



# Hillcrest Academy-South (39-5245-025)

2020-2021

County: Union  
District: Union County Educational Services Commission  
1571 Lamberts Mill Road  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Principal: Mr. Jason Balsamello  
[School Website](#)  
908-654-8558



88  
Total Students



09-12  
Grades Offered

## Overview & Resources

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about the school and the district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify where schools are doing well and where they can improve

**Important Notes for 2020-2021:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on the way the NJDOE was able to measure school performance and student achievement for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 School Performance Reports. While some data that was missing in 2019-2020 will be available again for 2020-2021 (e.g. chronic absenteeism data), other data continues to remain unavailable or look different from prior years.

The NJDOE recognizes that our existing data can't begin to measure the hard work and perseverance of the students, families, educators and community members during the past two years. While some data may be missing, the NJDOE emphasizes how important it is to use the available data in the reports, along with other information collected directly within districts and communities, to start conversations, identify gaps in information, and begin to find ways to address the impacts of COVID-19 and ensure all students receive the support that they need.

The 2020-2021 School Performance Reports will not include the following data elements:

- Statewide assessment participation and performance for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)
  - Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and ACCESS for ELLs data will be included in the 2020-2021 reports
  - Links will be provided to the results of the Fall 2021 Start Strong Assessments
- Student growth data
- Progress toward English language proficiency
- ESSA summative ratings or indicator scores
- Status in meeting annual targets or standards for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability indicators

An updated "[Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#)" resource summarizes which data is available, which data is not available, and which data may have been impacted. Notes are included throughout the School Performance Reports and the Reference Guide to explain where data is missing or impacted by COVID-19. Look for "Important Note for 2020-2021" sections.

**School Performance Report Resources:**The NJDOE has several resource documents that can help you understand and use the School Performance Reports, which can also be found under the "Resource Documents" link at the top of the page:

- [Impact of COVID-19 on Data Availability](#)
- One-page guides to help start conversations for [administrators](#), [educators](#), [elementary](#), and [middle and high school families](#)
- [Reference Guide](#) with details on all the data in these reports
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Understanding Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates](#)
- [Understanding Student Growth Percentiles](#)
- [Data Privacy Rules](#) (why you see \*'s and N's in the reports)

Let the NJDOE know how we can improve future reports by taking our [feedback survey](#). Contact [reportcard@doe.nj.gov](mailto:reportcard@doe.nj.gov) with any questions about the reports.

## Overview & Resources

### School Contact Information

This table contains contact information including principal name, address, phone number, email address, and social media information, if provided.

Type	Contact Information
County	Union
District	Union County Educational Services Commission
Principal Name	Mr. Jason Balsamello
Address	1571 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone Number	<a href="tel:908-654-8558">908-654-8558</a>
Email Address	<a href="mailto:jbalsamello@ucesc.org">jbalsamello@ucesc.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest_academy_south">http://www.ucesc.org/schools/hillcrest_academy_south</a>

## Demographics

Enrollment data reflects enrollment reported at the end of the school year and only includes students attending the school. Students that attend programs at other schools or outside of the district are not included in enrollment counts and percentages.

### Enrollment Trends by Grade

This table shows the number of students enrolled by grade for the past three school years. Any students enrolled outside of the grades offered will be included in the total enrollment.

Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9	30	40	7
10	27	37	28
11	31	19	20
12	8	8	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>88</b>

### Enrollment Trends by Student Group

This table shows the percentage of students by student group for the past three school years. Note that 2019-20 is the first year that data was collected for non-binary/undesigned gender and, as a result, the 2019-20 and 2020-21 data may not be a true representation of the student population. Additionally, to protect student privacy, gender percentages for 2019-20 are rounded to the nearest 0.5 and percentages for 2020-21 may show a range, depending on the overall school population size.

