

# Southern Public Schools

## Annual Report

### 2019-2020



Southern Elementary School  
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P.O. Box 158  
Blue Springs, NE 68318  
Phone: 402.645.3359  
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Southern Jr./Sr. High School  
115 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Wymore, NE 68466  
Phone: 402.645.3326  
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<http://www.southernschools.org>

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## **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

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The 2019-2020 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.

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## **NEBRASKA EDUCATION PROFILE**

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More information about Southern Public School's 2019-2020 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) Type **Southern School District 1** in the **Search NEP** box.
- 3) Click on **SOUTHERN SCHOOL DISTRICT 1** and click **Search**.

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## **DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT**

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Southern Public Schools is a progressive C-2 district with 390 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 (PK-6) and Southern Jr./Sr. High School (7-12). The 3-year-old preschool and the 4-year-old preschool programs are located in Blue Springs.

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## **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

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*Every Student, Every Day, The Southern Way.*

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## **DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT**

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*The Southern School District prepares students through educational experiences to be responsible, respectful, and safe.*

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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Angela Meyer  
David Zimmerman

Betsy Frerichs  
Emily Shockley

Carol Pralle  
Jim Zvolanek

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## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS**

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- All students will improve their reading comprehension.
- All students will improve their math skills.
- The Southern School District will aspire to improve the culture of the district.

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## **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

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### **The School Will:**

- Inspire students to contribute to society as knowledgeable, responsible, and well-rounded citizens.
- Ensure a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment with high expectations for student achievement.
- Encourage students with the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

### **The Students Will:**

- Learn the value of leadership and how to be independent problem-solving thinkers.
- Become confident and goal-oriented lifelong learners in college and career readiness skills.
- Be assured in their abilities, recognize their accomplishments, and show confidence in their growing abilities.

### **The Community Will:**

- Support students in their growth and lifelong learning.
- Encourage district staff and leadership in creating a learning environment of high student achievement.
- Provide the resources to ensure the district's ability to deliver a supportive learning environment and create responsible citizens.

## ADMINISTRATION

| <b>Faculty Members</b> | <b>Education Level</b> | <b>Years Experience</b> | <b>Position</b>                    |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Christopher Prosocki   | Ed.D.                  | 12                      | Superintendent/Curriculum Director |
| Gerald Rempe           | M.A.                   | 35                      | PK-6 Principal/Athletic Director   |
| Jeff Murphy            | M.A.                   | 19                      | 7-12 Principal                     |

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

| <b>Faculty Members</b> | <b>Education Level</b> | <b>Years Experience</b> | <b>Position</b>           |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonna Adams            | M.A.                   | 19                      | Second Grade Teacher      |
| Amanda Antholz         | B.A.                   | 2                       | Preschool Teacher         |
| Jolene Bartels         | M.A.                   | 32                      | Fifth Grade Teacher       |
| Chaysen Bednar         | B.A.                   | 1                       | Sixth Grade Teacher       |
| Kylie Betten           | B.A.                   | 5                       | First Grade Teacher       |
| Timothy Blecha         | B.A.                   | 3                       | Special Education Teacher |
| Rhonda Epp             | M.A.                   | 25                      | Third Grade Teacher       |
| Stacy Fossler          | M.A.                   | 8                       | Special Education Teacher |
| Cathy Hayden           | B.A.                   | 30                      | Sixth Grade Teacher       |
| Malinda Hock           | M.A.                   | 5                       | Special Education Teacher |
| Kane Hookstra          | M.A.                   | 23                      | Fourth Grade Teacher      |
| Taylor Landenberger    | B.A.                   | 2                       | Kindergarten Teacher      |
| Annie Manley           | B.A.                   | 7                       | Preschool Teacher         |
| Kimberly Milius        | B.A.                   | 3                       | First Grade Teacher       |
| Lynn Sabey             | M.A.                   | 9                       | Second Grade Teacher      |
| Mary Jane Spence       | B.A.                   | 42                      | Third Grade Teacher       |
| Jessica Tjaden         | M.A.                   | 9                       | Kindergarten Teacher      |
| Carly Vitosh           | M.A.                   | 7                       | Fifth Grade Teacher       |
| Stephanie Ware         | M.A.                   | 20                      | Title I Teacher           |

| <b>Abbreviation</b> | <b>Degree</b>        |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| B.A.                | Bachelor's Degree    |
| M.A.                | Master's Degree      |
| Ed.S.               | Education Specialist |
| Ed.D.               | Doctor of Education  |

## JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

| <b>Faculty Members</b> | <b>Education Level</b> | <b>Years Experience</b> | <b>Position</b>                   |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shelby Barnard         | B.A.                   | 2                       | Special Education Teacher         |
| Nancy Bond             | Ed.D.                  | 35                      | 7-12 School Counselor             |
| Kalynne Breunsbach     | B.A.                   | 42                      | Special Education Teacher         |
| Dominique Clay         | B.A.                   | 10                      | Spanish Teacher                   |
| Jennifer Dunekacke     | M.A.                   | 12                      | Science Teacher                   |
| Zack Emerson           | M.A.                   | 14                      | Physical Education/Health Teacher |
| Michele Gerdes         | M.A.                   | 34                      | K-12 Instrumental Music Teacher   |
| Heather McKinney       | M.A.                   | 24                      | Special Education Teacher         |
| Morgan Neverve         | M.A.                   | 9                       | Jr./Sr. High School Art Teacher   |
| Elizabeth Ogg          | B.A.                   | 7                       | English Teacher                   |
| Melissa Omar           | M.A.                   | 6                       | English Teacher                   |
| Sandy Pospisil         | B.A.                   | 8                       | Mathematics Teacher               |
| Lorren Rahn            | B.A.                   | 1                       | K-12 Vocal Music Teacher          |
| Michael Ringen         | M.A.                   | 16                      | Social Science Teacher            |
| James Sapp             | B.A.                   | 38                      | Industrial Tech Teacher           |
| Jeff Schiebur          | M.A.                   | 38                      | Mathematics Teacher               |
| Jamie Schluter         | M.A.                   | 6                       | Business Teacher                  |
| Jeffery Tunink         | B.A.                   | 10                      | Science Teacher                   |
| Rebecca Weyer          | M.A.                   | 15                      | K-12 Media Specialist             |
| Beth Willet            | B.A.                   | 40                      | K-12 PE Teacher                   |
| Janie Winter           | B.A.                   | 31                      | Social Science Teacher            |

| <b>Abbreviation</b> | <b>Degree</b>        |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| B.A.                | Bachelor's Degree    |
| M.A.                | Master's Degree      |
| Ed.S.               | Education Specialist |
| Ed.D.               | Doctor of Education  |

## CERTIFIED STAFF INFORMATION

| <b>Category</b>                           | <b>Southern</b> | <b>State</b> |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Average Teacher Salary                    | \$49,784        | \$55,479     |
| Average Years of Teaching Experience      | 15              | 14           |
| Percent of Teachers with Master's Degrees | 50%             | 56%          |

