

Lennox School District 41-4

Our Mission: To work together to inspire lifelong learners who innovate, persevere, and collaborate to solve the challenges of tomorrow.



Every School. Every Student. Every Day.

School Funding

- School Funding is extremely complex with a variety of accounts
- The main account is the General Fund Account which pays for general operating expenses. 80-85% is utilized to pay salaries and benefits.
- Three major factors that we have no control over that fund the General Fund are taxes we receive from levies, the amount of money the Legislature allocates each year and our enrollment.
- The law states that school should receive the CPI or 3% whichever is less
- In the 2026 Legislative session the Governor proposed a 0% increase, the CPI was at 3.2% and we finished at 1.4%.
- In the 2025 Legislative session the Governor proposed a 1% increase, the CPI was at 2.9% and we finished at 1.25%

School Funding Cont'd

- So, over the last two years we're behind in funding by 3.25%
- We cannot continue to go backwards year after year.
- Teacher Accountability Law – Blue Ribbon Task Force
- ½ cent sales tax that was implemented was for teacher's salaries
- The Legislature moved the sales tax from 4.5% to 4.2% which took the money away from teacher salaries.
- This last Legislative session they now moved that money over to property tax relief.

State Aid Comparison with Consumer Price Index (CPI)

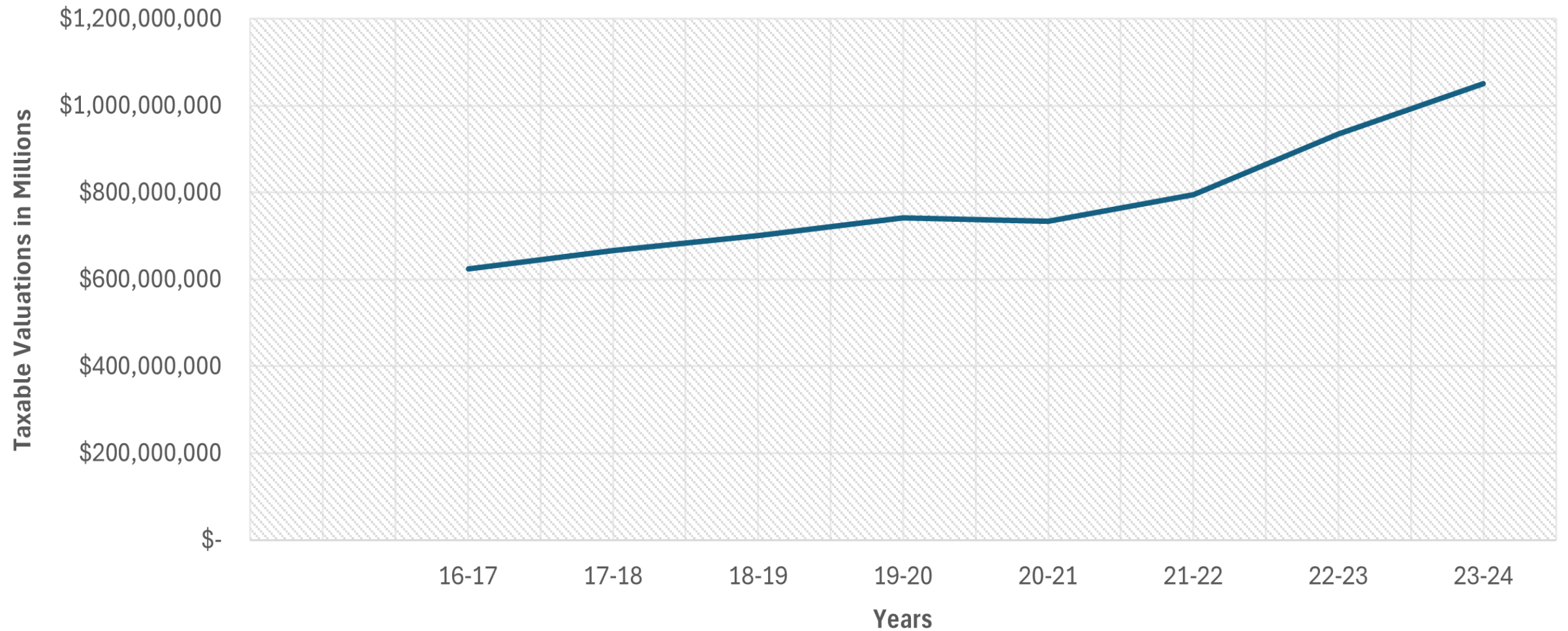
Year	CPI-W	Inflation %	Education %	Per Student Allocation	
2005	195.292	3.4	3 *	\$3,967	Includes one time money \$73.74
2006	201.592	3.2	2	\$4,237	
2007	207.342	2.8	3 *	\$4,365	Includes one time money \$54
2008	215.303	3.8	3	\$4,529	
2009	214.537	-0.4	0	\$4,665	
2010	218.056	1.6	0	\$4,805	
2011	224.939	3.2	0	\$4,805	
2012	229.594	2.1	-8.6	\$4,390	Daugaard Cuts
2013	232.957	1.5	2.3 *	\$4,491	Includes one time money \$75.87
2014	236.736	1.6	0	\$4,491	
2015	237.017	0.1	3.36	\$4,626	
2016	240.011	1.3	2	\$4,764	
2017	245.12	2.1	12 *	\$9,256	Money from Pension Levy and 1/2 cent sales tax. Switched how the PSA is calculated.
2018	251.107	2.4	0.3	\$9,304	
2019	255.657	1.8	1	\$9,369	
2020	258.811	1.2	2.5	\$9,420	
2021	270.97	4.7	2	\$10,049	
2022	292.655	8	2.4	\$10,527	
2023	304.702	4.1	6	\$11,020	
2024	313.689	2.9	7	\$11,766	
2025	321.943	3.2	1.25	\$12,222	
Average	258.4015	2.73	1.2105		

