



2022-23

Delivering on the Portrait of a Graduate

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



www.ops.org

We See How Much We've Accomplished, and We Know the Work Ahead of Us

To Our Omaha Public Schools Community:

Through challenging times, we deployed 1-to-1 technology, built staff pipelines and invested in our students' academic growth. It is all grounded in our Strategic Plan of Action.

- **Academics**
- **Financial Accountability**
- **Staff**
- **Ethic of Care**

Time-bound, measurable goals guide our work through 2025.

Since 2020, we've welcomed new teachers, paraprofessionals, principals and Board of Education members. Our Strategic Plan of Action gives us a shared direction through transitions.

For five years, Superintendent Cheryl Logan, Ed.D., guided the Omaha Public Schools with excellence, passion and commitment. We are very thankful for her service. This summer, we welcome Mr. Matthew Ray as interim superintendent. Even through a superintendent transition, the Strategic Plan of Action is our roadmap.

In 2020, students, staff, families and community partners all helped to develop the plan. Mr. Ray coordinated much of that community engagement. He is uniquely qualified to carry the work forward with our Board of Education, staff and families. It is all for the 52,000 students we serve. I invite you to read more about our Strategic Plan of Action online at www.ops.org/SPOA.

This year, we will also lead a comprehensive superintendent search. Omaha Public Schools is Nebraska's largest school district and one of our state's largest employers. This is an important role serving a leading urban school district. We owe it to our 52,000 students, 9,000 full and part-time staff and the greater Omaha community to conduct a thorough search and get it right. We will always communicate the most current information directly to our staff and families, and post it to www.ops.org/superintendentsearch.

School districts cannot accomplish the work alone. We depend on our families, partners and the greater Omaha community to succeed. The children we serve today are tomorrow's teachers, superintendents and school board members. Your support makes it possible.

Thank you,

Spencer Head
Board of Education President
Omaha Public Schools





Strategic Plan of Action

POWERED BY FORESIGHT

Our district is three years into a five-year Strategic Plan of Action that prioritizes academics, staffing, financial accountability and a shared ethic of care. Omaha Public Schools seeks to achieve each priority through our organizational values: equity, results, leadership, accountability and joy. Our Strategic Plan of Action demonstrates the work, classroom instruction, care and success that make Omaha Public Schools a leading urban school district.

Academics

PRIORITY 1

Omaha Public Schools students are prepared to meet post-secondary expectations. The Portrait of a Graduate outlines the expectations for all Omaha Public Schools graduates. To that end, the academic strategic priority will focus our work on early literacy, program redesign and establishing a high-quality portfolio of school programs.

Staff

PRIORITY 2

Omaha Public Schools has highly qualified and effective staff in every division. Recruiting and maintaining a highly qualified, developed staff is the most essential component of a successful school district.

Financial Accountability

PRIORITY 3

Omaha Public Schools demonstrates financial accountability tied to student outcomes. School district budgets across the U.S. are challenged daily to be funded, and many districts are unable to fund their highest priorities. Omaha Public Schools understands the challenges of developing and adhering to an approved budget and recognizes the need to be accountable to the funding provided and supported by the community it serves.

Ethic of Care

PRIORITY 4

Omaha Public Schools demonstrates an ethic of care for students and staff. Fostering a caring, inclusive culture assures all feel value, support and joy. Everyone benefits as a result of students, staff and the community being served with care.

MISSION:

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students for success in college, career and life.

Board of Education



Spencer Head
President



Ricky Smith
Vice President



Tracy Casady



Jane Erdenberger



Bri Full



Shavonna Holman, Ed.D.



Margo Juarez



Nancy Kratky



Nick Thielen



ESSER in Action

Omaha Public Schools students, staff and families continue to benefit from federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, which were established to support school communities during and post-pandemic.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, our district pursued new opportunities to invest ESSER funds in staff development and recruiting, academic tutoring, technology and curriculum.

