

Measures of Success

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Student Test Scores, Graduation Results & Other Data

Using Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and New York State comparative figures from the May 2006 **New York State School Report Cards**

New York State Exams

Elementary & Middle School Exams						
Results for:	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Students Scoring	Below State Standard	At or Above State Standard	Below State Standard	At or Above State Standard	Below State Standard	At or Above State Standard
Grade 4 English						
BH-BL	19%	81%	20%	80%	12%	88%
Similar schools	22%	78%	23%	77%	17%	83%
State average	36%	64%	38%	63%	29%	70%
Grade 4 Math						
BH-BL	8%	93%	5%	95%	3%	97%
Similar schools	9%	91%	8%	92%	5%	95%
State average	22%	79%	21%	79%	15%	85%
Grade 4 Science						
BH-BL	—	—	3%	96%	2%	99%
Similar schools	—	—	6%	95%	5%	95%
State average	—	—	21%	79%	20%	80%
Grade 5 Social Studies						
BH-BL	9%	91%	9%	92%	5%	95%
Grade 8 English						
BH-BL	39%	61%	38%	62%	33%	67%
Similar schools	38%	61%	37%	63%	35%	65%
State average	54%	45%	52%	47%	52%	48%
Grade 8 Math						
BH-BL	28%	71%	18%	82%	15%	85%
Similar schools	30%	69%	24%	76%	25%	74%
State average	49%	51%	43%	58%	45%	55%
Grade 8 Social Studies						
BH-BL	23%	77%	29%	71%	14%	86%
Grade 8 Science						
BH-BL	6%	94%	8%	92%	5%	96%
Similar schools	9%	91%	10%	89%	10%	90%
State average	27%	73%	30%	70%	29%	71%

Notes: A new style of Grade 4 Science exam debuted in 2003-04. The state provides no comparative data for Grades 5 and 8 Social Studies exams. A number of additional state exams were given for the first time in the current (2005-06) school year, and their results will be included in the spring 2007 State Report Card.

Report Card Highlights

The New York State School Report Cards released in May 2006 summarize data from the 2004-05 school year. Some of the highlights in that data for our school district include:

- BH-BL results on all eight elementary and middle school exams (see chart on left) improved in 2004-05 and continued to be higher than results for similar schools statewide.
- The BH-BL Class of 2005 Regents diploma rate rose to 94%. (See next page.) This was the highest Regents diploma rate in Schenectady County and tied for highest in Saratoga County.
- Contributing to that 94% was the fact that more of our special education pupils than ever before successfully earned Regents diplomas in 2005, a record 10 out of 23 graduates with disabilities.
- As state standards rise, many have worried that dropout rates would rise as well. That has not been the case at BH-BL, thanks to extensive staff teamwork to connect with and support all pupils. Our 2004-05 high school non-completion rate (see next page) was 1.2%. This is one of the lowest rates in the Capital Region, and marks the 14th year our rate has been at or below 1.6%.
- In issuing the School Report Cards on May 3, 2006, State Education Commissioner Richard Mills made a particular point that a high daily attendance rate is key to student success. This is another continuing strength of BH-BL, where parent emphasis on the importance of education has enabled our schools to have average daily attendance rates of 95 - 97% for many years.
- The charts on these three pages report data for ALL pupils: general education and special education combined. But a closer look at results for just special education pupils shows that extra efforts in recent years to help these students meet higher standards too are paying off. For instance, in all six instances a higher percentage of BH-BL 4th and 8th grade special ed pupils passed the state English, math and science exams in 2004-05 than in 2003-04.
- The outstanding results described here were once again achieved at a per pupil cost that was below the average for Schenectady County, Saratoga County, or Suburban Council school districts.
- For more information, you can view the School Report Cards on the State Education Department website. Go to www.emsc.nysed.gov/repcrd2005/ then click on "Saratoga County" on the map.

High School Regents Exams

Students must pass five Regents exams (English, Math A, Global History, U.S. History plus one science exam) with a 65 or higher to receive a Regents diploma — now the goal for all students.

Starting with the Class of 2005, students who wish to earn an Advanced Regents diploma or a diploma with a BH-BL Merit seal must pass eight Regents exams: the five above plus a foreign language, a second math, and a second science exam.

BH-BL pupils passing with a score of 65% or higher

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
English	88%	95%	92%
Math A	82%	96%	94%
Math B	—	86%	75%
Math 3	85%	—	—
Global History	89%	86%	92%
U.S. History	94%	94%	89%
Earth Science	95%	97%	87%
Biology	94%	95%	91%
Chemistry	81%	78%	83%
Physics	99%	92%	98%
French	98%	98%	98%
German	97%	97%	100%
Spanish	100%	98%	100%

High School Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

	1999 Cohort (~Class of 2003)		2000 Cohort (~Class of 2004)		2001 Cohort (~Class of 2005)	
	65 or Higher (Passing)	85 or Higher (Mastery)	65 or Higher (Passing)	85 or Higher (Mastery)	65 or Higher (Passing)	85 or Higher (Mastery)
Regents English exam						
BH-BL	87%	38%	90%	46%	94%	47%
Similar schools	87%	44%	88%	44%	90%	52%
State average	73%	32%	78%	34%	78%	38%
Any Regents Math exam						
BH-BL	82%	48%	90%	41%	94%	43%
Similar schools	86%	52%	84%	43%	88%	31%
State average	71%	38%	70%	33%	NA	NA

“Cohort” Graduation Rate

This state calculation measures how many pupils who entered high school in the fall of a given year actually graduated in four years with either a Local or a Regents diploma — as opposed to dropping out, receiving an IEP certificate, or remaining in school for an additional year or more to complete their requirements.

