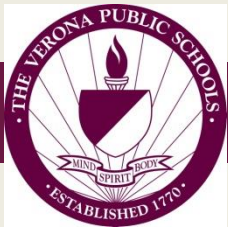


---

# Verona Board of Education

2013-14 District Budget Fact Book  
(December 2013)

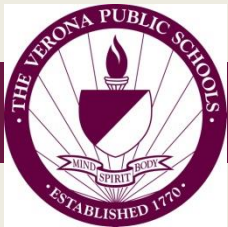


VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Contents

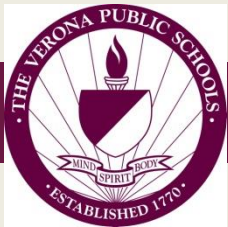
---

- Mission Statement
- Strategic Plan and Goals
- Curriculum and professional development
- Facilities, planned referendum, energy
- Finance- budget, comparative data, history
- Academic accomplishments, test scores and college acceptances
- Magazine rankings
- Sources



---

# Strategic Plan & Annual Goals



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Verona Public Schools Five Year Strategic Plan

1700 Hours

90+ Action Team Participants

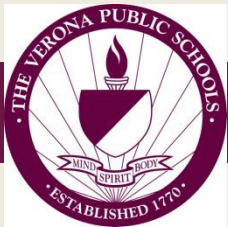
25 Steering Committee Members

193 Recommended Action Items

30 Specific Results

6 Strategies

1 MISSION



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Mission

The mission of the Verona Public Schools,  
the center of an engaged and supportive  
community,

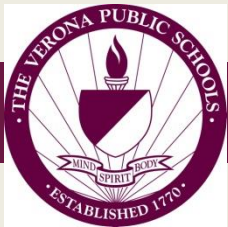
IDENTITY

is to empower students to achieve their  
potential as active learners and productive  
citizens

PURPOSE

through rigorous curricula and meaningful,  
enriching experiences.

MEANS



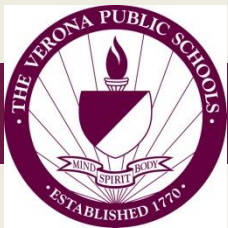
VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Strategies

In order to support our mission, we will...

---

1. Secure adequate financial resources,
2. Foster a healthy and respectful school culture consistent with our core values,
3. Partner locally and globally to expand opportunities for our school community,
4. Continue to implement a rigorous, integrated curriculum with authentic experiences and assessments,
5. Provide a meaningful professional development program for all staff, and
6. Provide upgraded, sustainable buildings, grounds and technical infrastructure.



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Strategies- update

## 1. Secure adequate financial resources

- School Choice being investigated- discussion with NJDOE and local district
- Local partnerships continuing
- Maintenance reserve started summer 2013

## 2. Foster healthy school culture

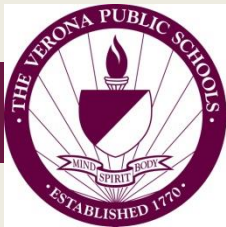
- Planning for district wide culture and customer service survey
- Training continued
- Curriculum map started

## 3. Partner locally and globally

- Committee started to study new senior year
- Committee started to study community service requirement

## 4. Curriculum and Assessment

- Curriculum Council redesigned to include parents
- Engineering by Design program started for grades 3 and 4 in cooperation with TCNJ
- Literacy is being integrated into social studies and science



# Strategies- update part II

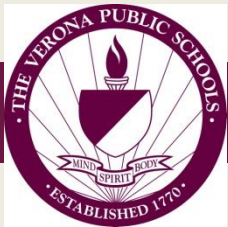
---

## 5. Professional Learning

- Marzano Teacher/Principal training complete through LSI and NJDOE in cooperation with Glen Ridge BOE
- HIB, School Security and Mandated Topics training complete
- Staff evaluation handbook complete

## 6. Provide upgraded facilities and technology

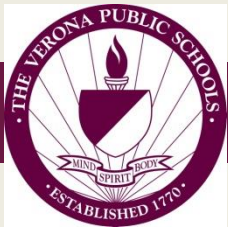
- Referendum planned for March 2014
- Security committee meetings continue
- ESIP and Online energy auctions continue





