

REPORT TO
THE COMMUNITY

2019 2020

Investing in the Future





Report to the Community



Dear Omaha Public Schools Community:

The history books will forever mark the year 2020 as a time that pushed humanity to consider not only the obstacles in our path, but the opportunities we may not have considered or explored outside of our circumstances.

If the sudden and abrupt disruption to our daily lives has taught us anything, we've learned to adapt, be flexible, purposely seek and celebrate the bright spots and tap into our own, individual resiliency.

For every hurdle we've faced in the wake of this global pandemic, our administrators, teachers, staff, students, families and community have steadfastly risen to meet it. In our 160th year of existence, Omaha Public Schools continues to demonstrate the impact this school district has made in the city of Omaha and nationally.

Our history abounds with stories about the ways we've led educational initiatives across our state, around the country and, at times, globally. We've claimed and own the title of "first" in many categories. And, we persistently continue to identify ways to better serve our students and families as part of delivering on our promise to provide our students with a high-quality public school education.

Our response in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic presents yet another example of how we rise to the challenge, making the difficult decisions where we must, with the best intentions of our community in mind. We #OPSProudly walk the walk of our talk, which begins and ends with ensuring the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and families.

As part of our information gathering, planning and decision-making processes to prepare for re-opening our schools, staff conducted multiple surveys to hear from our staff and families, participated in ongoing, virtual discussions with our urban city school district counterparts across the nation, engaged neighboring school districts and collaborated regularly with partners like the Douglas County Health Department and University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Through every juncture, we've remained grounded in our mission and our Strategic Plan of Action values: Equity, Results, Leadership, Accountability, and where we have been able to stop and express gratitude for those special moments, Joy. Together, we've delivered more than 54,000

iPads into students' hands as part of our 1 to 1 technology initiative. We've provided hundreds of thousands of meals to our families, assisted more than 1,500 families through our support centers and hosted virtual conversations that support the academic, social and emotional success of our students. Even through unexpected challenges, our efforts build upon priorities within our Strategic Plan of Action: Academics, Staff, Financial Accountability and our Ethic of Care.

It was a tough decision not to bring our students back in person for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, but it was the right decision and we made it after much thought and deliberation about health conditions in our community. We miss seeing our children face-to-face inside our schools. At the same time, we've been able to accelerate our 1 to 1 technology initiative and, through professional development, catapult our virtual teaching, learning and engagement.

As we held online summer school sessions this summer, I virtually ventured into several summer school classrooms where I witnessed our teachers confidently teaching and engaging with our students in their new, online environment. Our students had quickly mastered their new technology. I watched as classmates engaged with one another and were clearly eager and excited to learn.

Seeing our school community work together through this pandemic makes me deeply proud to be part of the Omaha Public Schools. From churches to our local nonprofit organizations, our community has truly stepped up to provide our families with the supports needed—whether it's school supplies, food pantry boxes or emotional support. We stand ready to serve our families.

We will see our way through these difficult times. We truly miss our daily, in-person interactions with our students and we look forward to the day we can bring them back for a safe and responsible return to school.



Cordially yours,

Cheryl Logan, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Omaha Public Schools
logancomm@ops.org

Mission: Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career and life.

Vision: Every student.
Every day.
Prepared for success.

Board of Education



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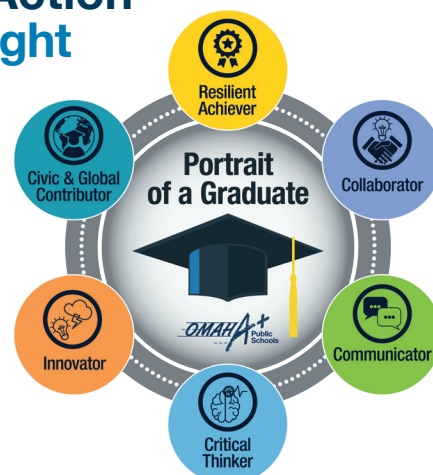
Ricky Smith



Kimara Z. Snipe

Strategic Plan of Action Powered by Foresight

In February 2020, Omaha Public Schools launched the Strategic Plan of Action Powered by Foresight. Through work with community members, future labs were conducted with OPS staff and community members to think about what's next for Omaha Public Schools and brainstorm what's needed to prepare students for their futures throughout the next five to 20 years.