Student Group	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Female	42.7%	40.5%	35-40%
Male	57.3%	59.5%	60-65%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender		<1%	≤5%
Economically Disadvantaged Students	92.7%	45.2%	11.4%
Students with Disabilities	8.3%	9.6%	11.4%
English Learners	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Homeless Students	0.0%	1.9%	1.1%
Students in Foster Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Military-Connected Students	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Migrant Students	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### Enrollment by Racial and Ethnic Group

This table shows the percentage of students by racial and ethnic group for the past three school years.

Racial And Ethnic Group	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
White	5.2%	6.7%	4.5%
Hispanic	55.2%	47.1%	48.9%
Black or African American	39.6%	46.2%	46.6%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Two Or More Races	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

## Demographics

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### Enrollment Trends by Full and Shared Time Status

This table shows the number of full and shared time students for the last three years. The full time equivalent is the number of full time students plus half the number of shared time students.

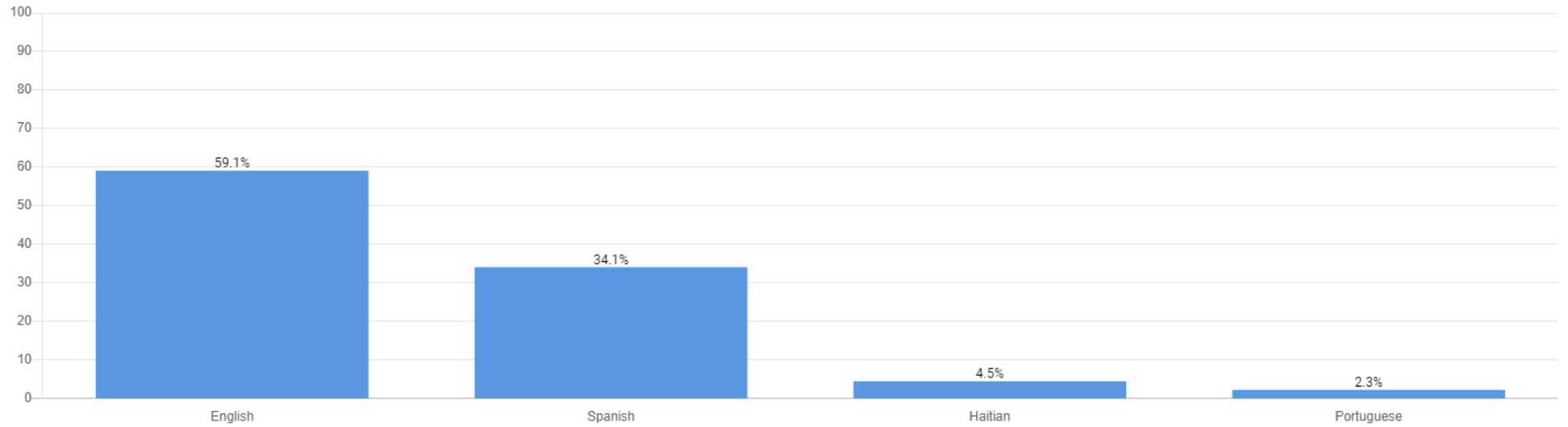
Enrollment Status	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Full Time Students	96	104	88
Shared Time Students	0	0	0
Full Time Equivalent	96	104	88

# Demographics

Enrollment data reflects enrollment reported at the end of the school year and only includes students attending the school. Students that attend programs at other schools or outside of the district are not included in enrollment counts and percentages.

## Enrollment by Home Language

This table shows the percentage of students by primary home language. Only the top 5 languages with at least 1% of students are shown, and students with other home languages are included in the Other Languages total. To see this data in a table, click the Table View option below the chart.



