



Pearl River Union Free School District

2024 State of the District Report

--

Marco F. Pochintesta, Superintendent of Schools

Overview

- ➡ Mission, Goals and Educational Philosophy
- ➡ Vision for the Future
- ➡ District Initiatives Report
- ➡ Sustaining Momentum: Budgetary Orientation

Pearl River School District

Mission:

All students can and will learn.

Goals:

- Improve academic performance.
- Improve the perception of the District.
- Improve the District's financial stability, and improve and maintain cost-effectiveness.

Educational Philosophy:

Educating students to develop desired moral, ethical and cultural values, to stimulate and expand a continual learning process, and to cultivate an understanding and appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, which will enable them to function effectively as independent individuals in a democratic society. (*PRSD, 2011*)

District Vision

As a District, we seek to provide every Pearl River High School graduate with career- and life-readiness through a combination of:

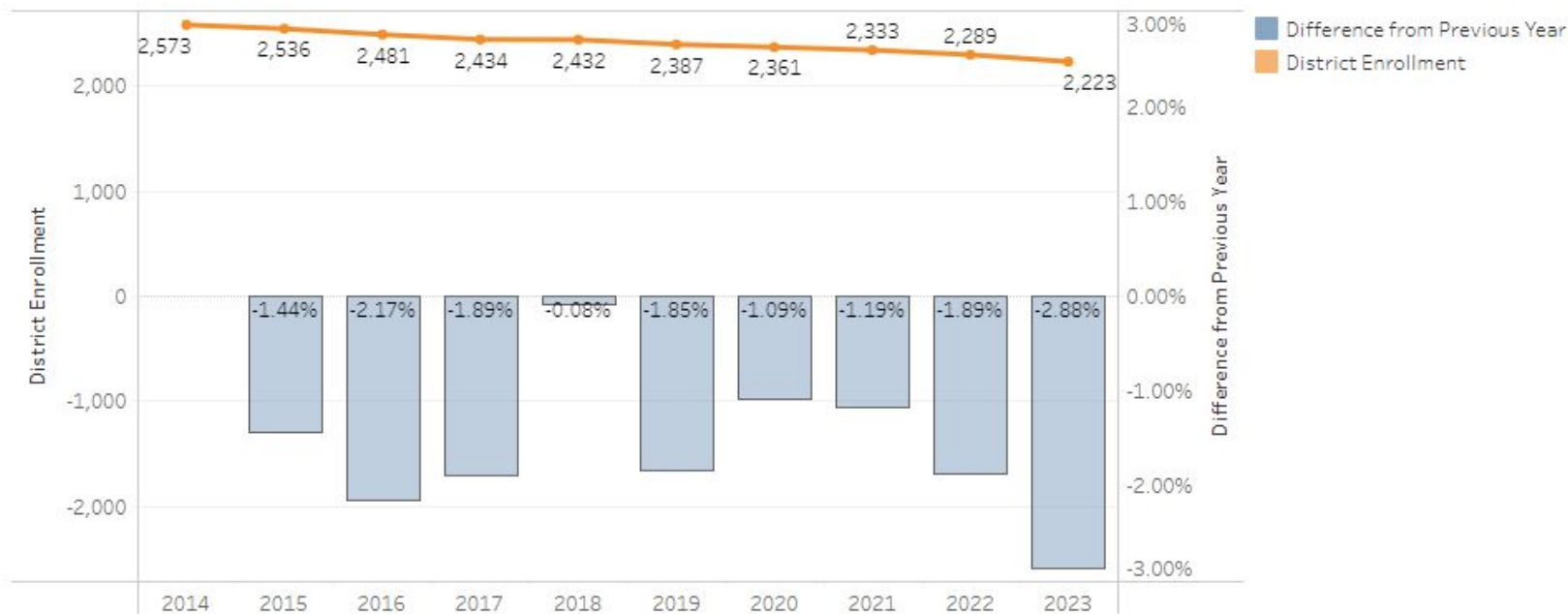
- Student-Focused Success: by providing access to a full-range of rich and relevant curriculum tailored to the varying needs of our learners
- High-Quality Instruction: by supporting our highly-qualified staff with the resources and professional learning they need to support all students
- Community: ensuring a welcoming, supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students in our schools through school-level programs (i.e. PBIS, Advisory, SELFIE, and Pirates United)

The resources and opportunities that we provide our students are intentionally selected to foster growth for today's globally-connected generation of digital natives. We are focused on the development of core skills, critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration. Social and emotional learning is fully integrated in all curricular areas.