“We have worked thoughtfully as a district to allocate our ESSER funds to areas where we can make a clear impact,” said Matthew Ray, Omaha Public Schools interim superintendent. “Our students are already benefiting from ESSER-funded initiatives. As we identified additional opportunities for investing these funds, we have adjusted the plan and feel confident in our path forward through 2024.”

Managing staffing needs continues to be a priority for Omaha Public Schools. With ESSER funding, we began a partnership with the University of Nebraska Omaha offering full scholarships to select students who commit to teaching at Omaha Public Schools full-time after graduation.

The partnership also helps students with bachelor’s degrees get a teaching certification in high-demand areas. It also invests in current teachers by helping them earn graduate credit hours or qualify to teach dual enrollment classes.

We will continue to invest ESSER-II and III funds in staff retention stipends through the 2023-24 school year.

“This demonstrates our district’s commitment to our employees recognizing the impact of the pandemic on their day-to-day work,” said Charles Wakefield, Omaha Public Schools chief operations and talent services officer. “We recognize that our staff is our most valuable resource and want to treat them as such.”

During the fall of 2022, we introduced our new three-part academic support and tutoring strategy, including school-based, community-based and online tutoring supported by ESSER funding.

“We’re fortunate to have this customizable strategy that supports our students and families in a way that works for their needs,” said Susanne Cramer, Omaha Public Schools interim chief of school improvement.

Omaha Public Schools became a 1-to-1 technology district with a rollout of student iPads in the fall of 2020. To continue to provide this important tool to our students, we are investing ESSER funds in a device refresh, which includes 10,000 new iPads put into rotation for the upcoming school year.

“Being a 1-to-1 district gives students increased access to personalized learning opportunities and improves engagement and collaboration,” said Bryan Dunne, Omaha Public Schools director of information management services. “Making sure our technology is up-to-date keeps our students on the path to success.”

We have also targeted ESSER funds for important curriculum updates. This includes elementary and high school science, secondary English language arts and reading, and K-12 social studies. ESSER funds will also support expanding computer science and technology K-12 learning to meet requirements mandated by the Nebraska Legislature.

“These materials give our students access to resources aligned to the expected content standards for which they are to learn and experience within their classrooms,” said Susan Christopherson, Omaha Public Schools chief academic officer.

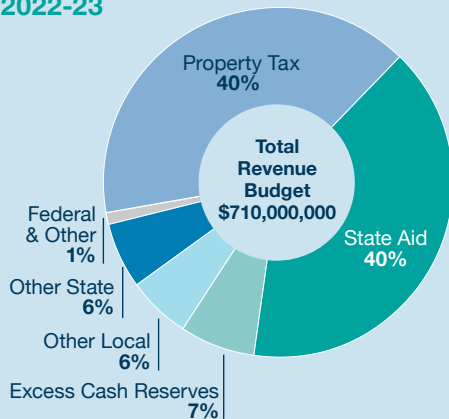
ESSER funds reached school districts in three rounds. ESSER-I spending ended in Sept. 2022. ESSER-II funds expire in Sept. 2023. Throughout the year, we worked to amend our ESSER-III spending plan to keep us on track to fully allocate funds by Sept. 2024.

Families and community members can learn more about how our district uses ESSER funds at www.ops.org.

Budget

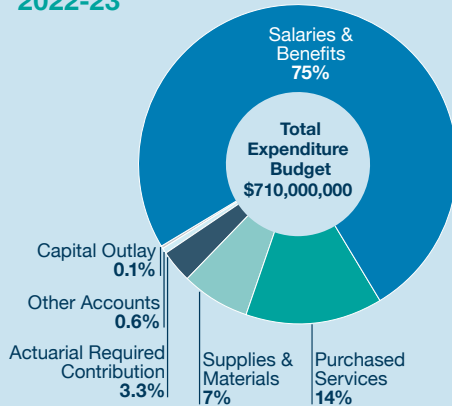
Where Does the Money Come From?

2022-23



Where Does the Money Go?