The strategic priorities were solidified by triangulating the trends, the values and norms, and disaggregated student-centric data related to academic growth and achievement, program evaluation, student engagement and the perceptions of students, families, teachers and staff about the educational climate of their schools.

PRIORITY 1: Academics

Omaha Public School 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. Omaha Public Schools prepares each student to meet post-secondary expectations.

PRIORITY 2: Staff

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. Omaha Public Schools has highly qualified and effective staff in every division.

PRIORITY 3: Financial Accountability

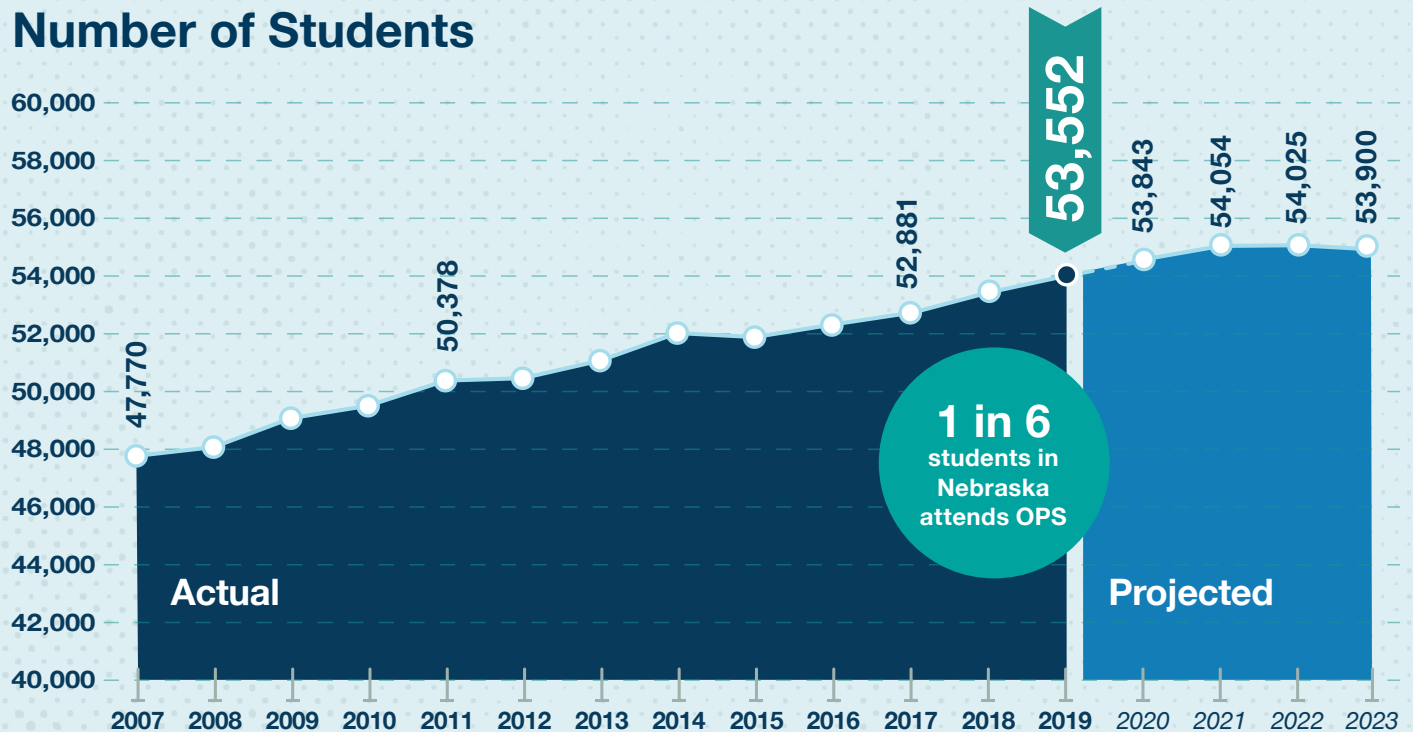
Omaha Public School demonstrates financial accountability tied to student outcomes. School district budgets across the U.S. are challenged daily to be funded and many districts are unable to fund their highest priorities. Omaha Public Schools understands the challenges of developing and adhering to an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