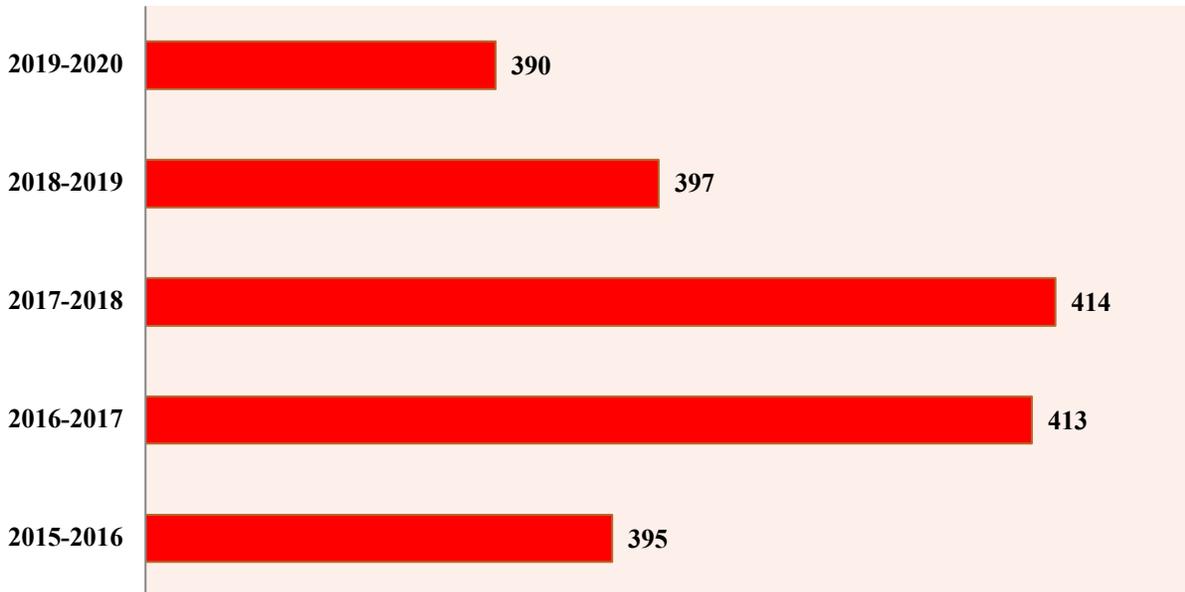
## CLASSIFIED STAFF

| <b>Faculty Members</b> | <b>Position</b>            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dona Bartels           | Paraprofessional           |
| Dee Bednar             | PK-6 School Counselor      |
| Casey Colgrove         | Custodian                  |
| Jessica Cooper         | Paraprofessional           |
| Susan Davis            | Food Service Provider      |
| Pam Dorn               | Food Service Provider      |
| Wendy Garrels          | Paraprofessional           |
| Jeanne Hardin          | Food Service Provider      |
| Noel Knarr             | Food Service Provider      |
| Emma Knust             | Paraprofessional           |
| John Linder            | Head Maintenance           |
| Karen Maguire          | Secretary                  |
| Jane Mallam            | Bookkeeper                 |
| Kim McMurray           | Head Food Service Provider |
| Tammy Meints           | Custodian                  |
| Kathy Mittan           | Paraprofessional           |
| Lori Moniz-Trisler     | Paraprofessional           |
| Patty Novotny          | Preschool Paraprofessional |
| Rae Oblinger           | Data Steward               |
| Lavone Rabstejnek      | Paraprofessional           |
| Dawn Rakes             | Secretary                  |
| Tom Regan              | Custodian                  |
| Devin Riggs            | Bus Driver                 |
| Ginger Riggs           | Paraprofessional           |
| Randy Roberts          | Maintenance                |
| Cody Sabey             | Technology Coordinator     |
| Darcie Schmidt         | Paraprofessional           |
| Angela Spencer         | Paraprofessional           |
| Becky Sullivan         | Secretary                  |
| Moica Ullman           | Student Transportation     |
| Diane Wallace          | Bus Driver                 |
| JoAnn Wieden           | Food Service Provider      |
| Fracia Workman         | Paraprofessional           |

## ENROLLMENT FIGURES

| <b>Compiled on October 1 (2019)</b> |               |             |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Grade</b>                        | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| PK                                  | 8             | 25          | 33           |
| K                                   | 14            | 12          | 26           |
| 1                                   | 11            | 13          | 24           |
| 2                                   | 12            | 10          | 22           |
| 3                                   | 11            | 13          | 24           |
| 4                                   | 12            | 9           | 21           |
| 5                                   | 23            | 11          | 34           |
| 6                                   | 14            | 13          | 27           |
| <b>Elementary School</b>            | <b>105</b>    | <b>106</b>  | <b>212</b>   |
| 7                                   | 16            | 16          | 32           |
| 8                                   | 9             | 16          | 25           |
| 9                                   | 17            | 15          | 32           |
| 10                                  | 7             | 18          | 25           |
| 11                                  | 14            | 12          | 26           |
| 12                                  | 25            | 14          | 39           |
| <b>Jr./Sr. High School</b>          | <b>88</b>     | <b>91</b>   | <b>179</b>   |
| <b>District</b>                     | <b>193</b>    | <b>197</b>  | <b>390</b>   |

### 5-YEAR ENROLLMENT FIGURES (PK-12)



**SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEMOGRAPHICS**  
**2019-2020 Academic Year**

| Student Characteristics         | Southern Public Schools          | State |     |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Attendance Rate                 | 92%                              | 94%   |     |
| Dropout Rate                    | N/A                              | 1%    |     |
| English Learners (EL)           | N/A                              | 7%    |     |
| Free/Reduced Priced Meals       | 67%                              | 46%   |     |
| Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort) | 89%                              | 87%   |     |
| High Ability Learners           | 26%                              | 13%   |     |
| School Mobility Rate            | 9%                               | 8%    |     |
| Special Education               | 19%                              | 16%   |     |
| 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:               | 4%    | 4%  |
|                                 | White:                           | 90%   | 66% |

**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.

**5-YEAR OPTION ENROLLMENT COMPARSION**

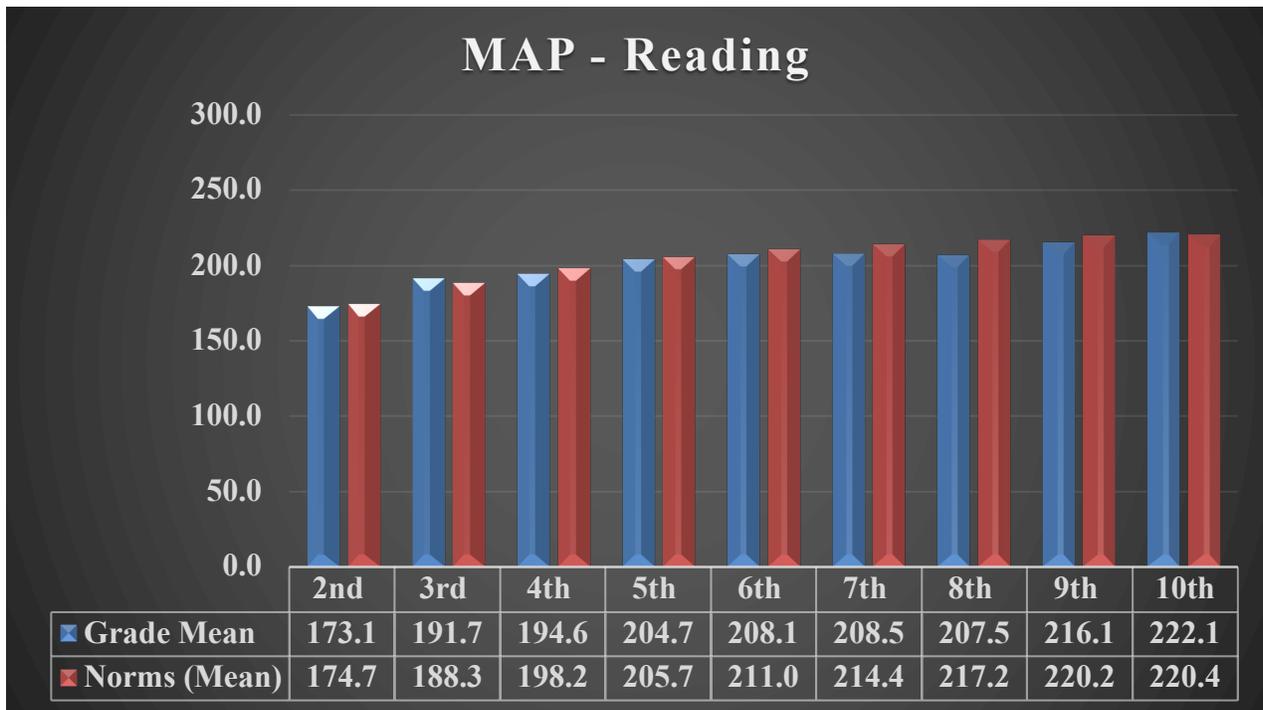
| School Year         | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Option In Students  | 8         | 15        | 8         | 5         | 18        |
| Option Out Students | 46        | 53        | 51        | 46        | 42        |
| Net Option          | -38       | -38       | -43       | -41       | -24       |

## MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP)

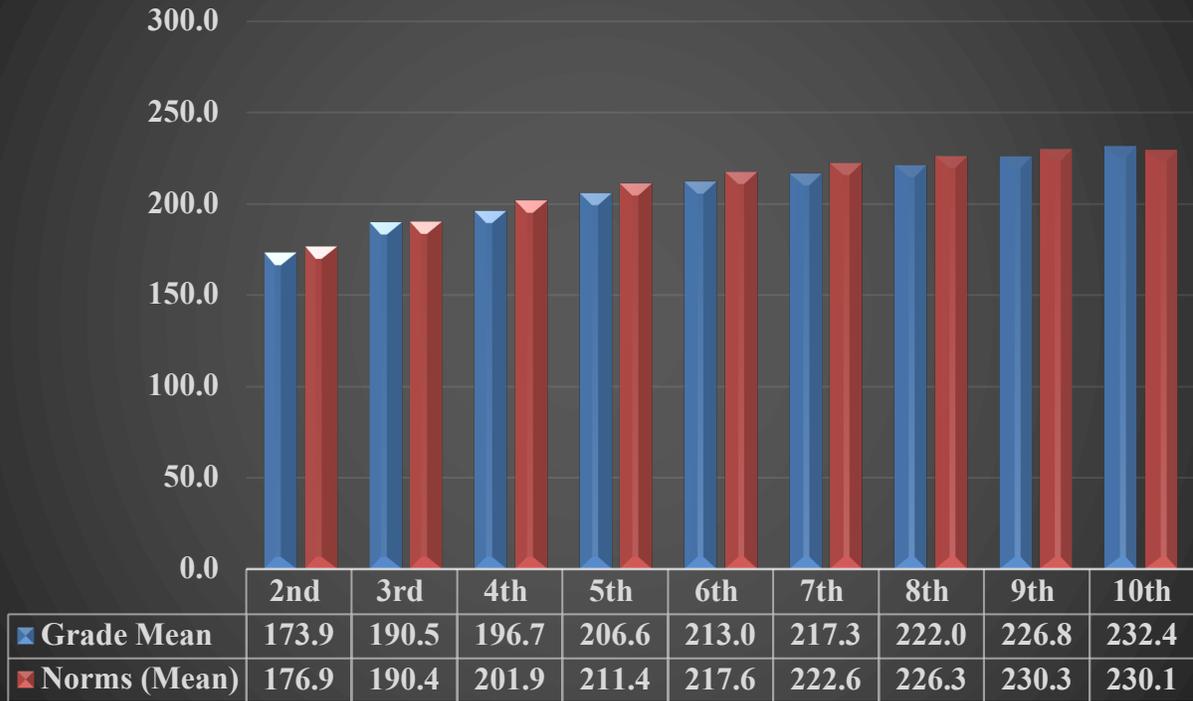
The norm-referenced assessment that we utilize in our district is called Measure of Academic Progress or MAP. The MAP assessment is administered to fulfill the accreditation requirements put forth by Nebraska Department of Education under Rule 10. Norm-referenced assessments are built to compare student 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     | 2-10 (Fall)         |
| MAP-M          | Mathematics | 2-10 (Fall)         |
| MAP-S          | Science     | 3-10 (Fall)         |

