Board Meeting
Superintendent's Report

October 27, 2026

The mission of the Township of Union Public Schools (TUPS) is to empower and inspire Every Student, Every Day.

TUPS Talking Points

Enrollment (Including Out of District Students)

2025–2026 SY Enrollment (October 15): 7,671
2025–2026 SY Enrollment (June 16): 7,754

2026–2027 SY Enrollment (September 15): 7,497

2026-2027 SY Enrollment (October 27): 7,510



BOE Student Liaison

Rachel Glover

Class of 2027

A Brief Introduction

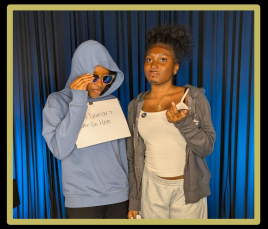
Good evening. My name is Rachel, and I am the Lead of Social Media for UHS TV. Tonight I will be sharing a few updates about what's been going on at UHS, especially highlighting UHS TV, our fall sports teams, the college fair, and the pep rally we have had so far this year.











UHS TV

In the TV Production classes, we get hands-on experience with many parts of media production, from filming both in-studio and outside of it to audio engineering, graphic design, content creation, and editing. My class specifically gets to work on more independent and advanced projects that help us develop both our technical and professional skills. We are learning to work with and lead our different project teams.

This year, we also have our first all-freshman TV Production 1 class and launched the UHS TV Network (UTVN) club. The club gives students who are not enrolled in the class an opportunity to learn about the work that goes on behind the scenes.







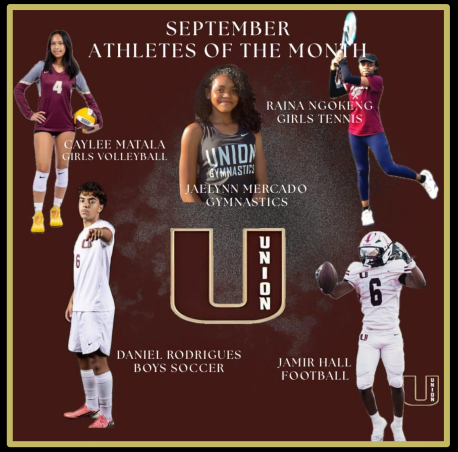




Fall Sports and ESports Highlights

- Football: The Farmers are currently 5–4 and will travel to West Orange this Friday night for the first round of the playoffs. Good luck, Farmers!
- Field hockey: The team has won five games this season, a high for the program.
- Girls soccer: The team currently has an 11–7–1 record.
- Girls tennis: The team went undefeated in the Union County Conference with an 8–0 record and won the Valley Division!
- Super Smash Bros. ESports: UHS placed second out of 13 teams at the Old Bridge “Smash Classic” after a three-way tie for first place. Kanoa Miguel placed second, and Melodi McKenzie placed eighth individually.

Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches on their hard work. Go Farmers!







Union High School's very own Jymer Louis is representing UHS in the USA Football Heart of a Giant competition, and we need YOUR votes! 🏆

Jymer's story is one of courage, perseverance, and leadership. Through life's challenges, football has given him the strength to keep pushing forward, believe in himself, and inspire young athletes to do the same.

From earning Big Central Conference Defensive Player of the Week to becoming a positive role model for his teammates and community, Jymer reminds us that being a leader is about lifting others up.

❤️💛 Now it's OUR turn to support him!

🗳️ Vote for Jymer Louis through November 1!

👉 https://www.usafootball.com/heart-of-a-giant/vote

Let's rally our Union community, spread the word, and show Jymer how proud we are of him! 🏈👏

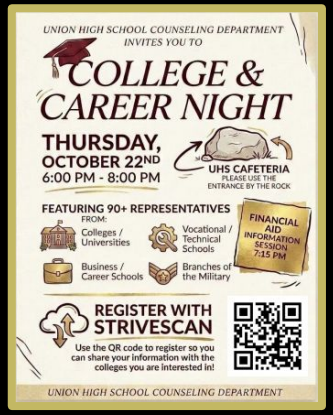


UHS September Students of the Month:

Emanuel Mills
Daniel Sheppard
Aidan Bongat
Derick Henriques
Kailee White
Nicholas Montesdeoca Mera
Gianna Ferreira
Zharick Dayana Reyes Asprilla
Melissa Mae Akiat
Tyler Sylvester
Akwasi Ansu
Anayah Christophe
Paul Oyem
Daniel Aleu
Jayme Mapa



UHS College and Career Night





Union High School Counseling Department hosted College and Career Night on October 22 in the UHS cafeteria.

