



The Eagle's View

A Newsletter of the Nazareth Area School District

www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

Fall 2005

Superintendent's Message to the Community



The Nazareth Area School District's mission is to ***Focus on Learning, Build Character, and Shape the Future.*** The Nazareth Area School District will continue this mission during the 2005-2006 school year by focusing on two main challenges - accountability for student learning and the growth of the student population within the Nazareth Area School District. These two issues will have the most significant impact on Nazareth students academically and on Nazareth residents fiscally in future years.

Nazareth Area School District students, as well as all students in the State of Pennsylvania, are being held accountable for learning standards adopted by the state legislature and implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11. The Nazareth Area School District began the journey toward becoming a standards-based school district during the 2001-2002 school year. Although Nazareth has made this move in the design of the NASD curriculum, teaching the learning standards in the

classroom does not assure that students are proficient in the areas prescribed. Assessing student progress toward reaching the standards is the real measure of a truly standards-based educational program. The Nazareth Area School District is in the process of implementing procedures that would allow student progress to be reported by standard. The reporting process would define in which areas students are performing at the advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic levels. This method would allow students to know where they need to concentrate their work; permit parents to supplement instruction at home in areas where academic needs exist; and what I consider most important, provide opportunities for teachers to "target" or differentiate instruction according to class and individual student needs. The main emphasis on instruction when teaching the standards is to teach students the process of learning or ***"how to learn."*** I truly believe that as educators, ***"We can teach students to be smart."*** The objective we are working toward is to have students apply the learning process to future situations. Teaching content is very important, but teaching students how to learn and how to apply the learning process when facing real life situations would allow students to be successful when transitioning to college or the workplace.

The Nazareth Area School District's enrollment continues to increase by an average of 150 to 250 students per year. The Nazareth Area School District Board of Education authorized the Administration to proceed with an

enrollment study that was completed in the 2003-2004 school year. The results of the study concluded that with the available building lots in the area townships, the School District population would continue to increase through 2010. The School District formed a Building Utilization Committee that reviewed the options and alternatives dealing with serving the increasing student population. The recommendation made to the School Board after considering a number of different options included renovating and expanding the High School to accommodate the additional students, build a 7th and 8th Middle School at a yet-to-be-determined site, change the current Middle School to a 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Intermediate School, and allow the three current elementary schools to house the District students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 3. This recommendation requires the least amount of construction, and would therefore hopefully be the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Other options were reviewed and the Nazareth Area School District Board of Education will be responsible for arriving at the final decision. Educational programming specifications are currently being updated and developed for the new planned grade configurations. The program specifications, when approved by the Board of Education, will guide the design of the facilities during the construction/renovation process. The Nazareth Area School District will continue to grow due to the quality of life the Boroughs and Townships provide and due to the academic reputation of the

Nazareth Area School District. The School District must continue to meet the academic needs of an expanding population. Good schools add to the quality of life by impacting economic factors such as property values, increased business and sales opportunities, as well as adding to the cultural values in the area. As Superintendent of Schools, I will continue to support programs that will best prepare our students for success after graduation while being fiscally prudent with the hard-earned dollars our taxpayers pay to support our schools.

The Nazareth Area School District goals for the 2005-2006 school year are available on the NASD website: www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us along with other pertinent information about our schools. Please visit the site for additional information and sign up for email alerts broadcasting emergencies and events taking place in the School District. The Nazareth Area School District would appreciate receiving any feedback so we may continue to improve our educational practices.

The Nazareth Area School District Board of Education, Administration, and staff thank you for your continued support of public education.

Sincerely,

Victor D. Lesky, Ed.D.
Nazareth Area School District
Superintendent of Schools

Focus: The Budgetary Process

2004-2005 was a busy and rewarding year at Nazareth Area School District. All employees worked to excel at our mission to Focus on Learning, Build Character, and Shape the Future. In support of the NASD mission, the District's budget is driven by the type of educational programs offered and by the number of students served. The budget for 2005-06 was developed on the premise that the Nazareth Area School District will continue to provide its students with the highest quality education possible. Full funding has been provided to achieve the goals established for 2005-2006. These goals include the areas of curriculum, instruction and expectations for success, student character, technology, communication, and fiscal responsibility.

Maintaining and improving the quality of the educational program requires additional expenditures due to the increase in student population over the past several years, the increase in students with special needs, and the increased program offerings. In October 2000, we had 4,059 students enrolled. We currently have 4,607 students enrolled. The District is implementing programs and procedures to ensure compliance with the new State Standards and No Child Left Behind.