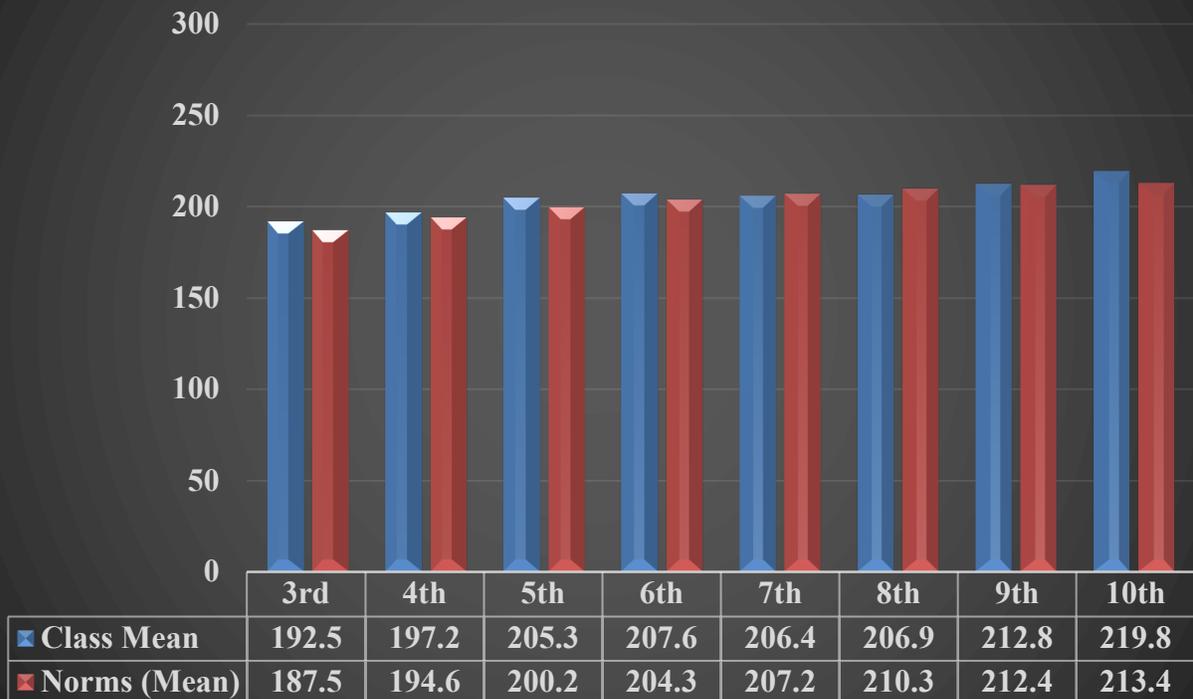
### MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP) Class Mean (RIT Score) By Grade/Subject Area Fall 2019 Assessments



## MAP - Mathematics



## MAP - Science



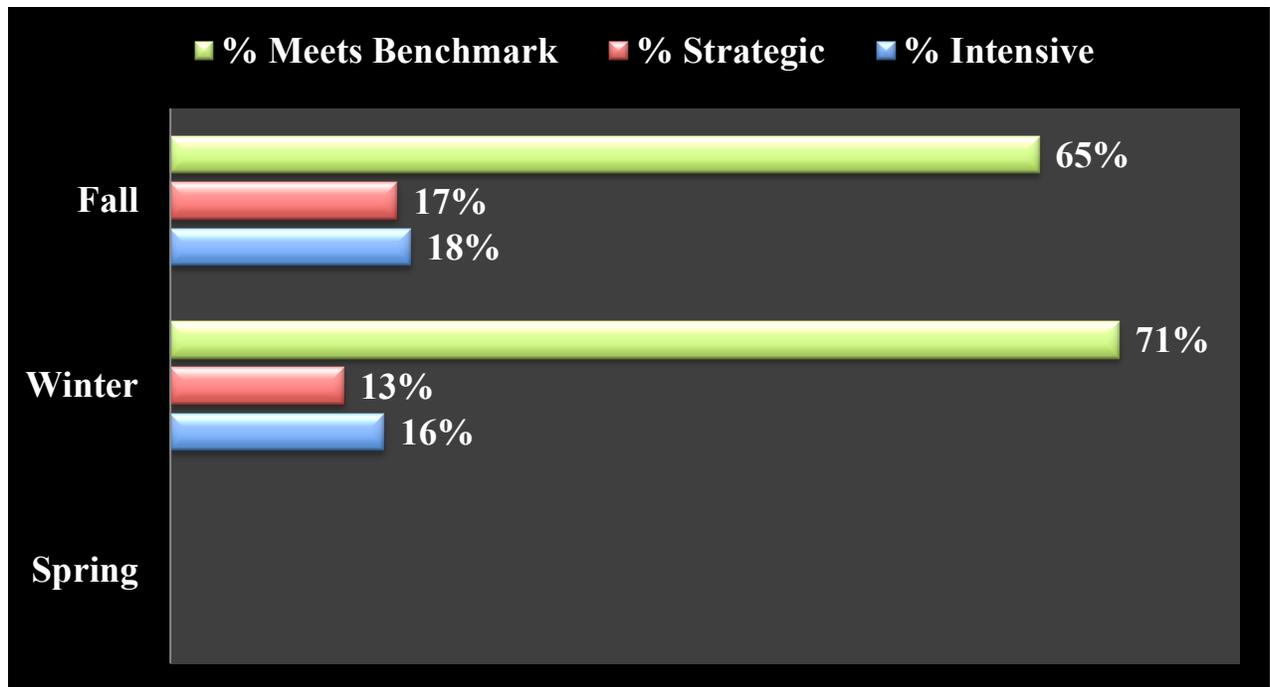
## DYNAMIC INDICATORS OF BASIC EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

