

## Finance Department Highlights – August

<b>Director Comments</b>	I have survived my first two weeks without the expertise and guidance of Denise. I have a lot more learning to do, but we have identified several key processes within the department that could be improved.
<b>Operational Updates</b>	We are in the process of learning ways to utilize the Munis system for more efficiency and less paper intensive processes. We are utilizing online banking and positive pay to ensure we do not incur check fraud. We will be looking at all job duties and processes over the next few months to see where efficiencies can be made, possible reorganization of duties across the department, and cross-training opportunities.
<b>Staffing Training/ Updates</b>	Director is attending UK's School Finance Management Institute for certification. We will be attending KDE training for Health benefits and FMLA.
<b>Collaboration</b>	We are working very closely with HR on potential reorganization of duties and efficiency in Munis. I have made it a priority to visit each school bookkeeper/secretary and admin at minimum once per month.
<b>Upcoming Priorities</b>	Working budget for September Backups for duties where possible Less Paper Improved processes

## Personnel – Aug 2025

### Department Highlights

Hiring season!!!

Planned and facilitated Admin Retreat at KASA Summer Conference

Presented The Leadership Challenge: Encourage the Heart at KASA

Planned and facilitated New Teacher Orientation (2 day training)

Collaborated to plan and facilitate Elevate Summit (Staff PD Day)

#### Operational Updates

- Annual Certified Evaluation Plan training for administrators completed
- Continuing the Challenge - Inspiring a Shared Vision (3 hour training) by Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, Director of KASA
- Evaluation Training conducted
- SBDM Annual In-Person Training completed July 10, 2025
- Obtaining certifications and rank changes for certified staff

#### Staffing Updates

Please see the Board Personnel Report

#### Collaboration

- Set up a table at PantherFest to represent the district to students and families
- Revised New Teacher Internship Program for teachers with less than two years experience

#### Progress Toward EIS Goals

- Hiring and onboarding new staff (31 full time for this school year)
- Turnover rates have steadily decreased over the past 3 years:
  - 22-23: 26%
  - 23-24: 19%
  - 24-25: 14%
  - 25-26: 10%
- Completed Mission/Vision revision process to submit to the Board
- Grow Your Own Update:
  - 2 Instructional Assistants earned bachelors degree and became certified teachers in the district.
  - 2 teachers earned their Principal/Administrator Certification
  - 3 current teachers completed their Masters in Teaching

#### Upcoming Priorities

- Initiating Inspire Excellence Staff Recognition Program for 2025-26
- Substitute hiring, onboarding, and training for the new school year
- New hire survey - for feedback on onboarding process

## Communications Department

Important Data

Communications

Important Data

We had more than 90,000 views from our posts on the first two days of schools.

## Department Highlights

The Communications Department continues to look at ways to tell the Elizabethtown Independent Schools story. We wrote several stories from KASA and the opening weeks of schools.

### Operational Updates

The Communications Department plans to use more video to go with its stories. We try to have photos with every story, but the goal is to do more videos.

### Staffing Updates

I attended the KASA conference where I presented to the admin staff how to write news articles and why storytelling is so important to our school.

### Collaboration

The Communications Department works with everyone. We go in the schools to get stories from teachers, students and staff. We work with the departments within central office to reach our goals.

### Progress Toward EIS Goals

The most important thing we do is continue to develop and tell the EIS story. We need to do this to help the progress toward our goals.

### Upcoming Priorities

We have a series of stories lined up with photos and video to tell our story.