PRIORITY 4: Ethic of Care

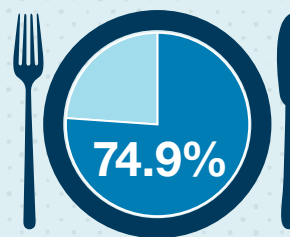
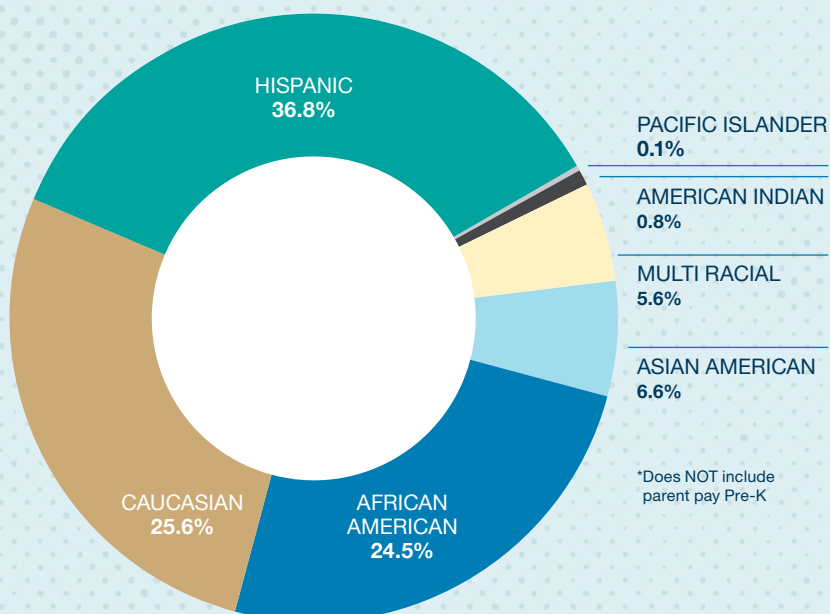
Omaha Public Schools demonstrates an ethic of care for students and staff. Fostering a caring, inclusive culture assures all feel value, support and joy. Everyone benefits as a result of students, staff and the community being served with care. Omaha Public Schools demonstrates an ethic of care for students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

Students and Staff by the Numbers

Number of Students



Racial/Ethnic Composition



Free and Reduced Lunch

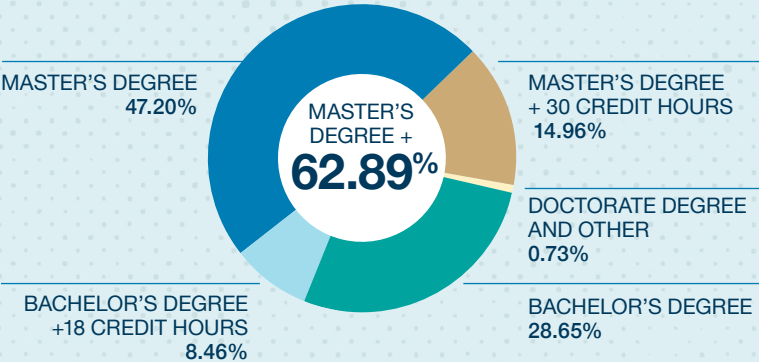
OPS is the most diverse school district in the state, serving students who speak