Families explored opportunities with more than 90 representatives from colleges, universities, vocational and career schools, and military branches.

André Maglione of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) presented a financial aid session about completing the FAFSA. Families received information and resources to help them with the application. Thank you to Senator Cryan's office for arranging the presentation for our families.





Pep Rally

We had our fall pep rally earlier this month, and it was a great way to bring everyone together and show school spirit. Students supported one another, cheered on our athletes, and enjoyed the energy of the school coming together. It was a fun way to celebrate our school community and get everyone excited for the rest of the school year.





Thank you
Rachel Glover
Class of 2027

TUPS Assessment Highlights

12 of 15

NJSLA grade & course results improved

Mathematics	English Language Arts	NJGPA
All 8 grades & courses improved. Grade 8 gained 17% points.	4 of 7 grades improved. Grades 5, 7 & 9 each gained 7% points.	Math increased from 40% to 46%. The gaps between TUPS and the state narrowed in both ELA and math.

5 NJSLA grade & course results at or above the state rate.

Our curriculum team will give a full presentation at the November Board of Education meeting.

TUPS Leadership Academy

The TUPS Leadership Academy is designed to develop educational leadership skills through five sessions focused on leadership foundations, using data to guide decisions, special education and compliance, school culture and communication, and the administrator's role.

The program supports participants in exploring leadership pathways and strengthening their ability to serve our students, staff, and families.



TUPS Leadership Academy

The Superintendent and Board of Education proudly recognize the following staff members for successfully completing the TUPS Leadership Academy and demonstrating a commitment to professional growth, educational leadership, and service to our students and school community.

Kari Alleman
Jessica Barbieri
Tshandi Baskerville
Alison Brehm
Suzanne Carbone
Joanna Glaser
Melissa Glenn
Monica Johnson
Michele Koncewicz
Alina Loguidice
Tanisha Mayfield
Jha-Lon Motley
Leslie Nigro
Jennifer Olas
Chinwe Ononiwu
Danielle Stabler

Instruction and Funded Programs Update 2026-2027

COMPETITIVE FUNDING

Grant Tally

$8,297,184.92

and counting!

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

NJDOE Climate Education Grant

Courtyard Resiliency

Resiliency Project centered at the UHS Courtyard to build sustainable green spaces. Expanding the project for the 2026-2027 school year.

Cross-Dept Collaboration

Collaborating with Special Education classes, UHS Environmental Club, Mental Health Department and Volunteers for the Resiliency Project.

Curriculum Development

Creation of comprehensive Climate Change Unit Plans for teaching staff.

Teacher Training

Targeted Professional Development opportunities for staff growth.

University Partnership

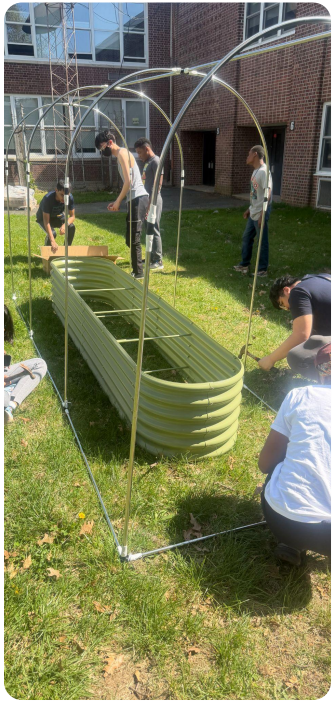
Strategic partnership with the Monmouth University Climate Change Learning Collaborative.

Student Leadership

Participation in the NJDOE Student Advisory Board for Climate Collaboratives.

Project in Action

Students hands-on constructing and assembling the courtyard garden





GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Computer Science & STEM Grant Programs

EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Cybersecurity Course Creation

Creation of a robust Computer Science Cybersecurity Class at UHS.

23 Students Enrolled

Specialized Staff Training

Comprehensive training for teaching staff on the specialized Project Lead the Way curriculum.

Modern Tech Acquisition

Acquisition of modern technology and curriculum resources to power the course.

RACKSPACE FOUNDATION GRANT

District-Wide STEM Innovation & Interactive Learning

Only District in NJ: Proudly, the only school district in NJ to receive this prestigious STEM funding.

Interactive STEM Labs: Partnered with Students to Science to deliver **96** Virtual STEM Labs across **6** Elementary Schools.