District Enrollment Trends

PEARL RIVER UFSD Enrollment Story

Changes in enrollment can place demands on the District. The orange line below shows total enrollment over the last ten years, while the blue bars represent the year-over-year change on the secondary axis.



PEARL RIVER UFSD Enrollment Story

The stacked bars below show the percentage of students each year by race/ethnicity.



Accomplishments and Initiatives

Academics

Pearl River High School

- Project Lead the Way: 2023-2024 Medical Interventions, 2024-2025 Medical Innovation
- Senior Capstone
- Inquiry-Based Learning Initiative
- Profile of a Pirate (graduates)
- NYSED Seal of Civic Readiness
- NYSED Seal of Biliteracy
- Expanded options for special education programming in content area courses for 24-25
- 2023 College Board AP School Honor Roll: Silver Award Recipients
- 2023 U.S. News & World Reports Rankings:
 - # 835 Nationally
 - # 91 in NYS
 - # 1 in Rockland County

Academics

Pearl River Middle School

- Year 2 of PLTW
 - Grade 6 Science of Technology
 - Grade 7 Design and Modeling
- Year 2 of Congressional Medal of Honor Character Education
- Year 2 of RULER implementation: Staff and School Charters created, student use of Mood Meter, lessons taught through advisory period.
- New in 2023-24: Co-teaching model implemented in Grade 5
- International Club Junior level

Academics

Elementary Schools

- Implementation of NYS Next Generation Standards Report Cards
- Implementation of Eureka² K-2 Math Curriculum, K-2
- Implementation of Structured Literacy Programs:
 - Continuation of Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum, primary grades
 - Continuation of IMSE Comprehensive, K-2
 - New this year: Training and Implementation of IMSE Morphology, 3-4

Academics

District-Wide

- Transition from Response to Intervention (RtI) to Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to support the “whole child”
- Instructional Coaches - supporting professional learning in
 - Literacy, Mathematics, & Content Areas
 - Data Collection and Personalized Learning (STAR, IXL)
 - PRMS and PRHS: focused support for staff teaching students in transition grades 5 and 7, aligning instructional goals with NYS Standards
 - Using data for responsive classroom instruction, and supporting teachers with integration of new Tier 1 (core) instructional strategies through modeling and partnering

Arts

- Arts in the Park 2023: a community celebration of visual and performing arts showcasing the musical and artistic talents of our K-12 students and arts educators.
- Arts in the Park 2024: Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Central Avenue Field.
 - Open air gallery featuring over 2,000 pieces of original student art and tables to exhibit multi-dimensional artwork
 - Live musical performances

Athletics

- 2023-2024 Pearl River Boys Swim Varsity Team
- HUDL TV Live stream for all Pearl River home games played on turf field and in the main gym

**New York State 3-8 ELA
Student Performance Data
Spring 2023**

New York State 3-5 ELA Highlights

Grade Level	Percentage of Students Proficient (Levels 3 & 4)
3-8 Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 1st in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 4th in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 1st in Rockland County● 2023 - 2nd in Rockland County<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Notable growth: cohort improved from 4th to 2nd
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 1st in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County

