

Southern Public Schools

Annual Report

2022-2023



Southern Elementary School
315 West 2nd Street
P.O. Box 158
Blue Springs, NE 68318
Phone: 402.645.3359
Fax: 402.645.3740

Southern Jr./Sr. High School
115 South 11th Street
P.O. Box 237
Wymore, NE 68466
Phone: 402.645.3326
Fax: 402.645.8049

<http://www.southernschools.org>

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

Southern Public Schools is a progressive D-1 district with 379 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.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Every Student, Every Day, The Southern Way.

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Betsy Frerichs
Debie Schlake

Dana Dorn
Jared McKeerve

David Zimmerman
Jeff Argo

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

- 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.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

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

Faculty Members	Education Level	Years Experience	Position
Christopher Prosocki	Ed.D.	15	Superintendent/Curriculum Director
Gerald Rempe	M.A.	38	PK-6 Principal/Athletic Director
Jeff Murphy	M.A.	22	7-12 Principal

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

Faculty Members	Education Level	Years Experience	Position
Jonna Adams	M.A.	22	Second Grade Teacher
Jolene Bartels	M.A.	35	Fifth Grade Teacher
Chaysen Bednar	B.A.	4	Sixth Grade Teacher
Kylie Betten	B.A.	8	First Grade Teacher
Shannon Burges	B.A.	17	Fourth Grade Teacher
Rhonda Epp	M.A.	28	Third Grade Teacher
Stacy Fossler	M.A.	11	Special Education Teacher
Chelesy Fralin	M.A.	9	K-12 Media Specialist
Amanda Freese	B.A.	5	Preschool Teacher
Malinda Hock	M.A.	8	Special Education Teacher
Kane Hookstra	M.A.	27	Fourth Grade Teacher
Greg Iverson	M.A.	11	Sixth Grade Teacher
Taylor Landenberger	M.A.	5	Kindergarten Teacher
Anna Manley	M.A.	10	Preschool Teacher
Kimberly Milius	B.A.	6	First Grade Teacher
Jared Remmers	B.A.	12	Sixth Grade Teacher
Samantha Rzekonski	B.A.	1	Kindergarten Teacher
Lynn Sabey	M.A.	12	Second Grade Teacher
Mary Jane Spence	B.A.	45	Third Grade Teacher
Stephanie Ware	M.A.	23	Title I 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
LA Adams	B.A.	1	Physical Education/Health Teacher
Deb Bachmann-Clasen	B.A.	23	English Teacher
Valerie Barnhart	M.A.	27	English Teacher
Hanah Baumgartner	B.A.	2	Social Science Teacher
Dominique Clay	B.A.	13	Spanish Teacher
Jeremy Doose	B.A.	2	Social Science Teacher
Cathy Hayden	B.A.	33	Sixth Grade Teacher
Josie Hulse	B.A.	1	K-12 Art Teacher
Preston Jurgens	B.A.	3	Mathematics Teacher
Heather McKinney	M.A.	27	Special Education Teacher
Brady Meyer	B.A.	4	Agriculture/Industrial Tech Teacher
Shannon Mick	M.A.	18	Mathematics Teacher
Gavin Nielson	M.A.	4	K-12 Instrumental Music Teacher
Jamie Schluter	M.A.	9	Business Teacher
Nicole Stevens	B.A.	1	K-12 Vocal Music Teacher
Shelby Thernes	M.A.	5	Special Education Teacher
Pam Trauernicht	M.A.	24	7-12 School counselor
Jeffery Tunink	B.A.	13	Science Teacher
Beth Willet	B.A.	43	K-12 PE Teacher

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

CERTIFIED STAFF INFORMATION

Category	Southern	State
Average Teacher Salary	\$52,981	\$58,923
Average Years of Teaching Experience	16	14
Percent of Teachers with Master's Degrees	45%	58%