Every instructional staff member and administrator participated in compiling the budget proposed for the 2005-2006 school year. The process began in December 2004. The budget was then developed using a "zero bracket" approach that requires all supervisors, directors, principals, and other administrators to justify each item requested. Everyone on the instructional staff continued to be involved through January 2005. Requests were then returned for revision in February and finally the entire budget was organized in March 2005. The first draft of the budget was presented to the Board in March. The budget was tentatively adopted on

May 16, 2005, and received final adoption of June 27, 2005.

The available revenue must support the expenditure budget. The goal of improving the educational program when faced with an increasing student enrollment and increased district needs can only be achieved when revenue sources grow proportionately. The budget is funded through three major sources – local, state, and federal. Federal funding is 0.6% of 1%, state funding is approximately 26%, and local funds make up over 73% of our funding. Taxes account for almost 98% of our total local revenues. There are seven different taxes. The major taxes are real estate, earned income, occupation assessment, real estate transfer, and per capita.

For many years, the District issued an annual per capita tax bill to residents in the amount of \$15.00. Effective with the 2005-06 year, the Board decided to eliminate this tax and to make up that revenue by an adjustment in the real estate tax. In an effort to provide additional tax relief to the senior citizens, the real estate tax rebate maximum was increased from \$250 to \$500.

For many years, the District has taxed residents on their occupations. This is a tax on an individual's job title. The county assessor's office assigns a value to each job title category. The District levies a millage rate on that value to produce a tax for individuals in each job title category. The millage rate is 300 mills. Someone with a job title of carpenter, laboratory technician, or skilled laborer will pay an occupation assessment tax of \$105.00.

The Occupation Assessment Tax Elimination Act, Act 24 of 2001, permits school districts to replace the occupation assessment tax with earned income tax. Currently, the earned income tax is 1.00%. The District keeps one-half and the other one-half goes to the municipality. On June 27,

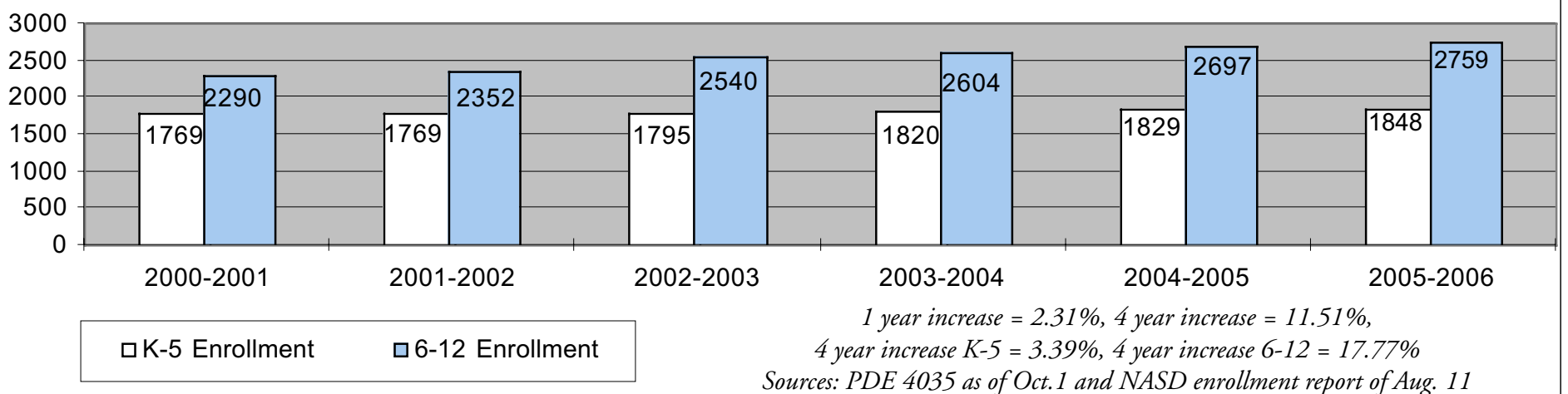
2005, the NASD Board of Directors held a public hearing to discuss this proposed tax change. The Board approved a referendum to be placed on the ballot on November 8, 2005. If the voters approve this referendum, the occupation assessment tax would be eliminated and replaced with an equivalent amount of earned income tax. If approved, the earned income tax rate will increase from 1.00% to 1.20%. This change will be effective July 1, 2006.