Taxation

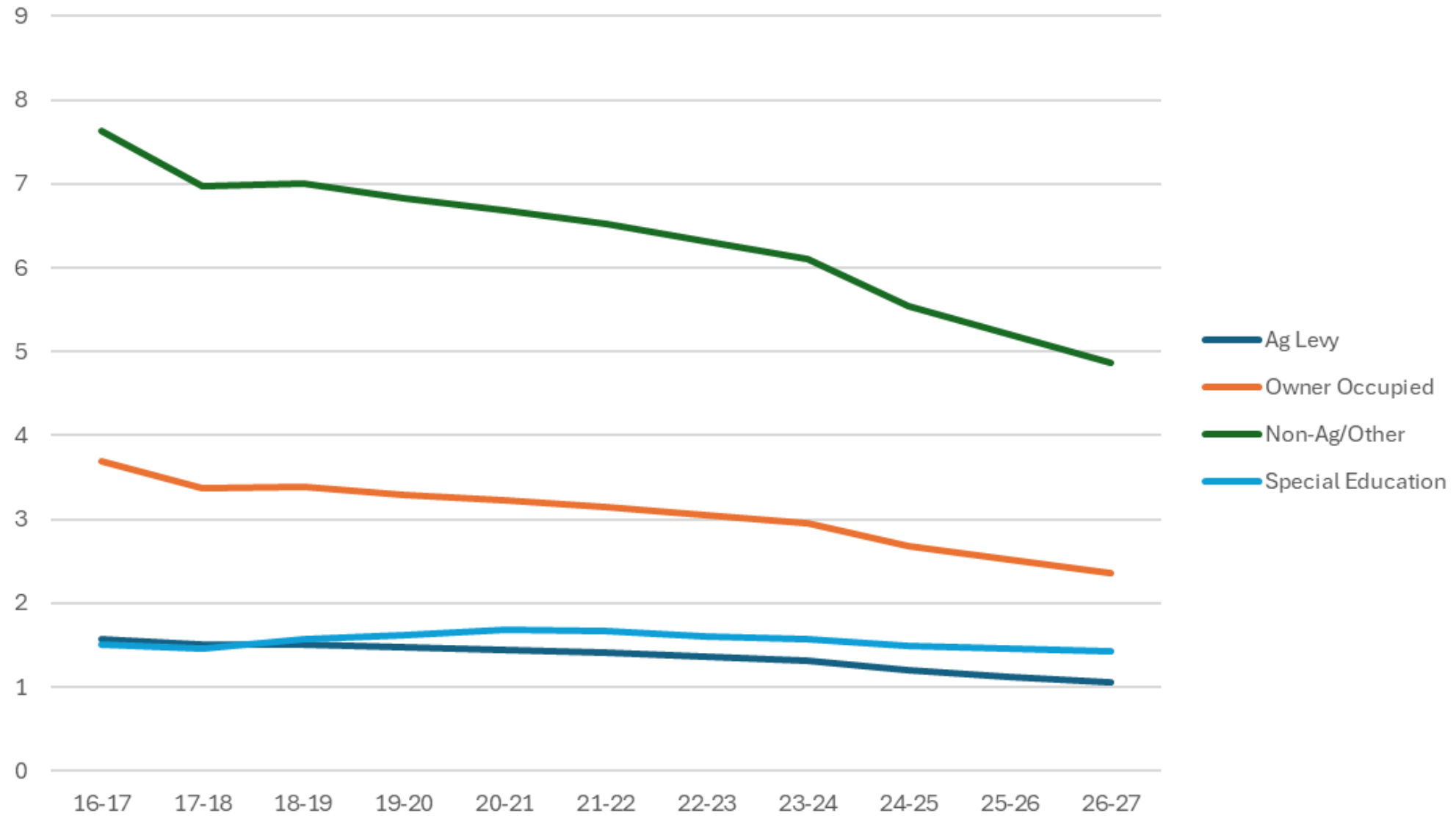
- The state continues to decrease the levies that districts can assess to collect money.
- The valuations continue to increase
- The Lennox School District has been extremely responsible with the district's taxpayer's dollars.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Per Student Cost to Educate	\$8,346	\$9,056	\$9,515	\$10,031	\$10,210
Average Cost to Educate Statewide	\$10,049	\$10,527	\$11,020	\$11,766	\$12,222
State Ranking (out of 149 districts)	146/149 4th lowest	133/149 17th lowest	136/149 14th lowest	138/148 11th lowest	141/148 8th lowest

Taxable Valuations



Tax Levies 2016-2026



State Performance Comparison

2024-2025 District Name	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
Lennox School District 41-4	72%	66%	61%
Agar-Blunt Onida School District	63%	55%	66%
Arlington School District	67%	73%	50%
Baltic School District	66%	59%	66%
Harding County School District	59%	53%	62%
Warner School District	82%	80%	77%
Brandon Valley School District	75%	68%	62%
Gettysburg School District	69%	67%	57%
Hoven School District	64%	58%	64%
Timber Lake School District	69%	67%	62%
Howard School District	66%	71%	64%
Ethan School District	64%	71%	48%
Selby School District	69%	55%	65%
Kadoka School District	62%	54%	63%
Lake Preston School District	66%	77%	69%
Dell Rapids School District	68%	66%	62%
Montrose School District	68%	57%	63%
Lennox School District	3 of 148	T 9 of 148	14 of 147