PEARL RIVER UFSD Elementary Assessment Story

2023 NYSE/IT English Language Arts Exam - Elementary

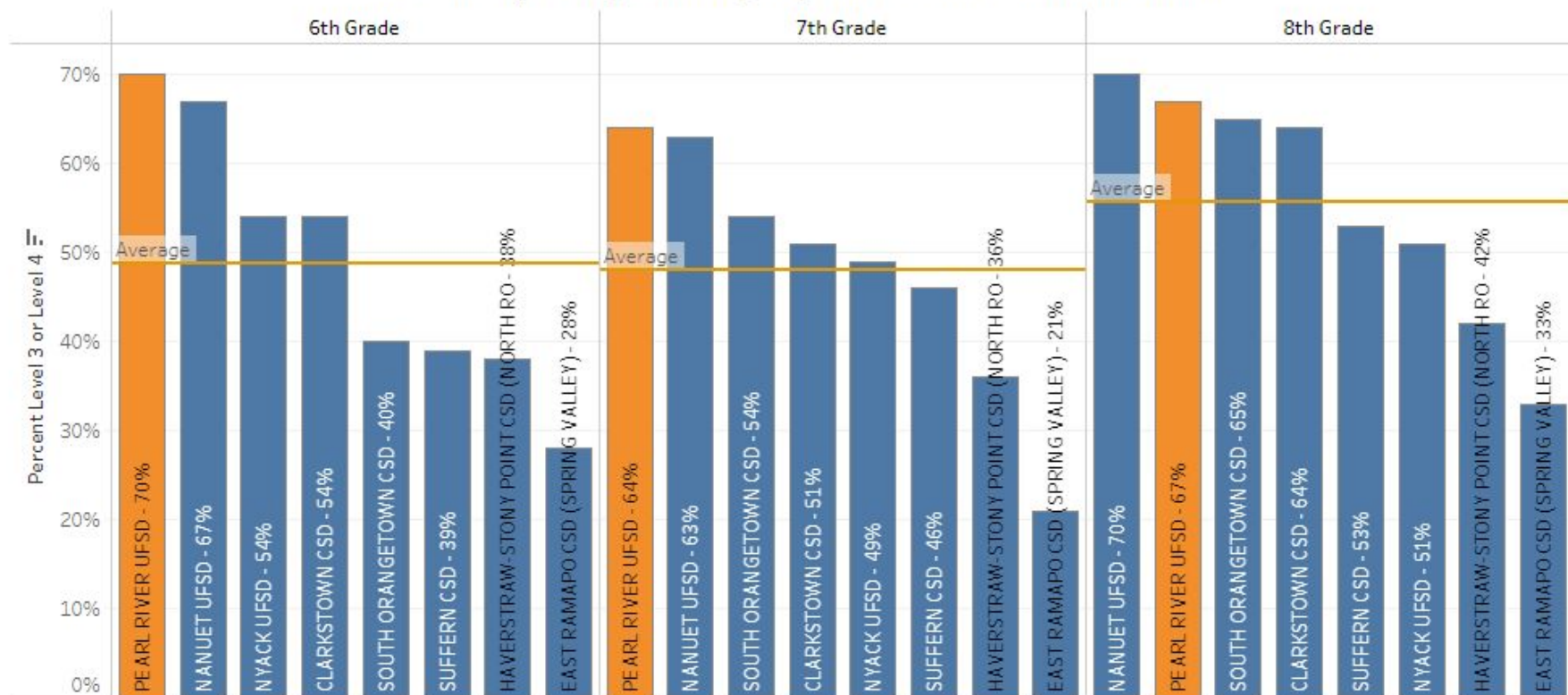


New York State 6-8 ELA Highlights

Grade Level	Percentage of Students Proficient (Levels 3 & 4)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 1st in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 3rd in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 4th in Rockland County● 2023 - 2nd in Rockland County

PEARL RIVER UFSD Elementary Assessment Story

2023 NYSE/IT English Language Arts Exam - Middle School



New York State 3-8 Math Assessment
Student Performance Data
Spring 2023

New York State 3-5 Math Assessment Highlights

Grade Level	Percentage of Students Proficient (Levels 3 & 4)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 3rd in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 1st in Rockland County● 2023 - 1st in Rockland County
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 6th in Rockland County● 2023- 2nd in Rockland County