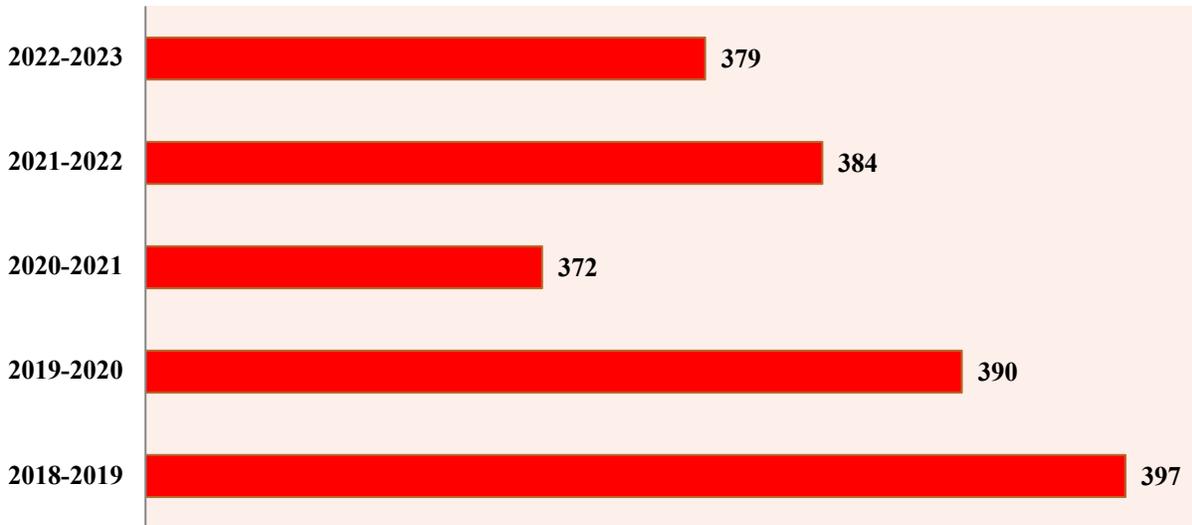
CLASSIFIED STAFF

Faculty Members	Position
Dyan Allington	School Nurse
Dona Bartels	Paraprofessional
Dee Bednar	PK-6 Community Counselor
Jessica Cooper	Paraprofessional
Bonnie Creek	Bus Driver/ Paraprofessional
Susan Davis	Food Service Provider
Roger Dorn	Custodian
John Eisenhower	Head of Maintenance
Wendy Garrels	Paraprofessional
Jeanne Hardin	Food Service Provider
Dave Kaster	Assistant Head of Maintenance
Karen Maguire	Secretary
Cody McKinney	Custodian
Kim McMurray	Head Food Service Provider
Shelby McMurray	Food Service Provider
Jodi Meints	Paraprofessional
Tammy Meints	Custodian
Lori Moniz-Trisler	Paraprofessional
Patty Novotny	Preschool Paraprofessional
Naomi Pharr	Assistant Head Food Service Provider
Lavone Rabstajnek	Paraprofessional
Dawn Rakes	Secretary
Devin Riggs	Bus Driver
Ginger Riggs	Paraprofessional
Cody Sabey	Technology Coordinator
Darcie Schmidt	Paraprofessional
Taylor Schmidt	Bookkeeper
Angela Spencer	Paraprofessional
Audrey Whitwer	Data Steward
Steve Whitwer	Bus Driver
JoAnn Wieden	Food Service Provider

ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Compiled on October 1 (2022)			
Grade	Female	Male	Total
PK	20	14	34
K	13	12	25
1	8	9	17
2	11	22	33
3	13	10	23
4	12	16	28
5	11	10	21
6	10	17	27
Elementary School	98	110	208
7	12	9	21
8	16	12	28
9	14	14	28
10	14	19	33
11	11	17	28
12	17	16	33
Jr./Sr. High School	84	87	171
District	182	197	379

5-YEAR ENROLLMENT FIGURES (PK-12)



SOUTHERN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEMOGRAPHICS
2022-2023 Academic Year

Student Characteristics	Southern Public Schools		State
Attendance Rate	92%		93%
Dropout Rate	2%		1%
English Learners (EL)	N/A		8%
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	68%		50%
Graduation Rate (4-Year Cohort)	90%		87%
High Ability Learners	31%		13%
Highly Mobile Rate	7%		4%
Special Education	22%		16%
Race/Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaskan Native:	1%	1%
	Asian:	0%	3%
	Black/African American:	2%	7%
	Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander:	0%	1%
	Hispanic:	2%	19%
	Two or More Races:	6%	4%
	White:	89%	65%

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 COMPARIION

School Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Option In Students	5	18	14	10	10
Option Out Students	46	42	42	38	-47
Net Option	-41	-24	-28	-28	-38

AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING (ACT)
Longitudinal ACT Data

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>English</i>	District	20.5	*	17.9	17.5	15.2
<i>Mathematics</i>	District	18.6	*	18.2	17.8	16.4
<i>Reading</i>	District	20.3	*	18.4	18.0	15.6
<i>Science</i>	District	20.1	*	18.4	19.3	16.6
<i>Composite</i>	District	19.9	*	18.3	18.2	16.0