District Performance Comparison

2024-2025

District	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
BRANDON VALLEY	75%	68%	62%
LENNOX	72%	66%	61%
DELL RAPIDS	68%	66%	62%
TEA	61%	58%	53%
WEST CENTRAL	54%	54%	51%
DAKOTA VALLEY	67%	52%	52%
HARRISBURG	60%	52%	51%
EPJ	49%	49%	61%
CANTON	59%	52%	45%
MADISON CENTRAL	60%	46%	54%
VERMILLION	52%	41%	53%
TRI-VALLEY	54%	46%	46%
BERESFORD	55%	41%	48%
STATE	52%	44%	44%

Lennox	2 of 14	2 (tied) of 14	2 (tied) of 14
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Elementary Comparison

2024-2025	Student Achievement			Academic Growth		Student Quality Included
Elementary	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science	ELA % Student Progress	Math % Student Progress	SPI
BRANDON FRED ASSAM ELEMENTARY	86%	92%		91%	94%	95
BRANDON ELEMENTARY	67%	71%		86%	81%	85
BRANDON INSPIRATION ELEMENTARY	80%	77%		84%	76%	85
DAKOTA VALLEY ELEMENTARY	52%	58%		This school has less than 10 students for reporting		83
HARRISBURG ADVENTURE ELEMENTARY	81%	82%	70%	77%	75%	81
TEA AREA LEGACY ELEMENTARY	72%	76%	48%	67%	68%	78
HARRISBURG JOURNEY ELEMENTARY	65%	68%	57%	66%	76%	77
BRANDON ROBERT BENNIS ELEMENTARY	70%	70%		69%	71%	76
LENNOX ELEMENTARY	70%	75%		70%	46%	75
WORTHING ELEMENTARY	67%	70%		58%	46%	74
DELL RAPIDS ELEMENTARY	64%	76%		65%	45%	73
TRI-VALLEY ELEMENTARY Colton	59%	57%		70%	65%	73
MADISON CENTRAL ELEMENTARY	57%	53%		69%	73%	73
HARRISBURG ENDEAVOR ELEMENTARY	54%	66%		61%	58%	72
TEA AREA VENTURE ELEMENTARY	62%	66%		60%	52%	72
WEST CENTRAL HARTFORD ELEMENTARY	55%	67%	47%	60%	63%	71
BERESFORD ELEMENTARY	62%	54%	48%	57%	56%	68
HARRISBURG EXPLORER ELEMENTARY	60%	59%	46%	60%	48%	69
TEA AREA FRONTIER ELEMENTARY	48%	48%	38%	62%	59%	67
TRI-VALLEY ELEMENTARY Crooks	52%	52%		61%	59%	67
HARRISBURG LIBERTY ELEMENTARY	48%	49%	27%	57%	44%	66
CANTON LAWRENCE	52%	59%	43%	49%	45%	64
EPJ ELEMENTARY	42%	45%	55%	46%	52%	60
HARRISBURG FREEDOM ELEMENTARY	36%	38%	32%	46%	36%	58
HARRISBURG HORIZON ELEMENTARY	43%	36%	31%	52%	33%	57
VERMILLION ELEMENTARY	39%	38%	46%	43%	40%	53
LWC Intermediate			44%			
STATE	47%	50%	44%	56%	51%	

Lennox Elementary	T 5 of 28	6 of 28	LWC T 12 of 17	T 5 of 27	T 21 of 27	9 of 27
Worthing	T 7 of 28	T 8 of 28		18 of 27	T 21 of 27	10 of 27

Intermediate/Junior High Comparison

2024-2025

	Student Achievement			Academic Growth		School Quality Included
Intermediate/JH	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient	ELA % Student Progress	Math % Student Progress	SPI
BRANDON VALLEY INTERMEDIATE	75%	70%	68%	70%	69%	75
DELL RAPIDS MIDDLE SCHOOL	74%	61%	58%	69%	68%	75
DAKOTA VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL	72%	56%	51%	76%	69%	74
LENNOX INTERMEDIATE	69%	66%	44%	65%	63%	73
BRANDON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL	74%	61%	58%	74%	63%	70
HARRISBURG SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	63%	52%	60%	71%	65%	70
LENNOX JUNIOR HIGH	73%	67%	64%	72%	64%	69
VERMILLION MIDDLE SCHOOL	59%	45%	56%	65%	57%	65
HARRISBURG NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	69%	58%	59%	76%	67%	69
DAKOTA VALLEY UPPER	59%	46%	48%	60%	31%	62
CANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	60%	49%	46%	68%	52%	65
HARRISBURG EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL	58%	45%	50%	61%	51%	62
TEA AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL	55%	55%	56%	58%	61%	64
EPJ MIDDLE SCHOOL	46%	53%	53%	50%	66%	61
MADISON CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	59%	44%	45%	66%	48%	64
TRI-VALLEY INTERMEDIATE	52%	45%	47%	56%	53%	59
WEST CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	47%	45%	40%	51%	49%	58
BERESFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL	48%	33%	43%	55%	42%	55
STATE	52%	44%	44%	56%	51%	

Lennox JH	3 of 19	2 of 19	2 of 19	4 of 19	7 of 19	T 7 of 18
Lennox Intermediate	T 6 of 19	3 of 19	16 of 19	T 10 of 19	T 8 of 19	4 of 18