---

# Curriculum & Professional Development Initiatives



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

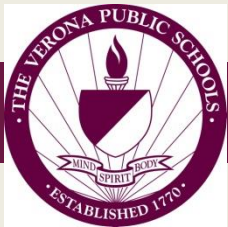
# Academic Achievement Focus 2013-14

---

## *Strategic Goal #4: Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction*

---

- Develop assessments that encourage students to be active participants in their learning and provide teachers feedback
- Curriculum Council:
  - Redesign to include representation from all stakeholders (teachers, staff, parents, etc).
  - Create a tentative curriculum cycle '14-'18 for future curriculum revisions with Curriculum Council.
  - Analyze student performance (data) and utilize in curriculum, PD and staff evaluation decisions.
- Implement EbD (STEM) in grades 3&4 and prepare for implementation in grades 1,2 & 5 in 2014-15.
- Continue to integrate literacy into all subjects

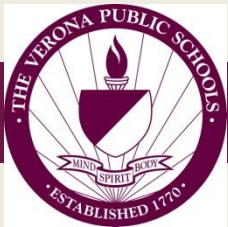


# Academic Achievement Focus 2013-14

---

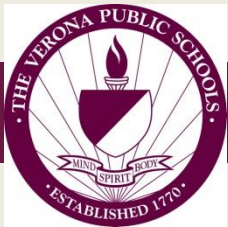
## ***Strategic Goal #4: Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction***

- Survey HBW & VHS students about current electives, their success, and enrollment numbers. Speak with other institutions about what they are offering or moving to (secondary and higher ed.) and analyze compiled research to make decisions for future electives.
- Continue to look for alignment (stages 1, 2, and 3) within the Understanding by Design (UbD) framework with emphasis on assessments.
- Continue to develop common assessments



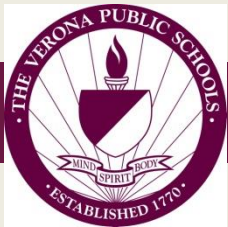
# Focus 2013-2014 & Beyond

- We will continue to address the areas in need of improvement.
  - We will address upcoming curricular requirements and standards
- Continue to support Reading Workshop implementation K-4
  - Implementation of STEM-based elementary enrichment program (EbD)
  - New Electives for VHS: Discrete Math, Hollywood Cinema & the Media, AP Environmental Science & Syracuse University Project Advancement (Dual Enrollment) Psychology for 2014-15
  - Update K-12 Science Curriculum as per NJDOE
  - Continuing development of Student Growth Objectives
  - Preparing teachers for implementation of PARCC assessments grades 3-11 for spring 2014-15



---

## Buildings & Grounds Initiatives



# STRATEGY 6: Provide upgraded, sustainable buildings, grounds and technical infrastructure.

## SUMMER 2013 ACTION ITEMS

### District

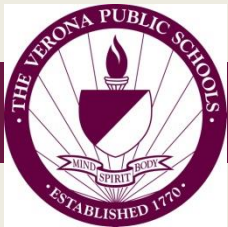
- 120 new computers and monitors installed
- Install new firewall and filter
- Maintenance of all computers district-wide
- Correct problems from the district network failure
- District fully converted to “green seal” cleaning and paper products

### VHS

- Gym painted and new wall mats installed
- Two classrooms have new drop ceilings and lighting
- Remodel boys team room
- New GPS clock system for all classrooms and offices
- Remodel girls restroom – East Wing

### HBW

- Replace front steps
- Repair gym bleachers
- Remove wall between two rooms to make one larger instructional space



# STRATEGY 6: Provide upgraded, sustainable buildings, grounds and technical infrastructure.

## SUMMER 2013 ACTION ITEMS

### Brookdale

- Replace front steps

### Laning

- Painted corridors
- New floor mats

### Forest

- Graffiti removed from exterior walls
- New gym-wall mats installed

### FN Brown

- New GPS wall clocks installed in all classrooms and offices



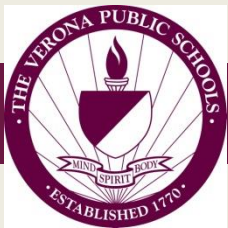
# Energy Savings Improvement Program-ESIP