Apollo Tech Trips: Exciting Apollo Technology Class Trips exploring real-world applications in 2026-2027.

3D Printer Deployment: Deployment of cutting-edge 3D Printers at both Burnet MS and Kawameeh MS.

Board Presentation: Presentation at the Rackspace Foundation Board of Directors.

HANDS-ON STEM PROGRAMMING IN ACTION



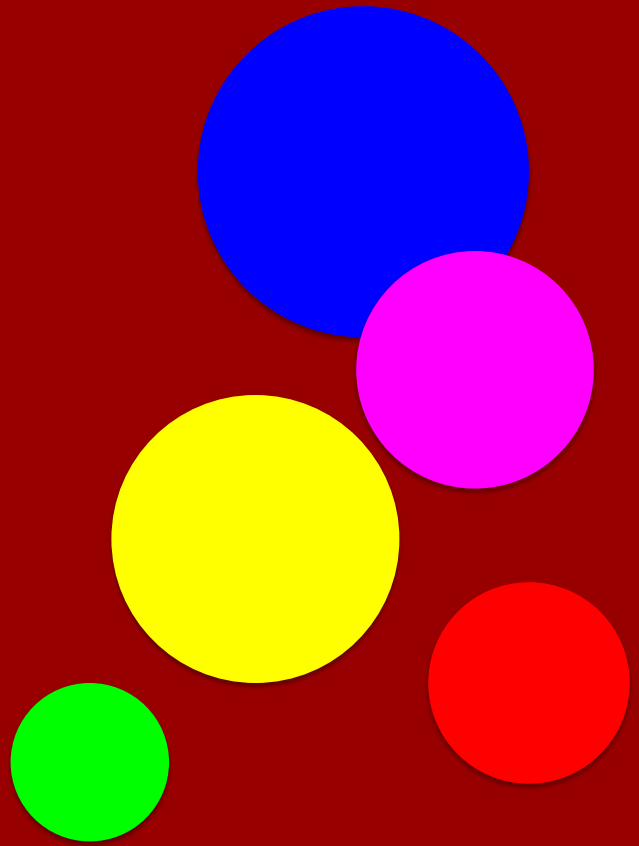


KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL

AURA

One school. Eight houses. One community.

A new tradition built around belonging, positive behavior, teamwork, and school pride.



BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION | 2026–2027

What is AURA?

A house-based initiative designed to make school culture something students build together.

AURA

A shared identity that turns everyday choices into a collective experience.

Students belong to a house, contribute to its culture, and help build a stronger Kawameeh community.

BELONGING

Every student is part of something bigger.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Recognize choices that strengthen our school.

TEAMWORK

Build relationships across the school community.

A culture students can see, feel, and shape

AURA connects schoolwide expectations to shared identity and memorable experiences.

01

RECOGNIZE

Make positive choices and contributions visible.

02

CONNECT

Create opportunities for students to work across grades and groups.

03

BELONG

Give students a team identity and a reason to take pride in the whole school.

04

CELEBRATE

Turn collective effort into shared milestones and traditions.

The goal: school pride that is built through everyday actions, not just one event.

Eight houses. Eight identities. One Kawameeh.

Each house has its own color, motto, and guiding focus.

Keystone

“Strength that Supports All”

Leadership and reliability; the house that holds everything together.

Aurora

“Shine and Inspire”

Light in darkness and inspiring others.

Wavecrest

“Move Forward Together”

Strength, flow, adaptability, and momentum.

Anchor

“Steady. Strong. Dependable.”

Grounded support that helps keep the community strong.

Mosaic

“Different Pieces. One Strong Community”

Unity in diversity; every person contributes strengths that complete the picture.

Empower

“Lift Others Higher”

Excellence and leadership.

Equinox

“Balance Creates Strength”

Balance and fairness.

Horizon

“The Future Starts Here”

Hope, future, and endless potential.

How AURA comes to life

A simple framework that can grow with the school.

01

IDENTITY

Students connect with a house, its colors, motto, and focus.

02

EVERYDAY ACTIONS

Positive behavior, teamwork, and contribution become part of the shared story.

03

HOUSE POINTS

Points recognize contributions and build momentum across the year.

04

SHARED CELEBRATION

Pep rallies and milestones bring the whole school together.

The structure is intentionally flexible as the initiative develops.

Small actions. Shared impact.