High School Comparison

2024-2025

REGION-HS	Student Achievement- Class of 2026			College & Career Readiness- Class of 2024				High School Completion- Class of 2025		
High School	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient	Coursework Readiness	Assessment Readiness	College and Career Readiness	ACT	On Time Graduation	High School Completion	SPI
LENNOX	80%	54%	78%	94%	81%	76%	23	93%	100%	90
EPI	78%	54%	74%	94%	83%	81%	22	94%	96%	90
BRANDON VALLEY	78%	63%	58%	80%	77%	75%	23	95%	99%	86
TRI-VALLEY	62%	34%	45%	91%	79%	77%	21	93%	97%	83
WEST CENTRAL	73%	41%	67%	86%	71%	70%	21	98%	95%	83
DAKOTA VALLEY	76%	47%	55%	79%	70%	64%	22	96%	98%	82
HARRISBURG	63%	33%	50%	88%	72%	71%	22	92%	99%	81
DELL RAPIDS	65%	38%	25%	85%	75%	69%	21	96%	98%	80
TEA	75%	44%	66%	84%	70%	68%	21	95%	99%	80
MADISON CENTRAL	71%	37%	55%	84%	72%	71%	22	89%	94%	79
CANTON	77%	41%	47%	85%	50%	45%	21	89%	92%	78
VERMILLION	64%	34%	55%	84%	54%	51%	23	91%	95%	78
BERESFORD	55%	17%	55%	91%	66%	63%	20	97%	94%	76
STATE	64%	36%	49%	71%	60%	55%	21	86%	91%	

Lennox High School	1 of 14	T 2 of 14	1 of 14	T 1 of 14	2 of 14	3 of 14	T 1 of 14	T 8 of 14	1 of 14	T 1 of 13
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State Performance Comparison

2023-2024 District Name	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
Lennox School District 41-4	71%	66%	65%
Arlington School District	68%	79%	45%
Baltic School District	63%	49%	67%
Warner School District	77%	78%	77%
Centerville School District	50%	55%	53%
Frederick Area School District	63%	65%	70%
Brandon Valley School District	75%	68%	65%
Gettysburg School District	69%	67%	57%
Corsica-Stickney School District	60%	67%	66%
Big Stone City School District	68%	70%	75%
Hoven School District	63%	65%	67%
Jones County School District	71%	66%	50%
Timber Lake School District	69%	67%	62%
Howard School District	65%	67%	51%
Ethan School District	69%	68%	67%
Dell Rapids School District	65%	66%	49%
Lennox School District	3 of 145	10 of 143	8 of 143

District Performance Comparison

2023-2024

District	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
LENNOX	71.00%	66.00%	65.00%
BRANDON VALLEY	75.00%	68.00%	65.00%
DELL RAPIDS	65.00%	66.00%	49.00%
TEA	57.00%	56.00%	47.00%
WEST CENTRAL	52.00%	51.00%	42.00%
DAKOTA VALLEY	65.00%	50.00%	57.00%
HARRISBURG	58.00%	51.00%	51.00%
EPJ	45.00%	50.00%	49.00%
CANTON	57.00%	51.00%	46.00%
MADISON CENTRAL	56.00%	46.00%	47.00%
STATE	50.00%	43.00%	43.00%
VERMILLION	56.00%	41.00%	47.00%
TRI-VALLEY	52.00%	44.00%	48.00%
BERESFORD	47.00%	37.00%	44.00%

Lennox	2 of 13	2 (tied) of 13	1 (tied) of 13
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State Performance Comparison

2022-2023 District Name	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
Lennox School District 41-4	71%	68%	68%
Agar-Blunt-Onida School District 58-3	59%	48%	67%
Ethan School District 17-1	70%	75%	66%
Warner School District 06-5	81%	79%	65%
Canistota School District 43-1	56%	57%	64%
Jones County School District 37-3	62%	73%	63%
Brandon Valley School District 49-2	73%	65%	63%
Groton Area School District 06-6	70%	58%	62%
Avon School District 04-1	68%	55%	59%
Big Stone City School District 25-1	63%	78%	57%
Hanson School District 30-1	67%	61%	57%
Milbank School District 25-4	58%	49%	57%
Timber Lake School District 20-3	70%	69%	56%
Harding County School District 31-1	53%	52%	55%
Dakota Valley School District 61-8	58%	50%	55%
Dell Rapids School District 49-3	67%	63%	54%
Lennox School District 41-4	3 of 147	6 of 142	1 of 146