---

- The district has contracted with Dome-Tech, an engineering firm that specializes in energy savings to complete a comprehensive audit of the district facilities
- The cost of the audit is being paid by the Board of Public Utilities
- The ESIP program may fund large items that were originally listed as referendum items:

Possible items that will be funded:

- New lighting
- New ceilings

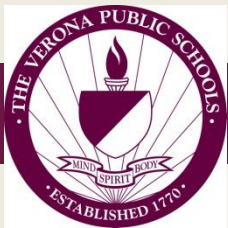




# 2014 Referendum

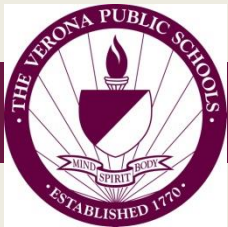
The Verona Public School District is planning a referendum for 2014 to address several needs district-wide:

- Technology infrastructure and Wi-Fi- all schools
- Security Improvements- all schools
- General building repairs; masonry, paving, exterior doors, etc.- all schools
- Heating and Ventilation- VHS
- Band Room addition- VHS
- Repairs and improvements to the Multi-purpose field- VHS



---

# Financial Summary



# Financial Summary

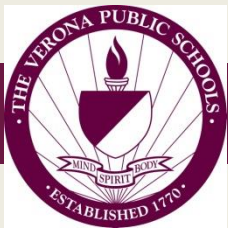
---

*2013-14 budget is \$30,158,641 which represents an increase of approximately \$559,164 from 2012-13 budget, due to:*

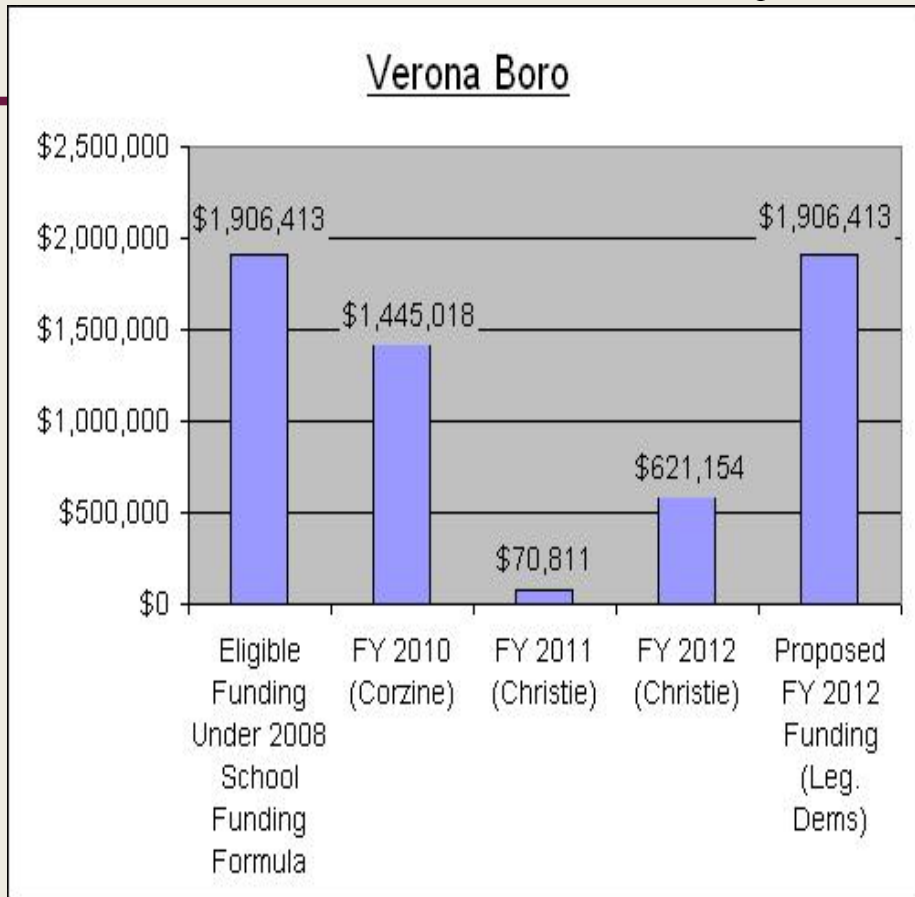
- \$427,062 increase in special education costs (includes the creation of a new in house program)
- \$221,711 increase in benefit and pension costs
- \$1,108 increase in non discretionary costs

*Note- to balance the budget and fund these needed increases money was cut from other areas.*

The increase was funded by an increase in the tax levy.