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-6 GRADE)

#### Percentage of Students Proficient by Indicators

| <i>Date</i>        | <b># of students</b> | <b>Meets Benchmark (At Grade Level)</b> | <b>Strategic (Below Benchmark)</b> | <b>Intensive (Well Below Benchmark)</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Fall 2019</i>   | 176                  | 65%                                     | 17%                                | 18%                                     |
| <i>Winter 2019</i> | 176                  | 71%                                     | 13%                                | 16%                                     |
| <i>Spring 2020</i> | <i>N/A</i>           | <i>N/A</i>                              | <i>N/A</i>                         | <i>N/A</i>                              |



## 2019-2020 BUDGET INFORMATION

Southern Public Schools continues to operate a fiscally responsible budget with very little state aid. Over the past four years, Southern has reduced the district's mill levy by over 1.42 cents, Southern has decreased the district's property tax request by \$333,043 or by (8.03%), and Southern's valuation has decreased by over \$25 million or by (6.23%). Since the 2015-2016 school year, the district's state aid allotment has decreased by \$55,555 or by (4.03%). Southern continues to have one of the lowest cost per pupil (student) in the Pioneer Conference and amongst school district that are similar in size across Nebraska. Southern Public Schools continues to provide a high-quality education at an economical cost to district patrons.

### 5-YEAR MILL LEVY COMPARISON



**5-YEAR MILL LEVY COMPARISON**  
**Based on Home Values**

| <i>Tax Year</i> | <b>Total Mill Levy</b> | <b>Home Value</b> | <b>Taxes Paid<br/>(Per Month)</b> | <b>Taxes Paid<br/>(Per Year)</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>2015</i>     | 1.0670                 | \$100,000         | \$88                              | \$1,067                          |
|                 |                        | \$200,000         | \$176                             | \$2,134                          |
|                 |                        | \$300,000         | \$264                             | \$3,201                          |
| <i>2016</i>     | 1.0942                 | \$100,000         | \$91                              | \$1,092                          |
|                 |                        | \$200,000         | \$182                             | \$2,184                          |
|                 |                        | \$300,000         | \$273                             | \$3,276                          |
| <i>2017</i>     | 1.0949                 | \$100,000         | \$91                              | \$1,094                          |
|                 |                        | \$200,000         | \$182                             | \$2,188                          |
|                 |                        | \$300,000         | \$273                             | \$3,282                          |
| <i>2018</i>     | 1.0800                 | \$100,000         | \$90                              | \$1,080                          |
|                 |                        | \$200,000         | \$180                             | \$2,160                          |
|                 |                        | \$300,000         | \$270                             | \$3,240                          |
| <i>2019</i>     | 1.0800                 | \$100,000         | \$90                              | \$1,080                          |
|                 |                        | \$200,000         | \$180                             | \$2,160                          |
|                 |                        | \$300,000         | \$270                             | \$3,240                          |

**COST PER PUPIL BY AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (ADM)**  
**Pioneer Conference Comparison (2018-2019)**

| <i>District</i>      | <b>Rank (244 Districts Total)</b> | <b>Per Pupil Spending (ADM)</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Johnson-Brock</i> | 35                                | \$12,784                        |
| <i>Sterling</i>      | 112                               | \$17,153                        |
| <i>Southern</i>      | 116                               | \$17,269                        |
| <i>Pawnee City</i>   | 133                               | \$18,062                        |
| <i>Tri County</i>    | 142                               | \$18,642                        |
| <i>Diller-Odell</i>  | 144                               | \$18,683                        |
| <i>Friend</i>        | 162                               | \$19,402                        |
| <i>Lewiston</i>      | 195                               | \$21,555                        |
| <i>HTRS</i>          | 228                               | \$25,637                        |
| <i>FCSH</i>          | N/A                               | N/A                             |
| <i>NCL</i>           | N/A                               | N/A                             |

