

## Most area public schools make the grade in state performance profile

By Joan Hellyer Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, November 9, 2014 1:00 am

Almost 95 percent of public schools in Bucks County and Eastern Montgomery County earned a passing grade on their respective 2013-2014 School Performance Profile, according to state education department statistics.

Of the 174 schools in the two-county area, only 11 received a score lower than 70 percent, which the state considers a minimum passing grade on the profile. The state uses the SPP to satisfy the requirements of Pennsylvania's approved federal No Child Left Behind waiver.



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The grades, based on a scale of 100, take into account student performance on state assessment tests, attendance, annual student improvement and graduation rates. The Pennsylvania Department of Education posted the 2013-2014 grades online at [www.paschoolperformance.org](http://www.paschoolperformance.org) on Thursday.

Eight of the 11 schools that didn't make the grade are in the Bristol Township School District. They include Harry S. Truman High School, Neil A. Armstrong and Franklin D. Roosevelt middle schools, and Clara Barton, Buchanan, John Fitch, Lafayette and Abraham Lincoln elementary schools, according to the state.

"Overall, our schools have performed better than last year," district Superintendent Samuel Lee said, and that is what he wants to emphasize, not the profile's sub-par grades. Principals put together improvement plans for the schools last year and will again "outline essential and effective improvements for 2014-2015," he said.

The superintendent said he expects the positive growth trend to continue.

"I understand that there is still much work to be done, however, our teachers and students have taken the first step and demonstrated that they have the capacity and motivation to move forward and improve performance," Lee said Friday.

Also not earning a passing grade on the SPP in 2013-2014 were Bristol and Morrisville high schools and Samuel K. Faust Elementary School in Bensalem.

But there were a lot of positives to be found in the state report, a district spokeswoman said Friday. Six of the nine Bensalem schools increased their SPP building level academic scores from 2012-2013.

“We are thrilled with the overall growth of the district and look forward to continued growth in the future,” spokeswoman Susan Phy said.

Although most schools earned a passing grade some did see their overall percentage based on a 100-point scale drop from the 2012-2013 score.

That was the case in Pennsbury, where seven district schools lost anywhere from half a percentage point to just over 8 percentage points from the previous school year, said assessment supervisor Mary-Margaret Pannick.

Much of the declines had to do with slight declines on standardized tests, Pannick said Thursday at the Pennsbury school board meeting.

A breakdown of standardized test scores by grade for each school will be available on line at [www.eseafedreport.com](http://www.eseafedreport.com) in a few weeks when the federal reports are posted online, Timothy Eller, a PDE spokesman, said Friday.

*Staff writers Chris English, Freda Savana, Gary Weckselblatt contributed to this report.*