

Superintendent's Message – December 2018

Earlier this month, the state of Pennsylvania released the Future Ready Index <https://futurereadypa.org/>, which is the state's new school accountability system. This index provides the public with a snapshot of each school district and profiles for their respective schools in the state.

Each school profile contains information about the school's student performance on state assessments – in grades 3-8 the Pennsylvania State School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystones at the high school level. In each area, the profile indicates the school's performance in relation to the state average and a targeted improvement score. Looking deeper into each score, the performance of subgroups of students and how they are performing over time is provided.

In addition to test scores, information on student attendance, graduation rates, and student completion of career education benchmarks is available. In the high school profile, the indicators also include information about course rigor and student activities following graduation – postsecondary, attendance, military or workforce. We hope that you will review the information in the Future Ready Index. We expect that the information about our schools' performance and the challenges each is facing will help improve our schools. With this awareness, we can work towards improvement.

Overall, Shippensburg Area School District sees evidence of strengths in our high school students' performance in all areas. In the earlier grades, math scores exceed state averages and language arts/reading show that our students are not performing as well on the tests as their statewide peers. We see these results as offering the opportunity to calibrate our performance relative to other schools while we look for how we can continually improve.

In this holiday season, we are grateful for our community's support of our students' education. Our educational community benefits from our parents encouraging high levels of student attendance and helping motivate our students to challenge themselves in all their endeavors. As we enter the final days in 2018, let's celebrate our successes and look to 2019 for new improvements.

Yours in education,

Jerry Wilson, PhD