AURA gives the school a common language for the behaviors that help a community thrive.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

- Recognizing helpful, respectful choices
- Reinforcing shared expectations
- Celebrating effort and contribution

COMMUNITY & TEAM BUILDING

- Building relationships beyond familiar groups
- Creating a shared sense of belonging
- Giving students opportunities to contribute to a team

The house identity is the vehicle. A stronger school community is the destination.

SEE AURA IN ACTION

What is AURA?

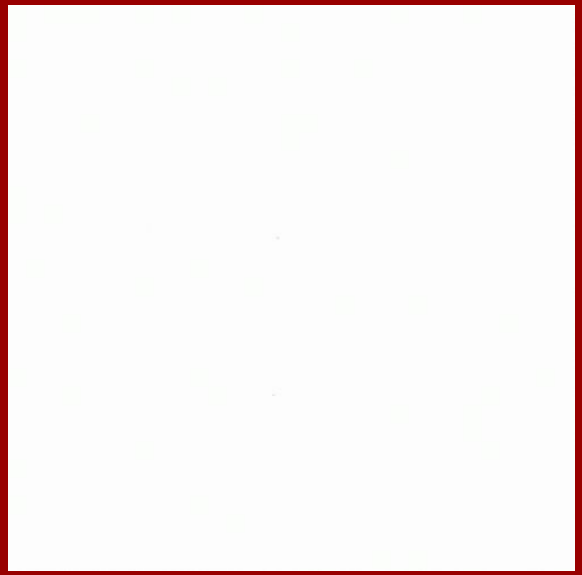
From the first moments of house spirit to the energy of our pep rally

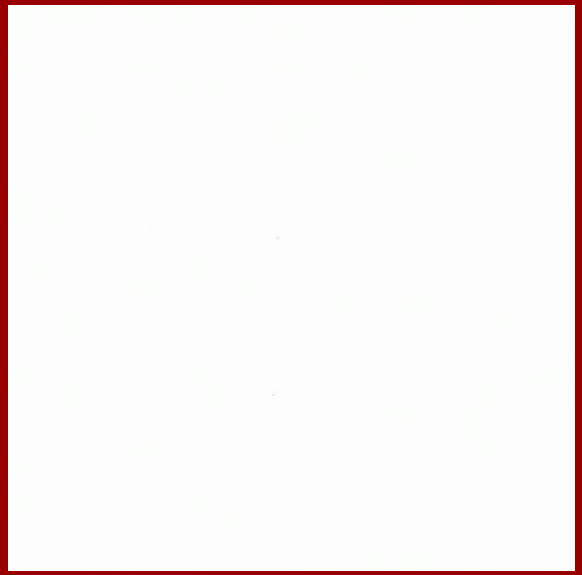


Instagram Reels
AURA PEP RALLY
prep + recap

CLICK TO WATCH!

CLICK TO WATCH!





The pep rally: house spirit made visible

A moment for students to experience AURA together.

01

ENERGY

House colors, identity, and schoolwide excitement.

02

CONNECTION

Students sharing a common experience across the building.

03

TRADITION

A foundation for future celebrations and house milestones.

The pep rally is an early milestone, not the finish line.

A tradition with room to grow

The long-term vision is an annual House Cup, earned through points accumulated throughout the year.



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Houses earn points for positive contributions and participation.

MILESTONES ALONG THE WAY

House spirit and shared events help keep momentum going.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The House Cup recognizes the house with the most points.

A shared goal can turn individual positive choices into collective achievement.

An initiative in its beginning stages

AURA is being introduced as a foundation we hope to strengthen year after year.

START

Establish house identities, shared language, and enthusiasm.

BUILD

Develop consistent ways to recognize positive behavior and award points.

SUSTAIN

Create recurring traditions, milestones, and an annual House Cup.

The vision is long-term: build the culture, refine the systems, and let the tradition grow.

ONE SCHOOL.

EIGHT HOUSES.

ONE COMMUNITY.

AURA is an opportunity to make belonging, positive behavior, and school pride part of the Kawameeh experience all year long!

Music track: Chances by Burgundy
Source: https://freetouse.com/music
No Copyright Music (Free Download)

We Care About U. Show Up All Day, Every Day!

Attendance for September

Congratulations to our top grade level for attendance!

🎉 Here's our TOP GRADE LEVELS:

🥇 Washington School: 4th Grade | 98.36%
🥈 Connecticut Farms School: 5th Grade | 97.87%
🥉 Kawameeh Middle School: 7th Grade | 97.83%



Congratulations to the schools with the highest attendance!