2022-23



Average Cost Per Pupil Educated

OPS \$15,205.00

State \$15,113.01

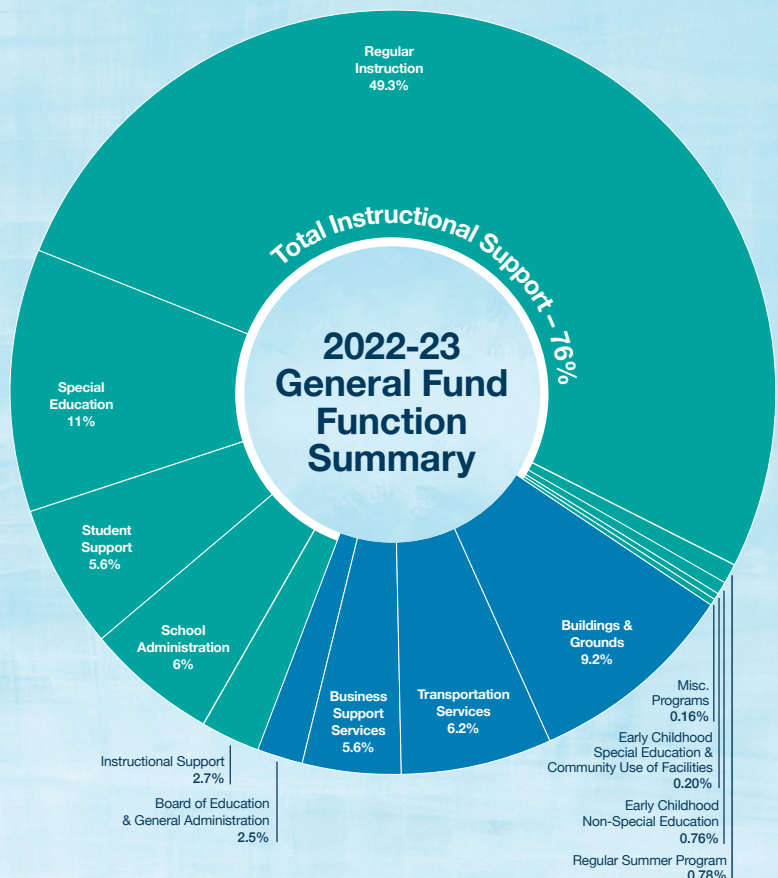
2021-22 School Year Data

General Fund Budget

2018-19 to 2022-23

Budget Year	Allowable Budget	Adopted Budget	Unused Budget Authority
2018-19	636,185,573	617,090,766	19,094,807
2019-20	680,218,611	621,000,000	59,218,611
2020-21	692,572,835	666,000,000	26,572,835
2021-22	691,240,528	690,000,000	1,240,528
2022-23	710,000,000	710,000,000	*0

*Per direction from NDE, the Special Grant Fund Expenditure exclusion was reduced from \$245,000,000 to \$234,269,453 to eliminate any unused budget authority.



Expenditures as a Percent of Total Budget



Bond Program at Work

Omaha Public Schools Delivers on New and Improved Learning Spaces for Students

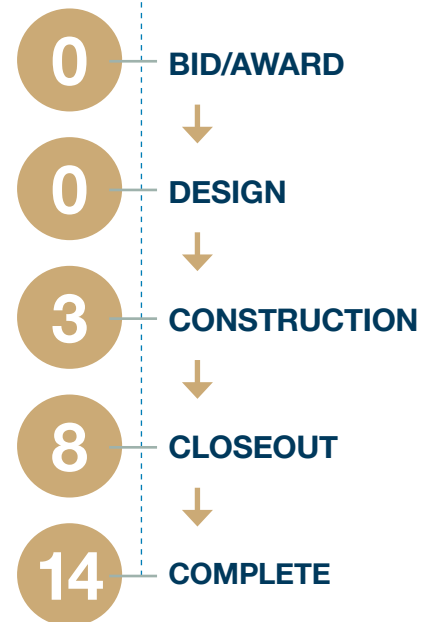
The learning landscape evolved for Omaha Public Schools during the 2022-23 school year. August 2022 marked an exciting milestone in our district's 2018 Bond Program, opening four of five new schools.