# State Aid Summary

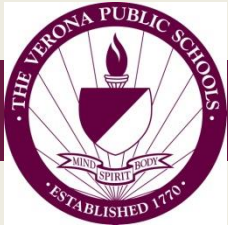


Historically, up until 2010, approximately \$1.4 million in aid awarded each year

2010-2011: Aid cut to \$70,000

State Aid for 2013-14: \$843,727  
*No increase from 2012-13*

\*\*\*Total aid for 2013-14 is 44% less than the aid received in 2007-08 (less than half of the \$1.9m we are entitled to by law)



# Five-Year Summary

	2008/2009 ACTUAL	2012/2013 ACTUAL	2013/2014 ADOPTED	1-YEAR CHANGE	5 YEAR CAGR
<b>SALARIES</b>	\$14,659,792	\$15,910,381	\$15,844,408	-.41%	1.62%
<b>BENEFITS</b>	\$3,606,741	\$4,874,510	\$5,096,221	4.55%	8.26%
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	\$5,329,305	\$5,905,814	\$6,332,876	7.23%	3.77%
<b>NON- DISCRETIONARY</b>	\$1,760,391	\$1,954,142	\$1,955,250	.06%	2.21 %
<b>DISCRETIONARY (class supplies, staff development, co-curricular)</b>	\$1,080,179	\$954,630	\$929,886	-2.59%	-2.78%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$26,436,408	\$29,599,477	\$30,158,641	2.5%	2.82%

- Salaries includes additional staff hires & contractual salary changes
- Special Education was growing at 8.6% 2000-2005
- Discretionary budget was \$1.685m in 2000/2001

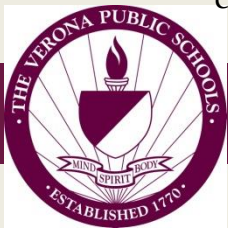
# Budget Growth vs. Inflation

Period	Starting Budget	Ending Budget	Inflation Rate for Period	Budget Change
1950-1970	506,274	3,519,032	61%	595%
1970-1990	3,519,032	12,840,662	237%	265%
1990-2013	12,840,662	32,403,407	79%	152%

<b>1990 Budget</b>	12,840,662
<b>Adj to 2013 CPI</b>	22,984,785
<b>Noted Budget Impacts since 1990</b>	
<b>IDEA</b>	5,500,000
<b>Construction Bond</b>	2,000,000
<b>Technology, etc</b>	###

Teacher Salary Guide 1999 - 2012 vs CPI/u			
Guide Step	1	12	18
<b>1999-00</b>	33,902	56,814	58,518
<b>Adj to 2012 CPI</b>	46,721	78,296	80,646
<b>2012 Actual</b>	46,062	63,211	82,489
<b>vs CPI/u</b>	-1%	-19%	2%

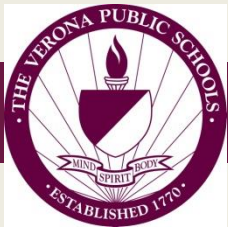
- Current budget is about the 1990 spending rate, adjusted for inflation, with IDEA, Construction and select mandates added.
- Teacher salaries illustration shows sample steps on the guide from 1999, adjusted for inflation, vs. current salary guide.



# 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 \$929,886 in current budget (2013-14)
- Discretionary Line has \$24,744 less money budgeted for 2013-14 as compared to the actual spend from 2012-13
- \$150,000 was deposited into a maintenance reserve to be used as needs come up.