**Report Key:**

- \* Data is not displayed in order to protect student privacy
- \*\* Accountability calculations require 20 or more students
- N No Data is available to display
- † This indicates a table specific note, see note below table

## Climate and Environment

The New Jersey Department of Education migrated to a new reporting system, the Student Safety Data System (SSDS), starting in 2017-18, which includes improved definitions, new reporting fields, and updated guidance for reporting incidents. Comparing current data to data from 2016-17 and earlier could lead to inaccurate conclusions in many reporting categories. In addition to the 2018-19 data below, NJDOE is required, under ESSA, to report on the most recent, publicly-available Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) data, which can be found on the [NJDOE School Performance webpage](#). Please note that prior to school year 2017-2018, the CRDC and the State collection system, EVVRS, did not collect the same data elements. In an effort to better align the State system with the CRDC, the new Student Safety Data System (SSDS) collects all the required CRDC data elements. NJDOE is in the process of developing a reporting function for the SSDS which will allow LEAs to use the same data for both submissions.

**Important note for 2020-21:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, discipline data for the 2020-21 school year may not be comparable to prior or future school years and NJDOE recommends caution in making comparisons.

### Violence, Vandalism, HIB, and Substance Offenses

This table shows the number of incidents reported by type. A single incident may be counted under multiple incident types. The total unique incidents row provides an unduplicated count of incidents. The last row shows the rate of incidents for every 100 students enrolled.

Incident Type	Number of Incidents
Violence	0
Weapons	0
Vandalism	0
Substances	7
Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)	0
<b>Total Unique Incidents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Incidents Per 100 Students Enrolled</b>	<b>7.95</b>

### Police Notifications

This table shows, by incident type, the number of cases where an incident led to police notification.

Incident Type	Incidents Reported to Police
Violence	0
Weapons	0
Vandalism	0
Substances	6
Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)	0
<b>Other Incidents Leading to Removal</b>	<b>0</b>

## Climate and Environment

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**Important note for 2020-21:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, discipline data for the 2020-21 school year may not be comparable to prior or future school years and NJDOE recommends caution in making comparisons.

### Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigations

This table shows, by the nature of the incident, the number of alleged and confirmed Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) investigations. The nature of an incident is based on the protected categories listed below, and the nature of a single HIB investigation may include multiple categories. All confirmed incidents must have an identified nature.

HIB Nature (Protected Category)	HIB Alleged	HIB Confirmed	Total HIB Investigations
Race	N	N	N
Religion	N	N	N
Ancestry	N	N	N
Gender	N	N	N
Sexual Orientation	N	N	N
Disability	N	N	N
Other	N	N	N
No Identified Nature	N	N	N

### Student Disciplinary Removals

The first table shows, by removal type, the number and percentage of students who received disciplinary removals during the school year. Removal types include students receiving one or more in-school suspensions, one or more out-of-school suspensions, one or more suspension of any type, removal to another school or other educational program, expulsion with no further educational services, or arrest. The second table shows the total number of days missed due to out-of-school suspension for all students during the school year.

Removal Type	Number of Students	Percent of Students
In-School Suspensions	*	*
Out-of-School Suspensions	*	*
Any Suspension	*	*
Removal to other education program	0	0.0%
Expulsion	0	0.0%
Arrest	0	0.0%

#### School Days Missed due to Out-of-School Suspensions

10

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## Climate and Environment

### School Day

This table shows the start and end times and length of school day for a typical student at this school. Instructional time is the amount of time that a typical student was engaged in instructional activities under the supervision of a certified teacher. Full time students attend this school for more than half of the school day and shared-time students attend the school for half of the school day or less.

**Important note for 2020-21:** The start and end times in this table may reflect standard hours for in-person instruction. These hours may have been adjusted due to remote or hybrid instruction schedules.

Category	School
Typical Start Time	8:30 AM
Typical End Time	2:30 PM
Length of School Day	6 Hrs. 0 Mins.
Full Time - Instructional Time	5 Hrs. 30 Mins.
Shared Time - Instructional Time	3 Hrs. 0 Mins.



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## Staff

Staff data reflects teachers and administrators reported by districts at the beginning of the school year.

