
2017-2018
Annual Report

Southern Public Schools



PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The 2017-2018 Annual Report is submitted to the patrons of Southern Public Schools in accordance with the accreditation rules set forth by the Nebraska Department of Education. The annual report provides patrons with information regarding our school demographics, student achievement, and financial information. This report highlights some of the challenges and accomplishments in our district.

NEBRASKA EDUCATION PROFILE

More information about Southern Public School's 2017-2018 academic year can be found on the Nebraska Education Profile at <http://nep.education.ne.gov>.

- 1) Go to the **DISTRICT AND SCHOOL DATA** tab at the center of the webpage.
- 2) Select **2017-2018**.
- 3) Type **Southern Public Schools** in the **Select a School or District** box in the top left.
- 4) Click on **SOUTHERN SCHOOL DIST 1** and click **Search**.
- 5) Informational choices are on the top tabs of the webpage.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

Southern Public Schools is a progressive C-2 district with 414 students in grades PK-12. Southern is located in Wymore and Blue Springs, Nebraska in the southeastern part of the state. In 1968 the current district was created with the consolidation of the five communities of Wymore, Blue Springs, Barneston, Holmesville, and Liberty, along with much of their outlying area. Wymore is located south of Lincoln and eight miles north of the Kansas border. The Wymore & Blue Springs communities are located within a mile of each other and are home to two schools, Southern Elementary School (K-6) and Southern Jr./Sr. High School (7-12). The 3-year-old preschool program is located in Blue Springs and the 4-year-old preschool program is located in Wymore.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Southern School District, in cooperation with families and communities, prepares students through educational experiences, to be responsible, respectful, and safe citizens in our continually changing world.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Branson Husa
Emily Shockley

Carol Pralle
Harlan Rickers

David Zimmerman
Jim Zvolanek

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

- All students will improve their reading comprehension.
- All students will improve their math skills.
- Southern Public Schools will improve the culture of the district.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

- **The School Will:**
 - Inspire students to contribute to society as knowledgeable, responsible, and cultured citizens.
 - Provide a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment with high expectations for student achievement.
 - Provide students the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.
- **The Students Will:**
 - Learn the value of leadership and how to be independent thinkers.
 - Become confident and goal-oriented lifelong learners in college and career readiness skills.
 - Be confident in their abilities, recognize their accomplishments, and learn from their experiences.

ADMINISTRATION

Faculty Members	Education Level	Years Experience	Position
Christopher Proski	Ed.D.	10	Superintendent/Curriculum Director
Gerald Rempe	M.A.	33	PK-6 Principal/Athletic Director
Jeff Murphy	M.A.	17	7-12 Principal

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Faculty Members	Education Level	Years Experience	Position
Jonna Adams	M.A.	17	Second Grade Teacher
Jolene Bartels	M.A.	30	Fifth Grade Teacher
Kylie Bent	B.A.	1	Special Education Teacher
Kylie Betten	B.A.	3	First Grade Teacher
Kalynne Breunsbach	B.A.	40	Kindergarten Teacher
Rhonda Epp	M.A.	23	Fourth Grade Teacher
Stacy Fossler	M.A.	6	Special Education Teacher
Cathy Hayden	B.A.	28	Sixth Grade Teacher
Malinda Hock	B.A.	3	Special Education Teacher
Kane Hookstra	M.A.	22	Fourth Grade Teacher
Kimberly Milius	B.A.	1	First Grade Teacher
Annie Manley	B.A.	5	Preschool Teacher
Carly Minge	M.A.	5	Fifth Grade Teacher
Kelsey Root	B.A.	2	Special Education Teacher
Lynn Sabey	M.A.	7	Second Grade Teacher
Tara Sasse	B.A.	4	Sixth Grade Teacher
Mary Jane Spence	B.A.	40	Third Grade Teacher
Jessica Tjaden	M.A.	7	Kindergarten Teacher
Carolyn Van Boening	M.A.	8	Media Specialist
Stephanie Ware	M.A.	19	Title I Teacher
Sheri Yockel	B.A.	33	Third Grade Teacher

Abbreviation	Degree
B.A.	Bachelor's Degree
M.A.	Master's Degree
Ed.S.	Education Specialist
Ed.D.	Doctor of Education

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

Faculty Members	Education Level	Years Experience	Position
Dominique Clay	B.A.	8	Spanish Teacher
Sheila Cordry	B.A.	14	English Teacher
Jennifer Dunekacke	M.A.	10	Science Teacher
Zack Emerson	M.A.	12	Physical Education/Health Teacher
Michele Gerdes	M.A.	32	K-12 Band Teacher
Patricia Goes	M.A.	38	Guidance Counselor
Heather McKinney	M.A.	22	Special Education Teacher
Stephanie Mendyk	M.A.	35	K-12 Vocal Music Teacher
Morgan Nerverve	M.A.	7	Jr./Sr. High School Art Teacher
Elizabeth Ogg	B.A.	5	English Teacher
Melissa Omar	M.A.	4	Special Education Teacher
Denise Pahl	B.A.	19	Special Education Teacher
Sandy Pospisil	B.A.	6	Mathematics Teacher
Michael Ringen	M.A.	14	Social Science Teacher
James Sapp	B.A.	36	Industrial Tech Teacher
Jeff Schiebur	M.A.	35	Mathematics Teacher
Jamie Schluter	B.A.	4	Business Teacher
Lisa Thiry	B.A.	6	Special Education Teacher
Jeffery Tunink	B.A.	8	Science Teacher
Beth Willet	B.A.	38	K-12 PE Teacher
Janie Winter	B.A.	28	Social Science Teacher
Rebecca Weyer	M.A.	13	Media Specialist

Abbreviation	Degree
B.A.	Bachelor's Degree
M.A.	Master's Degree
Ed.S.	Education Specialist
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CERTIFIED STAFF INFORMATION

Category	Southern	State
Average Teacher Salary	\$48,434	\$54,422
Average Years of Teaching Experience	16	14
Percent of Teachers with Master's Degrees	46%	54%