Buena Vista High and Westview High welcomed freshmen and sophomores. Meanwhile, hundreds of students filled classrooms for the first time at Forest Station Elementary and Pine Elementary.

"In a lot of ways, it's like a book that's being written," Principal Shelly Burghardt said during Forest Station's opening celebration. "I know there's going to be many chapters to come and many sequels. I'm anxious to see what those will be, but right now, it's just - the enthusiasm in the building is overwhelming."

As the school year got underway, work continued on the last of our five new schools - Bluestem Middle - which opens in August 2023. Each new school is an investment from the Omaha Public Schools bond program. The \$409.9 million bond, approved by voters in 2018, allowed us to build new schools and improve many others.

"The bond program helped our district work toward alleviating capacity issues in high-growth areas of the city," said Brad Boganowski, Omaha Public Schools bond administrator. "It also allowed us to address high-priority items outlined in our existing facilities plan."



The bond program includes 25 projects that address capital improvements at existing schools and programs. Examples of that work include mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades, chimney stack repairs, flooring improvements and more.

The 2018 Bond Program also allowed for classroom additions at some schools and other renovations that will benefit students for many years.

The 2018 Bond Program is scheduled for completion this year. Omaha Public Schools regularly updates each project, including the cost, scope of work and timeline, at www.ops.org/bond.



Economic Inclusion

The Omaha Public Schools Bond Economic Inclusion Program focuses on ensuring that Small and Emerging Businesses have opportunities to participate in bond projects. Economic Inclusion is applied to all bond spending, excluding land acquisition and builders' risk insurance.