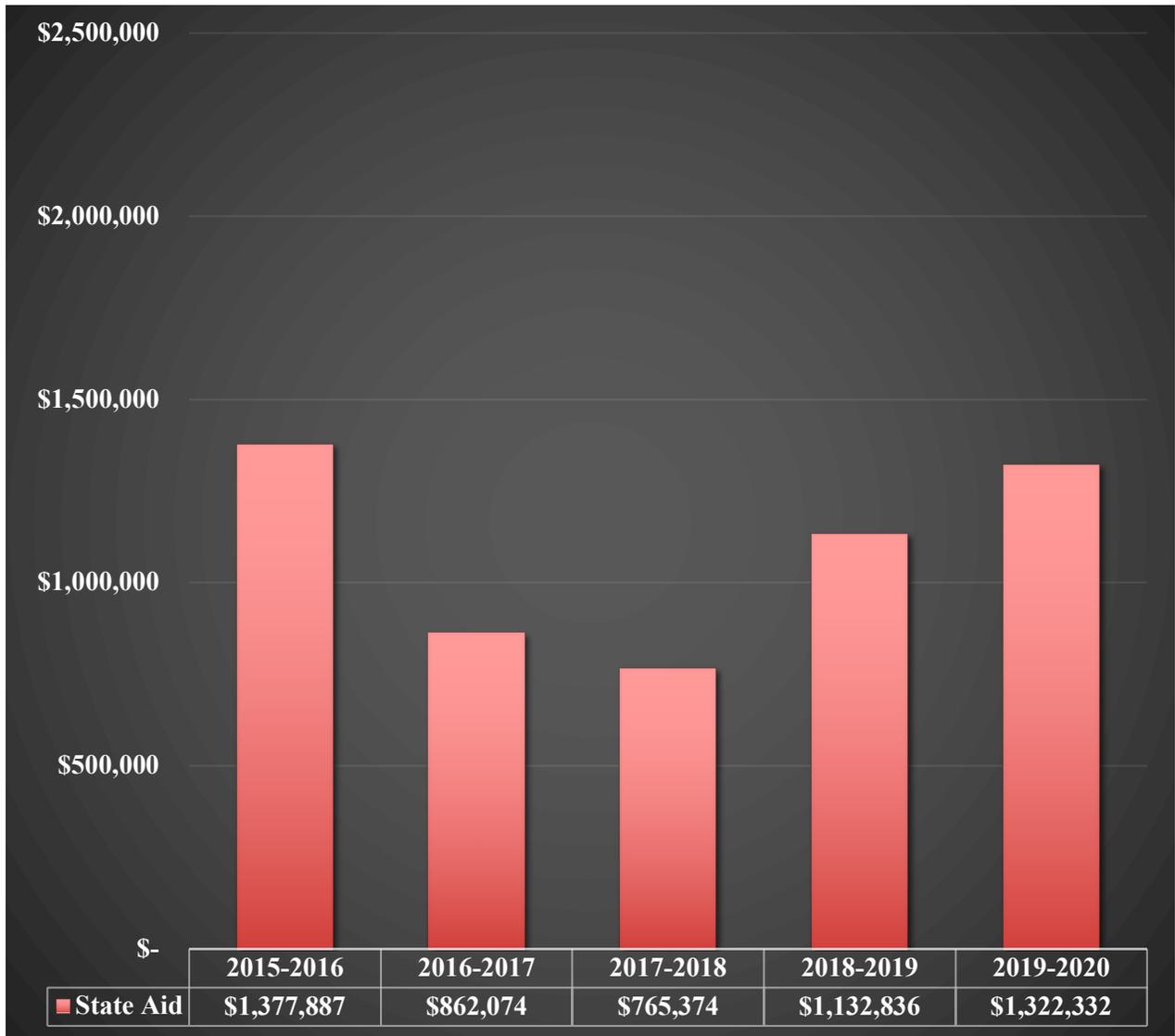
**Please Note:** The 2019-2020 cost per pupil by average daily membership is not available at this time.