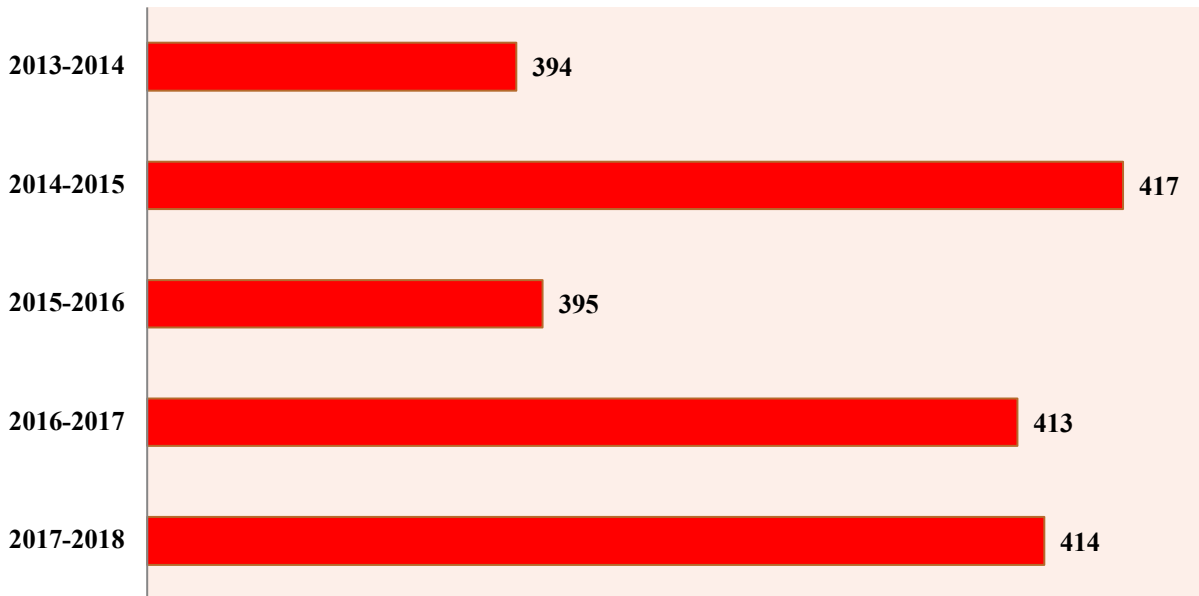
CLASSIFIED STAFF

Faculty Members	Position
Dona Bartels	Paraprofessional
Dee Bednar	Elementary Counselor
Jan Carr	Paraprofessional
Casey Colgrove	Custodian
Jessica Cooper	Paraprofessional
Bonnie Creek	Bus Driver
Susan Davis	Food Service Provider
Dee Day	Paraprofessional
Pam Dorn	Food Service Provider
Wendy Garrels	Paraprofessional
Jeanne Hardin	Food Service Provider
Noel Knarr	Food Service Provider
John Linder	Head Maintenance
Karen Maguire	Secretary
Jane Mallam	Bookkeeper
Kim McMurray	Head Food Service Provider
Jodi Meints	Paraprofessional
Tammy Meints	Custodian
Kathy Mittan	Paraprofessional
Patty Novotny	Preschool Paraprofessional
Rae Oblinger	Secretary
Dawn Rakes	Secretary
Tom Regan	Custodian
Devin Riggs	Bus Driver
Ginger Riggs	Paraprofessional
Randy Roberts	Maintenance
Cody Sabey	Technology Coordinator
Darcie Schmidt	Paraprofessional
Becky Sullivan	Secretary
Dave Thoman	Custodian
Sue Waltke	Paraprofessional
Jessica Weyer	Paraprofessional
JoAnn Wieden	Food Service Provider
Fracia Workman	Paraprofessional
Twila Wise	Paraprofessional

ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Compiled on the last Friday in September (2017)			
Grade	Female	Male	Total
PK	21	22	43
K	15	10	25
1	13	10	23
2	11	9	20
3	25	15	40
4	16	13	29
5	14	12	26
6	8	20	28
Elementary School	123	111	234
7	17	17	34
8	12	15	27
9	12	18	30
10	21	15	36
11	13	9	22
12	16	15	31
Jr./Sr. High School	91	89	180
District	214	220	414

5-YEAR ENROLLMENT FIGURES (PK-12)



SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEMOGRAPHICS
2017-2018 Academic Year

Student Characteristics	Southern Public Schools		State
Attendance Rate	92%		94%
Dropout Rate	N/A		1%
English Learners (EL)	N/A		6%
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	59%		45%
Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort)	87%		88%
High Ability Learners	4%		13%
School Mobility Rate	14%		11%
Special Education	25%		15%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaskan Native:	1%	1%
	Asian:	0%	3%
	Black/African American:	1%	6%
	Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander:	0%	1%
	Hispanic:	4%	19%
	Two or More Races:	3%	3%
	White:	91%	67%

Please Note: A N/A indicates that the data has been masked to protect the identity of students using one the following criteria:

- 1) Fewer than 10 students were reported in a group.
 - a) Fewer than 5 students were reported at a performance level.
- 2) All students were reported in a single group or performance category.