PEARL RIVER UFSD Elementary Assessment Story

2023 NYSE/IT Math Exam - Elementary

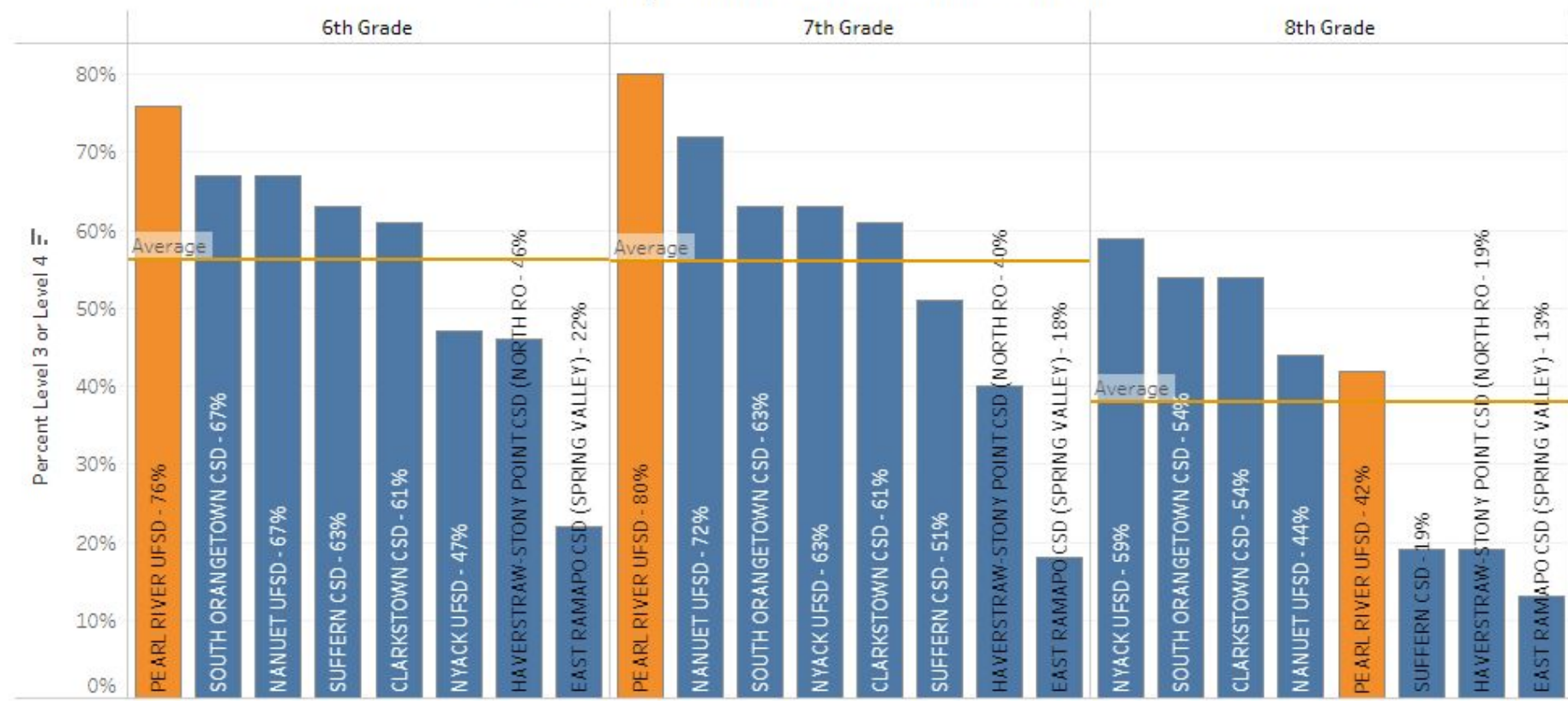


New York State 6-8 Math Highlights

Grade Level	Percentage of Students Proficient (Levels 3 & 4)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 4th in Rockland County● 2023- 1st in Rockland County
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 2nd in Rockland County● 2023- 1st in Rockland County<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Notable growth: cohort improved from 4th to 1st
*8 (*40% participation rate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 6th in Rockland County● 2023- 5th in Rockland County
Regents Gr. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 100% Passing● 2023- 100% Passing
Combined Gr.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2022 - 6th in Rockland County● 2023- 3rd in Rockland County