The District is interested in eliminating this tax because it is another nuisance tax. It is outdated and an unfair method of taxation. The earned income tax is a more equitable tax. The occupation assessment tax is based on a job class only. It does not matter if you work part time or full time. It does not matter what your income is. Someone in a job class may be earning \$50,000 while another person in the same job class may be earning \$25,000. State law controls the structure of this tax. A person who is classified as a laborer or janitor, and whose income is less than \$30,000, would pay less in taxes with this proposed change. A person, who is classified as skilled laborer, teacher, or machinist, and whose income is less than \$52,500, would also pay less in taxes.

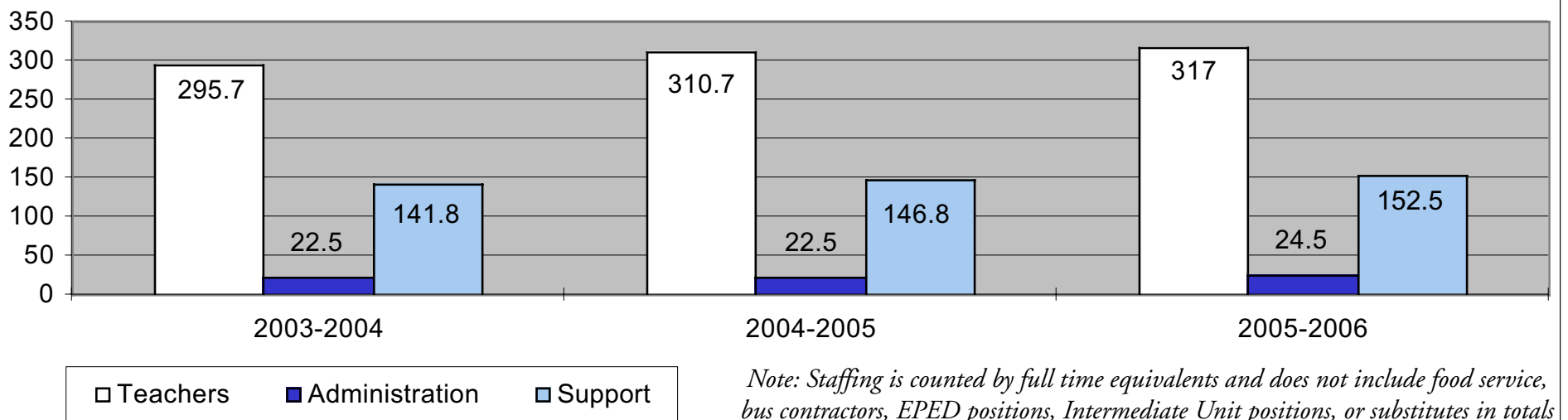
A flyer will be mailed to residents around the third week of October. This flyer further explains this Act and how it will impact you as an individual taxpayer.

The Administration and Board of Directors understand the financial burden that school taxes can place on the taxpayers. In an effort to address this concern, effective July 1, 2002, the District implemented a real estate tax rebate program that mirrors the State program. This program provides some tax relief each year to certain senior citizens, widows, widowers, and disabled persons with fixed and limited incomes. As of August 31, 2005, the District has rebated over \$121,000 to those individuals who qualify.