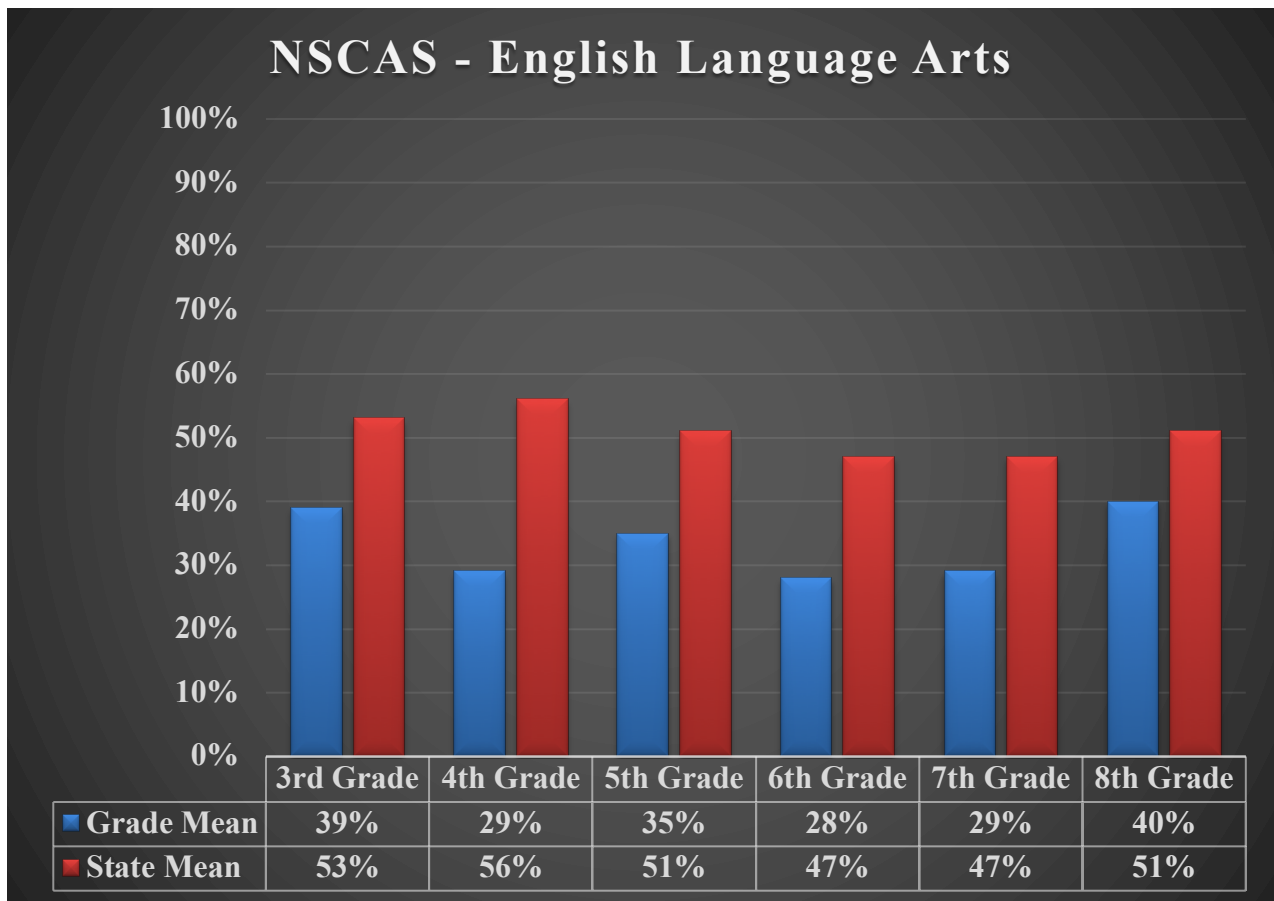
NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (NSCAS)

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) assessments were developed specifically for Nebraska to provide teachers, students, and parents with an assessment of student progress in mastering basic skills based on Nebraska’s academic standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. The NSCAS test is a criterion-referenced assessment that is given once a year in the spring to measure student performance towards the standards. The following table is a breakdown of the NSCAS assessments administered at each grade level.

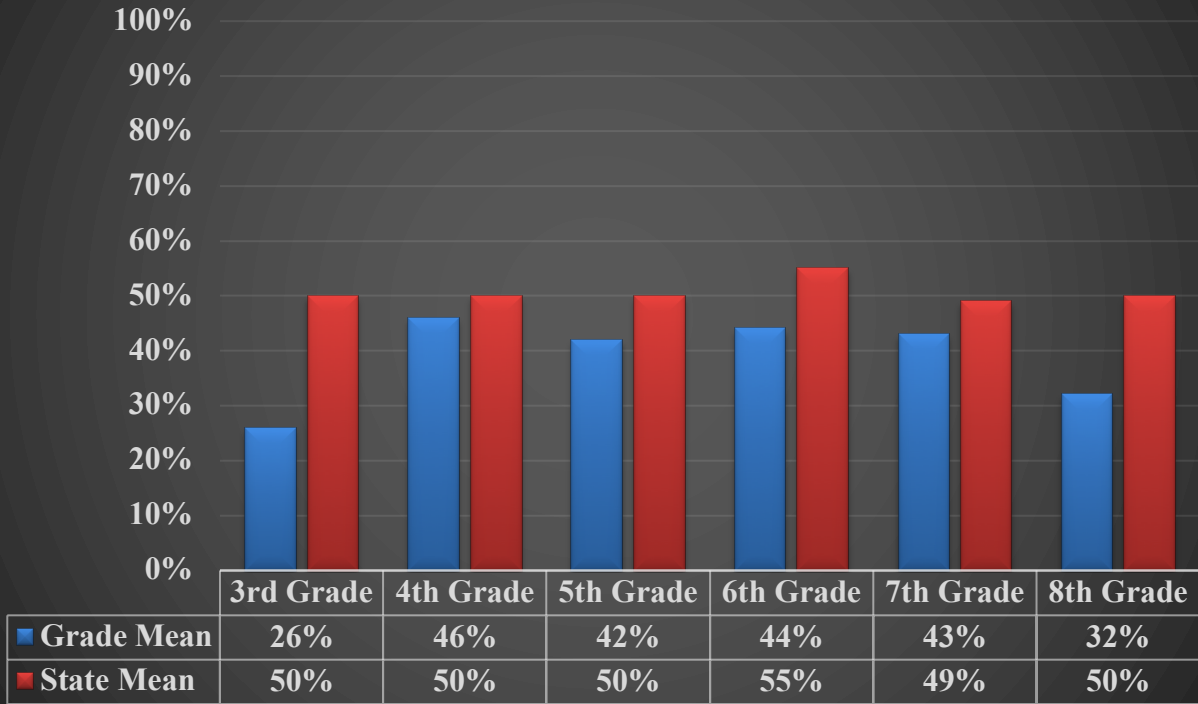
NSCAS Assessment	Subject	Grades Administered
NSCAS–ELA	English Language Arts	3-8
NSCAS–M	Mathematics	3-8
NSCAS–S	Science	5 & 8

NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (NSCAS)

