

'Roll' on: Richland tops region in annual Honor Roll rankings

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Richland School District jumped to the head of the class – among fellow public schools within the four-county area – on Pittsburgh Business Times' annual "Honor Roll" rankings this week.

The Business Times ranked nearly 500 public schools using its own formula that weighs heavily on the past three year's state standardized test scores for grades 3 through 8 and high school Keystone Exams.

Richland topped dozens of districts in the region, ranking in 77th place.

The ranking also shows Richland jumped 15 positions from its previous year's score and marked the third straight year the district's rank has climbed.

"We're ecstatic to see this kind of growth," Richland Superintendent Arnold Nadonley said. "And first and foremost, it's a team effort. Our students and faculty go above and beyond what we ask them to do every day."

He praised the district's board and Richland parents "for supporting us."

"This is something the whole

community can be proud of," he said.

Nadonley noted that the district accomplished the feat despite a per-pupil spending level that was lower than all but a handful of schools across Pennsylvania.

According to the statewide Pa Schools Work coalition, 487 schools spent more money – tax dollars included – per student than Richland last year.



Nadonley

Windber Area, at 94th place, ranked second in the region and scored the highest among 11 Somerset County districts.

"I'm proud of students and staff - happy with the recognition," Windber Area Superintendent Joe Kimmel said. "But we are deliberate in our efforts to push the envelope and create additional learning opportunities for our students in the years to come."

Both districts finished in the top 20 percentile among their statewide peers.

Among other districts in the region, Rockwood, Conemaugh Township and Somerset rounded out the rest of the top five.

Rockwood, the second highest Honor Roll scorer in Somerset County, ranked 123rd statewide.

Conemaugh Township fin-

Top schools

Pittsburgh Business Times released its Honor Roll ranking for nearly 500 public schools statewide. The top 5 in Cambria/Somerset County are listed below with their statewide ranking in parenthesis.

1. Richland (77th)
2. Windber Area (94th)
3. Rockwood (123rd)
4. Conemaugh Township (126th)
5. Somerset (131st)

To see a complete list, visit <https://www.biz-journals.com/pittsburgh/news/2019/05/07/2019-school-guide-rankings-south-western.html>.

ished third, and three spots back statewide at 126th, while Somerset ranked 131st.

In Cambria County, Penn Cambria ranked at 142nd place and Westmont Hilltop's scores placed the district at 143rd.

Berlin Brothersvalley rounded out Pittsburgh Business Times top 150 at 150th place.

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