108
Languages

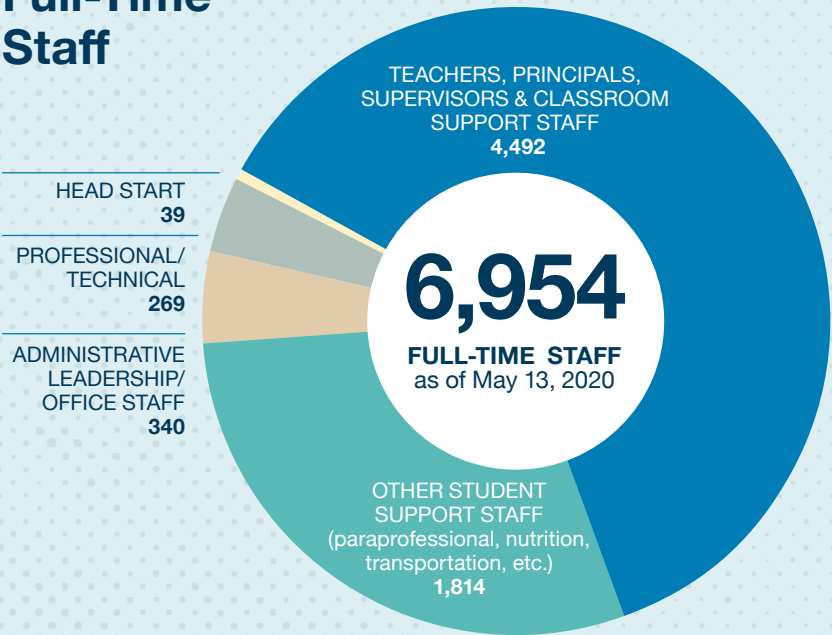
NUMBER OF EL STUDENTS
18,646*

*Number of current students who have been provided English Learner (EL) services throughout their time at OPS. Not all students are currently receiving services.

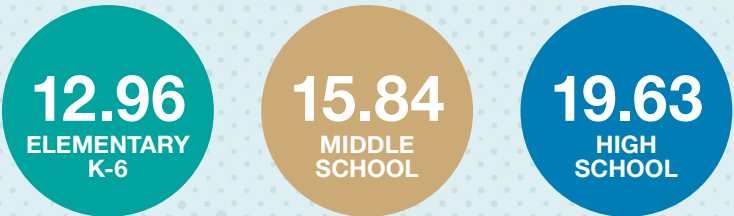
Certified Staff Degree Status



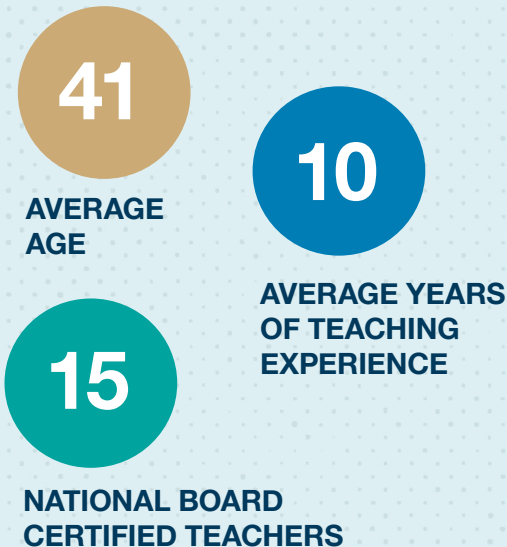
Full-Time Staff



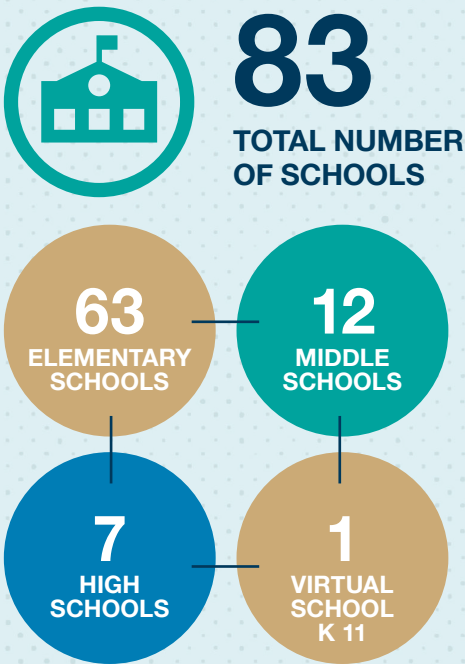
Student-Teacher Ratio



Teaching Experience



Schools/Programs (2019-20)



OPS has 12 additional Alternative Programs

OPS is always hiring highly-qualified staff. Check out open positions at ops.org.