Total contract amounts: \$409,871,319

99.10% of Program

Total expenditure amounts: \$397,719,834

96.17% of Program

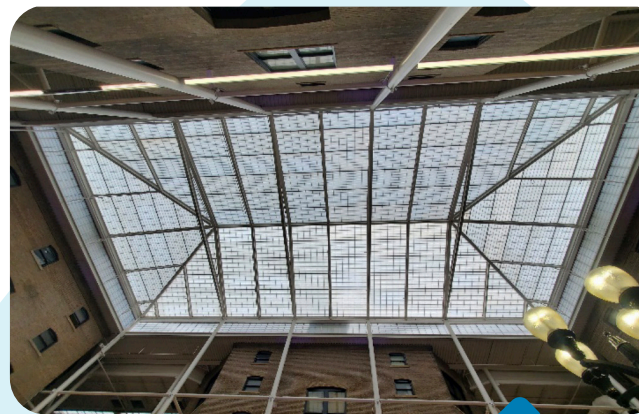
2018 Phase 2 Bond Program Goal

15%

**Commitments
\$41,612,555**

**Expenditures To Date
\$41,114,424**

Data reporting as of April 2023



Staff by the Numbers

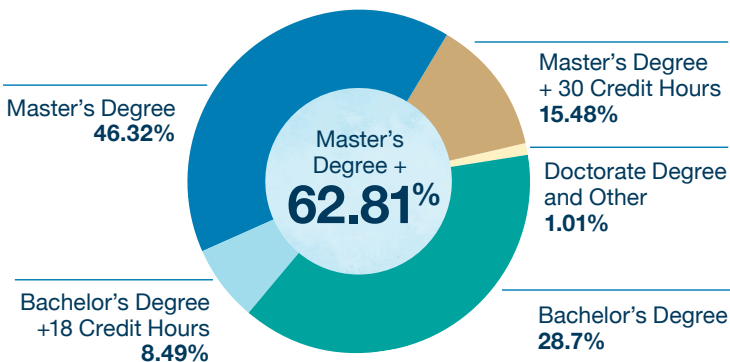
Teaching Staff Experience

Average Age **42**

Average Years of Teaching Experience **11**

National Board Certified Teachers **15**

Certified Staff Degree Status



Schools/Programs

Includes new schools: Buena Vista, Westview, Pine and Forest Station

87
Total Number of Schools



65
Elementary Schools

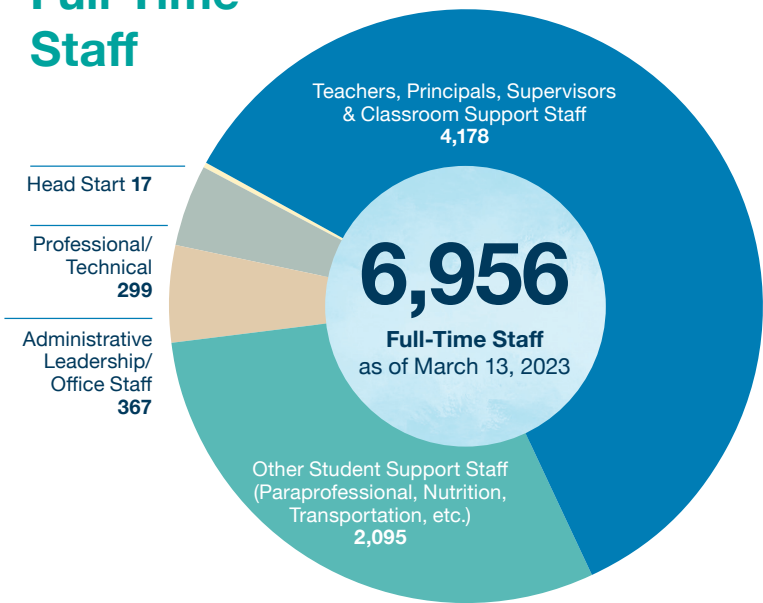
12
Middle Schools*

9
High Schools

1
Virtual School K-12

OPS has 8 additional programs
* Bluestem Middle will open in August 2023.
New schools are not reflected in the total until their official opening.

Full-Time Staff



Student-Teacher Ratio

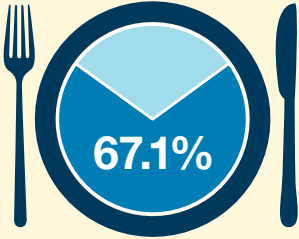
13.36
Elementary K-6

17.3
Middle

18.8
High

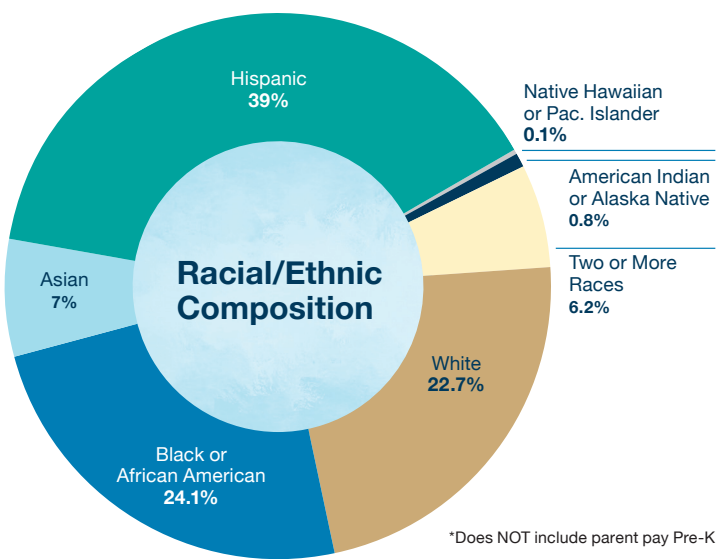
Omaha Public Schools is always hiring highly-qualified staff.
Check out open positions at www.ops.org/careers.

Students by the Numbers



Free and Reduced Lunch

Starting in 2022-23, Omaha Public Schools qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) districtwide. The CEP provides breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students. A new Educational Benefits Form allows eligible families to access additional benefits in our schools and community. Eligibility for educational benefits is the replacement metric for Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility.