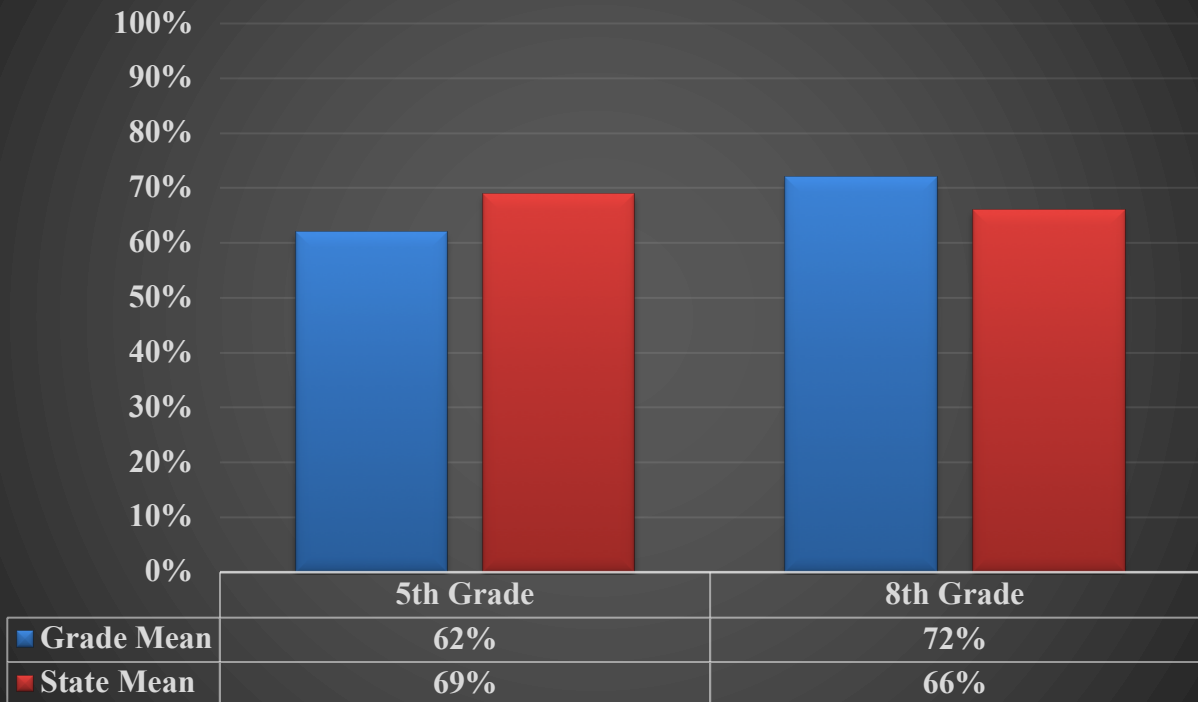
**Percent Proficient By Grade/Subject Area
2017-2018 Academic Year**



NSCAS - Mathematics



NSCAS - Science

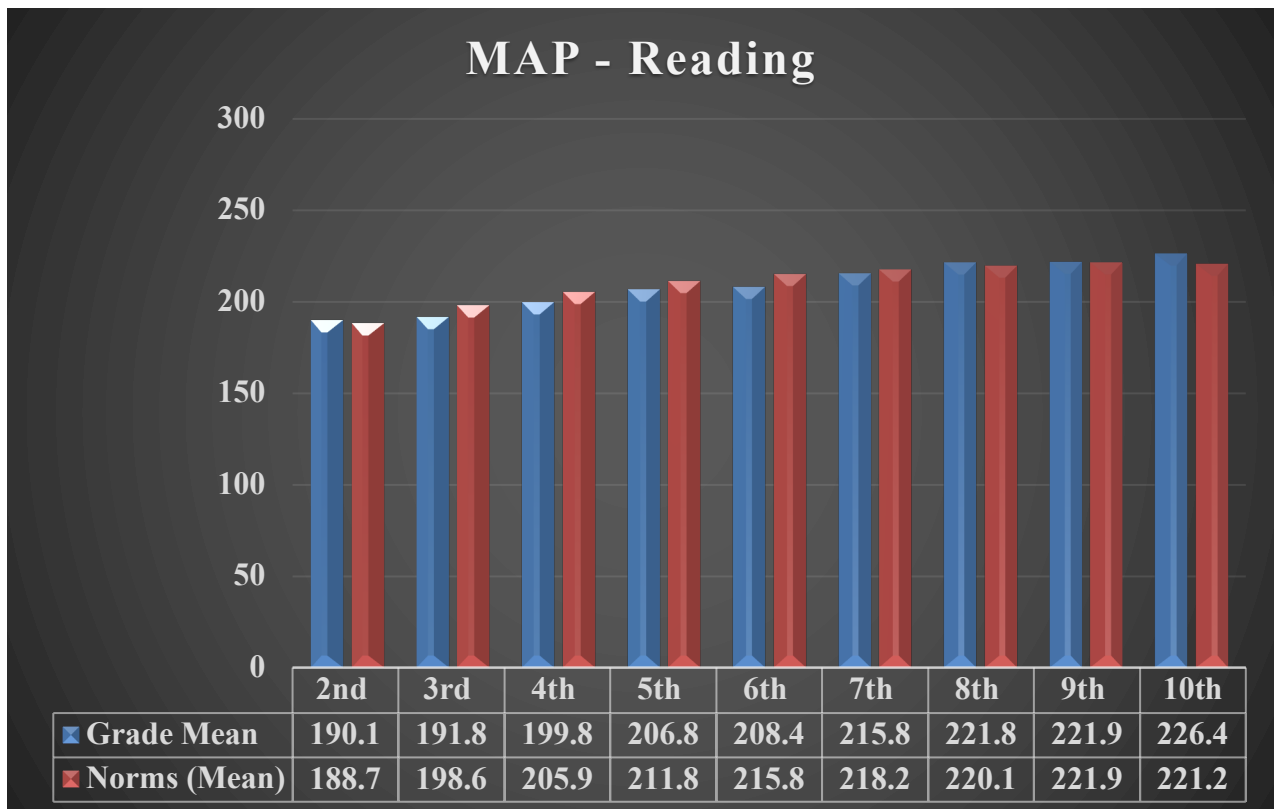


MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP)