#OPSProud

Awards

OPS students and staff are recognized throughout the metro, region and nation for their outstanding accomplishments. Here are a few highlights of awards earned during the 2019-20 school year:

Student Awards Snapshot*

- Students earned more than \$60.6 million in scholarships!
- Columbian Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for exemplary high performance.
- Morton Middle School's Liliana Johnson was selected as this year's American Red Cross Heroes in the Heartland essay winner.
- King Science and Technology Science bowl team won the regional Science Bowl. Members included Balaadithya Muralitharan, Brandon Olson, Isabella Saxton, Jonas Morgan and Kathryn Rice.
- Omaha Northwest Magnet High School student Ale'jah Douglas broke the Class A single-game girls basketball scoring record by scoring more than 51 points on Jan. 16, 2020.
- Central High graduate Emilio Haynes was appointed to the United States Military Academy West Point.



Staff Awards Snapshot*

- Blackburn art teacher Hilary George was named the Secondary Art Teacher of the Year by the Nebraska Art Teachers Association.
- Indian Hill Elementary teacher Melissa Szatko received a Presidential Excellence Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering education.
- District music educator Ann Davis was named the Administrator of the Year by Nebraska Music Education Association.
- Bryan High School's Mary Miller received the National Career Academy Coalition's Exemplary Education Award.
- Burke High School became the first Nebraska high school to offer AP Capstone Course.

* This list provides a snapshot of some of the awards OPS students and staff received during the school year.

College and Career Ready Standards and Nebraska State Accountability Test Scores

In 2014, the Department of Education began revising standards to reflect College and Career Ready Standards. The Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards are a more rigorous set of standards that aim to prepare all students to graduate from high school and be able to complete credit-bearing first-year post-secondary courses without a need for remediation. With these new standards comes a new definition of “meeting expectations” of the standards at each grade level.

The bar has been raised for all students in Nebraska. The state sets standards and then each district has one year to align their standards with the state standards. The schedule of Nebraska Department of Education approval of standards was: English language arts in 2014, math in 2015 and science in 2017. These 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.



Gradual Release of Instruction includes the following components, which are used daily in each classroom: modeled, shared, guided and independent.

Components of the Action Plan include: 1) Instructional Framework: gradual release of instruction with numeracy strategies and literacy strategies across the content areas, and consistent procedures and routines; 2) coaching; and 3) assessment data.

Baseline Scores

As we move to new assessments designed to test the College and Career Ready Standards, new proficiency levels have been developed. These new proficiency levels set a baseline for a higher level of expectation than on previous assessments tied to former standards. Scores from previous assessments cannot be compared as they are different measures. Due to this, English language arts scores are not comparable before the 2016-17 school year and math is not comparable before the 2017-18 school year. Scores may decrease in the initial year of testing due to the increased rigor of the exam. The state raised the bar in terms of what is expected from students to meet state proficiency. As state standards are raised to meet College and Career Ready Standards and instruction reflects these standards, scores are expected to improve.

What is OPS doing to prepare ALL students for the ACT?

OPS 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. OPS schools have access to ACT Academy to help prepare students for the ACT. The PreACT is given to OPS students in the fall of their sophomore year and students are connected to the ACT Academy Resources where an individual learning path is created to help with their preparation for the ACT. The tool is easy for students to access and use. The platform provides an interactive element for students that adjusts to meet their learning needs. ACT Academy includes a personalized learning path for students and tools to track progress. This resource is available both inside and outside of school. It is available to students for the remainder of their academic careers within OPS schools. Additional curriculum resources for ACT support are provided for use.

2018 2019 NSCAS Results

Below is the percent proficient

Elementary

English Language Arts
35.1%

Math	Science
33.7%	47.6%

Middle School

English Language Arts
31.2%

Math	Science
25.9%	39.0%

ACT – State Assessment

Average score for 2018 2019 for ALL Students

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

English Language Arts	Math	Science
14.7	16.1	16.1

ACT Graduating Class Report 2019

The score includes the most recent score for 2019 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 post-secondary educational institutions.