Special Programs			
Current # of students with IEPs	421	Current # of English Language Learners	90
Current # of gifted students	383	Current # of students in Pre-K	N/A (PreK starts 8/21)
Department Highlights			
<p>Our school year has started off fantastically and busy. Currently EIS has had 56 new students with disabilities enroll in the district, we have also seen 20 new English Language Learners enroll for the 25-26 school year. Our department has focused on ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and judicial decisions, as well as, ensuring our instruction remains aligned to state standards.</p>			
<b>Operational Updates</b>	<p>We have worked to improve our systems in addressing necessary interventions for students in the general education setting, and ensuring those interventions address the suspected deficits. We are working to improve our use of AI to ease processes for teachers in regards to paperwork and scaffolding lessons.</p>		
<b>Staffing Updates</b>	<p>We are thrilled to introduce two new Speech-Language Pathologists to the district, Maci Matherly will be servicing MES (part), TKS, and PA (Part Pre-K) and Taylor Baird will service PA, EHS, and Part of Pre-K</p> <p>It is also worth noting EIS is one of very few who has retained all staff from last school year. In current times, special education teacher turnover rate is extremely high and finding qualified teachers to fill those positions proves to be difficult. We are thrilled that all special education staff has remained with us and continues to support the phenomenal students of EIS.</p>		
<b>Collaboration</b>	<p>I have worked closely with the Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, and Director of Student Services to ensure our systems and processes align to the work of others, and ensure our interventions and supports allow students to increase their ability to access the general education curriculum.</p>		
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>	<p>The special education department spent their professional development day identifying priority standards to address for students with disabilities. Once those standards were identified teachers worked to find instructional resources to support the teaching of those standards.</p>		
<b>Upcoming Priorities</b>	<p>We will continue to find instructional resources that support access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities.</p>		

## Department of Technology

Tickets 7-1-25 to 8-15-25	240	Average Daily Tickets 8-1-25 to present	13
Tickets 8-1-25 to 8-15-25	191		

## Department Highlights

*This summer, the department completed major infrastructure and security projects, including migrating to Rapid Identity, transitioning to GoGuardian, updating all Windows servers, and replacing network backup batteries. We replaced all 5th and 9th grade Chromebooks as part of the district's refresh cycle, installed interactive panels in all 11 renovated TKS classrooms, and updated all high school computer lab PCs. Campus safety was strengthened through the COPS grant-funded installation of 100 security cameras, migration of all cameras to a failover-ready server, and ongoing battery backup replacements. Upcoming work will continue to support district initiatives by ensuring reliable internet access, effective content filtering, and fully operational accounts and devices for students and staff.*

### Operational Updates

*Rapid Identity: We are working with KDE to complete the migration to identity management service "Rapid Identity" which aims to automate account management to a much higher degree*

*GoGuardian: We are working with KDE to complete the migration from Lightspeed content filtering to GoGuardian Admin.*

*Server updates: The summer was used to make all necessary server updates to all 10 Windows servers, providing services ranging from account management to Alertus Security.*

*Battery Backup: Travis McCoy, network admin, is progressing in replacing all network closet backup batteries, which allow for graceful shutdowns in the event of a power outage, potentially saving thousands of dollars in equipment damage*

*Chromebook rollout: We are progressing in the deployment of 370 new Chromebooks to the 5th and 9th grade, per our Chromebook Cycle Plan*

*TKS construction: Our team successfully mounted interactive panels in all 11 renovated classrooms. We are now looking ahead to installing new network equipment for the additions.*

*Computer lab deployments: Our team deployed the last Windows desktop PCs to the high school computer labs. Now, all lab PCs are less than three years old.*

*Camera server rollover: All cameras have been migrated to one server, allowing us to use the second server as a failover in the event of hardware failure. This is considered best practice.*



<b>Staffing Updates</b>	<i>Parker Barnett has returned as our district technician.</i>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<i>We collaborated with Travis Gay and Student Services to begin progress on the installation of 100 new security cameras funded through the COPS grant. So far, we have installed cameras at Helmwood Heights, Etown High, and Panther Academy, with ongoing projects at all other sites. This project enhances campus security and supports our shared goal of creating a safer environment for students and staff.</i>
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>	<i>The department's work has advanced EIS's goals by strengthening campus safety, modernizing technology infrastructure, and enhancing learning environments. Projects such as the COPS grant camera installation, battery backup replacements, and camera server failover improve security and system reliability. Migrations to Rapid Identity and GoGuardian streamline operations and protect students online. The Chromebook rollout, interactive panel installations, and updated computer labs ensure students and staff have access to current, effective technology, supporting equitable access and high-quality instruction.</i>
<b>Upcoming Priorities</b>	<i>The upcoming work of the department will support district initiatives by ensuring reliable, high-quality internet access, maintaining effective content filtering for students, and keeping accounts and devices fully operational to support teaching and learning.</i>

## Transportation

Important Data

1,777

Important Data

13 Routes  
10 Drivers

## Department Highlights

Despite the ongoing driver shortage, the first days of school have run smoothly thanks to the dedication of our transportation team and the implementation of new safety and efficiency tools, i. These systems have helped us optimize routes, provide real-time navigation and student tracking, and maintain clear communication between drivers and the transportation office. Combined with the hard work and flexibility of our staff, these innovations have ensured that students arrived safely and on time, setting a positive tone for a successful start to the school year.

