\$10,608,493	\$23,930,225	\$8,544,393	\$43,083,111	56%	\$9,101
Cresskill Borough	Bergen	\$4,700,939	\$23,884,267	\$12,881,733	\$41,466,939	58%	\$13,931

http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property_tax.html

Highlights of Comparison Spending Data

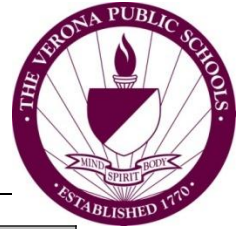


District	Total Spending	2011-12 Budgeted Cost	Classroom Sal+ Benefits	Class Supplies/ texts	Total Admin	Extra-curricular Costs	Median Teacher salary
Ramsey	\$17,774	\$14,962	\$9,025	\$203	\$1,408	\$378	\$65,493
Mahwah	\$17,521	\$14,551	\$7,956	\$210	\$1,788	\$406	\$66,780
Madison	\$17,130	\$13,450	\$7,566	\$209	\$1,439	\$478	\$68,419
Kinnelon	\$16,692	\$13,259	\$7,505	\$246	\$1,405	\$421	\$64,750
Berkeley Heights Twp	\$16,382	\$13,262	\$7,878	\$162	\$1,415	\$485	\$68,903
New prov	\$16,217	\$13,266	\$7,824	\$180	\$1,526	\$442	\$65,816
Caldwell/West Caldwell	\$16,163	\$13,036	\$7,001	\$175	\$1,573	\$461	\$59,680
Verona	\$15,190	\$12,230	\$6,795	\$236	\$1,460	\$392	\$67,034
Glen Ridge	\$14,689	\$13,173	\$7,395	\$332	\$1,783	\$512	\$67,582
vs Comp Group (1=highest)	8/9	9/9	9/9	3/9	5/9	8/9	4/9
vs Total State Group (1=lowest) of 67	14/67	16/67	16/67	36/67	30/67	42/67	52/67

- Spending on a comparative basis is below the group average.
- Note the Class Supplies and Texts category. The BOE focus is to route more funds directly into the classroom, even with a lower total spending level.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/>

Admin and B&G Comparison Spending Data



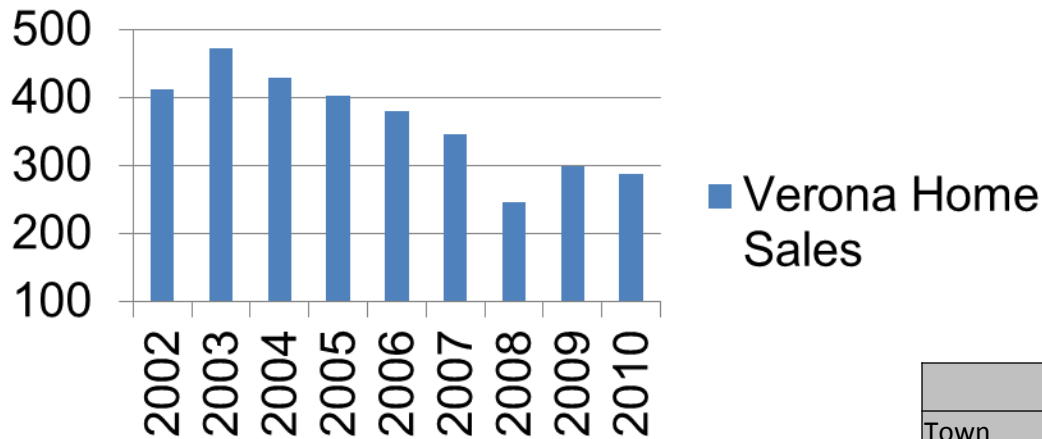
District	Students	Number of Buildings	Per Pupil Admin Salaries & Benefits	Calculated total	Total Admin per building	Operations Plant/ Maint
Mahwah	3,413	6	\$1390	6,102,444	1,017,074	\$1,759
Berkeley Heights	2,825	4	\$1200	3,997,375	999,344	\$1,331
Ramsey	3,111	5	\$1122	4,380,288	876,058	\$1,497
Glen Ridge	1,923	4	\$1329	3,428,709	857,177	\$1,387
New Providence	2,241	4	\$1306	3,419,766	854,942	\$1,307
Kinnelon	2,221	4	\$1225	3,120,505	780,126	\$1,514
Madison	2,401	5	\$1169	3,455,039	691,008	\$1,458
Caldwell/West Caldwell	2,632	6	\$1301	4,140,136	690,023	\$1,673
Verona	2,185	6	\$1255	3,190,100	531,683	\$1,290
vs Comp Group (1= highest)			5/9		9/9	9/9
vs Total State Group (1= lowest) of 67			30/67			11/67