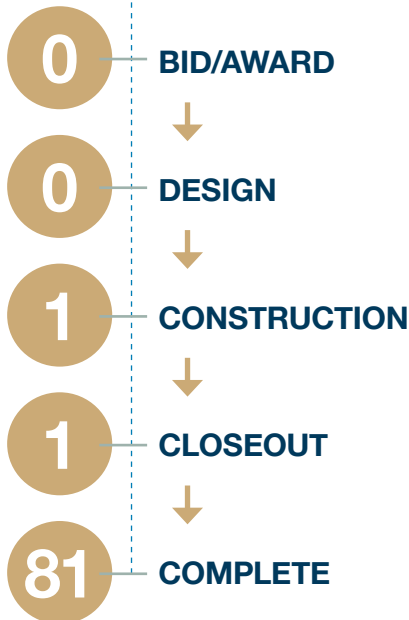
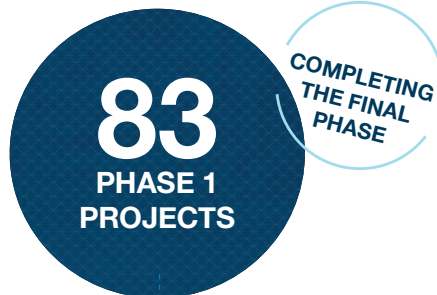
Composite
Score
16.8

Data for 2019-20 is not available.



Bond Program Status

2014 Phase 1 Bond Program



TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNTS:

99.59% of Program

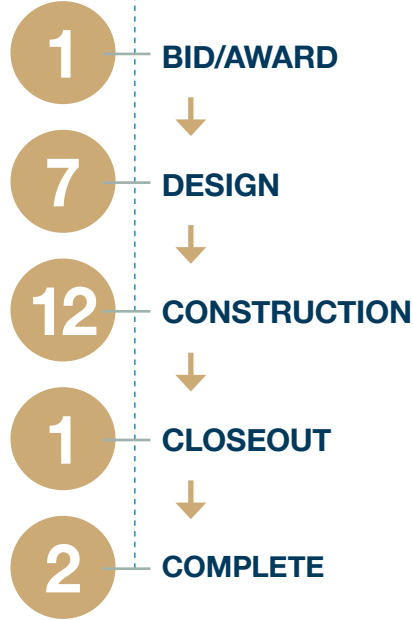
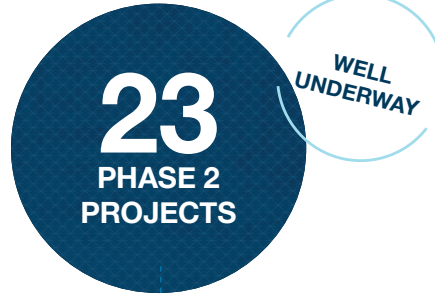
\$422,387,325

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS:

99.00% of Program

\$419,891,518

2018 Phase 2 Bond Program



TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNTS:

68.28% of Program

\$279,879,651

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS:

22.51% of Program

\$92,260,007



Bond program continues to move forward

Work on the 2018 Phase 2 Bond Program has maintained its momentum throughout the last year, despite the interruption of COVID-19. Construction teams have made adjustments to ensure work interruptions are minimized during this time. The teams have used critical due diligence to manage, track and coordinate essential material deliveries needed to keep the bond projects moving forward on schedule.



Stay up to date with all Bond Program projects via the 2018 OPS Bond Program website

bond.ops.org



156TH & IDA ST



60TH & L ST

60TH & L ST NEW HIGH SCHOOL

15% Complete

Critical work includes installation of concrete block walls, installation of structure steel and placement of concrete.

Scheduled to open August 2022

156TH & IDA ST NEW HIGH SCHOOL

13% Complete

Critical work includes placement of concrete, roof installation and fire proofing in the academic wing.

Scheduled to open August 2022

42ND & Y ST NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Currently in the design process. Grading is scheduled to start in September 2020

1000 N FORT CROOK RD NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

15% Complete

Critical work includes placement of concrete footings and structural retaining walls and installation of underground mechanical piping and electrical systems conduit.

Scheduled to open August 2022

10TH & PINE ST NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5% Complete

Demolition of existing buildings and site preparations activities have commenced.