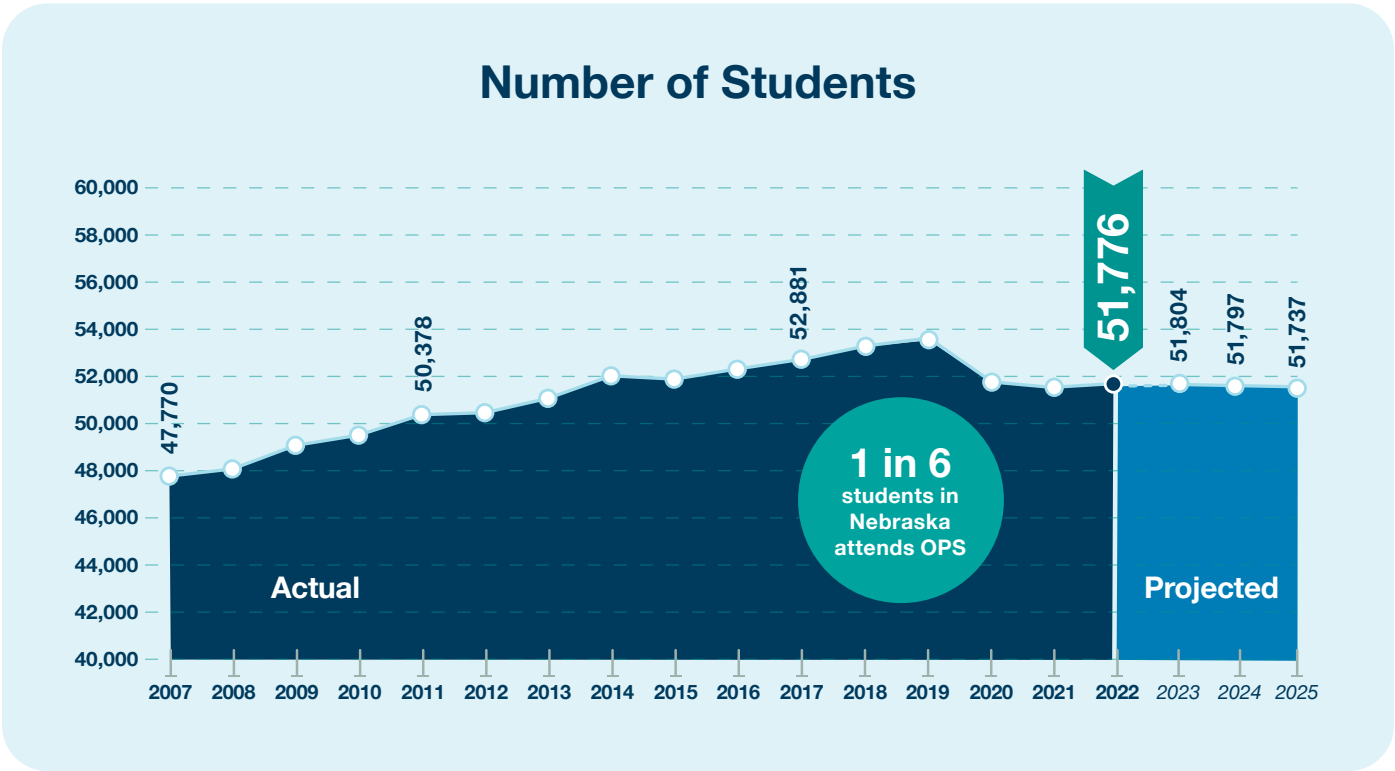
Number of English Learner (EL) Students

10,767*

*Our district serves more than 2,300 refugee students from 17 countries.

Omaha Public Schools is the most diverse school district in the state, serving students who speak

107 languages



Students Explore Interests, Gaining Real-World Experience Through College & Career Academies and Pathways

The start of the 2022-23 school year marked a new era for Omaha Public Schools with the implementation of our College & Career Academies and Pathways.