Enrollment Data



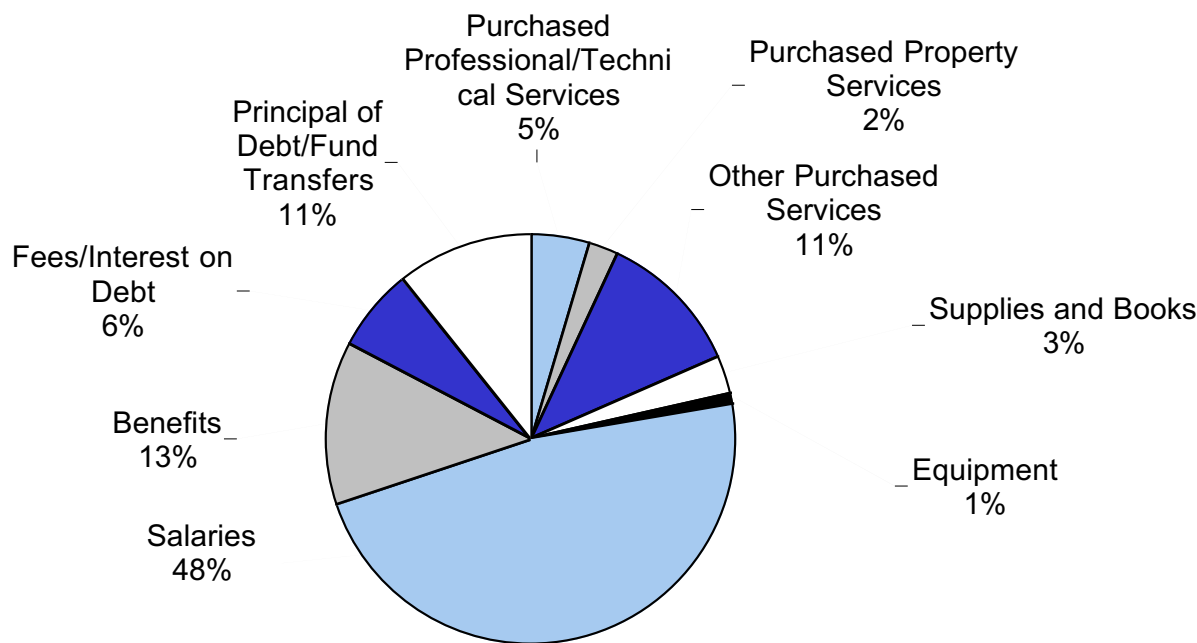
Staffing



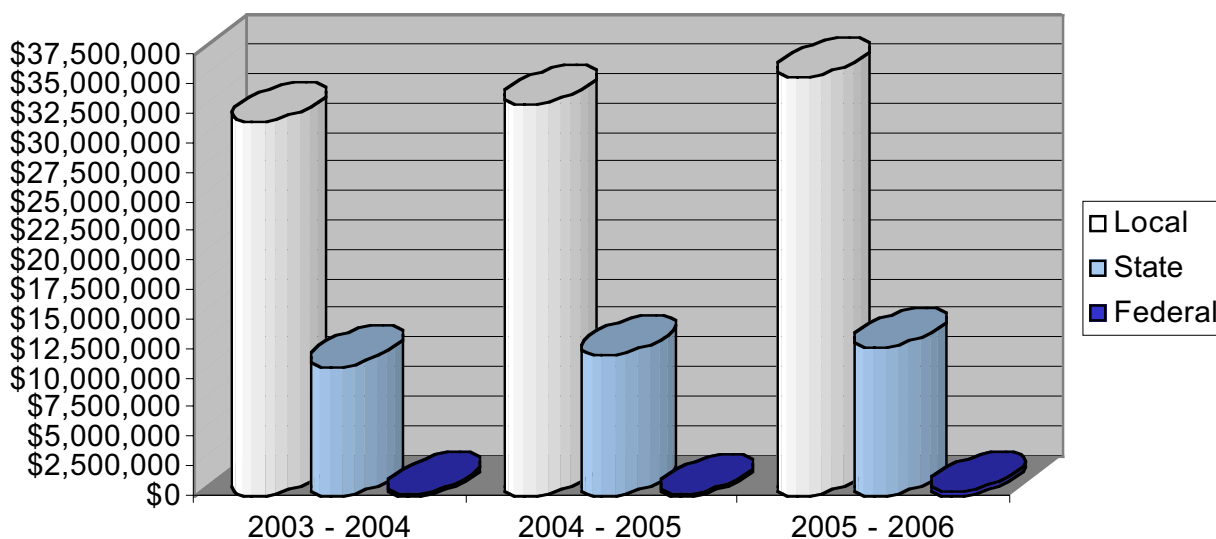
Expenditure Categories 2005-2006

Salaries	\$	23,443,080
Benefits		6,566,497
Purchased Professional/Technical Services		2,304,692
Purchased Property Services		1,067,311
Other Purchased Services		5,637,862
Supplies and Books		1,521,361
Equipment		507,590
Fees/Interest on Debt		3,089,657
Principal of Debt/Fund Transfers		5,372,812
Total	\$	49,510,862

Expenditure Categories - Percent



Revenue Sources



	Actual 2003 - 2004	Budget 2004 - 2005	Budget 2005 - 2006
Local	\$31,903,212	\$33,395,909	\$35,707,213
State	11,048,683	11,942,209	12,672,590
Federal	251,116	229,500	303,716
Other	0	0	0
Total	\$43,203,011	\$45,567,618	\$48,683,519

Annual Notice - Eligible and Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Nazareth Area School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services (eligible students). If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

- Autism/pervasive development disorder
- Blindness or visual impairment
- Neurological impairment
- Deafness or hearing impairment
- Other health impairments
- Developmental delay
- Physical disability
- Mentally gifted
- Serious emotional disturbance
- Mental retardation
- Specific learning disability
- Multi-handicapped
- Speech and language impairment

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-aged) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at not cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to your child's principal.