Scheduled to open August 2022

Economic Inclusion



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

2014 Phase 1 Bond Program

GOAL: 7%

COMMITMENTS: \$46,905,083

EXPENDITURES TO DATE:
\$46,455,444

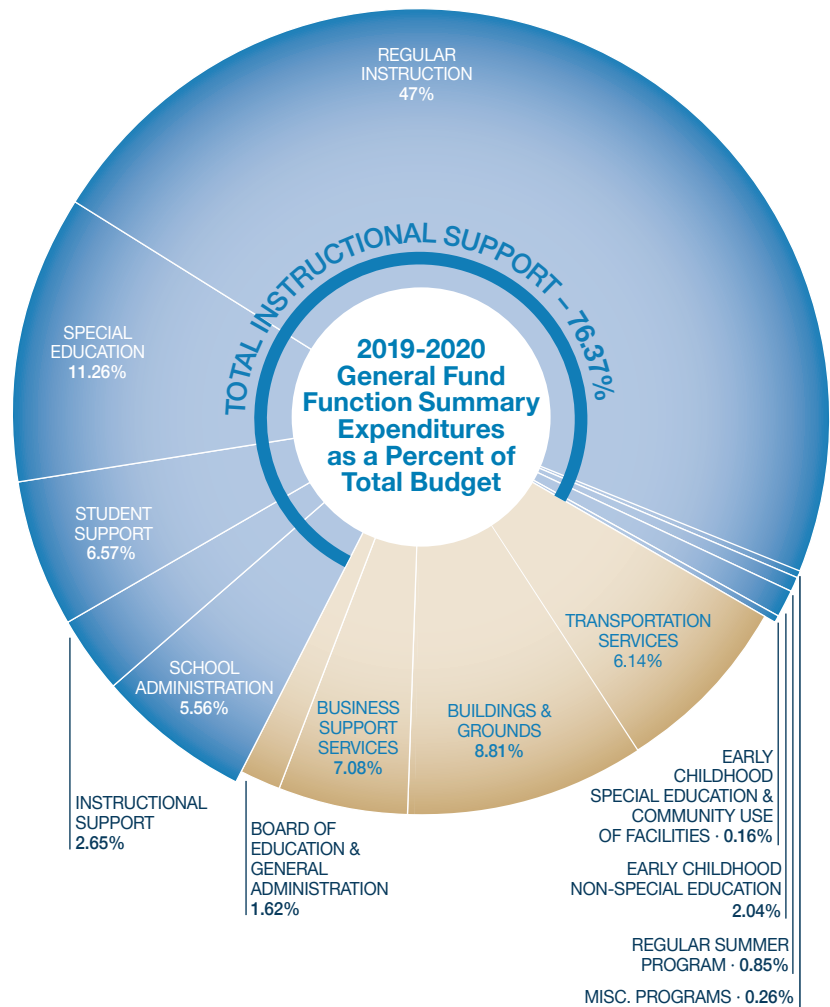
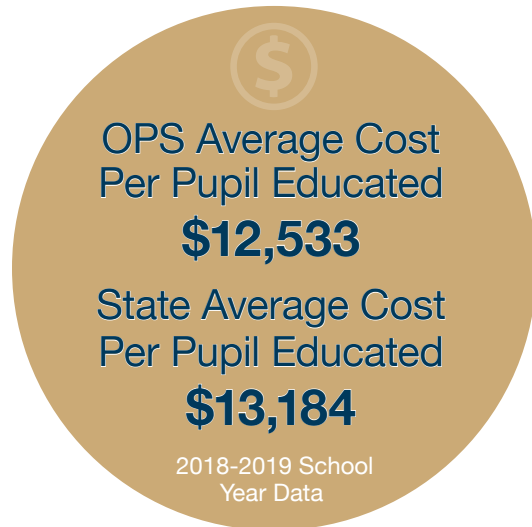
2018 Phase 2 Bond Program

GOAL: 15%

COMMITMENTS: \$16,729,841

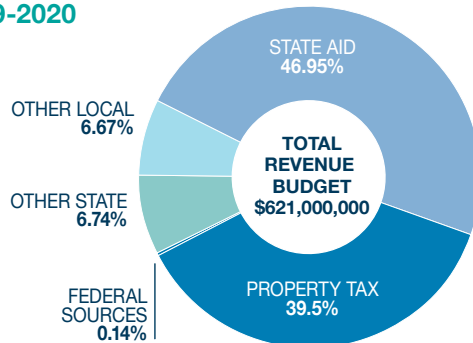
EXPENDITURES TO DATE:
\$6,393,375

Budget



Where Does the Money Come From?