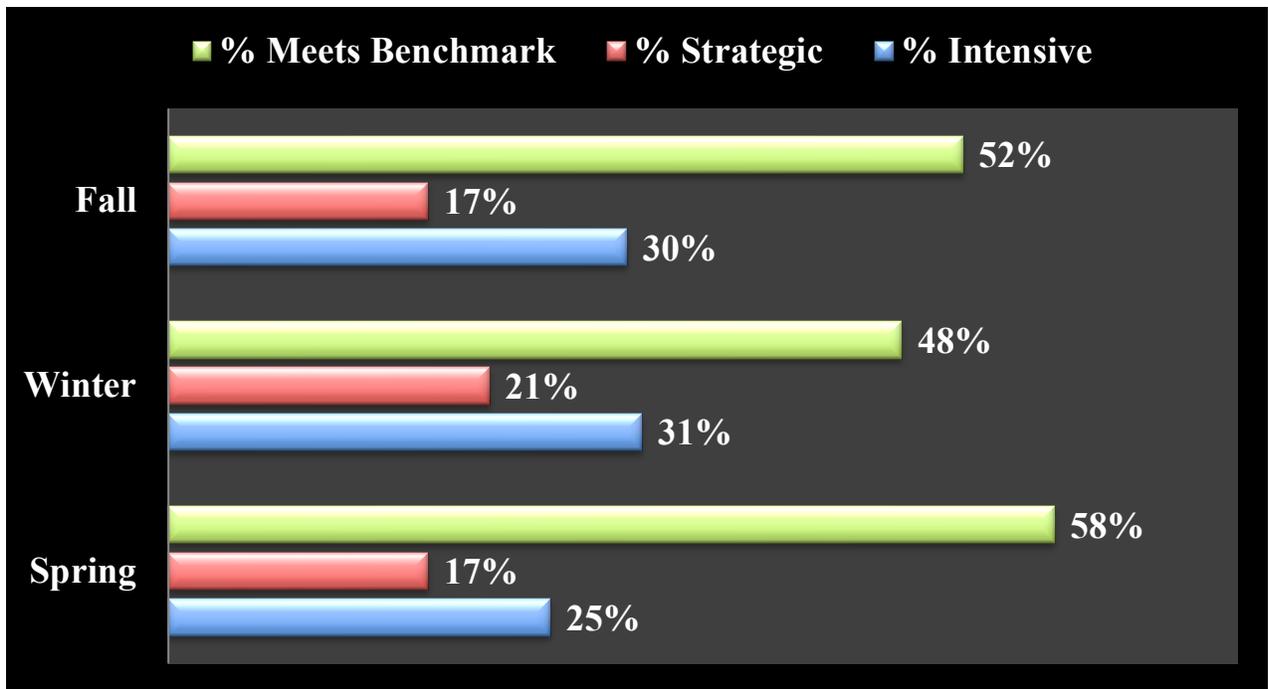
***Please Note:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACT was not administered in the spring of 2020.

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>	# of students	Intensive (Well Below Benchmark)	Strategic (Below Benchmark)	Meets Benchmark (At Grade Level)
<i>Fall 2022</i>	175	30%	17%	53%
<i>Winter 2022</i>	173	31%	21%	48%
<i>Spring 2023</i>	173	25%	17%	58%

