



bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Elementary and Middle School Summative Rankings -Possible Factors to Look At in the Decline

1 message

bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Fri, May 12, 2023 at 8:00 PM

To: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, jyoung@bhpsnj.org, tforegger@bhpsnj.org, dkhanna@bhpsnj.org, gbradford@bhpsnj.org, jhyman@bhpsnj.org, rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org, pstanley@bhpsnj.org, "Dr. Melissa" <mvarlev@bhpsnj.org>

The information Dr. Foregger and Ms. Khanna were referencing comes from the Dept of Education - the rankings and ratings are the first publications since 2020 due to covid. The rankings and ratings connect to a multitude of factors. I have been looking at and writing about this information for weeks. Being that many of you have no awareness of this information I will try to help you. This first email will deal with elementary and middle schools. This may help the Superintendent and all of you understand why our ratings and rankings are lower and target interventions to improve them.

Elementary School Notes:

Hughes - Math declines as kids transition from grades 3 (84%) through 5 (69%)

Mountain Park-Math declines as kids transition from grades 3 (88%) through 5 (74%)

Mountain ELA declines as kids transition from grades 3 (80%) through 5 (73%)

This is important as student growth is part of the measure used to determine summative scoring: "Student growth is a measure of how much students are learning each year. New Jersey's ESSA state plan outlines that academic progress will be measured with school's median student growth percentile (mSGP) on statewide ELA and mathematics assessments. Each individual student receives a Student Growth Percentile (SGP) for English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 4 through 8 and for Mathematics in grades 4 through 7. The SGP measures their academic progress from one year to the next compared to other students with similar prior test scores (academic peers)." <https://rc.doe.state.nj.us/2021-2022/school/detail/39/0310/040/growth?lang=EN>

Science is likely a big culprit in harming our summative scores:

51% of students met or exceeded on science for Hughes

66% at Mountain Park

Middle School Notes:

Our Science Performance is Abysmal (31% proficient)

Our Math Proficiency on Algebra I is on 64%

Our Overall Match Proficiency is 66%

Im not clear on how this translates into our doing well in Middle School

Link to graphs: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/TbAhEfGMbBHxs5um8>

Source:

<https://rc.doe.state.nj.us/>

I will provide you my perspective on GL in a later email.

John Migueis

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Governor Livingston Summative Rankings-Possible Factors to Look At in the Decline

1 message

bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Sat, May 13, 2023 at 2:06 PM

To: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, jyoung@bhpsnj.org, tforegger@bhpsnj.org, dkhanna@bhpsnj.org, jhyman@bhpsnj.org, gbradford@bhpsnj.org, rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org, pstanley@bhpsnj.org, [REDACTED]

Here is my perspective on the GL report that I indicated I would provide to help you understand what the community has been discussing the past few weeks and what Dr. Foregger and Ms. Khanna were both discussing.

Clarification on last email:

On the grade transitions in elementary schools- this is one snap shot - it does not appear to be a direct indicator OF the overall measure but rather an indirect variable that can act as a face indicator - since proficiencies appear to be dropping across grades in this report it is a point of exploration for the measure on student growth. I do plan to look at prior years in the week ahead in coming to a firmer understanding. If you have access to the actual data on this I would appreciate your providing it to me or sending me a link to it.

Going to GL and what the District can look at and what the Superintendent can cover when discussing this with the Public.

48% of GL met or exceed expectation on English Language Arts
32.9% On Math Assessment
37.1% on Geometry
Algebra II was a bright spot at 82% but that measure only includes 22 students
Science Remains problematic at 47% meeting or exceeding

Explanations that center around Middle School and Algebra I appear just bizarre given this information in that there are many other areas to consider and especially when you consider that even on that measure we dont appear to be performing well.

Explanations that center on the fact that AP Students giving up or that the District experienced a Pandemic are insulting as every District would have these variables in play.

SAT scores going up is not a product of our schools achievement - SAT are proximate to IQ tests and do not measure proficiency (a better measure of how a school is doing). SAT scores are certainly helped by schools but they are more a measure of a students innate ability on how well the school taught the student. <https://gwern.net/doc/iq/high/smpy/2004-frey.pdf>

I would like the BOE and the Superintendent to take the reports seriously and to provide the public with a coherent presentation on this issue at the next meeting.