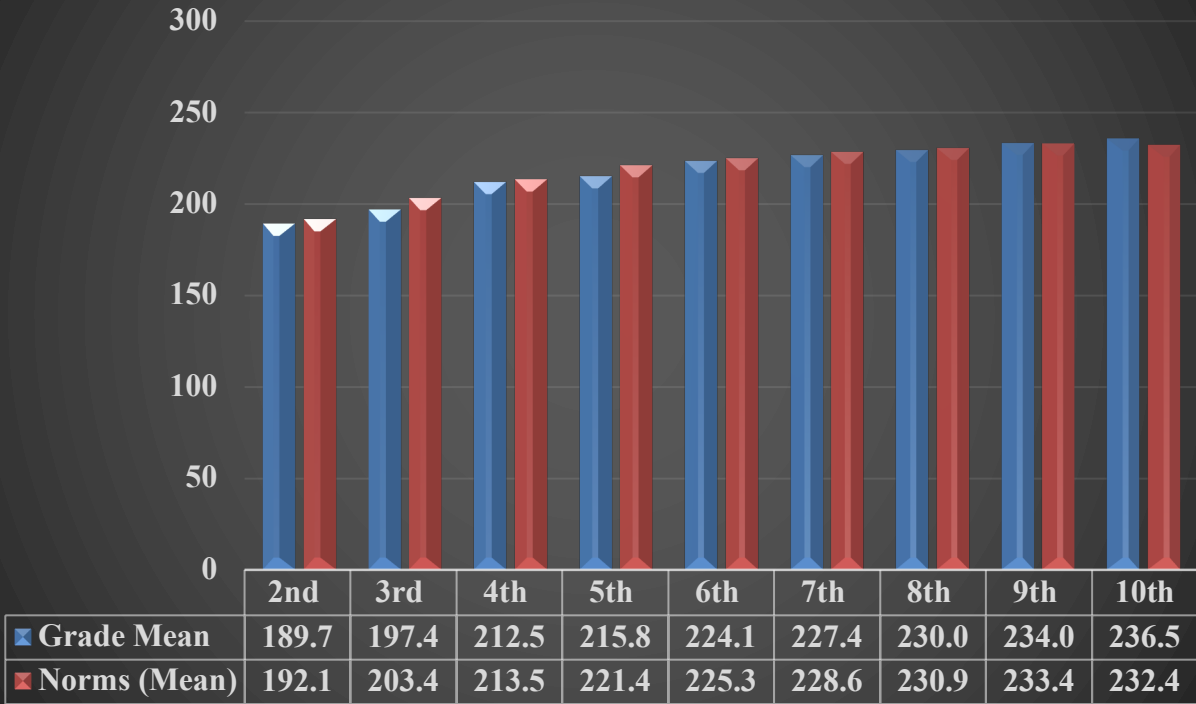
The norm-referenced assessment that we utilize in our district is called Measure of Academic Progress or MAP. The MAP assessment is administered to fulfill the accreditation requirements put forth by Nebraska Department of Education under Rule 10. Norm-referenced assessments are built to compare student performance across the country and these assessments result in bell curve distributions. The MAP assessments use a scale called RIT to measure student achievement and growth. The ACT is another example of a norm-referenced assessment that is administered throughout the Midwest.

MAP Assessment	Subject	Grades Administered
MAP-R	Reading	3-10 (Fall & Spring)
MAP-M	Mathematics	3-10 (Fall & Spring)
MAP-S	Science	3-10 (Fall & Spring)

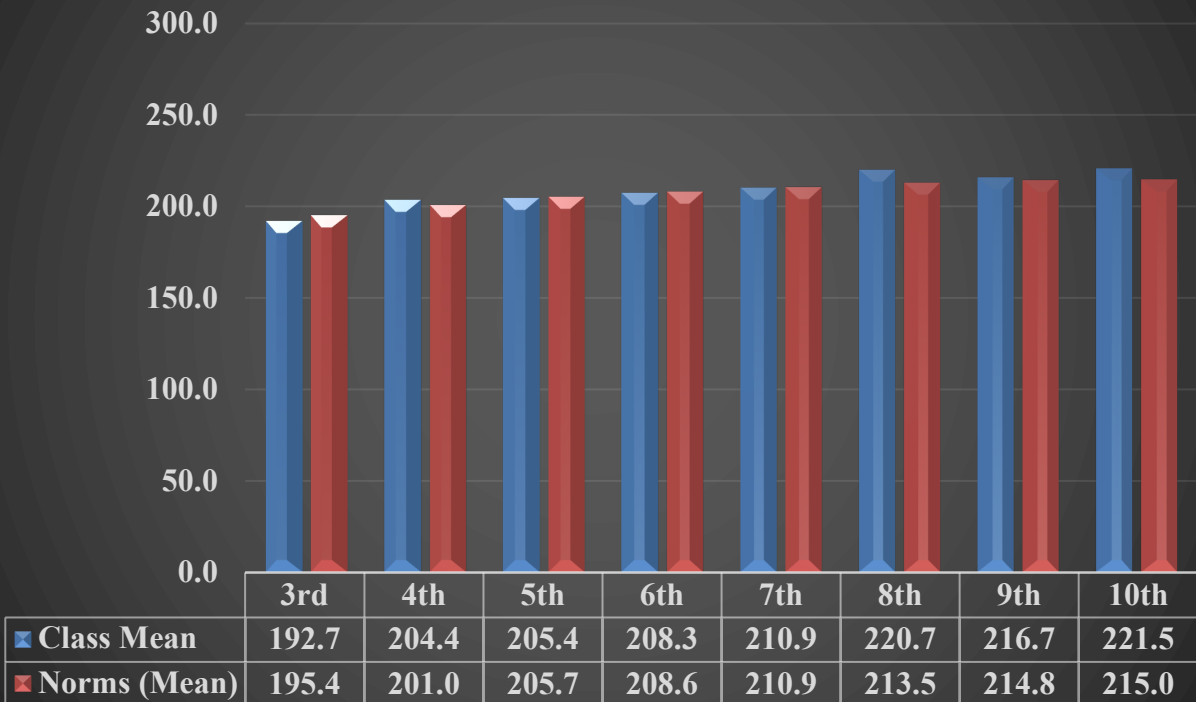
MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP) Class Mean (RIT Score) By Grade/Subject Area Spring 2018 Assessments



MAP - Mathematics



MAP - Science



AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING (ACT)
Longitudinal ACT Data

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
English	District	20.5	20.7	21.0	21.1	16.4
	State	21.3	21.1	20.9	20.9	19.4
Mathematics	District	18.1	19.1	18.2	18.8	16.4
	State	21.1	21.0	20.8	20.9	19.8
Reading	District	20.9	20.5	23.1	23.8	17.3
	State	22.0	21.9	21.8	21.9	20.4
Science	District	20.5	19.8	20.3	21.0	17.3
	State	21.7	21.6	21.5	21.5	20.1
Composite	District	20.1	20.1	20.7	21.4	17.0
	State	21.7	21.5	21.4	21.4	20.1