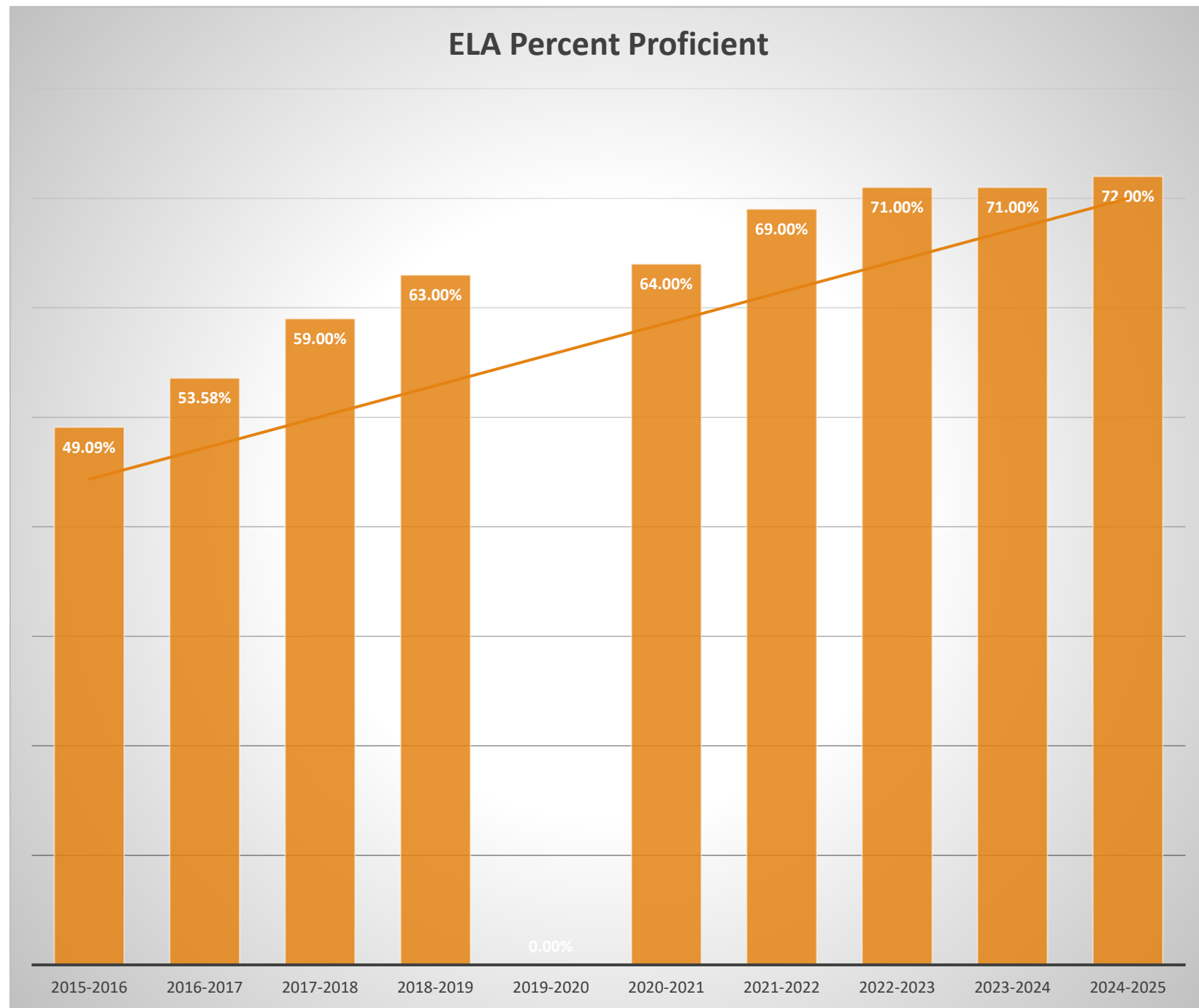
District Performance Comparison

2022-2023

District	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient	Science % Proficient
LENNOX	71.00%	68.00%	68.00%
BRANDON VALLEY	73.00%	65.00%	63.00%
DELL RAPIDS	67.00%	63.00%	54.00%
TEA	57.00%	56.00%	53.00%
WEST CENTRAL	57.00%	52.00%	50.00%
DAKOTA VALLEY	58.00%	50.00%	55.00%
HARRISBURG	60.00%	50.00%	50.00%
EPJ	51.00%	49.00%	49.00%
CANTON	56.00%	49.00%	44.00%
MADISON CENTRAL	55.00%	45.00%	49.00%
STATE	50.00%	43.00%	43.00%
VERMILLION	54.00%	42.00%	45.00%
TRI-VALLEY	54.00%	41.00%	43.00%
BERESFORD	39.00%	32.00%	33.00%

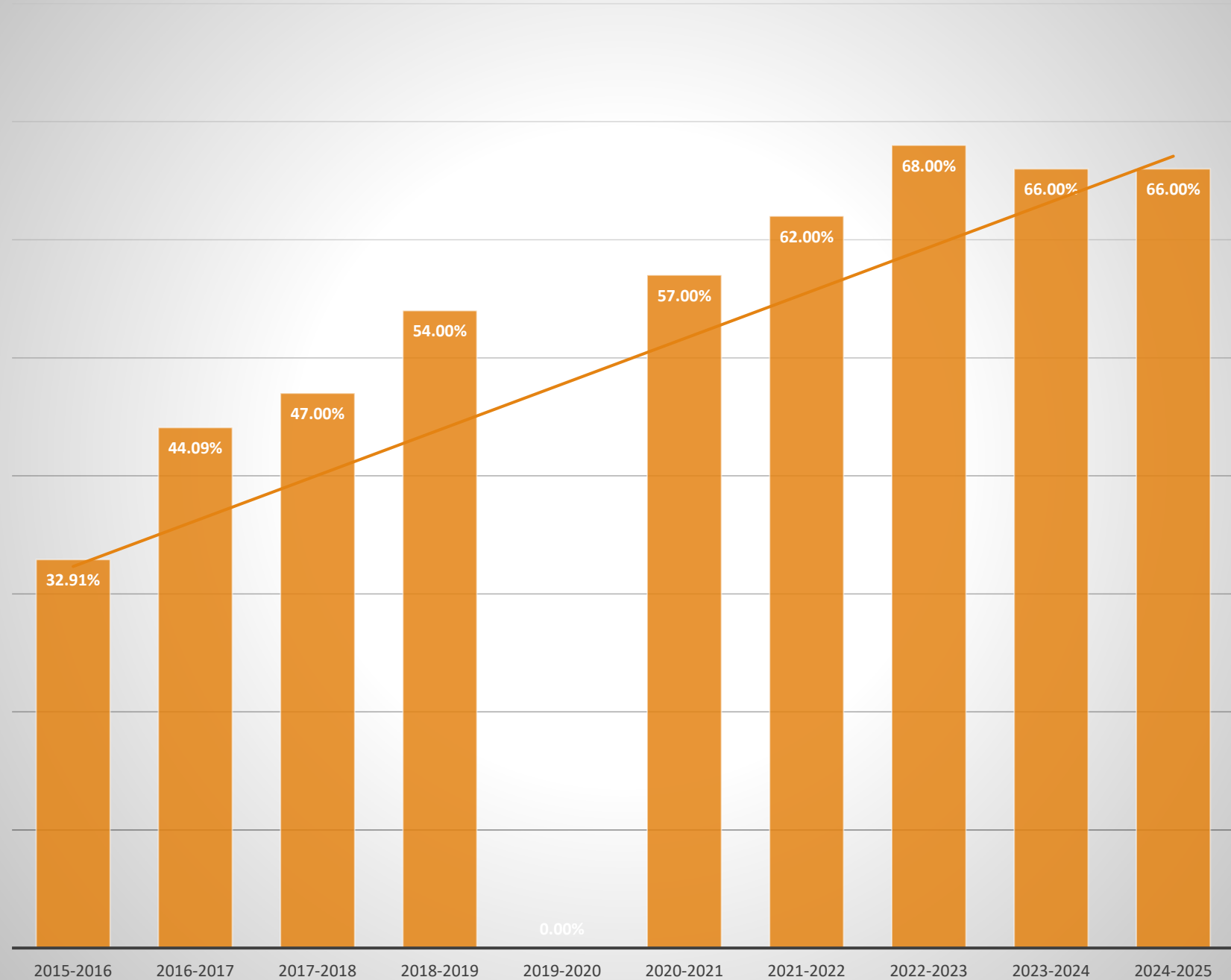
Lennox	2 of 13	1 of 13	1 of 13
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Historical District Achievement (ELA)