In compliance with state and federal law, the Nazareth Area School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be school-aged with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the rights of parents and children, provision of services, evaluation and screening (including purpose, time and location), rights to due process procedures, you may contact in writing the Office of Pupil Services, One Education Plaza, Nazareth, PA 18064 (610-759-1170), or your principal.

Confidentiality: All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The District has a Pupil Records Policy that is available for review in each school building and the Central Office.

2004-05 District Report Card is Published

As part of the Pennsylvania Accountability System (PAS) and in compliance with *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), Pennsylvania and all districts within the Commonwealth are required to create report cards at the beginning of the school year. The data included in the report will give information about how Nazareth Area School District students are performing over a two year period and compared with state averages. The entire report and additional information about Nazareth Area School District is available at

www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us. Additional information about the PAS and Report Cards is available at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/site/default.asp>.

District Context:

The Nazareth Area School District serves more than 4,500 students grades K-12 in five schools. One of the major challenges facing Nazareth Area School District is developing proficiency for all students on the PA Academic Standards, while accommodating the increase in the district's student enrollment.

Adequate Yearly Progress:

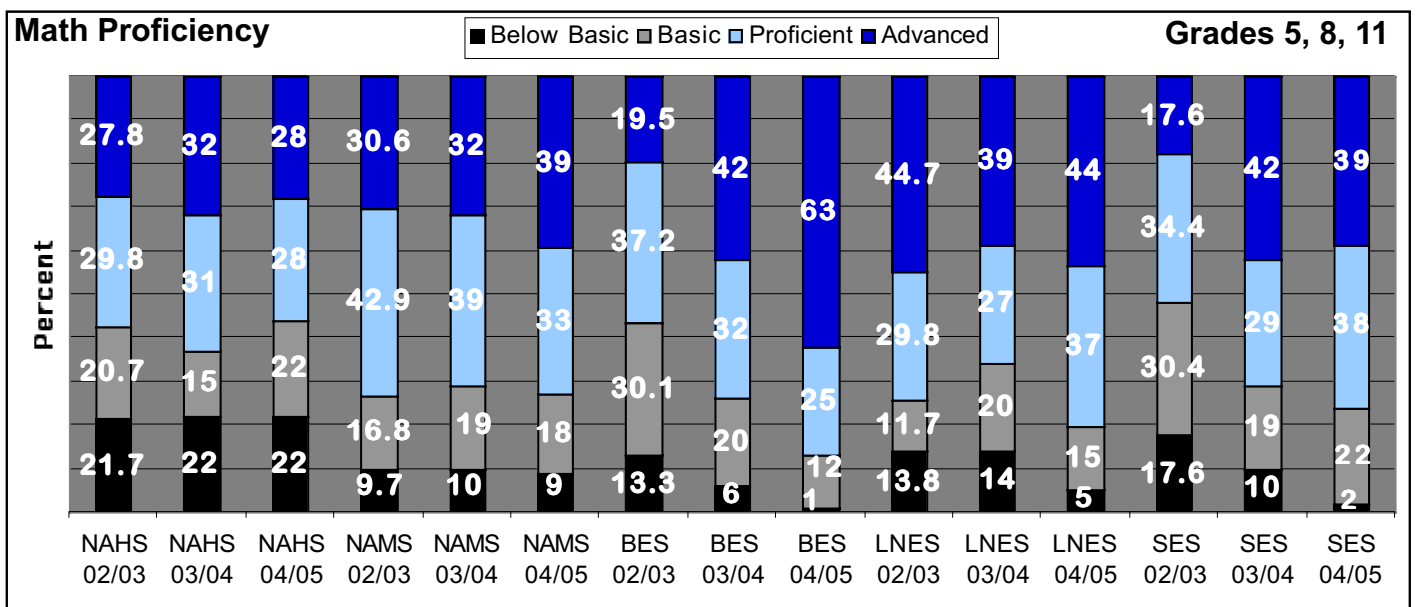