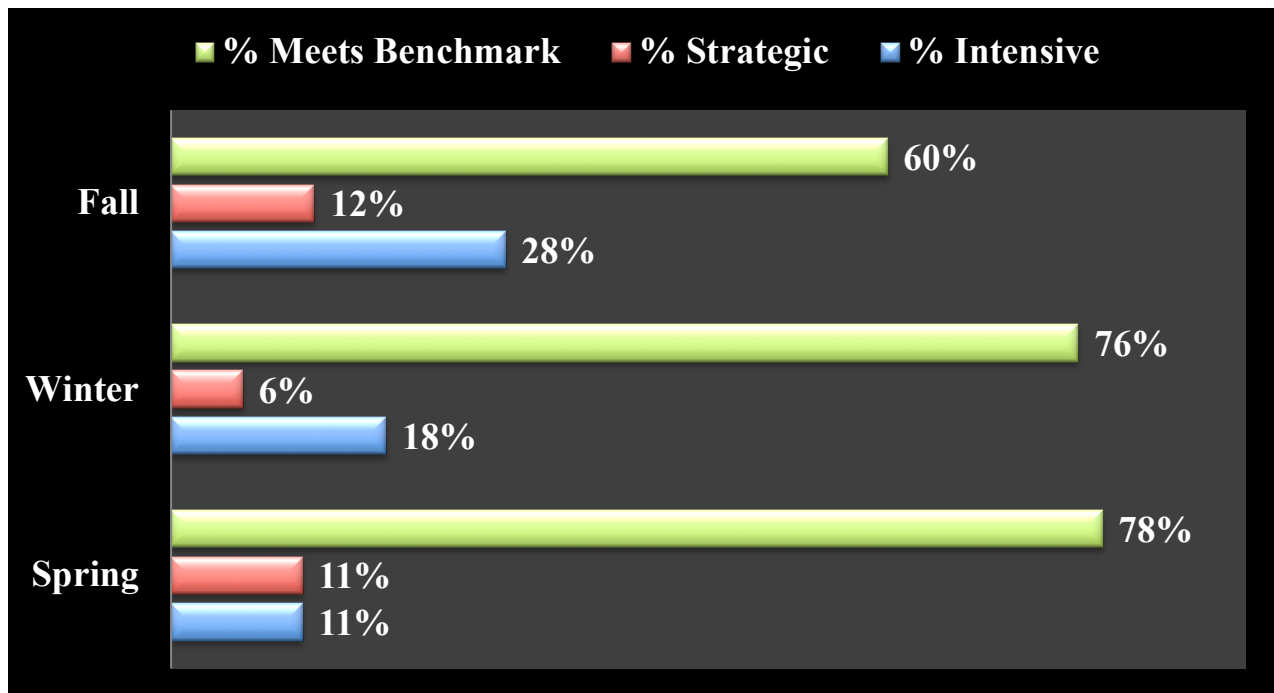
Please Note: Beginning in the spring of 2017, all third-year cohort students (Juniors) were required to take the ACT assessment in the state of Nebraska.

DYNAMIC INDICATORS OF BASIC EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

The universal screener that we utilize in our district is called Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills or DIBELS. DIBELS is a set of measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. These assessments are designed to be short, one-minute fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy skills. The DIBELS assessments are comprised of seven measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, reading comprehension, and vocabulary.

DIBELS SCORES (K-2 GRADE)
Percentage of Students Proficient By Indicators

Date	# of students	Meets Benchmark (At Grade Level)	Strategic (Below Benchmark)	Intensive (Well Below Benchmark)
Fall 2017	65	60%	12%	28%
Winter 2017	62	76%	6%	18%
Spring 2018	62	78%	11%	11%



2017-2018 BUDGET INFORMATION

Southern Public Schools continues to operate a fiscally responsible budget with very little state aid. Over the past five years, Southern has reduced the district’s mill levy by over 9 cents. Southern Public Schools also decreased their property tax request from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 by \$105,099 or by (2.35%). Since the 2013-2014 school year, Southern state aid allotment has decreased by \$983,360 or by (56.0%). Southern continues to provide a high-quality education at an economical cost to district patrons.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AFR) General Fund Expenditures & Receipts