I reached out to the Superintendent last year requesting that she provide the community a coherent analysis on the 2020 edition of this report which also involved a large public discussion. If the District would like my help in this regard I would be more than happy to work with District Staff.

snapshots: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xFN1h78hNDm9cGDUA>

source: <https://rc.doe.state.nj.us/2021-2022/school/detail/39/0310/005/academic?lang=EN>

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Comparisons Across Subjects between 2018-2019 and 2021-2022

1 message

bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Sat, May 13, 2023 at 11:50 PM

To: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, jyoung@bhpsnj.org, tforegger@bhpsnj.org, dkhanna@bhpsnj.org, gbradford@bhpsnj.org, jhyman@bhpsnj.org, rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org, pstanley@bhpsnj.org, "Dr. Melissa" <mvarlev@bhpsnj.org>



Note on last email. The reason I could not find the SG Data was because it wasn't tracked so I would recommend some type of internal tracking mechanism.

I did comparisons on all top level subject areas across all schools between 2018-2019 and 2021- 2022. The latter was the last time comparable data was kept.

IN EVERY SINGLE SUBJECT AREA ACROSS EVERY SINGLE SCHOOL WE DROPPED with the exception of Science in GL (5 point Increase). Every subject area in every school with the exception of a small increase in Science at GL.

The average **overall drop in Math** across all schools was **10 percentage points**.

The average **overall drop in ELA** across all schools was **13.7 percentage points**

The average **overall drop in Science** across all schools was **10.75 percentage points**

Data Source again: <https://rc.doe.state.nj.us/>

Here are the links to the graphs: <https://photos.google.com/u/1/album/AF1QipPQK3PAhJ0KgFjupbAKXkU8eqgesgugdQy1QBT>

This is the data behind the decline. Please ask Dr. Varley to discuss this at the next BOE Meeting.

Again if I can be of any assistance in helping you understand this please feel free to reach out- hopefully you are in a better place with this as a result of these explanations.

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Berkeley Heights Community Watch






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Comparisons Across Subjects between 2018-2019 and 2021-2022

Khanna, Dipti <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>

Sun, May 14, 2023 at 6:04 PM

To: bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Cc: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, jyoung@bhpsnj.org, "Dr. Melissa" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>, 

John - Thank you for the information, and I appreciate you taking the time to do a detailed analysis and sharing it with the board. The data appears to point to a trend in the scores of our school districts and it would behoove us to do a root cause analysis and identify where our district could make improvements.

As always, these are my individual thoughts and opinions and do not represent the opinions of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education. Although I am a member of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, I am not authorized to speak on behalf of the Board.

Best Regards,
Dipti

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Comparisons Across Subjects between 2018-2019 and 2021-2022

bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Sun, May 14, 2023 at 10:46 PM

To: "Khanna, Dipti" <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>

Cc: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, jyoung@bhpsnj.org, "Dr. Melissa" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>, [REDACTED]

My pleasure. I think two more snapshots might be helpful here. During the last BOE Meeting, the Superintendent informed the Public that CMS was doing well on Algebra 1 and implied that it was a hinge point as to why the data was incorrect (again when you look at all the data that really does not appear to make sense). In any case here is our Algebra I snapshot (attached and also uploaded)

Algebra I			
School	2018-2019 % of Students Meeting/Exceeding	2021-2022 % of Students Meeting/Exceeding	Difference
CMS	79	64	-15

Lastly here is a snap shot of BH in comparison to six other schools along the summative ratings and rankings the proficiencies I emailed you on have been feeding into along with our cost per pupil. I also included Westfield as Ms. Stanley felt that was a good comparison.

Rank on this list	District (K-12 unless otherwise noted)	County	Number of schools included	Summative score 2021-22	Summative ranking 2021-22	2020-21 Actual Per Pupil Amount-Taxpayers Guide to Education Spending	2021-22 Budgeted Per Pupil Amount
3	Millburn	Essex	8	82 (B-)	89 (B+)	17,613	18,336
4	Westfield	Union	9	79 (C+)	88 (B+)	16,622	16,226
6	New Providence	Union	4	80 (B-)	86 (B)	15,605	17,054
7	Chatham	Morris	6	80 (B-)	85 (B)	15,976	17,248
7	Madison	Morris	5	80 (B-)	85 (B)	16,648	17,567
9	Summit	Union	7	73 (C)	81 (B-)	16,679	17,925
20	Berkeley Heights	Union	4	62 (D-)	67 (D+)	18,840	19,925

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