**Key terms for staff data:**

**Teachers:** All classroom teachers

**Administrators:** Principals, assistant principals, supervisors, coordinators, directors, and other central-office administrators, as well as superintendents and other district-level administrators

**Experience:** Experience is based on information submitted by districts on all their staff members. For purposes of this report, the ESSA Educator Equity and federal reporting requirements, NJDOE has defined teachers as "inexperienced" if they have fewer than four years of prior experience in a given district. The tables below report on "experienced" teachers and administrators for federal reporting purposes.

**Out-of-Field:** A teacher is labeled "out-of-field" if they are potentially teaching outside their area of certification. This could occur if the teacher cannot be found in the NJDOE's certification system, if their job code does not match their certification, or if the teacher has an expired certificate.

### Teachers – Experience

This table shows information about the experience of teachers assigned to this school and across the state. No teachers in New Jersey are teaching under emergency or provisional credentials as defined the United States Department of Education. The number of out-of-field teachers is the number of teachers who are potentially teaching outside of their area of certification.

Category	Teachers in School	Teachers in State
Total Number of teachers	13	118,311
Average years experience in public schools	8.5	12.5
Average years experience in district	6.4	11.2
Percentage of Teachers with 4 or more years experience in the district	61.5%	76.5%
Number of out-of-field teachers	0	2,724

### Administrators – Experience (District Level)

This table shows information about the experience of administrators assigned to this district and across the state.

Category	Admin. in District	Admin. in State
Total Number of administrators	16	9,580
Average years experience in public schools	15.1	16.6
Average years experience in district	8.1	12.7
Percentage of Administrators with 4 or more years experience in the district	68.8%	79.3%

### Staff Counts

This table shows the number of staff members assigned to the school, district, and state across several staff categories. The staff counts in this table reflect data submitted by districts to NJ SMART and reflect any teachers assigned and are not based on full-time equivalent (FTE). Additionally, some staff members may be assigned to the district only, but work in multiple schools in the district. In these cases, the table may show 0 staff members assigned to the school, even though there are district staff members working in the school.

Staff Category	School: Total Staff Members	District: Total Staff Members	State: Total Staff Members
Teachers	13	91	118,311
Administrators	2	16	9,580
Librarians/Media	N	N	1,215
Specialists			
Nurses	1	4	2,670
School Counselors	1	1	4,039
Child Study Team Members	1	6	5,893

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### Student and Staff Ratios

This table shows ratios of students and staff members in the school and district. The ratios are based on data submitted by districts to NJ SMART and are not based on staff full-time equivalent (FTE).

Ratio	School Ratio	District Ratio
Students to Teachers	7:1	4:1
Students to Administrators	44:1	21:1
Teachers to Administrators	7:1	6:1
Students to Librarians/Media Specialists †	N	N
Students to Nurses †	88:1	83:1
Students to Counselors †	88:1	331:1
Students to Child Study Team Members †,††	10:1	29:1

† In some districts, staff members in these roles who work in multiple schools may be assigned only to the district and not to individual schools. As a result, a School Ratio may show N, but there may be district assigned staff working in the school

†† Child Study Team members include school psychologists, school social workers, and learning disabilities teacher consultants also note that for the ratio compares Students with Disabilities instead of all students.

### Teachers and Administrators – Demographics

This table compares the percentage of students, teachers, and administrators by gender and by racial and ethnic group. Note that 2019-20 is the first year that data was collected for non-binary/undesignated gender and, as a result, the 2019-20 and 2020-21 data may not be a true representation of the student or staff population. Additionally, to protect student privacy, gender percentages for 2019-20 are rounded to the nearest 0.5 and percentages for 2020-21 may show a range, depending on the overall school population size.