The enhanced programming aligns with our Portrait of a Graduate, teaching students transferable skills that prepare them for whatever the future holds. It ensures students gain real-world experience while maintaining the foundation of core classes with continued access to advanced academics, fine arts and electives.

Each high school has expanded partnerships with businesses, industry experts and community members to support students in their pathway. This provides on-site and tailored college and job visits, mentoring and other learning opportunities. Academies and pathways offer experiences in health professions, global leadership, engineering, urban agriculture, technology and many more areas of study.

“We want to prepare students in a multitude of ways to go out into the world with an interest and a plan for post-high school graduation,” said Angela Johaneck, Benson High curriculum specialist. “This is about being on the job, networking for the next steps and finding your place in your community.”

Benson High was the first wall-to-wall academy in the state and the first school to fully implement Freshman Academy in Omaha Public Schools. Benson High senior Hel Tha says being around other students with the same career interests has helped her feel comfortable asking questions and learning more about the health profession.

“Because of my early start in the academy and the experiences I have had, I was able to take advantage of a lot of different opportunities,” said Tha.

The Omaha Public Schools College & Career Academies and Pathways followed an evaluation and refocus of our district’s programming. It builds on what has been working well and where we can grow.

The College & Career Academies and Pathways will be rolled out over several years until fully implemented in 2024-25.





Starting in August 2022, first-year students at all nine Omaha Public Schools high schools participated in Freshman Academy. They explored careers while focusing on skills for success in high school and beyond. Freshmen then selected an academy or a pathway.

Academies

Academies allow students to take career-focused classes with a group of students who have similar interests.

Pathways

Pathways offer four or more classes focused on a group of related careers or clusters. Students in both academies and pathways take core classes alongside career-focused courses and electives.

Omaha Public Schools Offers Diverse Education Opportunities

Omaha Public Schools is proud to offer diverse educational opportunities for students that include college and career academy and pathway programs, the Omaha Public Schools Career Center, International Baccalaureate, the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma Program and more. Each school is unique, and they all make us #OPSProud.

Omaha Public Schools offers more than 70 unique programs of study - these offerings expanded with the implementation of College & Career Academies and Pathways in the fall of 2022.

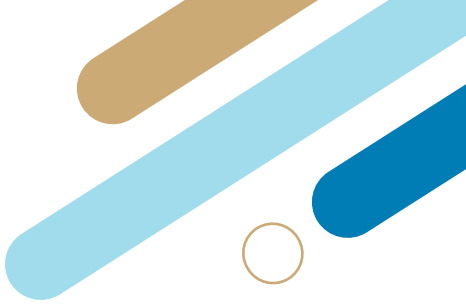
More AP courses than any other district in the state.

Omaha Public Schools students earned more than 1,100 industry-recognized certifications during the 2022-23 school year.

Omaha Public Schools connected students with more than 1,000 experiential learning opportunities in 2022-23, including internships and employment.

Omaha Public Schools offers dual language programs at 10 schools to students in grades K-12.

Omaha Public Schools students earned more than 13,000 college credits while in high school during the 2022-23 school year.



College and Career Ready Standards and Nebraska State Accountability Test Scores

Student data guides teaching and learning in Omaha Public Schools. State test scores are one source of that data. In Nebraska, college and career-ready standards are measured on state tests for elementary and middle school students. All juniors in Nebraska take the ACT, which is used as the high school state test. Some students

take the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) test. The NSCAS is a statewide test that helps prepare students in different grade levels for success in postsecondary education, career and life. The NSCAS includes several measures that help inform educators and families as they support students.

What is Omaha Public Schools doing to prepare ALL students for the ACT?

Omaha Public Schools provides a guaranteed and viable curriculum for students along with rigorous instruction. ACT standards are aligned and addressed within the A+ Curriculum Guides for all content areas. The PreACT is given to Omaha Public Schools students in the fall of their sophomore year to prepare students for the ACT. Advisement teachers and school counselors also review PreACT and ACT results, then meet with students to help them set goals based on their scores.

2021-22 NSCAS Results

Below is the percent proficient.