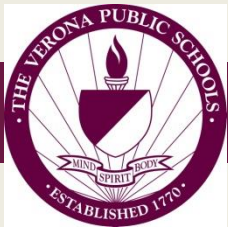


# Shared Services

---

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

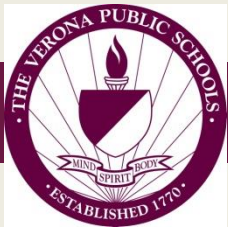
- State mandated professional development shared through North Essex Professional Development Consortium
- EE4NJ New Teacher/ Administrator Evaluation System in cooperation with the Glen Ridge Public Schools resulted in a \$10,000 savings.
- Consortiums, cooperative pools and auctions used to alleviate 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.





---

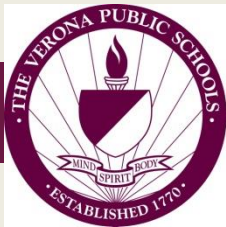
# Property and Comparative Group Data



# Property Tax Data 2012 – Essex County

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

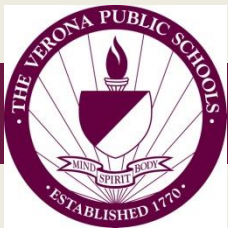
MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	Total County Levy	Total School Levy	Total Local Municipal Tax Levy	Total Levy on Which Tax Rate is Computed	Net Property Taxes	School Levy as % of Total
Millburn Township	Essex	40,158,323.50	76,343,886.00	38,067,533.35	154,569,742.85	\$19,684	49%
Glen Ridge Borough	Essex	6,702,046.86	26,344,109.00	9,969,262.43	43,015,418.29	\$16,750	61%
Essex Fells Township	Essex	3,521,078.21	7,197,929.92	3,264,197.18	13,983,205.31	\$16,457	51%
Montclair Township	Essex	30,893,023.66	103,616,417.00	53,346,449.08	187,855,889.74	\$15,775	55%
South Orange Village	Essex	12,227,288.48	44,123,296.66	21,574,998.70	77,925,583.84	\$15,176	57%
North Caldwell Borough	Essex	7,584,755.77	18,993,923.50	5,845,133.34	32,423,812.61	\$13,744	59%
Maplewood Township	Essex	16,700,289.07	60,128,077.86	27,257,487.95	104,085,854.88	\$12,807	58%
Livingston Township	Essex	34,217,062.39	96,389,153.00	30,136,336.46	160,742,551.85	\$12,572	60%
West Orange Township	Essex	28,778,791.77	121,879,095.00	51,223,117.62	201,881,004.39	\$11,332	60%
Verona Township	Essex	10,366,274.92	30,044,021.00	14,865,208.00	55,275,503.92	\$9,305	54%
Nutley Township	Essex	17,859,348.99	51,536,264.50	38,004,455.00	107,400,068.49	\$9,283	48%
Caldwell Township	Essex	4,914,708.93	11,796,503.21	7,271,081.35	23,982,293.49	\$9,281	49%
Roseland Borough	Essex	8,735,170.67	16,130,171.32	10,048,259.18	34,913,601.17	\$9,234	46%
Bloomfield Township	Essex	20,862,495.03	63,082,627.00	56,720,134.68	140,665,256.71	\$8,892	45%
West Caldwell Township	Essex	10,818,541.18	25,875,337.80	12,222,378.36	48,916,257.34	\$8,845	53%
Cedar Grove Township	Essex	10,779,623.30	24,397,090.00	8,844,871.49	44,021,584.79	\$8,630	55%
Irvington Township	Essex	12,856,358.30	19,438,382.75	69,438,131.45	101,732,872.50	\$8,193	19%
East Orange City	Essex	16,464,379.76	20,364,499.00	81,517,402.00	118,346,280.76	\$7,952	17%
Fairfield Township	Essex	13,026,673.03	24,122,138.40	13,527,166.99	50,675,978.42	\$7,797	48%
Orange City	Essex	6,886,441.76	11,135,556.46	36,832,019.56	54,854,017.78	\$7,770	20%
Belleville Township	Essex	13,500,534.35	32,959,663.00	43,898,003.53	90,358,200.88	\$7,536	36%
Newark City	Essex	77,116,428.90	113,432,418.50	184,664,926.00	375,213,773.40	\$6,064	30%