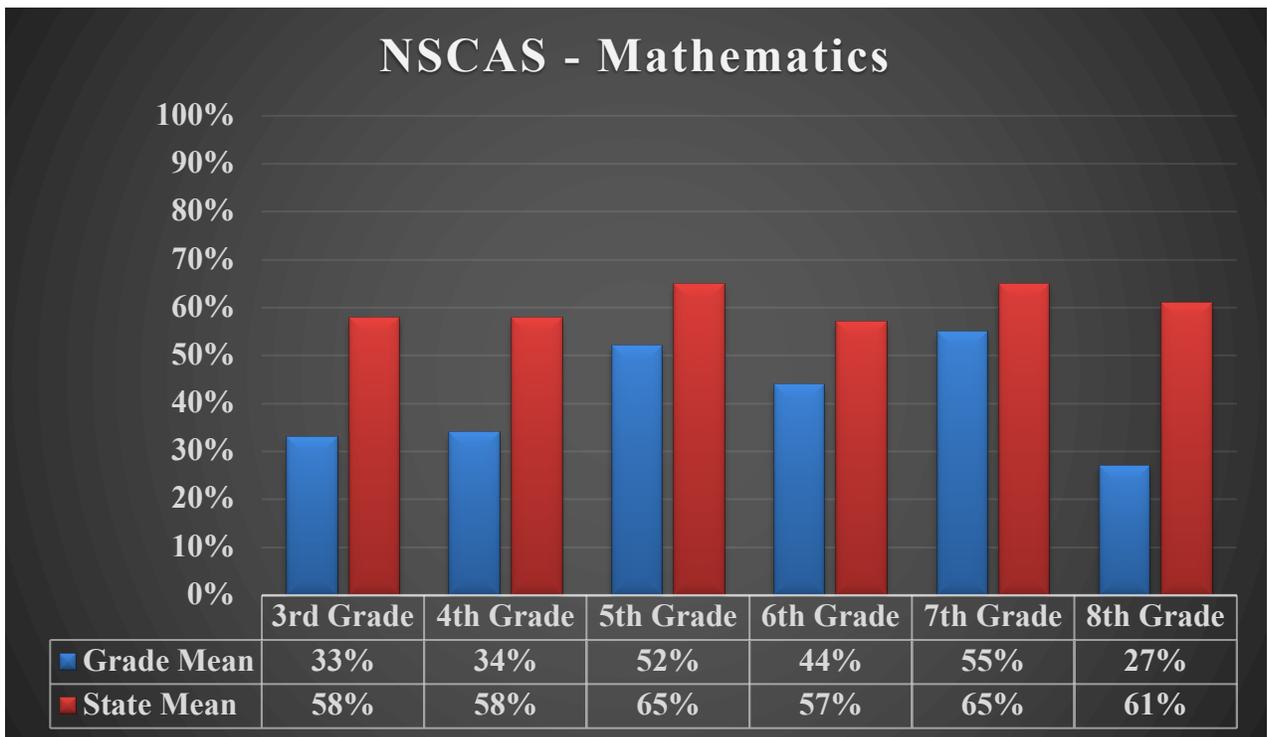
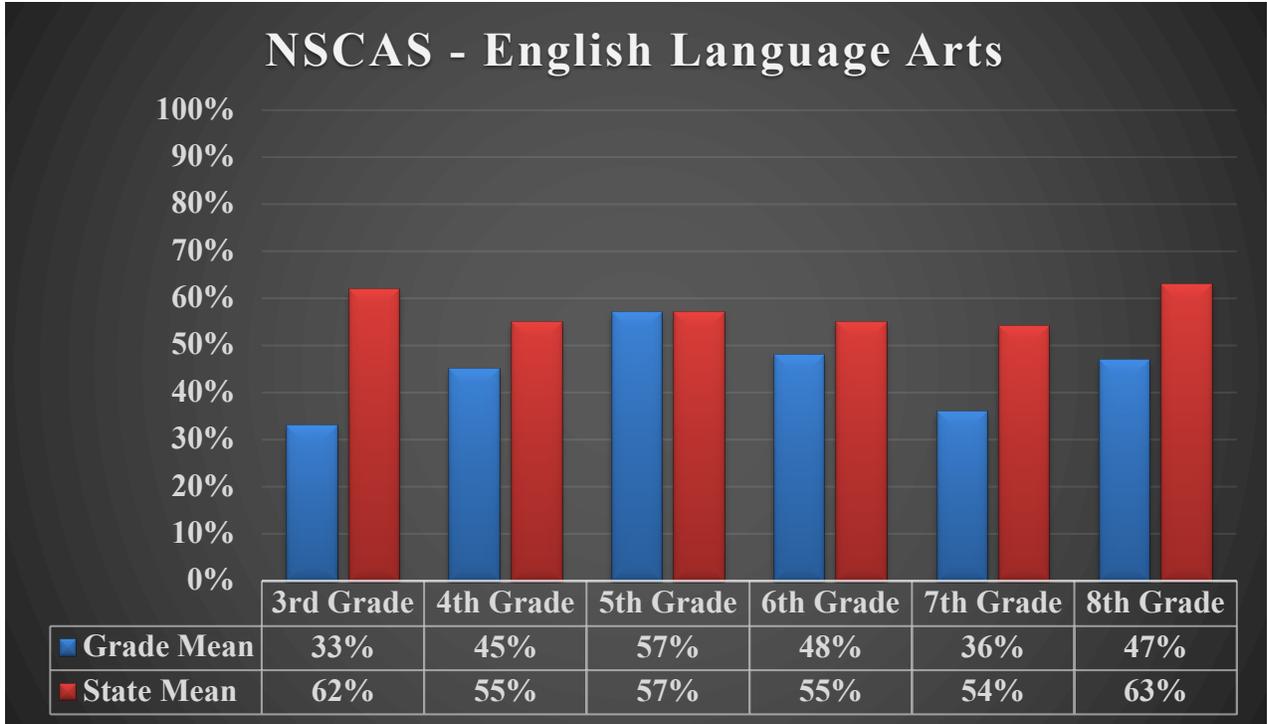