### Operational Updates

We are enhancing transportation safety and efficiency this year through the combined use of **Routefinder PLUS**, **Wayfinder**, and **Zonar**. Routefinder PLUS is a web-based routing system that uses smart optimization tools and safety-focused features—such as right-side pickups and no-street-crossing rules—to design efficient, secure bus routes. Wayfinder is the companion mobile app that gives drivers turn-by-turn navigation, real-time route updates, student ridership tracking, and important alerts directly from the Routefinder PLUS database. Integrated with both systems, Zonar provides high-accuracy GPS tracking, electronic pre- and post-trip inspections, and RFID-based ridership verification, ensuring real-time visibility, compliance, and rapid response capabilities.

### Staffing Updates

As of 8/12/25 we have 3 full time driver positions vacant with one individual in training. We have two drivers on medical leave. We are currently 5 drivers short

### Collaboration

Continuing our transportation survey with School Transportation Systems

The work of the Transportation Department this month directly supports the Value Stewardship goal of the EIS Strategic Plan by strategically aligning resources to maximize efficiency and safety while ensuring students have a positive start to the school year.

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### Upcoming Priorities

Driver recruitment and retainment, safe efficient operations



## Valley View Education Center/GDC

Enrollment	20 VV/ 9 GDC	Average Daily Attendance	TBD
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## School Highlights

Summary of key achievements, events, or recognitions this month

<b>Academic Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 pending hardship graduation applications                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 1 for military</li> <li>◦ 1 for extenuating family circumstances</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 8 students in the high school program</li> <li>• 3 students in the middle school program</li> <li>• 10 students in the PRIDE program</li> </ul>
<b>Staffing Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff participated in SCM training, Special Education training, and Alternative Education Summit in Lexington.</li> </ul>
<b>Community &amp; Family Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toni Jackson, Labor and Delivery Nurse spoke with a small group of students about the nursing field.</li> </ul>
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our students now have access to courses through our online learning platform, Edmentum, that more closely align with career/technical interests and pathways.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Events &amp; Additional Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victor Cox will be speaking with students about the importance of goal setting and how it applies in the real world.</li> <li>• A representative from Job Corps is planning on speaking to the students about their outreach programs.</li> </ul>



Department Name			
Important Data	No DC information as of 8/14/25 due to a software defect in the automated process. Should be resolved by 8/15/25.	Important Data	<u>2024-25 Participation:</u> Breakfast - 42% Lunch - 71 % 174,406 Breakfasts Served 287,974 Lunches Served
Department Highlights			
<p>EIS Summer Feeding program served over 22,000 meals at different school sites and community partner sites during the months of June and July.</p>			
<b>Operational Updates</b>	<p>The last 6 months have seen the NS department begin CN professional development through an online learning module called Fig K12. The application allows us to track required USDA professional standards hours electronically and also gives employees resources for monitoring mental health and healthy lifestyle living.</p> <p>We have also integrated SFS PAC systems and Smart Sense for chemical ordering, food safety, updated equipment monitoring, food temperature monitoring and health department compliance. PA &amp; HHES are the first to transition and MES/EHS will transition once old chemicals/supplies are used up.</p> <p>Menus for August brought back familiar favorites for our students and September will be the beginning of new/updated menu items and products as well as Limited Time Offers beginning in the months following. Stay tuned!</p>		
<b>Staffing Updates</b>	<p>Whittney Johnson and Bianca Parkerson were hired to fill 2 vacancies at EHS. Director Billy Anthony attended Annual Child Nutrition Summer Conferences in Louisville, KY, (KSNA) and San Antonio, TX (SNA) over the summer. Director B. Anthony presented at the KSNA conference and attended Industry Food Shows at both conferences to sample new products and bring back ideas for menus!</p>		
<b>Collaboration</b>	<p>Summer Feeding was a success solely because of the collaboration between the Nutrition Services department, Transportation department and the help of teacher volunteers and a few student workers. We were able to feed at a total of 17 different community and school sites during the summer months including the American Legion Water Park and a Mobile Bus Feeding Route.</p>		
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>			
<b>Upcoming Priorities</b>	<p>This entire school year will be reviewed in our 2026-27 Administrative Review from School and Community Nutrition at KDE. So we are focused on making sure we are compliant in all aspects of school food service within our district. We are putting procedures in place to ensure programs that are run through our department are correct and followed to the exact regulations set forth by USDA and KDE.</p>		