🎉 Here's our TOP SCHOOLS:

🥇 Washington School	97.56%
🥈 Kawameeh Middle School	97.42%
🥉 Battle Hill School	96.90%

Student Government Day









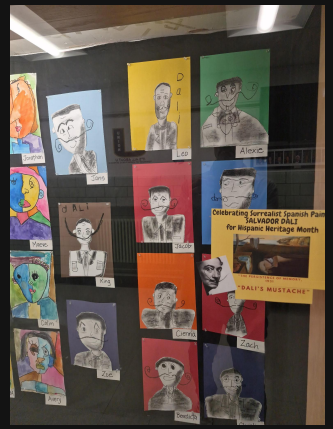
TUPS students had the opportunity to learn about local government during Student Government Day with the Township of Union.

The experience gave students a closer look at how local government serves our community and the importance of civic engagement and leadership.

Thank you to the Township of Union for providing this meaningful opportunity for our students!

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Across TUPS, students celebrated the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic communities through learning and creative expression.



Here are a few examples from around the district:

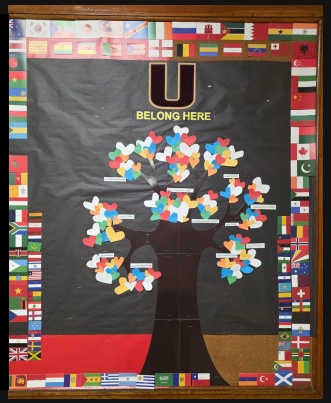
Miss Henriques: Taught students about Guatemalan worry dolls. Students then created their own.

Mrs. Frazier: Guided students as they researched influential Hispanic and Latino figures. Their projects were displayed in the library for other classes to explore.

Mrs. Calabrese and Ms. Nufrio: Helped students research Hispanic Americans and present their accomplishments to the class.

Mrs. Chapman: Led an art study and classroom activities focused on Hispanic historical figures.











INSIDE THE

On October 14, 2026, the Title III, Humanities, and the Bilingual/ESL/World Language departments came together to celebrate Latino Heritage Month and honor our mayor and colleague, the Honorable Patricia Guerra-Frazier, the Township of Union's first Latina Mayor.

The meeting focused on Accountable Talk, a shared departmental goal that helps students develop academic discourse and communicate with confidence.

A special thank you to Pomptonian for catering this meaningful celebration!

Every student, every day, in every language.



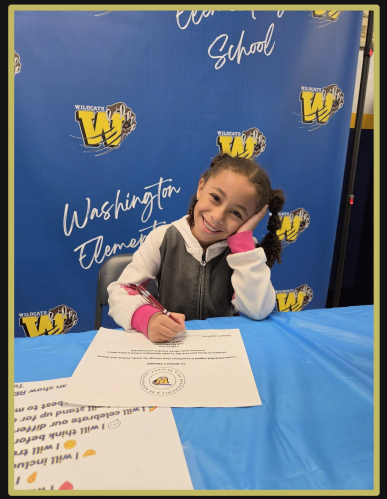




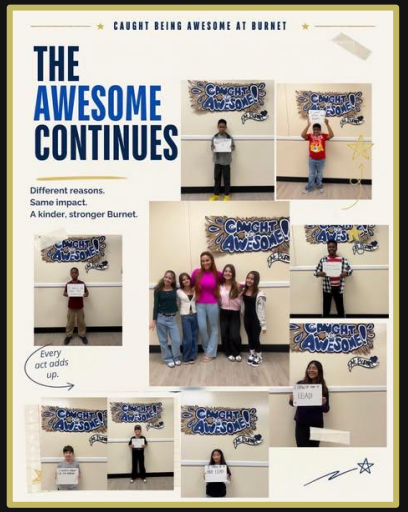
Celebrating the Week of Respect

Students and staff across the Township of Union Public Schools celebrated the importance of kindness, inclusion, and treating one another with respect. Through activities and conversations, our school communities were reminded that small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Together, we can create welcoming schools where everyone feels valued and supported! 💙

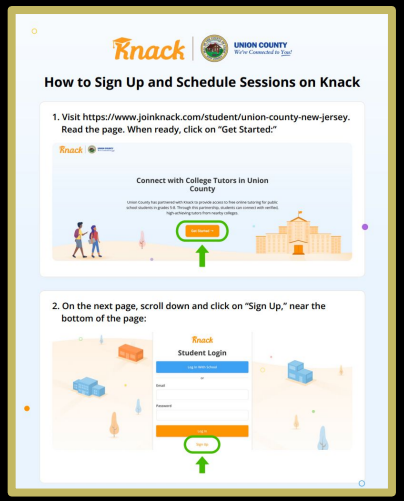








Free Tutoring for Students in Grades 5–8 and Free English Classes for TUPS Families.