PEARL RIVER UFSD Elementary Assessment Story

2023 NYSE/IT Math Exam - Middle School

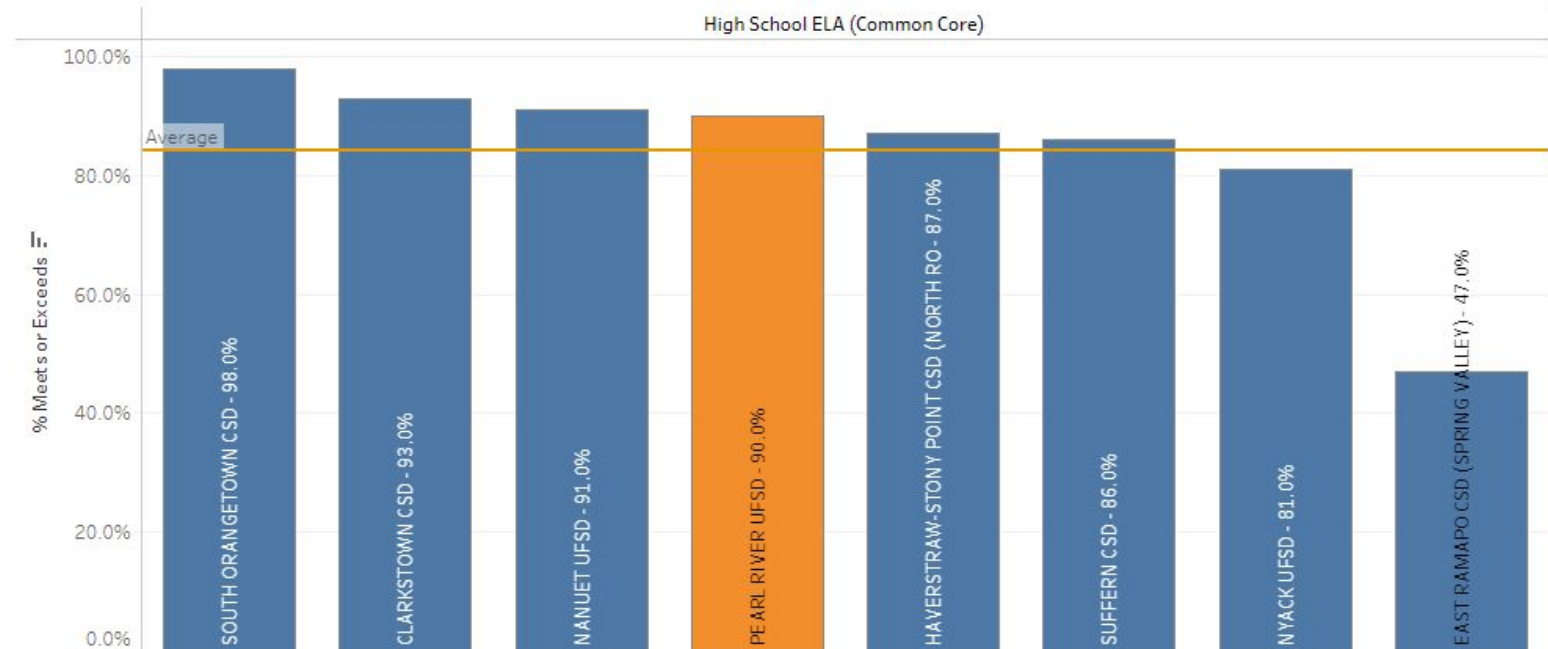


New York State Regents Assessments
Student Performance Data
2023

New York State English Regents

PEARL RIVER UFSD High School Assessment Story

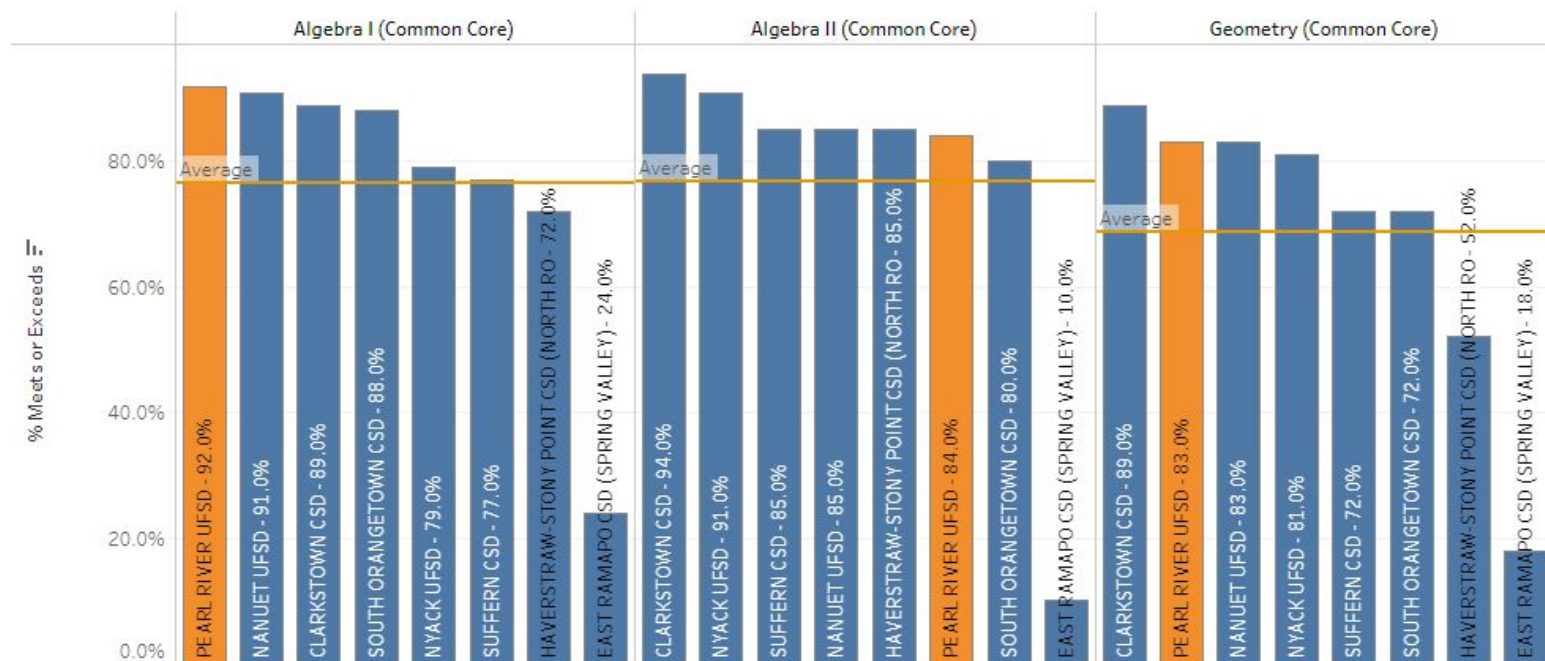
2023 Regents Common Core ELA Exam



New York State Regents Math Exams

PEARL RIVER UFSD High School Assessment Story

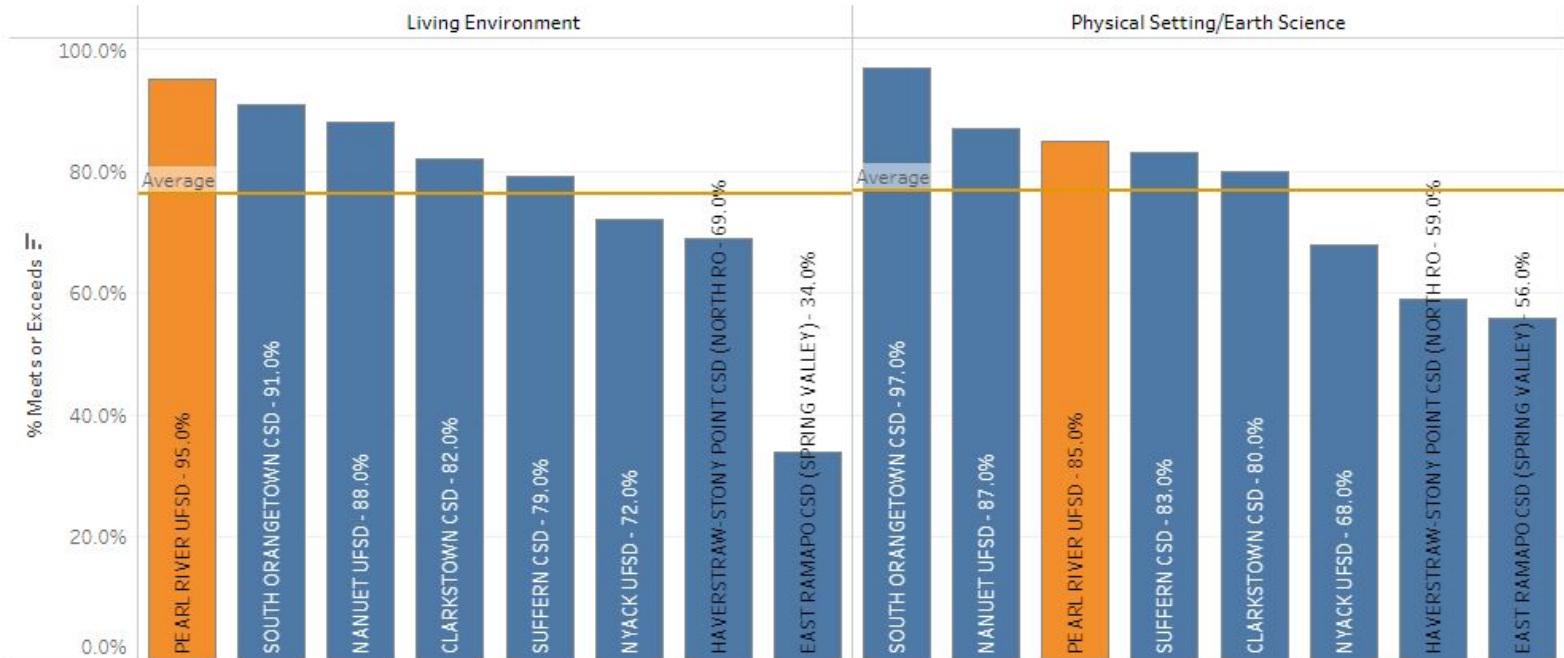
2023 Regents Common Core Math Exam



New York State Regents Science Exams

PEARL RIVER UFSD High School Assessment Story

2023 Regents Science Exam



Social Emotional Learning

K-12

Social-Emotional Learning

2023-2024 District wide focus on strengthening school connectedness

District wide adoption of a vision and action plan for SEL through SELFIE

Year 3 of District-wide implementation of RULER through the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

Elementary Schools: 2022-23 full implementation with students; four anchor tools

- 2023-2024 Expansion of RULER Implementation, focus on increasing students feeling vocabulary
- Classroom teachers deliver two to four lessons per month
- Clinicians provide support through whole class lessons, small group lessons, and individual support
- Monthly themes create focus for character education and promote healthy school climates

Social-Emotional Learning

Middle School/High School: 2022-23 full implementation with students; four anchor tools