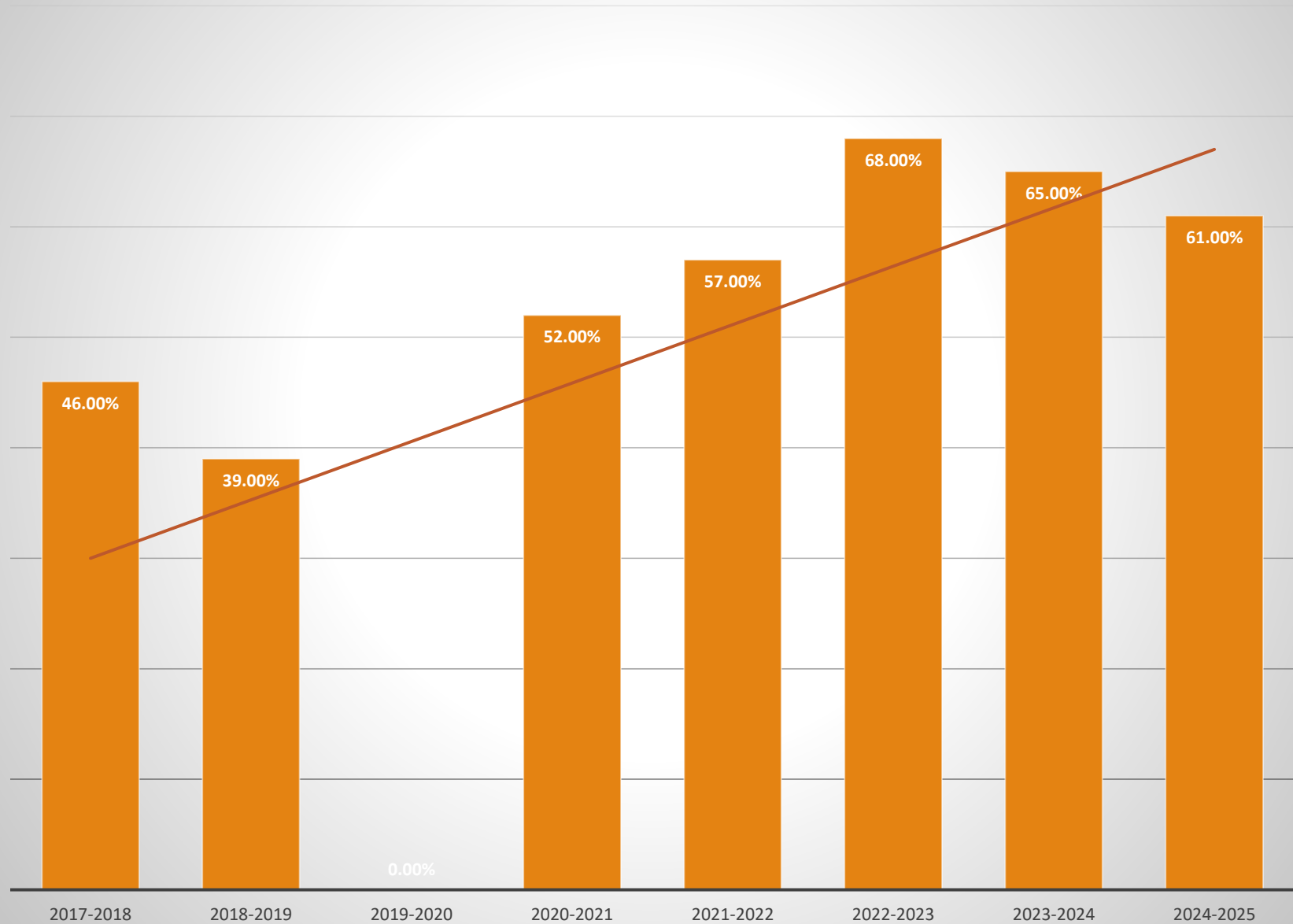
Historical District Achievement (Math)

Math Percent Proficient



Historical District Achievement (Science)