Need a little extra help with homework or want to build confidence in a subject? We've got U covered!

The Township of Union Public Schools is proud to partner with Knack Tutoring to offer FREE virtual tutoring in ANY subject area for all students in Grades 5–8!

Sessions are led by college students from Union College and Kean University, providing our students with personalized academic support right from home.

Parents and guardians: Register with Knack and schedule tutoring sessions at a time that works for your family!

Register for FREE tutoring here.
Let's make this a great year of learning and success!



TUPS is offering free English classes for Union residents whose children attend our district's public schools. Build your reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to support your child's education and advance in the workplace!

Classes meet virtually through Google Meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Registration is open October 2–30, 2026.

Questions? Contact Lourdes Garcia, Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages

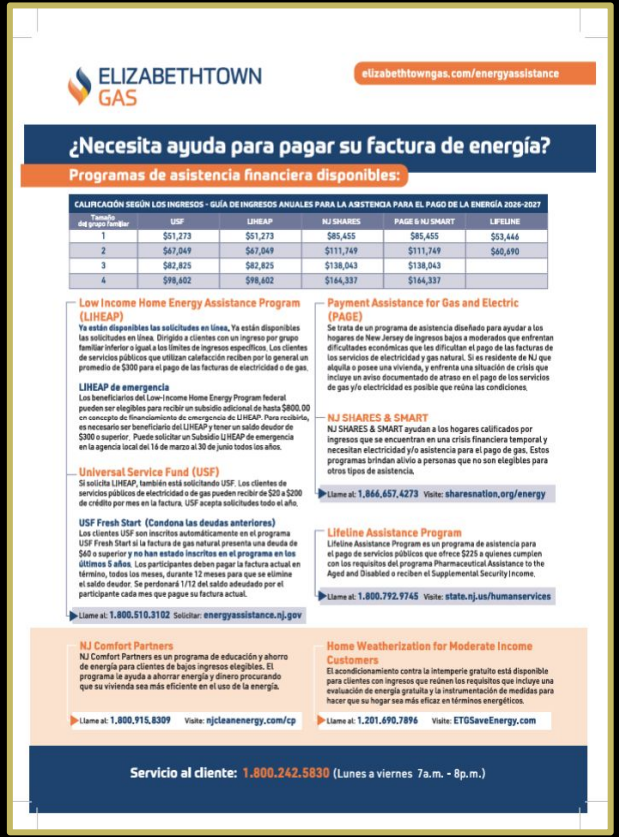
lgarcia2@twpunionschools.org
908-851-6545

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Energy Assistance

TUPS is sharing Elizabethtown Gas energy assistance information with families to help connect eligible households with support for utility costs. Available programs may also provide forgiveness of past due balances.

View energy assistance resources.



ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

elizabethtowngas.com/energyassistance

¿Necesita ayuda para pagar su factura de energía?

Programas de asistencia financiera disponibles:

CALIFICACIÓN SEGÚN LOS INGRESOS - GUÍA DE INGRESOS ANUALES PARA LA ASISTENCIA PARA EL PAGO DE LA ENERGÍA 2026-2027

Tamaño del grupo familiar	USF	LIHEAP	NJ SHARES	PAGE & NJ SMART	LIFELINE
1	$51,273	$51,273	$85,455	$85,455	$53,446
2	$67,049	$67,049	$111,749	$111,749	$60,690
3	$82,825	$82,825	$138,043	$138,043	
4	$98,602	$98,602	$164,337	$164,337	

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Ya están disponibles las solicitudes en línea. Ya están disponibles las solicitudes en línea. Dirigido a clientes con un ingreso por grupo familiar inferior o igual a los límites de ingresos específicos. Los clientes de servicios públicos que utilizan calefacción reciben por lo general un promedio de $300 para el pago de las facturas de electricidad o de gas.

LIHEAP de emergencia
Los beneficiarios del Low-Income Home Energy Program federal pueden ser elegibles para recibir un subsidio adicional de hasta $800.00 en concepto de financiamiento de emergencia de LIHEAP. Para recibirlo, es necesario ser beneficiario del LIHEAP y tener un saldo deudor de $300 o superior. Puede solicitar un Subsidio LIHEAP de emergencia en la agencia local del 16 de marzo al 30 de junio todos los años.