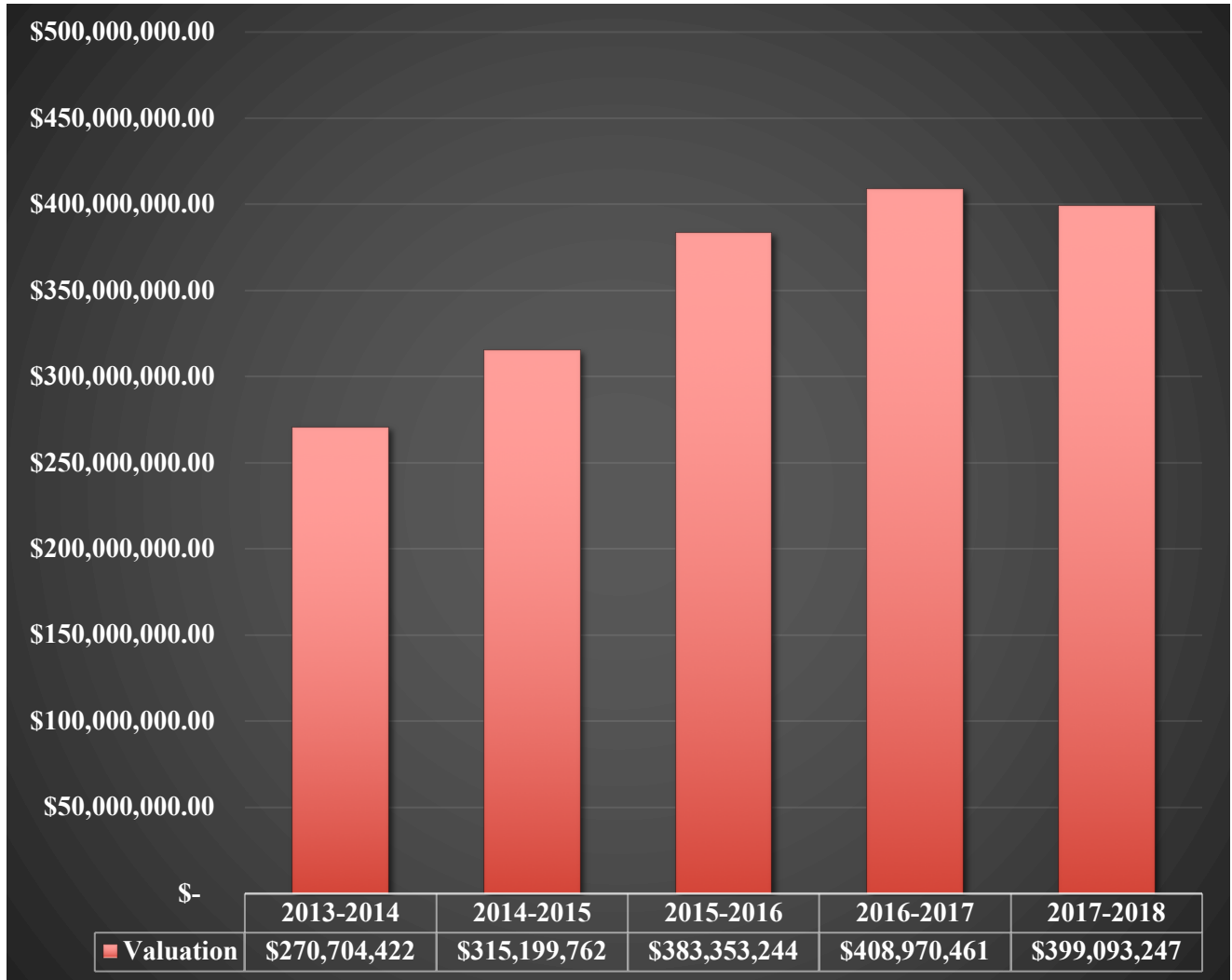
Year	Expenditures	% Change (Prior Year)	Dollar Amount Change (Prior Year)	Receipts	% Change (Prior Year)	Dollar Amount Change (Prior Year)	Dollar Amount Net Gain/Net Loss
2013-2014	\$5,729,517	2.59%	\$144,388	\$5,772,471	4.13%	\$229,257	\$42,954
2014-2015	\$5,712,790	(0.29%)	(\$16,727)	\$5,908,598	2.35%	\$136,127	\$195,808
2015-2016	\$6,086,175	6.54%	\$373,385	\$6,464,023	9.40%	\$555,425	\$377,848
2016-2017	\$6,128,414	0.69%	\$42,239	\$6,058,728	(6.27%)	(\$405,295)	(\$69,686)
2017-2018	\$6,269,621	2.30%	\$141,207	\$6,267,330	3.44%	\$208,602	(\$2,291)

Please Note: During the 2017-2018 school year, \$200,000 was transferred from the Bond Fund to the General Fund because the 1998 General Obligation Bond was paid off. The \$200,000 that was transferred to the General Fund was spent to pay off two different bus leases in this amount through the Depreciation Fund.