2019-2020



General Fund Budget

2014-2015 to 2019-2020

Budget Year	Allowable Budget	Adopted Budget	Unused Budget Authority
2014-2015	542,989,222	536,187,024	6,802,198
2015-2016	573,811,122	557,287,399	16,523,723
2016-2017	603,635,116	582,072,902	21,562,214
2017-2018	636,837,202	608,843,809	27,993,393
2018-2019	636,185,573	617,090,766	19,094,807
2019-2020	680,218,611	621,000,000	59,218,611

Allowable Budget

The amount to which the General Fund budget may increase in accordance with state statutes.

Adopted Budget

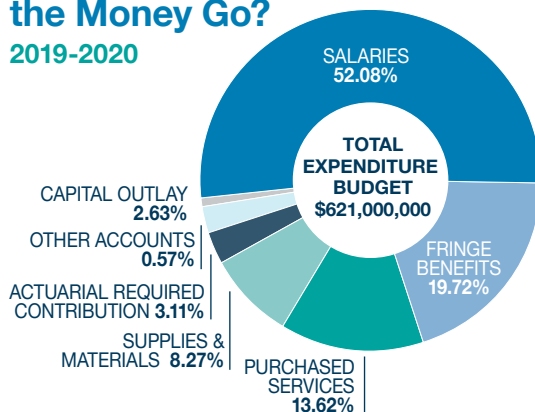
The General Fund budget of expenditures adopted by the Board of Education following receipt of public comments and Board discussion.

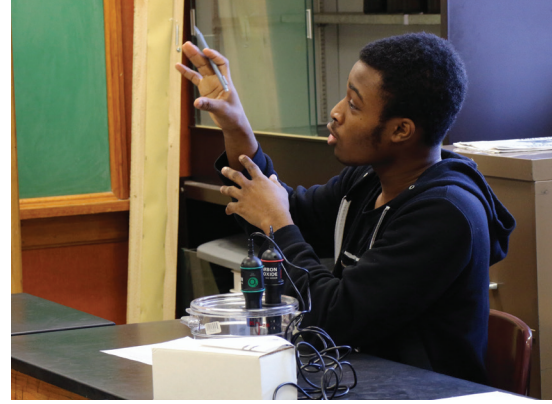
Unused Budget Authority

The excess of Allowable Budget over the Adopted Budget.

Where Does the Money Go?

2019-2020





Diverse Educational Opportunities for All

OPS is proud to offer diverse educational opportunities for students. No matter what a student is interested in, there is something for everyone. Each school is unique and they all make us #OPSProud.

11

College and
Career
Academies

19

Magnet schools
throughout
the district

More
Advanced
Placement (AP)
courses than any
other district in
the state

30+

Career education
programs
of study

22

Career education
certifications
offered

52,180

College credits
earned over the past
four years by OPS
students

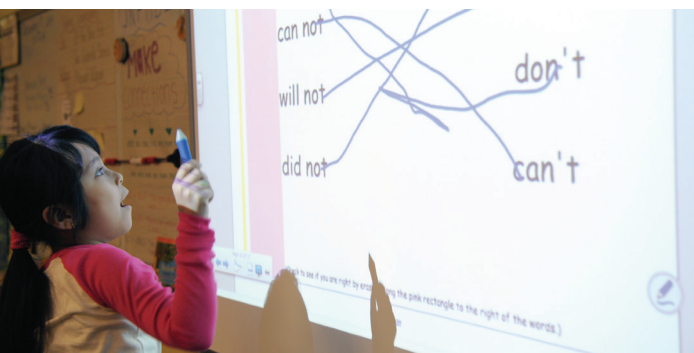
10

Dual language
programs
offered

838

Industry-recognized
certifications earned
by Career Center
students*

*2018-19 data,
most current available.



Stay Connected with OPS



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.

To opt in to receive text messages from OPS, text Y or Yes to 67587.

ops.org

3215 Cuming St.
Omaha, NE 68131

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OPS Administrative Department Numbers

Information Center 531-299-0220

District Communications 531-299-0221

EL 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