## Elizabethtown High School

Enrollment	745	Average Daily Attendance	98.09%
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### School Highlights

The beginning of school is looking great. We will continue our weekly learner and leaders of the week recognitions. Learners and Leaders of the Week are students who are improving or are meeting our academic and behavior standards and can be nominated by staff members. We have a 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grader recognized weekly. Seniors will be nominated to attend monthly to be recognized for their academic and civic achievements.

<b>Academic Updates</b>	Before the school year began, EHS dedicated time to introducing staff and engaging in "Teacher Clarity" work with Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Hatfield. Teacher Clarity helps educators design effective processes and procedures that clearly define learning outcomes aligned with the standards they teach. Building on this foundation, our administrative team is also launching the next phase of our instructional walkthroughs—an ongoing effort to observe teaching and learning in action, provide meaningful feedback, and celebrate the outstanding instruction taking place in our classrooms. This work is essential to supporting teachers, strengthening instructional practices, and ensuring every EHS student learns at the highest level.
<b>Staffing Updates</b>	Attached is the link to our list of new staff members—click <a href="#">HERE</a> to view. On Friday, 8/18, EHS staff came together for a picnic to strengthen relationships and foster a positive school culture ahead of the new school year. This gathering was a great opportunity to connect, relax, and enjoy each other's company. We're excited to keep the momentum going with monthly staff outings, continuing our tradition of togetherness, collaboration, and Panther Pride.
<b>Community &amp; Family Engagement</b>	All after-school events are posted on Eventlink, and athletic schedules can be found on the KHSAA website. This fall, we're also excited to welcome back several graduating classes for their reunions. During these special occasions, alumni will have the opportunity to tour our building and facilities, reconnecting with the places and memories that made their time at EHS unforgettable.
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>	EHS staff are actively developing new mission and vision statements that align with the broader EIS mission and vision. As this important work moves forward, we will begin seeking input from our stakeholders to ensure the final mission and vision truly reflect the values and aspirations of our entire school community.
<b>Upcoming Events &amp; Additional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Tailgate Aug. 22</li> <li>• Underclassman Photos Sept. 10</li> <li>• Our JROTC will participate in Raider Competitions this Fall. Follow social media for the schedule.</li> <li>• Homecoming Sept. 26th</li> </ul>



## TK Stone Middle School

Enrollment

543

Average Daily  
Attendance

### School Highlights

Our major accomplishment was getting our building operational after the summer without power. Teachers and staff came together, working without power or air conditioning to clean and set up their classrooms. Mr. Mullins and Mr. Mudd were a great support, making sure Alpha and Omega cleaned daily and construction workers and electricians worked around the clock. The building was full of dedicated staff on Saturday and Sunday in order to be able to open on time. The 8th grade hall is beautiful, even though we are waiting for a few final pieces. We had a very successful 1st week of school.

#### Academic Updates

Teachers worked together to deconstruct standards and align their instructional resources, ensuring that all standards are taught at the level they are intended. They collaborated on common assessments. They worked together as a staff to include frequent opportunities for students to incorporate critical thinking skills in the classrooms.

#### Staffing Updates

Science- Jasmine Valentine and Sydney Brown  
ELA- Indya Bradley and Abbie Flood  
Theatre- Pacey Hammond  
Chorus- Cathay Spalding  
We had a great week of professional development where we focused on aligning our learning compasses and assessments with our standards. We also focused on using critical thinking skills to create an equitable learning environment.

#### Community & Family Engagement

We had to cancel our 6th grade orientation, so Kelly Fisher held a Google Meet with 6th grade parents. 6th grade teachers developed a plan to cover all of the orientation topics during the first two days of school.  
Our Open House was rescheduled for August 19th. This will allow parents to come into TKS and meet the teachers and staff.

#### Progress Toward EIS Goals

Our standards work and instructional planning will set us up increasing proficiency rates and decreasing the achievement gap for target groups.

#### Upcoming Events & Additional Information

Open House will be August 19th 4:00-6:00pm. iReady testing will begin September 2nd.