ELEMENTARY

English Language Arts 30.1%
Math 22.8%
Science 45.7%

MIDDLE SCHOOL

English Language Arts 22.7%
Math 16.6%
Science 35.7%

2021-22 ACT Results

Average score for ALL students

STATE ASSESSMENT

English Language Arts 12.6
Math 13.9
Science 14.0

This score reflects all grade 11 students who took the ACT state assessment. The individual student scores may be reported to postsecondary educational institutions based on ACT guidelines.

GRADUATING CLASS REPORT

Composite Score 15.9

The composite score represents the most recent score for 2022 graduates who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors or seniors either as the state assessment or on a national test day. These students earned a score that ACT allows to be reported to postsecondary educational institutions.

Every student.
Every day.
Prepared for success.

#OPSProud Awards Snapshot



Students

Omaha Public Schools students earned more than **\$68.5 million** in scholarships!

North High's **Nayera Abdessalam, Sophia Kolb** and **Bowen Steffen** were among 16,000 semifinalists in the 68th annual **National Merit Scholarship Program**.

Bryan High's **Justin Diep** earned recognition as the Nebraska High School Press Association's **2023 Nebraska Student Journalist of the Year**.

Benson High's **Lazcano Reza** and **Say Say Wah** earned multiple awards for their artwork in the **National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition**.

Student teams from South High and Marrs Middle achieved first-place finishes in the **23rd Annual African American History Challenge**.

More than 70 students from Omaha Public Schools class of 2022 earned the **Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy**.

Central High's **girls' powerlifting team** finished as the **2023 Nebraska State Champions**.

North High's **Tyler Stewart** and **Tyson Terry** and Central High's **DJ Bonam** each won their weight class at the **Nebraska State Wrestling Championship**.

Burke High's **Thomas Vasquez** and North High's **Aaliyah Farmer** were named the **2022-23 Currency Believers and Achievers state winners**.

Westview High and Burke High's combined **dance team** qualified for the **National Dance Team Championship** finals for the first time in Omaha Public Schools history.



Staff

Jefferson Elementary special education teacher **Lisa Moody** received a national **Milken Educator Award**.

Buffett Middle teacher **Lee Perez** won the **Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence**. He was one of five educators honored with the award nationwide.

Rhonda Sherman of Benson High received the **Outstanding Mentor Award** from the **ACE Mentor Program of Greater Omaha** and is one of five award recipients nationwide.

Kendall James Lewis of Norris Middle earned the **2nd Congressional District Outstanding Teacher for 2022 Award** from the Nebraska State Council for Social Studies.

MeLitta Wilson, Minne Lusa Elementary principal, won the **Lozier Foundation's Outstanding Principal Award** for her work at Lothrop Elementary.

Lindsay Hueftle of Prairie Wind was named the **Nebraska Art Teachers Association Elementary Art Educator of the Year**.

Joseph Bristol of Wakonda Elementary was recognized by the **Nebraska Art Teachers Association** as the **2022 Art Educator of the Year**.

Principal **Abigail Fehr** of Rose Hill Elementary received the **Inspire Award for Educational Excellence**.

School psychologist **Beth Wells, Ph.D.**, received the **Founders Award** from the **Nebraska School Psychologist Association** for her work at Gomez Heritage Elementary, Picotte Elementary and Washington Elementary.

The **Nebraska School Counselor Association** selected Bryan High principal **Rony Ortega, Ed.D.**, as the **2022 Administrator of the Year**.



Stay Connected with Omaha Public Schools

Families, please ensure your phone number and email address are current with your child's school to receive important updates about school and district happenings.



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Administrative Department Numbers

Information Center.....531-299-0220
District Communications.....531-299-0221
English Learners Department....531-299-0259
Help Desk.....531-299-0300
Human Resources.....531-299-0240

Nutrition Services.....531-299-0230
Omaha Public Schools Foundation....531-299-0250
Student and Community Services.....531-299-0314
Student Placement.....531-299-0302
Student Transportation.....531-299-0140

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