	1998 Cohort	1999 Cohort	2000 Cohort
BH-BL High School	94%	93%	94%
Similar schools	91%	88%	90%
All NY public schools	77%	76%	77%

Graduation Data

BH-BL Graduation Breakdown

Class of:	2003	2004	2005*
Total graduates	250	275	235
A Regents diploma or better	70%	72%	94%
An Advanced Regents diploma or better		—	63%
An Advanced Regents w/ BH-BL Merit seal		—	50%
Regents diploma with Merit seal	60%	56%	—
Local diplomas only	30%	28%	6%
Post-Graduation Plans			
Four-year college	60%	53%	63%
Two-year college	<u>32%</u>	<u>33%</u>	<u>27%</u>
Total to higher education	92%	86%	90%

* Note: with the Class of 2005, state Regents diploma requirements changed, and the new “Advanced Regents” diploma was introduced. To earn a BH-BL Merit seal on their diploma, signifying extraordinary effort, students must pass additional courses and exams.

Regents Diploma Rate Comparisons

Class of	2003	2004	2005
BH-BL High School	70%	72%	94%
Saratoga County average	58%	71%	84%
Schenectady County average	63%	68%	81%
Suburban Council average	74%	76%	92%
All NY public schools	56%	57%	70%

High School “Non-Completion” Rates

A state calculation that includes both dropouts & pupils leaving school to enter a GED program.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
BH-BL High School	1.0%	1.5%	1.2%
Saratoga County average	2.2%	3.3%	3.1%
Schenectady County average	3.2%	4.0%	4.4%
Suburban Council average	1.8%	2.0%	2.3%
All NY public schools	6.6%	5.8%	6.1%

SAT Scores:		Verbal			Math		
Class of:	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	
BH-BL	538	543	550	545	558	558	
NY State	496	497	497	510	510	511	
Nation	507	508	508	519	518	520	

Federal NCLB Standards

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake school district has received a 100% compliance rating from the New York State Education Department in terms of our meeting all state standards and all federal “No Child Left Behind” standards for the 2003-04 and the 2004-05 school years.

In simple terms, this means that our pupils are making “adequate yearly progress” on the grades 4 and 8 English, math and science exams; on the high school English and Math A Regents exams; and on our Regents diploma rate.

We are also in 100% compliance on the basis of our students’ scores broken down by the following state subgroups:

- Results by Race/Ethnicity,
- Results by Disability Status,
- Results by Gender,
- Results by English Proficiency Status, and
- Results by Income Level.

Total Expenditure per Pupil			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
BH-BL Central Schools	\$10,975	\$11,319	\$11,521
Saratoga County average	\$11,540	\$11,462	\$12,181
Sch’dy County average	\$10,988	\$12,464	\$12,067
Suburban Council average	\$10,754	\$11,168	\$11,788
All NY public schools	\$12,265	\$13,085	\$13,826

Other Basic Data for 2004-05	
Total enrollment K-12	3,450
Pupils receiving free lunches	2.7%
Special education pupils	12.7%
Limited English proficiency	6 pupils
Total households in the district	approx. 7,000
Annual budget	\$41,107,956

What are “Similar Schools”?

Since socioeconomic factors influence school performance, the State Education Department has created “similar schools” categories to group schools that:

- Teach the same grades,
- Have the same poverty rate as measured by the percentage of pupils in the free lunch program, and
- Have the same “need-to-resource-capacity” index. This involves a complex measurement of various wealth and demographic factors.

The five BH-BL schools are judged to have “low” participation in the free lunch program and “average” need-to-resource capacity. Hence our schools are compared to the 215 elementary schools, 68 middle schools, and 86 high schools that share these characteristics. Locally these include schools in the Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, Saratoga Springs, Schalmont and South Colonie districts.

Other Measures of Success

Test scores are important, but there are many other ways to measure our students’ success in preparing themselves for healthy and productive lives. For example, the BH-BL district is particularly proud that:

- BH-BL pupils and their parents take their education seriously. Our schools’ average daily attendance rate ranges from 95% to 97% each year.
- Our annual dropout rate has been 1.6% or less every year for the past 14 years.
- During 2004-05, 67% of high school pupils participated in one or more interscholastic sports. Also, 25 out of 28 varsity interscholastic sports teams were named “Scholar Athlete” teams by the NY State Public High School Athletic Association for achieving team grade point averages of 90% or higher.
- Our students compete and excel in many subjects. For instance, in the 2004-05 NY State School Music Association competition, the high school Concert Band earned a Level 6 Gold with Distinction Award (the highest possible award), the Symphony Orchestra received a Level 4 Silver Award, and the Concert Choir, a Level 5 Gold Award.
- BH-BL High School students typically take many more courses than they need to graduate. Most students take no study halls, and instead fill every block in their schedule with both required courses and electives that interest them.