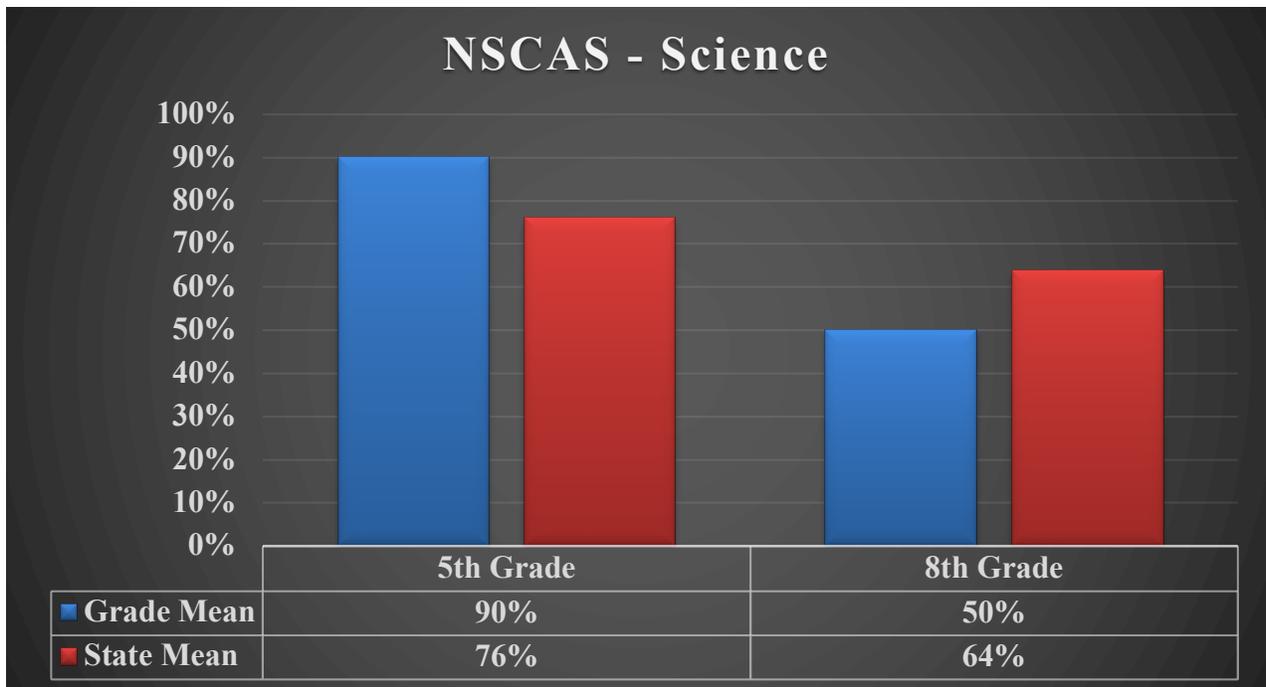
NEBRASKA STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (NSCAS)

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is a new statewide assessment system that embodies Nebraska’s holistic view of students and helps them prepare for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. It uses multiple measures throughout a school year to provide educators with the insights they need to support student learning. 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
Spring 2023 Assessments





Please Note: A blank score 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) **Combined Results for all Grades Tested** **Percent Proficient**

<i>Data Years</i>	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
2022-2023	45%	40%	65%
2021-2022	30%	25%	57%
2020-2021	34%	24%	
2018-2019	30%	35%	

2022-2023 BUDGET INFORMATION

Southern Public Schools continues to operate a fiscally responsible budget with very little state aid. Over the past five years, Southern has not raised its mill levy, Southern has only increased its property tax request by \$8,120 or by (0.001%), and Southern’s valuation has only increased by around \$750,000 dollars or by (0.001%). Southern continues to have one of the lowest cost per pupil (student) in the Pioneer Conference and amongst school districts 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