## Helmwood

Enrollment

457

Average Daily  
Attendance

457

## School Highlights

*This month we have had various trainings in AI, instructional strategies, school safety. We have completed our mandated PD trainings and most importantly we had a slam dunk open house. It was also a highlight for me for our opening day festivities at the EPAC and listen to our Education Commissioner - Robbie Fletcher.*

### Academic Updates

*We trained our staff on learning intentions and student success criteria. We also worked with our sister school - MES to develop lesson plans that reflected learning intentions and success criteria that we are going to require on the board. We have also set professional learning meetings for the remainder of the year. It has been a joy to work with Dan Lockwood and Wesley Hatfield as well!*

### Staffing Updates

*This summer we have hired two new teachers - Hannah Parsons in 1st grade and Jill Reverman in 4th grade. Curtina Frazier was hired as a IA in our PASS unit.*

### Community & Family Engagement

*This month we participated in Panther Fest, had our open house, and 1st grade camp. Some of our staff participated in the Back to School Bash at Wesley Hilltop House.*

### Progress Toward EIS Goals

*We have rolled out the blueprint academically to our teachers in order to put us on a path of achieving our goals to grow in KSA Accountability, which we await our scores!*

### Upcoming Events & Additional Information

*September 18th is our Fall Festival and we hope for a smooth opening to the school year.*



## Morningside Elementary

Enrollment

469

Average Daily  
Attendance

## School Highlights

- We are beginning to implement the "house system" based on what some of us learned at the Ron Clark Academy last spring. This is meant to build community and help make connections across our school. The staff have already been randomly sorted into their house/team and have been working hard to earn points for their house. Our students will be sorted later this month and this will mix students across all grade levels. We will do teambuilding activities within our various houses as well as find ways to do service projects to help work together to make a positive impact on our community.
- All of our teachers have been using our school PBIS lesson plans to teach and model our school expectations so that students are clear about acceptable behavior. This consistency is going to help ensure a safe and productive learning environment for everyone.

### Academic Updates

- We will begin assessing students on phonics skills in 1st-3rd grade next week.
- Our iReady testing will begin in all grade levels the week of August 25th. This data will help us determine the focus for our intervention/enrichment time.

### Staffing Updates

- We have 3 new staff members this year: Santana Brown (special education instructional assistant), Becky Meredith (instructional assistant) and Cody Bridges (PE)
- Our teachers shared effective instructional strategies with one another for their assigned subject area at our July 31st PD. They all walked away with new ideas to try in their classrooms.

### Community & Family Engagement

- We had a great turnout for our first grade camp before school started. This year we added an informational parent meeting which helped answer a lot of questions that the parents had.
- Open house was a huge success-most classes only had 1-2 students who were unable to attend.

### Progress Toward EIS Goals

- We are providing support in our reading and math instructional times so that teachers can group students to provide more targeted instruction to increase proficiency and reduce gaps.
- We are being intentional about our culture so that all students grow academically and emotionally.

### Upcoming Events & Additional Information

## Panther Academy

Enrollment	K - 180 PS - 78 (registered)	Average Daily Attendance	169
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## School Highlights

*We have had a successful start to the kindergarten year. Kindergarten numbers are up by about 20 students from last year. We have 70 students registered for preschool who will start on August 21. We are working on increasing those numbers.*

<b>Academic Updates</b>	<i>We are currently working on assessing all our students with the required kindergarten screener, Brigance. I should have some numbers to report for next month.</i>
<b>Staffing Updates</b>	<i>We welcomed transfers: Stephanie Gay and Ethan Henry from Helmwood, Maddie Ford and Amy Blankley from Morningside, and Haleigh Johson from an IA position to K teacher. We welcomed new staff: Taylor Baird and Macie Matherly as district SLP</i>
<b>Community &amp; Family Engagement</b>	<i>Open House for kindergarten was on August 5 where 165 of our current kindergarten families visited. We had some community partners set up and share information at this event as well.</i>
<b>Progress Toward EIS Goals</b>	<i>Kindergarten teachers has worked on curriculum documents to add learning targets/intensions and success criteria as part of the Teacher Clarity PD. All certified staff participated in the ELEVATE Summitt and went to sessions based on individual needs/growth.</i>
<b>Upcoming Events &amp; Additional Information</b>	<i>Preschool Open House is on August 19.</i>