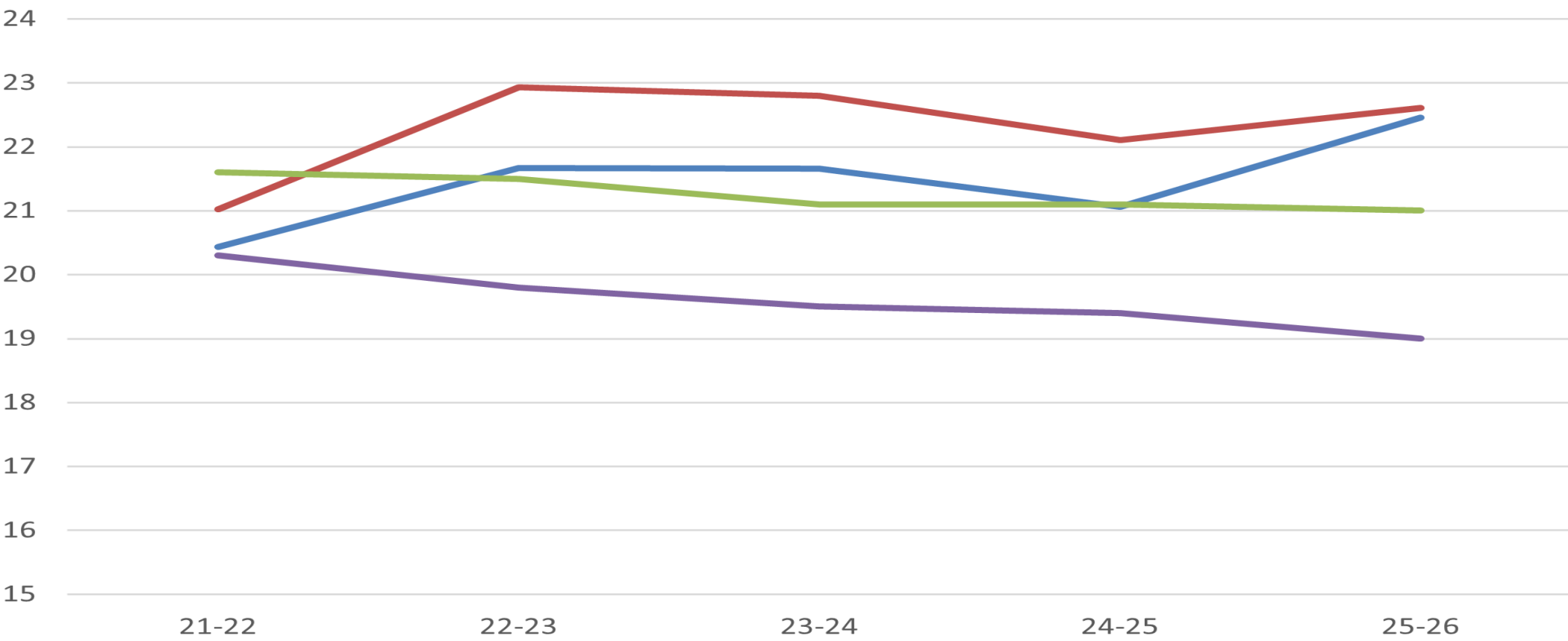
Science Percent Proficient



SPI (School Performance Index)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Lennox Elementary	46.39	55.62	78	81	81	85	76	75
Worthing Elementary	62.61	68.51	79	63	78	76	83	74
Lennox Intermediate	51.95	58.3	63	72	79	78	74	73
Lennox Junior High	42.26	39.59	56	67	69	67	67	69
Lennox High School	72.57	69.56	77	83	82	84	87	90

Historical District Achievement

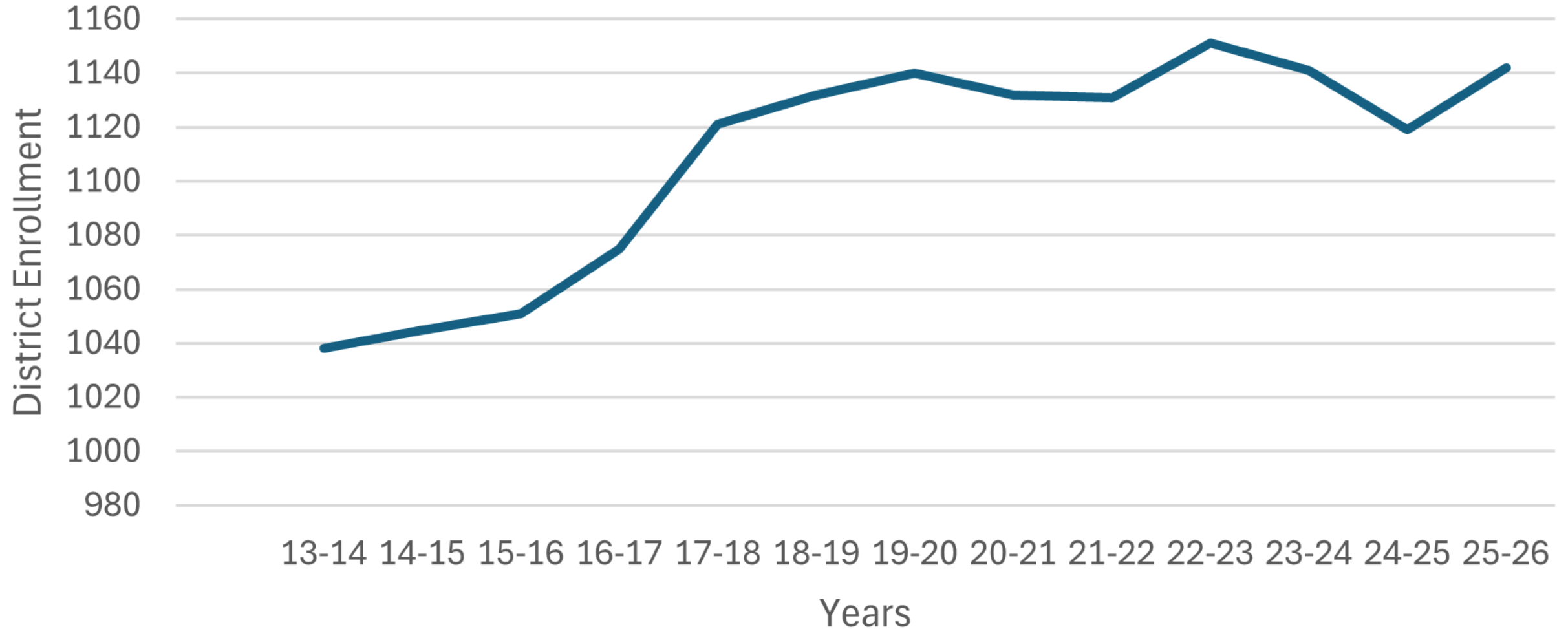
ACT Score Comparison



- Lennox (All students)
- Lennox (Students on Advanced Honors diploma track)
- State
- National