Category	Students in School	Teachers in School	Administrators in School	Students in State	Teachers in State	Administrators in State
Female	35-40%	*	*	49.0%	77.0%	56.0%
Male	60-65%	*	*	51.0%	23.0%	44.0%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender	≤5%	*	*	≤1%	≤1%	≤1%
White	4.5%	76.9%	100.0%	40.5%	82.9%	76.8%
Hispanic	48.9%	15.4%	0.0%	31.2%	7.8%	7.6%
Black or African American	46.6%	0.0%	0.0%	15.0%	6.5%	14.0%
Asian	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	10.4%	2.2%	1.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Two or More Races	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.2%	0.2%

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**Key terms for staff data:**

**Teachers:** All classroom teachers

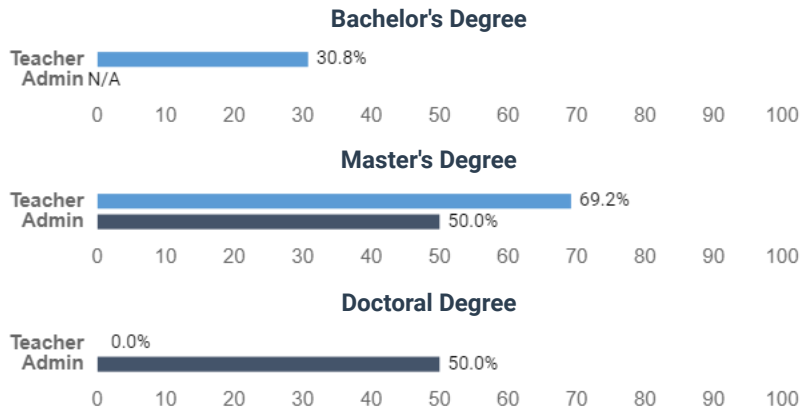
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### Teachers and Administrators - Level of Education

This chart shows the highest level of education attained by teachers and administrators. The Bachelor's degree category may include other degrees/certificates such as a Specialist's degree. Administrators are required to have a Master's degree or higher.



### Teachers and Administrators - One-Year Retention (District Level)

This table shows the percentage of teachers and administrators assigned to this district in 2019-20 that were still assigned to this district in 2020-21. Staff who were not retained may have changed districts or no longer work for the state (including retirements).

Job Type	District	State
2019-20 Teachers: Same district 2020-21	88.9%	91.5%
2019-20 Administrators: Same district 2020-21	88.2%	89.7%



## Per-Pupil Expenditures

### Per-Pupil Expenditures by Source

The link below produces a spreadsheet listing all school-level summaries of the most recently available expenses for regular and special education students taught at schools by district across the state. The amounts shown include expenditures for instruction, support services, administration, operations and maintenance, and extra-curricular activities.

For more information regarding this spreadsheet please refer to the guidance for school level reporting, which is available on the [NJDOE webpage ESSA School Level Reporting Information](#). More in-depth information about district and charter school spending can be found in the [User Friendly Budget](#) and the [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\) and Auditor Management Reports \(AMRs\)](#).

*Please be aware that the total district expenditures represented in these reports are taken from audited district financial data, but the subsequent allocation of these resources to specific schools is not audited or otherwise verified by the New Jersey Department of Education. If you have specific questions about the assignment (or lack of assignment) of school-level amounts, please contact the district for additional information.*

[Link to District Summary of 2020-21 School-Level Per Pupil Expenditures by Source](#)

An option to [download all school-level summaries by district](#) in one spreadsheet is also available. However, because districts have flexibility in how certain costs are allocated to individual schools, school-level costs should not be compared between schools in different districts.

Union Co Ed Serv Comm	Federal	State & Local	Total	ADE**
District Level Central Expenditures		\$9,202	\$9,202	312.8
Lamberts Mill Academy		\$47,587	\$47,587	44.1
Hillcrest Academy-North		\$47,618	\$47,618	65.4
Hillcrest Academy-South		\$47,551	\$47,551	83.9
Westlake		\$47,577	\$47,577	54.8
Crossroads School		\$47,496	\$47,496	42.6
Work Readiness Academy		\$48,051	\$48,051	22.0
-				

## Narrative

This section allows schools and districts to share highlights, achievements, and other important information about programs, activities, and services that are offered in their own words. Please note that the narrative is optional, so only categories in which the district chose to share information will be displayed. If there are questions about the information provided in the narrative section, please contact the school or district directly.

No narrative was submitted.