## 5-YEAR VALUATION COMPARISON



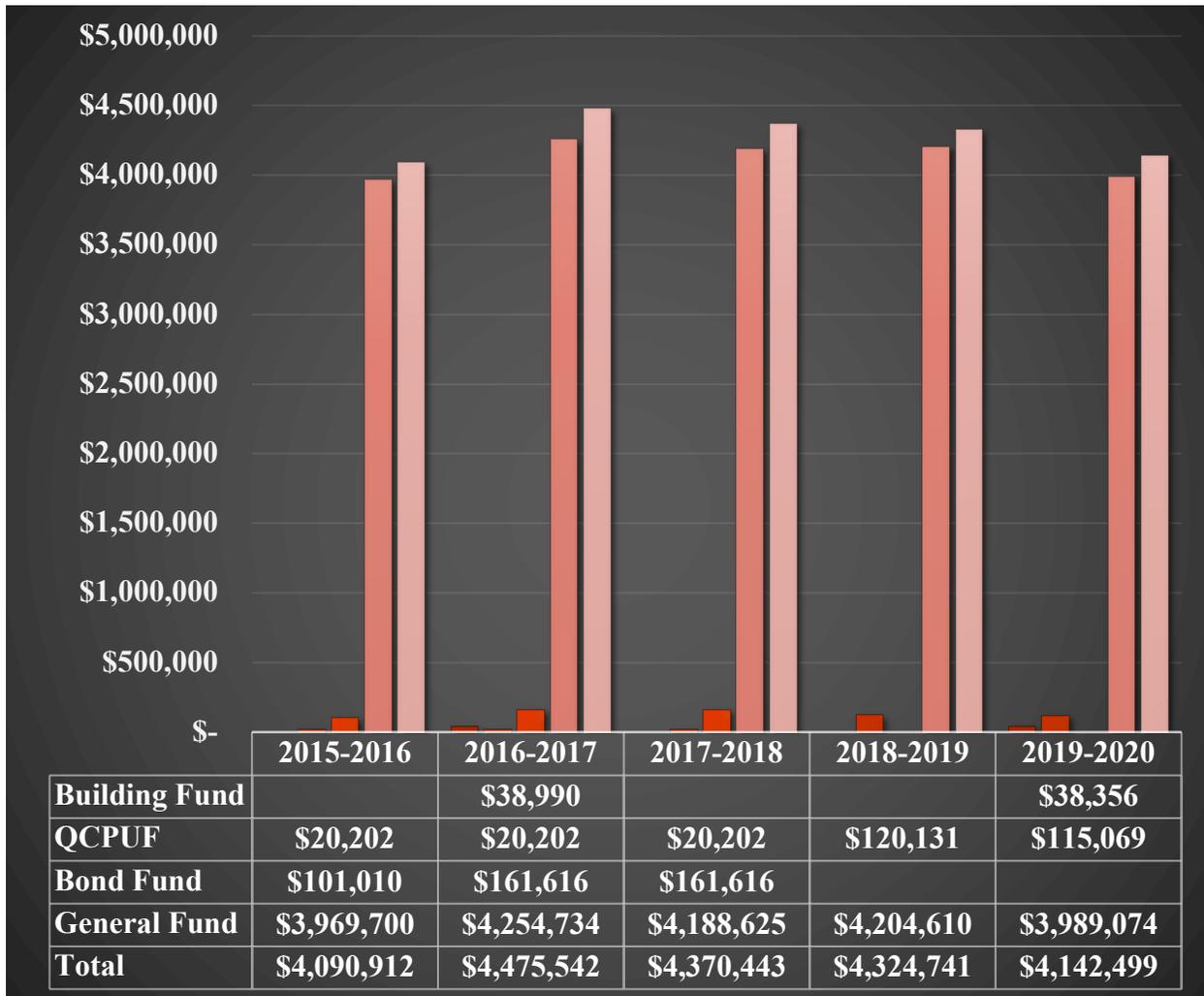
| <i>Tax Year</i> | <b>Gage County Valuation</b> | <b>% Change (Prior Year)</b> | <b>Pawnee County Valuation</b> | <b>% Change (Prior Year)</b> | <b>Overall Valuation</b> | <b>% Change (Prior Year)</b> | <b>\$ Change (Prior Year)</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015            | \$381,989,299                | 21.63%                       | \$1,363,945                    | 19.45%                       | \$383,353,244            | 21.62%                       | \$68,153,482                  |
| 2016            | \$407,602,041                | 6.70%                        | \$1,368,420                    | 0.32%                        | \$408,970,461            | 6.68%                        | \$25,617,217                  |
| 2017            | \$397,650,142                | (2.50%)                      | \$1,443,105                    | 5.45%                        | \$399,093,247            | (2.42%)                      | (\$9,877,214)                 |
| 2018            | \$399,062,663                | 0.00%                        | \$1,376,365                    | (4.84%)                      | \$400,439,028            | 0.00%                        | \$1,345,781                   |
| 2019            | \$382,188,694                | (4.41%)                      | \$1,376,110                    | (0.00%)                      | \$383,564,804            | (4.39%)                      | (\$16,874,224)                |

## 5-YEAR STATE AID COMPARISON



| <i>School Year</i> | <b>State Aid (Allotment)</b> | <b>% Change (Prior Year)</b> | <b>\$ Change (Prior Year)</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015-2016          | \$1,377,887                  | (17.18%)                     | (\$236,846)                   |
| 2016-2017          | \$862,074                    | (59.83%)                     | (\$515,813)                   |
| 2017-2018          | \$765,374                    | (12.63%)                     | (\$96,700)                    |
| 2018-2019          | \$1,132,836                  | 48.01%                       | \$367,462                     |
| 2018-2019          | \$1,322,332                  | 16.72%                       | \$189,496                     |

## 5-YEAR PROPERTY TAX REQUEST COMPARISON



| <b>Tax Year</b> | <b>Local Property Tax Request</b> | <b>% Change (Prior Year)</b> | <b>\$ Change (Prior Year)</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015-2016       | \$4,090,912                       | 18.64%                       | \$642,645                     |
| 2016-2017       | \$4,475,542                       | 9.40%                        | \$384,630                     |
| 2017-2018       | \$4,370,443                       | (2.35%)                      | (\$105,099)                   |
| 2018-2019       | \$4,324,741                       | (1.05%)                      | (\$45,702)                    |
| 2019-2020       | \$4,142,499                       | (4.39%)                      | (\$182,242)                   |

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you might have regarding the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

Dr. Christopher Prosocki  
Superintendent