•Spending on building maintenance is also the lowest in the group, even with more buildings than most other places. An area of concern.



Verona Property Sales

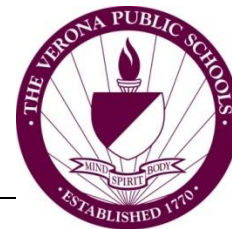
Verona Home Sales



Verona home sales are favorable as compared to the comp group.

BOE Comparison Group			
Town	2008	2010	% change
Verona	246	288	17%
Madison	290	292	0%
Mahwah	515	516	0%
Caldwell/West Caldwell	306	296	-1%
Berkley Heights	232	222	-4%
New Prov.	214	190	-11%
Ramsey	287	252	-12%
Kinnelon	206	177	-14%
Glen Ridge	171	117	-31%

<http://php.app.com/websr1a07/search.php>
as of 8/9/12



District Accomplishments

District Accomplishments



- Increased AP offerings, participation rate and achievement:

AP Results

2012	% Chg	2011	% Chg	2010	% Change	
64%	68.4%	38%	-7.3%	41%	56.1%	3+ as % of all 11 & 12th graders
90%	50.0%	60%	3.4%	58%	55.2%	# of tests offered as ratio of 11 & 12 graders
269	49.4%	180	5.9%	170	58.2%	Total # of tests administered
16	6.7%	15	7.1%	14	14.3%	Total # of AP courses offered

** AP Enrollment for 2012/13 academic year: 371 (38% increase over prior year & 106% increase over 2011)

Year	# Students in Honors or AP Courses
2010-2011	332 students
2011-2012	339 students
2012-2013	361 students

127 students enrolled in AP in 2011/12 vs 89, 75, 82, 108 in prior 4 years.

- VERONA HS NAMED TO THE NATIONAL AP HONOR ROLL FOR 2012-** VHS is 1 of only 34 schools in NJ to be named
- 94% of our student body goes on to post-secondary education with the vast majority being 4-year colleges
- Recognized AP Honors Students
 - 16 AP Scholars (students who score 3 or above on 3 or more exams)
 - 9 AP Scholars with Honors (students who average at least 3.25 on exams and score 3 or more on 4 or more exams)
 - 9 AP Scholars with Distinction (students who average at least 3.5 on exams and score 3 or above on 5 or more exams)
 - 3 AP National Scholars (students who score at least 4 on all exams and 4 or more on 8 or more exams)

HSPA Progress



Increased focus on VHS grade 11 HSPA student preparedness, in conjunction with overall Curriculum Program improvements.

There has been a steady improvement in Advanced Proficient scores and a much lower percentage of Partially Proficient results.

HSPA % Advanced Proficient

	2012		2011		2010	% Change 2010-12
	%	% Chg	%	% Chg	%	
LAL	29.3%	24.7%	23.5%	59.9%	14.7%	99.3%
Math	30.6%	11.3%	27.5%	2.6%	26.8%	14.2%

HSPA % Partially Proficient

	2012		2011		2010	% Total
	%	% Chg	%	% Chg	%	
LAL	1.4%	-69.6%	4.6%	-2.1%	4.7%	-70.2%
Math	10.8%	-33.7%	16.3%	-28.5%	22.8%	-52.6%