District Enrollment -Fall 2025

Enrollment data as of September 30, 2025



Moving Forward

- Without the opt-out we will need to continue making cuts of staff and programs.
- This will result in increased class sizes of 25+.
- Next year we have two sections of Kindergarten at Lennox Elementary with 26 students in each section.
- This year we have two sections of 1st grade at Lennox Elementary with 27 students in each class.
- We have Junior High classes with 32 and 33 students.
- We would have to look at reducing education programs at the high school
- We would also need to look at reducing sports teams.
- NONE of these are good for kids!

Lennox School District 41-4

Budget Changes by Year — Key Staffing & Program Decisions

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-2027	
	Reduce to 2 sections of Kindergarten - LES	Increase to 3 sections of Kindergarten - LES	Increase to 3 sections of 1st grade - LES	Increase to 3 sections of 2nd grade - LES	Reduce to 2 sections of Kindergarten - LES	0% increase for admin	Reduced to 3 sections of 6th Grade -LWC	
	Add general education aide at LHS & LES	Reduce to 2 sections of 1st grade - LES	Reduce to 2 sections of 2nd grade - LES	Reduce to 2 sections of 3rd grade - LES	Increase to 3 sections of 3rd Grade - LES	Admin insurance reduced to least expensive premium	Reduced to 2 sections of Kindergarten - LES	
	Split Director of Buildings & Grounds and Director of Transportation into 2 FTEs	Add 1 FTE Assistant LHS/LWC JH Principal	Change to .5 LWC IS Principal / .5 Activities Director	Change to .5 Director of Instruction / .5 LWC IS Principal	Reduce to 2 sections of 4th Grade - LES	Increased to 3 sections of Kindergarten - LES	Increased to 3 sections of 1st grade at - LES	
	Add 1 FTE maintenance person	Eliminate .5 Dean of Students	Change to 1 FTE LES Principal	Increase Activities Director from .5 to 1 FTE	Reduce 1 FTE HS math	Reduce to 2 sections of 1st Grade - LES	Increased Capital Outlay transfer from \$160,000 to \$200,000 for FY27	
		Add .5 LHS PE teacher	Eliminate Asst. LES/LWC IS Principal	Eliminate .25 behavior specialist	Reduce 2 general education aides	Reduce to 3 sections of 5th Grade - LWC IS		
		Add .75 library assistant at LHS	Eliminate Interventionist at Worthing		Reduce 1 LHS library aide	Reduce LWC JH Math Teacher		
		Add .45 music teacher at LWC IS	Add .5 Asst. Dir. of Technology / .5 LHS teacher			Reduce 1 FTE AD to .75 FTE and .25 PE Teacher		
		Add 1 custodian at LES	Add .25 behavior specialist			Reduce Admin Assistant from 1 FTE GF to .5 GF & .5 SPED		
			Add 1 asst. track & 1 asst. tennis coach			Increased auto, property, and liability insurance		
			Add girls' softball program			Increased utilities for the high school addition		
						Ended agreement with Carroll Institute		
						Board Pay to \$0 per meeting		
						Eliminated the Academic Bowl Program		
						Eliminated the JH Oral Interp Program		
						Reduced 1 JH Girls' Basketball Coach		
						Reduced Fall & Spring Strength Coaches		
						Didn't reduce Pep Band due to donation		
						Ended participation w ith COGNIA		

Fiscal Responsibility

- It would be our goal to continue being fiscally responsible with the taxpayer's money.
- We would never take more than we need
- The one thing I want people to take away from this meeting is that the district has been extremely responsible with the taxpayer's money and we've now reached a point where we need some help to continue to provide the quality education the students receive everyday.
- The return on investment has been outstanding over the years. This district is producing well educating students.
- The last thing we want to do is cut anymore. We need to find ways to restore some of the positions we've had to cut to reduce class sizes.

Yearly Cost of a \$500,000 Opt-Out

Total Property Tax Impact for Opt Out			
Proposed Opt Out		500,000	
Type of Property	Property Taxable Value	Levy for Proposed Opt Out	Tax Impact
Ag	\$100,000	0.176	\$17.62
OO	\$100,000	0.394	\$39.44
Other	\$100,000	0.816	\$81.62

Total Property Tax Impact for Opt Out				
Proposed Opt Out		500,000		
Type of Property	Property Taxable Value	Levy for Proposed Opt Out	Tax Impact	Monthly Tax Impact
Ag	\$10,000,000	0.176	\$1,762.01	\$146.83
OO	\$300,000	0.394	\$118.31	\$9.86
Other	\$1,000,000	0.816	\$816.16	\$68.01

Tipping Point

- I truly believe this is something that will not last forever
- As Lennox grows, the need to utilize an opt-out will probably fade away.
- As enrollment grows, the less dependent we should become on this funding mechanism.
- The opt-out does provide something to fall back on if the state continues to provide inadequate funding for education.
- Thank you for taking the time to come out and listen.
- Questions?