5-YEAR MILL LEVY COMPARISON

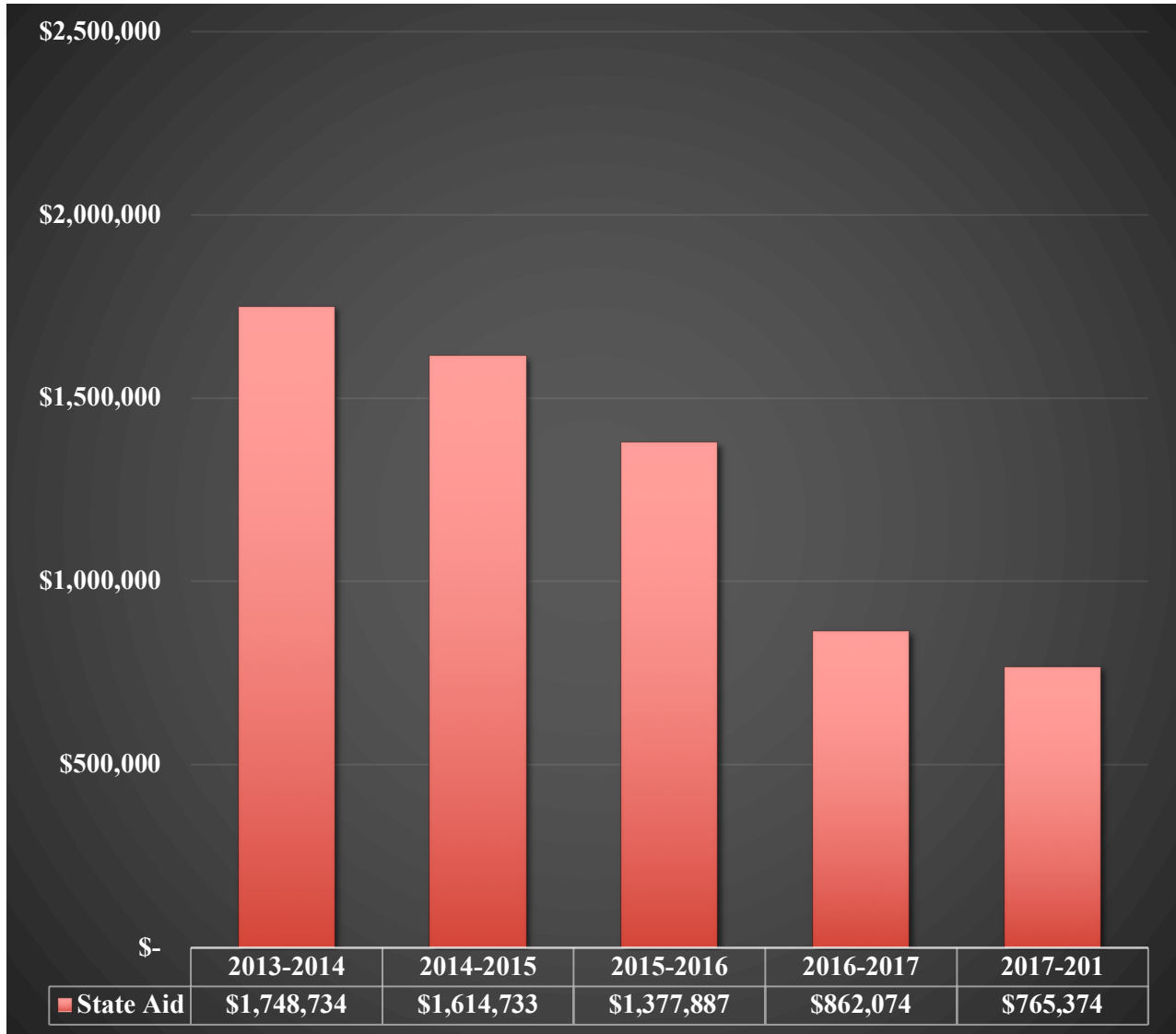


5-YEAR VALUATION COMPARISON



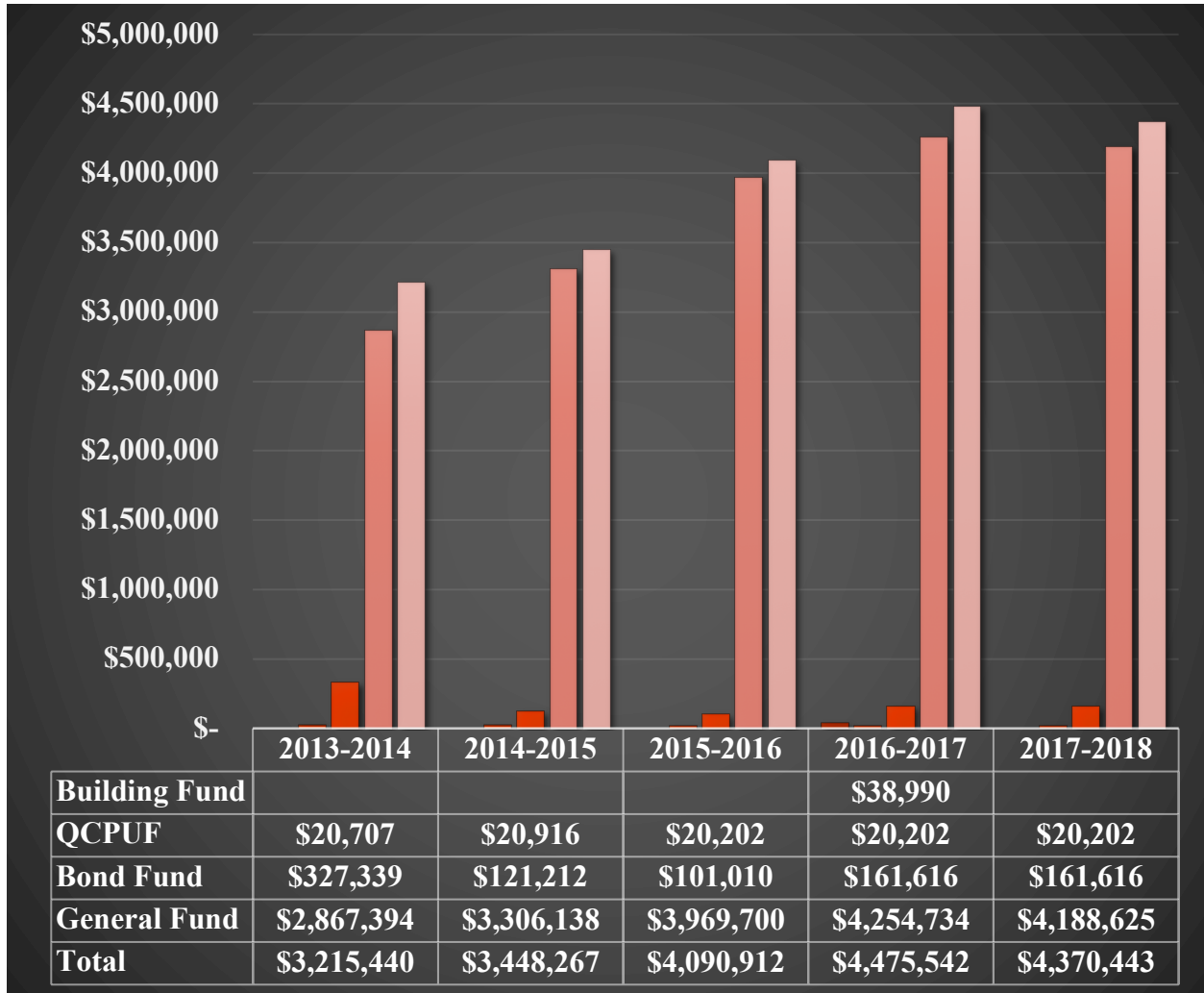
<i>Tax Year</i>	Gage County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Pawnee County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Overall Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
<i>2013</i>	\$269,683,387	17.42%	\$1,021,035	31.09%	\$270,704,422	17.47%	\$40,266,000
<i>2014</i>	\$314,057,927	16.45%	\$1,141,835	11.83%	\$315,199,762	16.43%	\$44,495,340
<i>2015</i>	\$381,989,299	21.63%	\$1,363,945	19.45%	\$383,353,244	21.62%	\$68,153,482
<i>2016</i>	\$407,602,041	6.70%	\$1,368,420	0.32%	\$408,970,461	6.68%	\$25,617,217
<i>2017</i>	\$397,650,142	(2.50%)	\$1,443,105	5.45%	\$399,093,247	(2.42%)	(\$9,877,214)

5-YEAR STATE AID COMPARISON



<i>School Year</i>	State Aid (Allotment)	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
<i>2013-2014</i>	\$1,748,734	(3.70%)	(\$64,872)
<i>2014-2015</i>	\$1,614,733	(8.29%)	(\$134,001)
<i>2015-2016</i>	\$1,377,887	(17.18%)	(\$236,846)
<i>2016-2017</i>	\$862,074	(59.83%)	(\$515,813)
<i>2017-2018</i>	\$765,374	(12.63%)	(\$96,700)

5-YEAR PROPERTY TAX REQUEST COMPARISON



<i>Tax Year</i>	Local Property Tax Request	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
<i>2013-2014</i>	\$3,215,440	6.54%	\$197,438
<i>2014-2015</i>	\$3,448,267	7.24%	\$232,827
<i>2015-2016</i>	\$4,090,912	18.64%	\$642,645
<i>2016-2017</i>	\$4,475,542	9.40%	\$384,630
<i>2017-2018</i>	\$4,370,443	(2.35%)	(\$105,099)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you might have regarding the 2017-2018 Annual Report.

Dr. Christopher Prosocki
Superintendent