# Property Tax Data 2012

## Comparison Group

MUNICIPALITY	Total County Levy	Total School Levy	Total Local Municipal Tax Levy	Total Levy on Which Tax Rate is Computed	Net Property Taxes	School Levy as % of Total
Glen Ridge Borough	6,702,046.86	26,344,109.00	9,969,262.43	43,015,418.29	\$16,750	61%
Cresskill Borough	4,266,264.55	24,336,962.00	13,360,798.00	41,964,024.55	\$13,332	58%
Kinnelon Borough	5,318,669.77	33,557,564.00	8,942,271.20	47,818,504.97	\$12,429	70%
New Providence Borough	11,663,660.62	32,181,206.00	12,226,356.15	56,071,222.77	\$11,569	57%
Madison Borough	8,597,626.04	35,365,681.00	13,853,330.37	57,816,637.41	\$10,767	61%
Ramsey Borough	7,719,307.77	49,779,649.50	16,235,165.77	73,734,123.04	\$10,619	68%
Berkeley Heights Township	14,933,303.33	37,469,383.00	11,867,458.00	64,270,144.33	\$10,418	58%
Park Ridge Borough	4,006,843.66	24,310,114.00	8,794,600.00	37,111,557.66	\$10,187	66%
<b>Verona Township</b>	<b>10,366,274.92</b>	<b>30,044,021.00</b>	<b>14,865,208.00</b>	<b>55,275,503.92</b>	<b>\$9,305</b>	<b>54%</b>
West Caldwell Township	10,818,541.18	25,875,337.80	12,222,378.36	48,916,257.34	\$8,845	53%
Cedar Grove Township	10,779,623.30	24,397,090.00	8,844,871.49	44,021,584.79	\$8,630	55%
Mahwah Township	14,034,235.10	56,092,168.50	22,555,426.01	92,681,829.61	\$7,168	61%

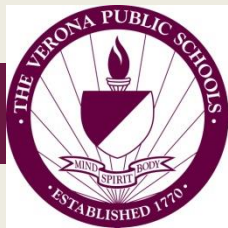


VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Highlights of Comparison Spending Data

District	Total Spending	Budgeted Cost	Classroom Salaries & Benefits	Class Supplies/ texts	Extra- curricular Costs
Cedar Grove	\$22,962	\$13,493	\$6,920	\$338	\$422
Park Ridge	\$20,235	\$17,412	\$9,190	\$378	\$595
Mahwah	\$18,355	\$15,287	\$7,929	\$201	\$420
Ramsey	\$18,107	\$15,638	\$9,304	\$222	\$404
Glen Ridge	\$17,963	\$13,258	\$7,426	\$367	\$482
Kinnelon	\$17,641	\$14,424	\$7,914	\$336	\$541
Caldwell/W. Caldwell	\$16,794	\$13,460	\$7,145	\$201	\$489
Madison	\$16,777	\$13,731	\$7,645	\$248	\$530
Cresskill	\$16,415	\$13,415	\$7,777	\$216	\$368
New Providence	\$16,299	\$13,430	\$7,842	\$280	\$449
Berkeley Heights	\$16,251	\$13,732	\$8,197	\$212	\$527
Verona	\$15,458	\$12,085	\$6,776	\$223	\$380
	Rank 12 out of 12	12 out of 12	12 out of 12	7 out of 12	11 out of 12

- 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.

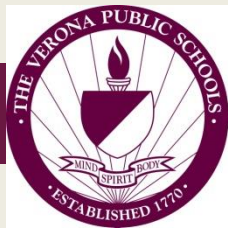


# Admin and B&G Comparison Spending Data

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
<b>Verona</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$1255</b>	<b>3,190,100</b>	<b>531,683</b>	<b>\$1,290</b>
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.