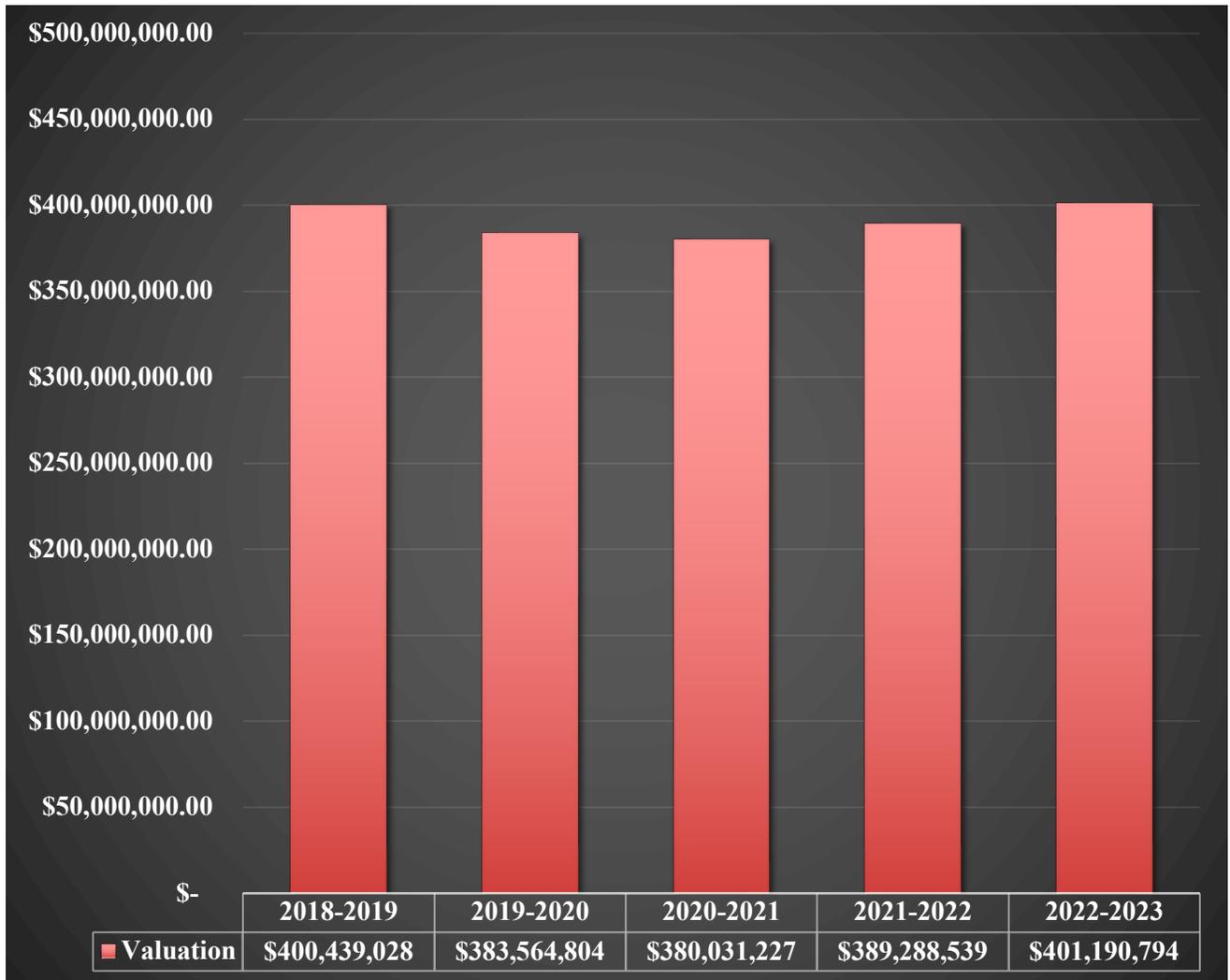
<i>Tax Year</i>	Total Mill Levy	Home Value	Taxes Paid (Per Month)	Taxes Paid (Per Year)
<i>2018</i>	1.0800	\$100,000	\$90	\$1,080
		\$200,000	\$180	\$2,160
		\$300,000	\$270	\$3,240
<i>2019</i>	1.0800	\$100,000	\$90	\$1,080
		\$200,000	\$180	\$2,160
		\$300,000	\$270	\$3,240
<i>2020</i>	1.0800	\$100,000	\$90	\$1,080
		\$200,000	\$180	\$2,160
		\$300,000	\$270	\$3,240
<i>2021</i>	1.0800	\$100,000	\$90	\$1,080
		\$200,000	\$180	\$2,160
		\$300,000	\$270	\$3,240
<i>2022</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 (2021-2022)

<i>District</i>	Rank (244 Districts Total)	Per Pupil Spending (ADM)
<i>Johnson-Brock</i>	44	\$14,855
<i>Sterling</i>	93	\$18,296
<i>Southern</i>	102	\$18,760
<i>Tri County</i>	104	\$18,801
<i>Pawnee City</i>	117	\$19,475
<i>Friend</i>	158	\$21,421
<i>Diller-Odell</i>	181	\$23,048
<i>Lewiston</i>	189	\$23,048
<i>HTRS</i>	231	\$30,500
<i>FCSH</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>NCL</i>	N/A	N/A