Universal Service Fund (USF)
Si solicita LIHEAP, también está solicitando USF. Los clientes de servicios públicos de electricidad o de gas pueden recibir de $20 a $200 de crédito por mes en la factura. USF acepta solicitudes todo el año.

USF Fresh Start (Condona las deudas anteriores)
Los clientes USF son inscritos automáticamente en el programa USF Fresh Start si la factura de gas natural presenta una deuda de $60 o superior y no han estado inscritos en el programa en los últimos 5 años. Los participantes deben pagar la factura actual en término, todos los meses, durante 12 meses para que se elimine el saldo deudor. Se perdonará 1/12 del saldo adeudado por el participante cada mes que pague su factura actual.

Llame al: 1.800.510.3102 Solicitar: energyassistance.nj.gov

Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE)
Se trata de un programa de asistencia diseñado para ayudar a los hogares de New Jersey de ingresos bajos a moderados que enfrentan dificultades económicas que les dificultan el pago de las facturas de los servicios de electricidad y gas natural. Si es residente de NJ que alquila o posee una vivienda, y enfrenta una situación de crisis que incluye un aviso documentado de atraso en el pago de los servicios de gas y/o electricidad es posible que reúna las condiciones.

NJ SHARES & SMART
NJ SHARES & SMART ayudan a los hogares calificados por ingresos que se encuentran en una crisis financiera temporal y necesitan electricidad y/o asistencia para el pago de gas. Estos programas brindan alivio a personas que no son elegibles para otros tipos de asistencia.

Llame al: 1.866.657.4273 Visite: sharesnation.org/energy

Lifeline Assistance Program
Lifeline Assistance Program es un programa de asistencia para el pago de servicios públicos que ofrece $225 a quienes cumplen con los requisitos del programa Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled o reciben el Supplemental Security Income.

Llame al: 1.800.792.9745 Visite: state.nj.us/humanservices

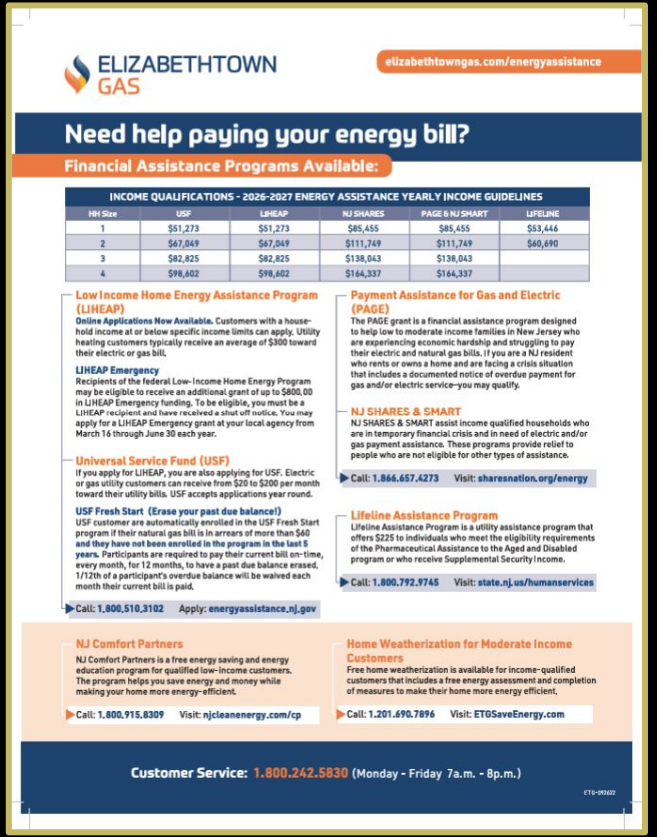
NJ Comfort Partners
NJ Comfort Partners es un programa de educación y ahorro de energía para clientes de bajos ingresos elegibles. El programa le ayuda a ahorrar energía y dinero procurando que su vivienda sea más eficiente en el uso de la energía.

Llame al: 1.800.915.8309 Visite: njcleanenergy.com/cp

Home Weatherization for Moderate Income Customers
El acondicionamiento contra la intemperie gratuito está disponible para clientes con ingresos que reúnen los requisitos que incluye una evaluación de energía gratuita y la instrumentación de medidas para hacer que su hogar sea más eficaz en términos energéticos.

