

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Joel Filas, Chief School Business Official
DATE: September 15, 2025
RE: Business & Operations Report

FY26 Enrollment

The Board has historically received a “6th Day Enrollment Report” during the September Board Meeting. This report was necessary under the old General State Aid Formula to determine the District’s per-pupil share of State Revenue. However, with the implementation of the State’s EBF Formula in 2016, the report is not used in the computation of State Revenue. The District’s adequacy level now determines revenue, and is not based on student enrollment.

Enrollment remains a significant driver of the Benjamin School District budgeting process, as it guides staffing needs and directly influences class sizes, programming, and support services. Staffing, in turn, accounts for the most significant portion of district expenditures, making the relationship between enrollment and staffing a central factor in the district’s long-term fiscal sustainability.

The following chart represents the District’s traditional 6th Day Enrollment Report with updated data from FY26:

Grade	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23	FY22
Early Childhood	30	45	46	43	29
Kindergarten	59	70	69	63	78
First	69	65	61	80	63
Second	61	62	80	62	62
Third	61	81	64	69	49
Fourth	80	62	67	58	60
Fifth	63	64	59	66	58
Sixth	62	59	67	64	56
Seventh	56	66	64	56	66
Eighth	63	66	58	66	82

The current enrollment has resulted in a net decrease of one FTE this school year. The decrease occurred at the Early Childhood level, as a self-contained early childhood classroom was not needed this school year.

	PK	K	1	2	3	4
FY25	3	4	3	3	4	3
FY 26 Count	2	3	4	3	3	4

	5	6	7	8
FY25	3	3	3	3.5
Fy26 Count	3	3	3	3.5

FY25 Audit

The District's Audit is currently in the final management review stage, and the Business Office anticipates an October presentation from Baker Tilly. ISBE has announced changes to the financial reporting requirements that they hope will streamline the process for school districts.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR)

School districts will no longer need physical signatures from the auditors, superintendents/directors, township treasurers, or regional superintendents. Instead, auditors and superintendents/directors will digitally "sign" the AFR through confirmation boxes in the submission process.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS (ASA)

Significant changes have been made to the ASA based on Public Act 104-0261. This legislation removes many of the duplicative reporting requirements previously contained within the ASA. The ASA form has been updated to reflect these changes, which resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of information required for the report.

Important notes about the new ASA requirements:

- Several sections were removed from the ASA. Information for the public about where to find the removed content is included on the cover page.
 - Note that the financial information is removed from the ASA so there will be no need to wait for completed audit reports before completing the ASA form.
- The ASA is still required to be **completed by Dec. 1** each year.
- The ASA is still required to be **published in a local newspaper by Dec. 1** each year.
- The ASA is now required to be **posted on the school district's website by Dec. 1** each year.
- Districts do **not** need to submit the ASA form to ISBE.

A LOOK AHEAD

October Board Meeting:

- Audit Presentation
- Preliminary tax levy information

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Fila". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.