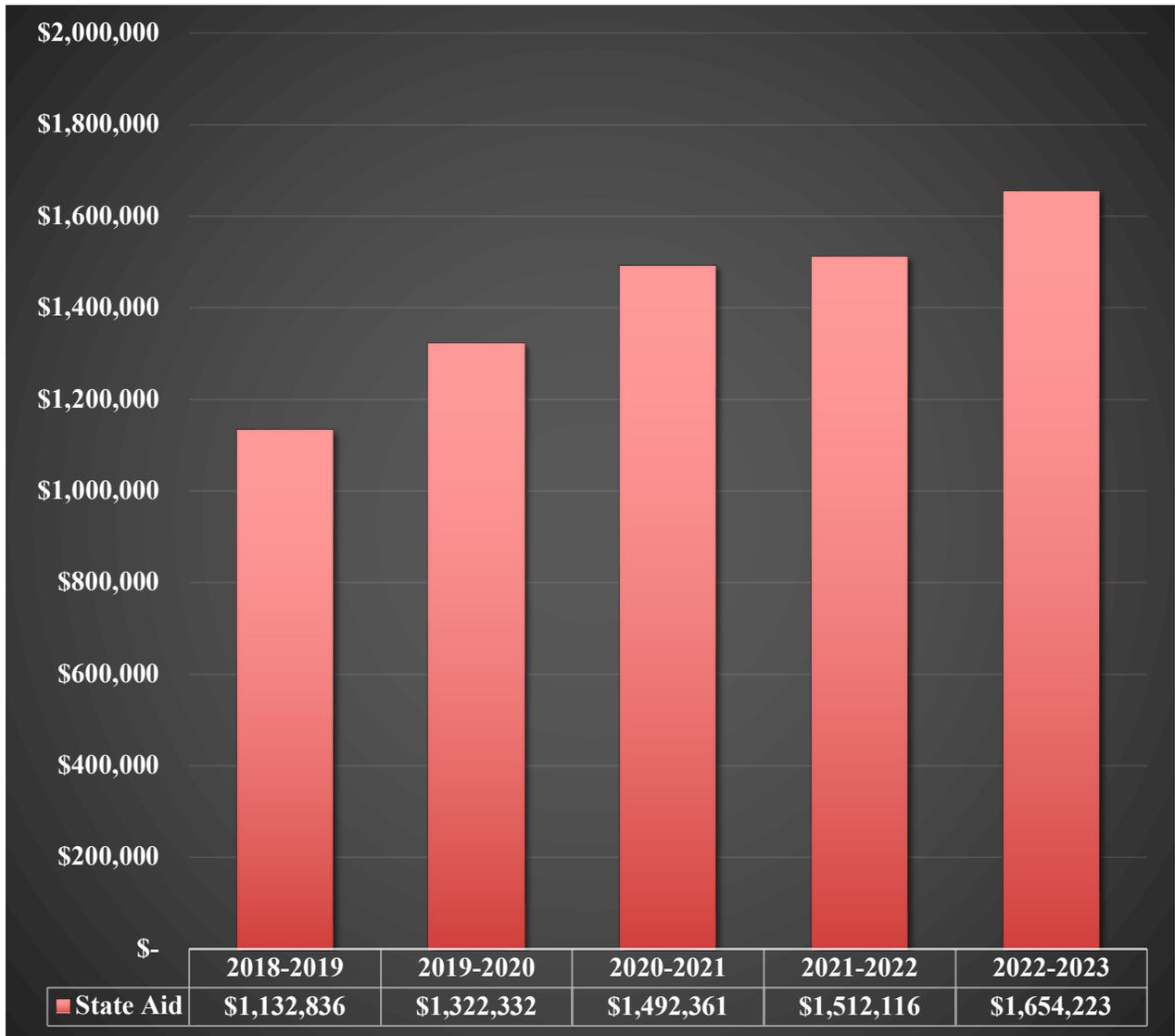
Please Note: The 2021-2022 cost per pupil by average daily membership is not available at this time.