Llame al: 1.201.690.7896 Visite: ETGSaveEnergy.com

Servicio al cliente: 1.800.242.5830 (Lunes a viernes 7a.m. - 8p.m.)



ELIZABETHTOWN GAS

elizabethtowngas.com/energyassistance

Need help paying your energy bill?

Financial Assistance Programs Available:

INCOME QUALIFICATIONS - 2026-2027 ENERGY ASSISTANCE YEARLY INCOME GUIDELINES

HH Size	USF	LIHEAP	NJ SHARES	PAGE & NJ SMART	LIFELINE
1	$51,273	$51,273	$85,455	$85,455	$53,446
2	$67,049	$67,049	$111,749	$111,749	$60,690
3	$82,825	$82,825	$138,043	$138,043	
4	$98,602	$98,602	$164,337	$164,337	

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Online Applications Now Available. Customers with a household income at or below specific income limits can apply. Utility heating customers typically receive an average of $300 toward their electric or gas bill.

LIHEAP Emergency
Recipients of the federal Low-Income Home Energy Program may be eligible to receive an additional grant of up to $800.00 in LIHEAP Emergency funding. To be eligible, you must be a LIHEAP recipient and have received a shut off notice. You may apply for a LIHEAP Emergency grant at your local agency from March 16 through June 30 each year.

Universal Service Fund (USF)
If you apply for LIHEAP, you are also applying for USF. Electric or gas utility customers can receive from $20 to $200 per month toward their utility bills. USF accepts applications year round.

USF Fresh Start (Erase your past due balance!)
USF customer are automatically enrolled in the USF Fresh Start program if their natural gas bill is in arrears of more than $60 **and they have not been enrolled in the program in the last 5 years.** Participants are required to pay their current bill on-time, every month, for 12 months, to have a past due balance erased. 1/12th of a participant's overdue balance will be waived each month their current bill is paid.

Call: 1.800.510.3102 Apply: energyassistance.nj.gov

Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE)
The PAGE grant is a financial assistance program designed to help low to moderate income families in New Jersey who are experiencing economic hardship and struggling to pay their electric and natural gas bills. If you are a NJ resident who rents or owns a home and are facing a crisis situation that includes a documented notice of overdue payment for gas and/or electric service-you may qualify.

NJ SHARES & SMART
NJ SHARES & SMART assist income qualified households who are in temporary financial crisis and in need of electric and/or gas payment assistance. These programs provide relief to people who are not eligible for other types of assistance.

Call: 1.866.657.4273 Visit: sharesnation.org/energy

Lifeline Assistance Program
Lifeline Assistance Program is a utility assistance program that offers $225 to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program or who receive Supplemental Security Income.

Call: 1.800.792.9745 Visit: state.nj.us/humanservices

NJ Comfort Partners
NJ Comfort Partners is a free energy saving and energy education program for qualified low-income customers. The program helps you save energy and money while making your home more energy-efficient.

Call: 1.800.915.8309 Visit: njcleanenergy.com/cp

Home Weatherization for Moderate Income Customers
Free home weatherization is available for income-qualified customers that includes a free energy assessment and completion of measures to make their home more energy efficient.

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ETG-092622

Back to School Night:
Family Feedback & Highlights

More than **3,600 families** visited our schools.

Of the **families who responded to our survey**:

- **75%** rated their experience 4 or 5 out of 5.
- **70%** left with a clearer understanding of the school year expectations.

Families appreciated meeting teachers, seeing student work, and the welcoming support of staff and student volunteers.

Looking ahead, families suggested more time with teachers and for questions, more information about curriculum and student supports, and share agendas prior to the evening.

Thank U to our families for visiting our schools and sharing feedback to help us make future events even better!

Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)

Incidents to Affirm

Period September 16 to October 13
Met the Criteria - 4 (1) KMS (1) BMS (2) LES
Did Not Meet Criteria - 2 (1) JES (1) BHES
Inconclusive - 3 BHES

Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)

Incidents to Report

Period October 14 to October 27
Met the Criteria - 1 BMS Unfounded - 2 UHS Inconclusive - 1 BMS

It's All About U

www.tups.org

ParentSquare

StudentSquare
6-12 Grade

@ communication@tups.org

Township of Union Public Schools

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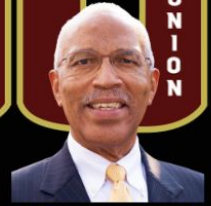
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