- 2023-2024 Expansion of RULER Implementation, focus on increasing students feeling vocabulary
- Clinicians provide support through whole class lessons, small group lessons, and individual support. Classroom teachers deliver two to four lessons per month.
- Monthly themes create focus for character education and promote healthy school climates
- Instructional coaching support for teachers for the integration of SEL in classroom routines: self-reflection, metacognition, and student leadership and independence
- Charters for the school, departments, and classrooms
- PRHS School-Wide Expectations:
 - Positive, Respectful, Hardworking, & Supportive

Technology, Safety & Facilities

Technology

- Upgrade of District phone system
- Maintenance of one-to-one student to device ratio with Chromebooks
- Professional support for instructional technology integration for all K-12 staff
- Imagine Learning computer program for multilingual learners
- Development of AI Guidelines by CAC Subcommittee

Safety

- Expansion of security camera coverage and system upgrades NYSED has approved Smart School
- Professional learning and specialized training for staff
- Alyssa's Law compliant panic alarm system
- Participation in county-wide active shooter training (Winter 2024)
- Implementation of NYS Law - Workplace Violence Prevention Policy

Facilities and Business

- Security Camera Project - Additional camera coverage and improved video quality
- Implemented Paperless Purchasing
 - Eliminated paper receiving copies
 - Attached quotes in accounting software
- Implemented Department Meetings for Maintenance, Grounds and Head Custodians
 - Evaluate priorities and discuss initiatives.
- District Wide Cleanup Initiative
 - Clean and organize new athletics barn
 - Dispose of old metal and containers districtwide
 - Inventory all cleaning machines, furniture and equipment
 - Reorganize central supply inventory
 - Boiler room clean up
 - New custodial cleaning product stations, cleaning carts and protocols

Budget

Budget: Sustaining Momentum

- Expiration of COVID funding
- Understand Budget Drivers Using Data Driven Methods
 - Staff to Student Ratios
 - Use historical cost to forecast expenditures
- Develop cost conscious procedures to maintain financial stability
- Incorporate long range fiscal planning

Human Resources & Community Services

Human Resources: Recruitment, Hiring, Retention

Focus on the recruitment, hiring, and retention of highest quality faculty and staff through a rigorous process that includes input from all stakeholders

Human Capital: An ongoing investment in organizational excellence

Recruitment Strategy: OLAS, regional and state-wide listservs as appropriate, diversity job fairs, local college job fairs and relationship-building with local teacher-ed programs

Hiring Overview: Credentialing, screening, multi-level committee interviews representing various stakeholder groups, demo lessons for teaching positions, reference/background checking, fingerprinting, Cabinet-level Interview, Superintendent's recommendation-Board approval

Retention Strategy: New Staff Symposium for all teachers and teaching assistants, mentoring or peer support program for individuals new to teaching or new to the District, numerous professional development opportunities

Human Resources and Community Services

Vacancies Filled within the last year

Leadership

- 3 Assistant Superintendents
- Director of Special Services
- MS Assistant Principal
- Elementary School Principal
- Transportation Director

Instructional

- 17 Classroom teachers
- 4 Teaching Assistants
- Several Daily and Building Substitute Teachers
- Numerous Coaches and Club Advisors

Civil Service

- 3 Nurses (PRSD Schools and SMS)
- 6 Clerical Positions
- 7 Teacher Aides
- 10 Monitors
- 2 Custodial/Grounds

Human Resources and Community Services (cont.)

New positions created to support student learning:

- 1 Special Education Teacher
- 1 Speech Teacher (District)
- 1 4th Grade Teacher at Franklin Elementary

Communications:

- Social Media (Facebook and Instagram), website, and SchoolMessenger presence gives our school community snapshots of student learning and accomplishments
- Monthly e-newsletter (PRSD Pulse) provides highlights of classroom instruction/teaching and learning across the District
- Parent University program: evening workshops to help support parents and the school-home partnership; workshops archived on District's YouTube channel
- Promoting PRSD and Community Events (ex. DeJa Vu and Penguin Plunge)



Thank you.
Questions?