5-YEAR VALUATION COMPARISON



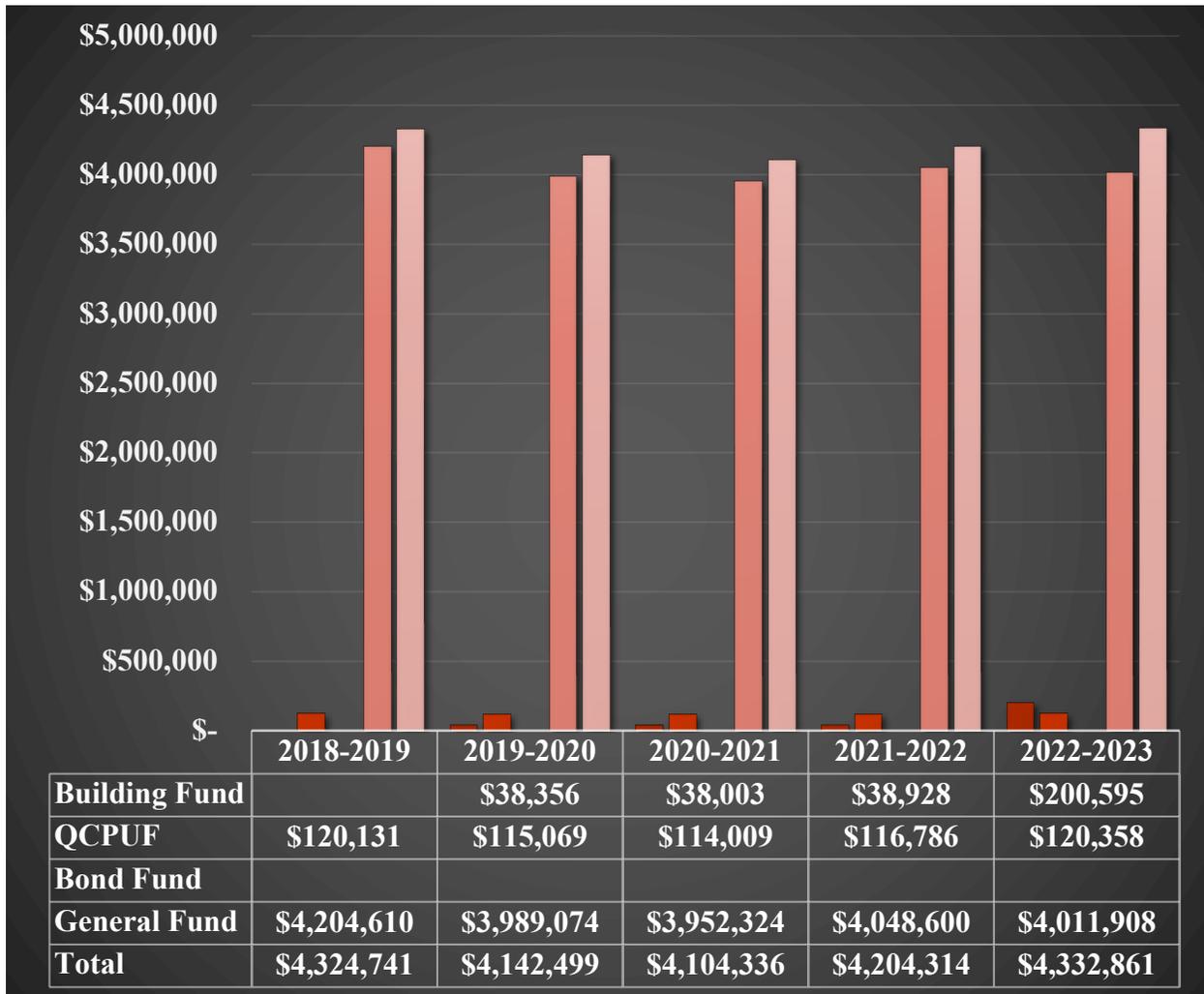
<i>Tax Year</i>	Gage County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Pawnee County Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	Overall Valuation	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
2018	\$399,062,663	0.00%	\$1,376,365	(4.84%)	\$400,439,028	0.00%	\$1,345,781
2019	\$382,188,694	(4.23%)	\$1,376,110	(0.00%)	\$383,564,804	(4.21%)	(\$16,874,224)
2020	\$378,656,597	(.92%)	\$1,374,630	(0.11%)	\$380,031,227	(0.92%)	(\$3,533,577)
2021	\$387,897,024	2.44%	\$1,391,515	1.23%	\$389,288,539	2.43%	\$9,257,312
2022	\$399,748,194	3.05%	\$1,442,600	3.67%	\$401,190,794	3.05%	\$11,902,255

5-YEAR STATE AID COMPARISON



<i>School Year</i>	State Aid (Allotment)	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
<i>2018-2019</i>	\$1,132,836	48.01%	\$367,462
<i>2018-2019</i>	\$1,322,332	16.72%	\$189,496
<i>2020-2021</i>	\$1,492,361	12.85%	\$170,029
<i>2021-2022</i>	\$1,512,116	1.31%	\$19,755
<i>2022-2023</i>	\$1,654,223	9.40%	\$142,107

5-YEAR PROPERTY TAX REQUEST COMPARISON



Tax Year	Local Property Tax Request	% Change (Prior Year)	\$ Change (Prior Year)
2018-2019	\$4,324,741	(1.05%)	(\$45,702)
2019-2020	\$4,142,499	(4.39%)	(\$182,242)
2020-2021	\$4,104,336	(0.93%)	(\$38,163)
2021-2022	\$4,204,314	2.43%	\$99,978
2022-2023	\$4,332,861	3.05%	\$128,547

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you might have regarding the 2022-2023 Annual Report.

Dr. Christopher Prososki
Superintendent