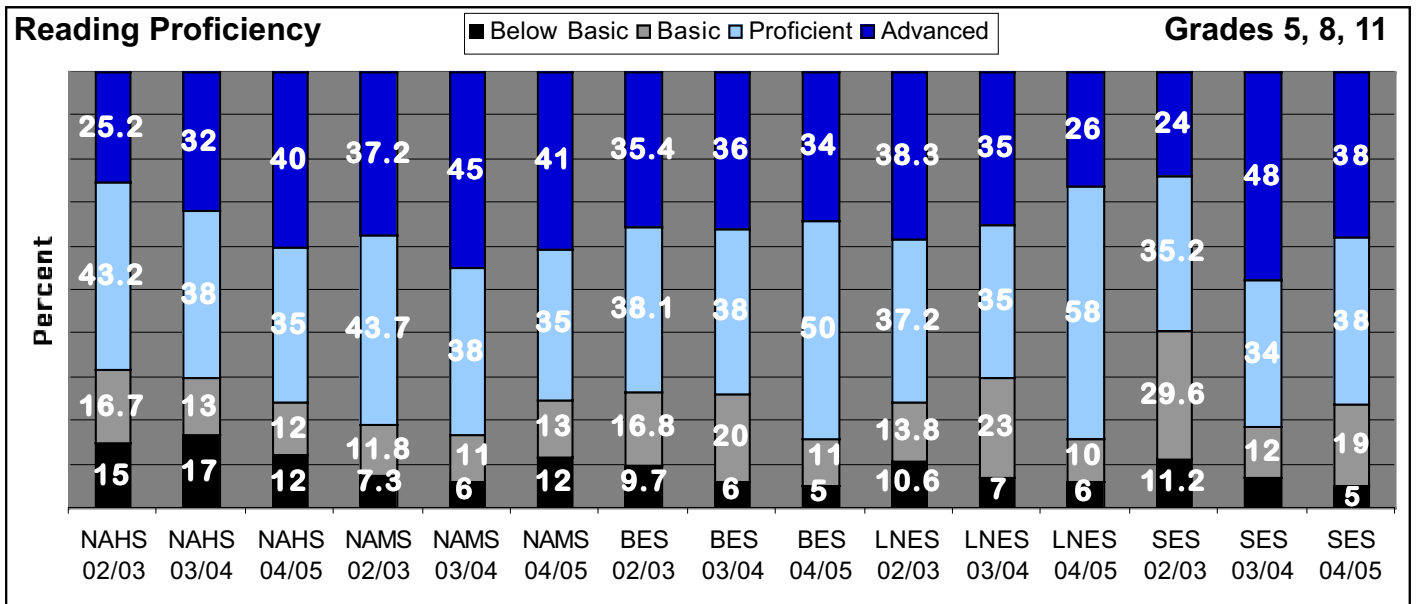
NCLB benchmarks for adequate yearly progress are 45% proficient or advanced in mathematics and 54% in reading. In the graphs on the right, the light blue (proficient) and dark blue (advanced) together must meet the benchmark.

NASD/State Comparison:

In all schools for both mathematics and reading, NASD has a higher percentage of proficient and advanced scores and a lower percentage of basic and below basic students than the state average.

2005 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

School Name	2003 Status	2004 Status	2005 Status
NAZARETH ASD	Warning	District Improvement I	Making Progress
BUSHKILL ES	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP
SHAHER ES	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP
NAZARETH AREA MS	Made AYP	Made AYP	Warning
NAZARETH AREA HS	Made AYP	Warning	Made AYP
LOWER NAZARETH ES	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP



District Website: A Resource for Residents, Parents, Students, & Staff

www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us

SIGN IN / REGISTER GRADES EMAIL

Register for this site

Nazareth Area School District

- Home
- Our District
- Administration
- Schools
- Resources
- Athletics
- Calendar

A Look At Our Menus

Our District:

- About
- Directions
- The Eagle's View (newsletter)
- District Accomplishments (goals, report card)
- Strategic Plan

Administration:

- School Board
- Administrators
- Business Administration
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Educational Technology
- Food Services
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Pupil Services
- Special Education
- Transportation

Schools:

- Bushkill
- Lower Nazareth
- NAHS
- NAMS
- Shafer

Resources:

- Parents
- Staff
- Student

Athletics:

- Announcements
- Directions
- Teams

Calendar

Don't forget to register for e-alerts!