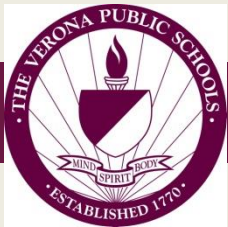
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/data/>



## VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

---

# District Accomplishments



# The Results - College Board's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll (2<sup>nd</sup> Year in a Row)

## Verona Public School District Placed on the College Board's 4th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Advanced Placement® Access and Student Performance

- One of 477 school districts in the U.S. & Canada who earned 4th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP® course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.
- District is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are benefitting from rigorous AP course work.
- Since 2011, Verona Public School District has increased the number of students participating in AP from 88 to 171 (39% growth) while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher by 3 percent – (see below)

Total Students who took AP Exams, excluding Spanish Language			Annual Growth in the Number of AP Students (excluding those who only took Spanish Language) from 2011-2013	Percentage of AP Students who Scored 3+ on at least one AP Exam other than Spanish Language			Annual Growth in the Percentage of AP Students who Scored 3+ on at least one AP Exam other than Spanish Language
2011	2012	2013		2011	2012	2013	
88	127	171	39%	67%	74%	71%	3%



# The Results - VHS (Advanced Placement)

We identified Advanced Placement participation and performance as an area for improvement in 2006. To achieve that, we have:

- Made it easier for students to enroll
- Changed the content, updated curriculum, conducted staff training, changed teaching assignments
- ✓ We have increased participation while maintaining performance as recognized by College Boards Award.
- ✓ We now have an enrollment of 186 in current school year.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
% 3's or better	76%	66%	49%	59%	71%	64%	72%	64%	Aug 2014
# tests administered	70	119	225	145	170	183	271	368	427
Total # AP Students		77	108	82	75	89	127	171	186

- AP Physics: Offered for the first time in 2011: 2 of 9 students earned a 3 or better. 2012: 10 of 13 students earned a 3 or better.
- AP Chemistry: In 5 years '06-'10 only 11 students earned a 3 or better. From 3 years since ('11-'13) 30 students earned a 3 or better.

AP Chemistry	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Tests	11	22	30	4	10	6	13	15
# of 3's or better	1	5	3	0	2	3	12	15
% of 3's of better	9%	23%	10%	0%	20%	50%	92%	100%





# The Results – VHS (HSPA - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade)

- LAL focus on improving %AP and %PP. Math focus on improving %PP.
- Focus on culture change on Advanced Placement participation & performance
- Focus on Dual-Enrollment, College Credit, & New Elective courses

		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
		Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG
LAL	%AP	11.7%	22.8%	19.9%	25.9%	14.7%	34.3%	23.5%	43.4%	29.3%	38.0%	38.7%	45.4%
	%PP	8.0%	6.2%	9.6%	5.6%	4.7%	3.8%	4.6%	3.5%	1.4%	2.7%	1.9%	2.6%
Math	%AP	30.7%	42.5%	27.9%	41.2%	26.7%	42.7%	27.5%	43.4%	30.6%	46.7%	39.6%	48.5%
	%PP	13.9%	10.0%	18.4%	11.5%	23.3%	10.8%	16.3%	11.1%	11.6%	8.9%	8.4%	8.6%

✓ HSPA LAL %PP has steadily declined to below DFG average, now 2 years in a row

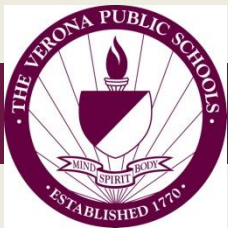
✓ HSPA LAL %AP continues to close the gap to DFG Average.

- VHS increased 231% vs. DFG increase of 99% from 2008-2013

✓ HSPA Math %PP is at lowest level in 6 years and is now below the DFG Average

✓ HSPA Math %AP continues to close the gap to DFG Average.