College Acceptances - 2012



Albright College	Kean University	Towson University
American University	Kutztown University	Tulane University
Amherst College	Lafayette College	UCLA
Bard College	LaSalle University	University of Arizona
Baylor University	Lehigh University	University of Chicago
Berklee College of Music	Long Island University	University of Connecticut
Bloomsburg University	Loyola University MD	University of Maine
Boston College	Loyola University New Orleans	University of Maryland
Boston University	Marist College	University of Massachusetts
Brandeis University	Mass Inst of Technology	University of Miami (FL)
Bucknell University	Monmouth University	University of Michigan
Caldwell College	Montclair State University	University of New Hampshire
Clemson University	New York University	University of Oregon
College of Holy Cross	NJ Inst of Technology	University of Pennsylvania
College of New Jersey	Northeastern University	University of Pittsburgh
Colorado State University	Penn St. University	University of Rhode Island
Cornell University	Providence College	University of Scranton
Dartmouth College	Ramapo College	University of South Carolina
Drew University	Rider University	University of Southern Cal
East Stroudsburg University	Rowan University	University of Vermont
Evergreen St. College	Rutgers University	Villanova University
George Mason University	Seton Hall University	Virginia Tech
George Washington	Siena College	Wake Forest University
Georgetown University	Stevens Tech	West Virginia University
Georgia Tech	SUNY	Williams College
Gettysburg College	Syracuse University	Xavier University
Johnson & Wales	Temple University	Yale University

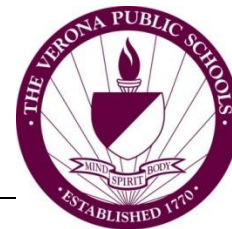
Top 1000 in *Newsweek's* 2012 List of Top American High Schools



Newsweek Magazine ranked VHS in the top 1000 HS in the USA at number 775.

METHODOLOGY:

- Four-year, on-time graduation rate (25%)
- Percent of graduates who enrolled immediately in college (25%)
- AP/IB/AICE tests per graduate (25%)
- Average ST and/or ACT score (10%)
- Average AP/IB/AICE exam score (10%)
- AP/IB/AICE course offered per graduate (5%)



NJ Monthly Town Listing

Verona Township #9 (2010)

METHODOLOGY: In compiling New Jersey Monthly's 2010 Top Towns list, researchers at Monmouth University's Polling Institute considered eight categories best representing the quality of life in New Jersey's 566 municipalities: population growth, home values, property taxes, land development, employment, crime rate, school performance, and proximity to services.

The research team selected a prototypical indicator corresponding, respectively, to each of these eight categories: population growth rate since the last census (2008); three-year change in median home prices (2009); median property tax bill (2009) combined with the change in median taxes over the past two years; percentage of land preserved as open space (2009); unemployment rate (2008); total crime rate (2008); student proficiency on state-mandated standardized tests for students in grades 4, 8, and 11 (2008); and number of acute-care hospitals within ten miles.

Verona High School #70/328 (2012)

METHODOLOGY: Data for the *New Jersey Monthly* ranking of the state's high schools were obtained from the state Department of Education's most recent New Jersey School Report Card (covering the 2010-2011 school year). Only public high schools were included.

[From the NJ Monthly Website- NJ Monthly 2012 Best High Schools](#)

Leflein Associates, an independent research company in Ringwood, analyzed the data by first standardizing individual indicator scores so that small differences did not have a disproportionate impact on the ranking, but very large differences were not minimized in the relative scores. These indicators were grouped into three categories. Two of the categories – Student Performance and Student Outcomes – were given a weight of 1.5; School Environment was given a weight of 1. The weighted summary scores for each category were added together to arrive at the final overall score. The schools were ranked according to this score.



Internet Sources

- Verona Schools website
 - www.veronaschools.org
- Verona School Report Cards
 - <http://education.state.nj.us/directory/school.php?district=5370&source=01>
- Verona Public Schools Budget
 - <http://www.veronaschools.org/Page/103>
- NJ State Comparative Spending Report
 - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/>
- NJ Dept of Community Affairs Property Tax Data
 - <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/lgs/taxes/taxmenu.shtml>
- GSCS Policy Board
 - www.GSCSchools.org