- VHS increased 29% vs. DFG increase of 14% from 2008-2013



# College Acceptances - 2013

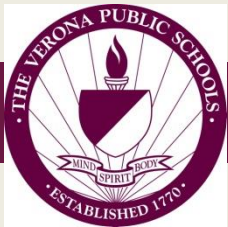
Bloomsburg University	Hampshire College	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	University of Colorado at Boulder
Boston College	High Point University	Post University	University of Connecticut
Boston University	Hobart & William Smith College	Providence College	University of Delaware
Brandeis University	Hofstra University	Quinnipiac University	University of Findlay
Bryant University	HoHoKus School of Trade	Radford University	University of Hartford
Cabrini College	Indiana University Bloomington	Ramapo College	University of Iowa
Caldwell College	Iona College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Maryland
California University of Pa.	Ithaca College	Rhode Island College	University of Massachusetts
Catholic University of America	James Madison University	Richard Stockton College of NJ	University of Miami
Centenary College	John Carroll University	Rider University	University of Minnesota
Champlain College	Johnson & Wales University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Mississippi
Clarion University of Pa.	Kean University	Roger Williams University	University of New Hampshire
Clark University	Kenyon College	Rowan University	University of New Haven
Clarkson University	Keystone College	Rutgers University	University of N. Carolina/Charlotte
Clemson University	King's College	Sacred Heart University	University of Pacific
Coastal Carolina University	Kingsborough Comm. College	Saint Anselm College	University of Pittsburgh
Colgate University	La Salle University	College of St. Elizabeth	University of Rhode Island
Colorado State University	Lafayette College	Saint Joseph's University	University of Rochester
County College of Morris	Lehigh University	Saint Michael's College	University of San Francisco
CUNY-Macaulay Honors College	LIU Post	Saint Peter's University	University of the Sciences
Delaware State University	Loyola University	College of Saint Rose	University of Scranton
Curry College	Lynchburg College	Salisbury University	University of South Carolina
Dominican College of Blauvelt	Manchester University	Salve Regina University	University of Vermont
Drew University	Marist College	San Diego Miramar College	University of Washington
Durham University	Marshall University	San Diego State University	Virginia Commonwealth University
East Carolina University	Marywood University	Seton Hall University	Wagner College
East Stroudsburg University	McGill University	Shippensburg University of Pa.	Wentworth Inst. of Technology
E Connecticut State University	Messiah College	Siena College	West Chester University
Elizabethtown College	Miami University, Oxford	Simmons College	West Virginia University
Elon University	Michigan State University	Slippery Rock University of Pa.	Western New England University
Emmanuel College	Monmouth University	St. John's University	Wilkes University
Essex County College	Montclair State University	St. Lawrence University	William Paterson University
Fairfield University	Moravian College	Stony Brook University	Wilmington University
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Muhlenberg College	SUNY College-Albany & New Paltz	Worcester Polytechnic University
Fashion Institute of Technology	New England College	Susquehanna University	York College of Pennsylvania

# Top 1000 in *Newsweek's* 2013 List of Top American High Schools

Newsweek Magazine ranked VHS in the top 1000 HS in the USA at number 718.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

- The list is based on six components: graduation rate (25 percent), college acceptance rate (25 percent), AP/IB/AICE tests taken per student (25 percent), average SAT/ACT scores (10 percent), average AP/IB/AICE scores (10 percent), and percent of students enrolled in at least one AP/IB/AICE course (5 percent)



# NJ Monthly Town & High School Listing

## Verona Township #78 of 514 (2013)

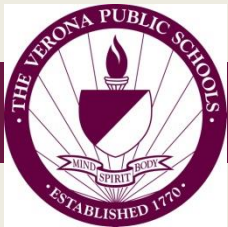
**METHODOLOGY:** In compiling New Jersey Monthly's 2013 Top 100 Towns list, researchers at Leflein Associates, an independent research firm based in Ringwood, considered five categories to represent the quality of life in New Jersey's 566 municipalities: home values, property taxes, crime rate, school performance and a lifestyle factor. *Verona Township was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> overall in Essex County and 6<sup>th</sup> out of 12 in the comparison group.* [Click here for the article](#)

## 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](http://www.veronaschools.org)

Verona School Report Cards

<http://education.state.nj.us/pr/nav.php?c=13;d=5370>

Verona Public Schools Budgets

<http://www.veronaschools.org/domain/34>

NJ State Comparative Spending Report

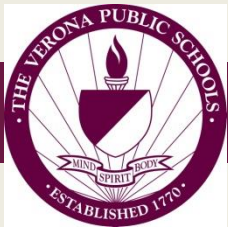
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/guide/2013/>

NJ Department of Community Affairs Property Tax Data

[http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property\\_tax.html#1](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/property_tax.html#1)

Garden State Coalition of Schools

[www.GSCSchools.org](http://www.GSCSchools.org)



VERONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS