

GARDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT #35-0001
PO BOX 230
OSHKOSH, NE 69154-0230

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WEBSITE: gardencountyschools.org



ANNUAL REPORT TO PATRONS
2017-18

GARDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Garden County Schools is to develop individuals who
meet the challenges of a diverse society.

~From the Superintendent's Desk~

Greetings Garden County patrons,

January 2018

The new year provides time to reflect on the previous one and look forward to continuing growth for all our students.

Here are a few 2017 highlights:

- PK-12 teachers continue to align all curricular areas with updated standards, adding a new handwriting program in the primary grades.
- Community partnerships enhance student opportunities with Extension educators and Stem Club, VOAWN preschool, school nurse services from RWGC, Lions Club health screenings, PPHD health education, dental screenings and sealants, supplemental NRD science topics, TeamMates mentors, Eagle backpacks with weekend food, and WNCC dual credit offerings.
- The district county tax request was an all time low, with the levy 4 cents less than the prior year.
- Communication with parents now includes monthly mailings, along with SchoolMessenger calls, an updated school website, and current postings on FaceBook.

2018 will bring some changes in state assessments for students this spring:

- The new system is called NSCAS (pronounced N-skas; NE Student-Centered Assessment System), intended to measure students' knowledge more accurately.
- ACT replaced the state test for 11th graders.
- NDE partnered with NWEA MAPs (Measures of Academic Progress) to develop comprehensive math, reading, and science assessments: 3rd through 8th graders take math and reading; 5th and 8th graders take science.
- Baseline student achievement data will be gathered from the results of these spring assessments (available next fall).
- Local NWEA MAPs are administered to 2nd through 6th graders in the fall and to 7th through 12th graders in the fall and spring in the areas of language, math, reading, and science (data included in this report).

Our students' success is a result of ongoing community support and data review to determine areas of strength and need. With a long history of academic excellence and keeping kids first, Garden County Schools continue to strive to serve *every student every day!*

With sincere appreciation,

Dr. Paula Sissel

ADMINISTRATION

Board Members

President	Randy Stanczyk
Vice President	Richard Paisley
Secretary	Andrea Lake
Treasurer	Mike Fischer
Member	Kelly Reece
Member	Matt Ardissono

Administration

Superintendent/GCE Principal	Paula Sissel
GCJH/HS Principal	Jason Spady
Guidance	Michelle Dormann
Technology	Sheila Litke
Bookkeeping	Dixann Krajewski

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Grade	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
PK	35	34	31
K	18	24	18
1	25	16	21
2	20	22	17
3	14	19	20
4	23	14	21
5	27	20	13
6	18	26	19
7	13	16	22
8	22	12	16
9	19	23	12
10	19	22	21
11	12	18	19
12	20	14	17
Total	283	280	267

2016-17 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

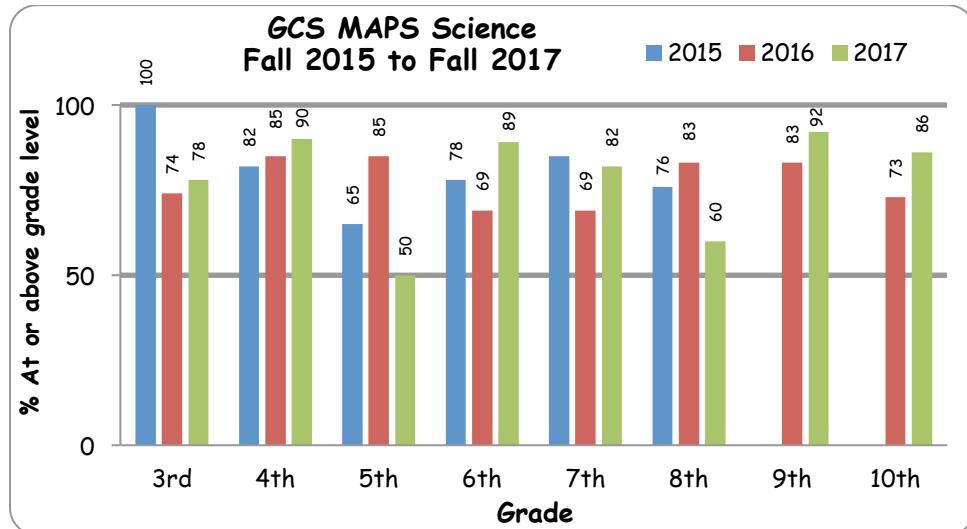
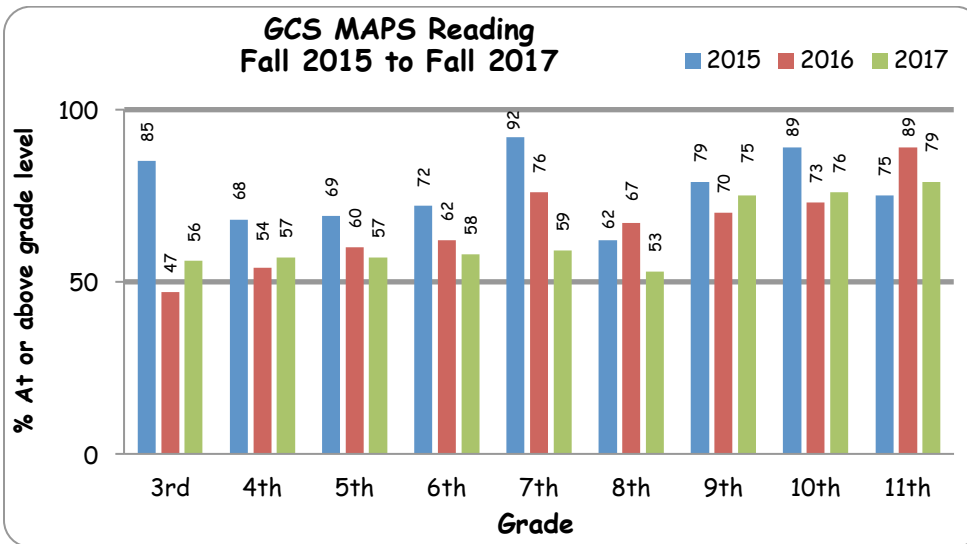
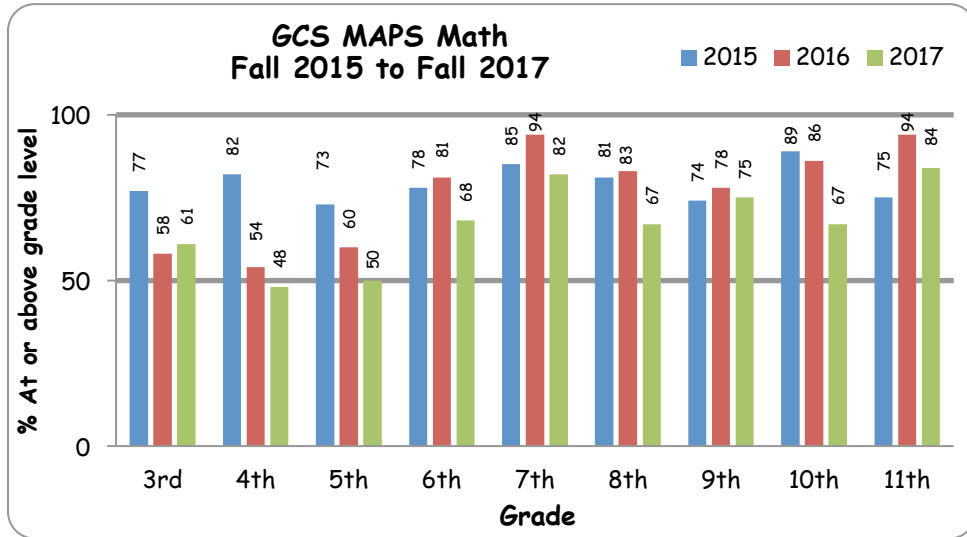
District Data	State Statistics	District Statistics
Poverty Percentage	45%	54%
English Language Learner Percentage	7%	1%
School Mobility Rate Percentage	11%	24%
Graduation Rate Percentage	89%	100%
Attendance Percentage	95%	94%

DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

The State of Nebraska requires a minimum of 1032 hours of instructional time per school year for elementary students and 1080 hours of instructional time per school year for secondary students. Garden County Schools are accredited by the State of NE, with Garden County Junior/Senior High School holding AdvancED accreditation.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

NWEA MAPS



NATIONAL ACT COMPARISONS

Students typically take their college entrance exam (ACT) during their junior year. It should be noted that generally “all” students at GC Schools take the ACT.

Years		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
2014-2015	National	20.4	20.8	21.4	20.9	21.0
2014-2015	State	21.1	21.0	21.9	21.6	21.5
2014-2015	District	20.2	19.4	19.6	18.9	19.6
2015-2016	National	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8	20.8
2015-2016	State	20.9	20.8	21.8	21.5	21.4
2015-2016	District	18.3	20.4	19.8	19.5	19.5
2016-2017	National	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
2016-2017	State	20.9	20.9	21.9	21.5	21.4
2016-2017	District	18.2	18.9	19.4	20.6	19.3

STATE ACT RESULTS & DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

The ACT test now serves as the state test for all 11th grade students. This test choice created an opportunity to ensure all Nebraska students, regardless of background and circumstances, to have equitable access to preparation and opportunities for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

The rigor of the ACT assessment has been raised to create clear expectations for success beyond high school. The results of these assessments will also be a new baseline in Nebraska, and NDE recognizes that raising this bar requires a substantial movement to align curriculum to meet those expectations for the future. Nebraska educators have high standards for our students and will continue to work diligently to help students succeed.

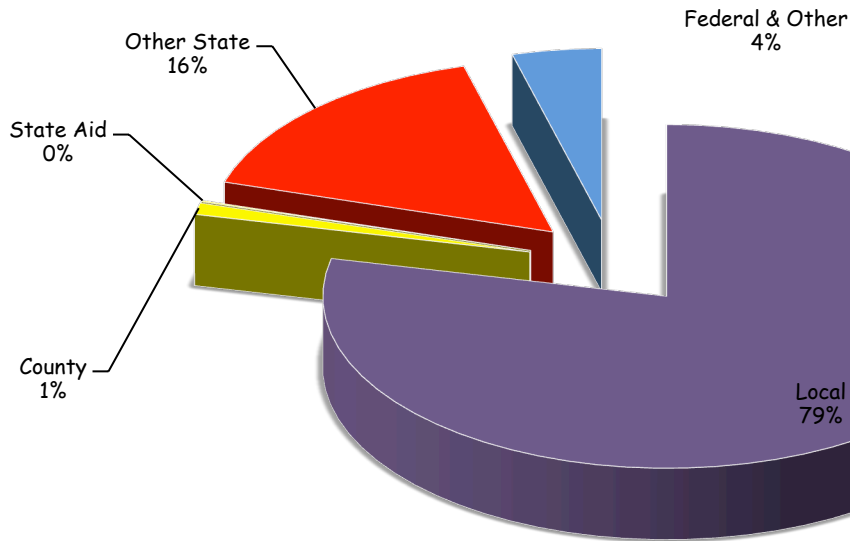
Garden County school district’s percentage of students’ proficient exceeded the state average in ELA, math, and science subtests! Compared to the 21 panhandle school districts in our Educational Service Unit, GCS ranked:

Reading	1st out of 21 districts
Math	3rd out of 21 districts
Science	5th put of 21 districts

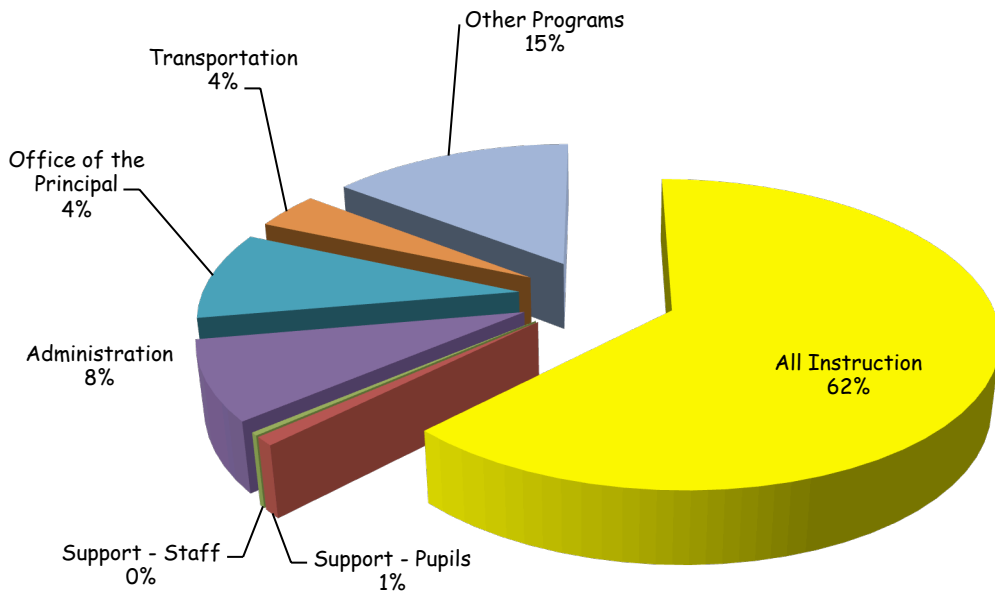
GREAT WORK, STUDENTS AND STAFF!

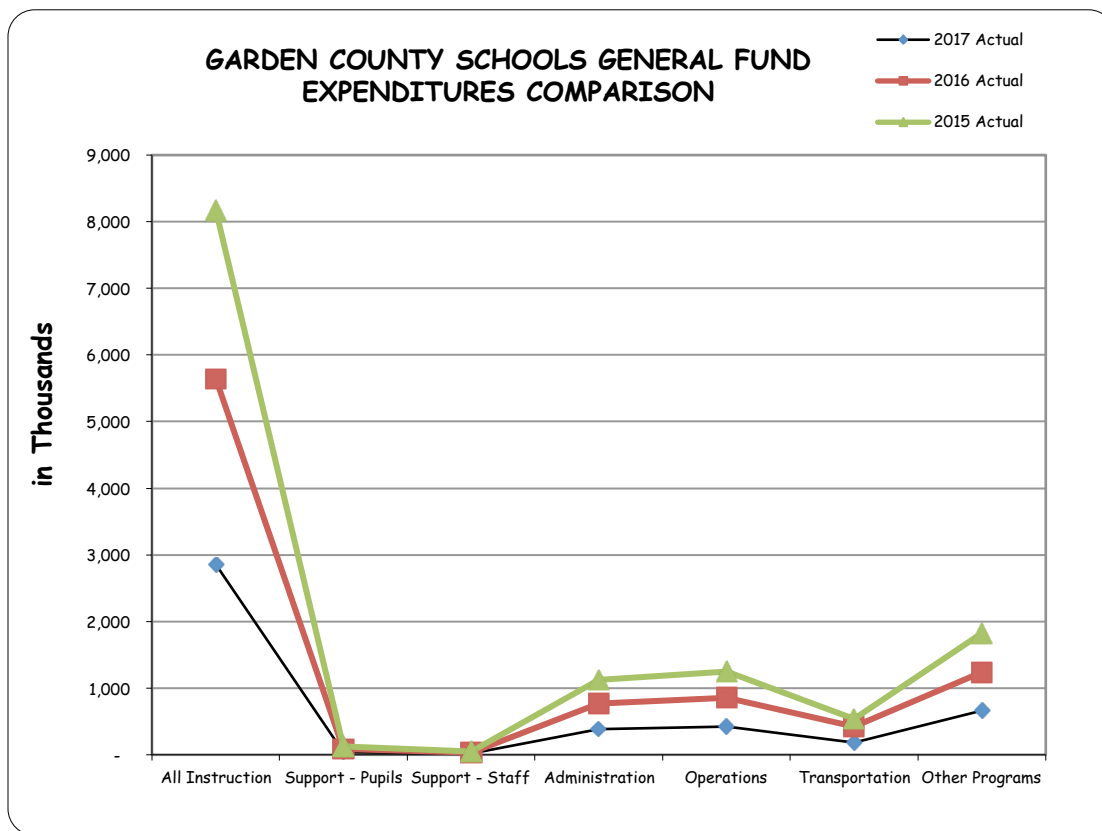
DISTRICT FINANCES

GARDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS FY 2016 Revenues



GCS FY 2016 Expenditures





STEM CLUB CONTINUES AT CHAMPS!

Garden County Elementary's after school program's attendance continues to be positively impacted by a second 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Enhanced Learning Opportunity (ELO) grant. Students' attendance and learning were increased, as was their enthusiasm for the after school program! Technology is integrated with Legos and robots! Special thanks go out to our local extension educators for this great addition to our program!

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION **Garden County High School**

Students, their families and potential employees of Garden County High School are hereby notified that Garden County High School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, age, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in employment, career and technology programs or activities set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations. Any persons having inquiries concerning Garden County High School compliance with Title II, Title IV, Title IX and/or section 504 may contact:

Dr. Paula Sissel, Superintendent (psissel@gceagles.org)
200 W. 4th
Oshkosh, NE 69154
(308) 772-0182

Garden County High School offers the following career and technical programs for all students regardless of gender, disability, race, color, religion, age, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, including those with limited English proficiency: Agriscience, Animal Science, Nursery Landscaping, Plant Science, Environmental Science, Personal Finance, Accounting I, Business Law, Intro to Business, Intro to Industrial Technology, Advanced Woods, Advanced Metals, Small Engines, Construction, and Tech & Torch.

Michelle Dormann, Guidance Counselor (mdormann@gceagles.org)

200 W. 4th

Oshkosh, NE 69154

(308) 772-0104

To obtain this information in a language other than English call (308) 772-3336.

It is the policy of Garden County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, age, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, including those with limited English proficiency in its educational programs, administration, policies, employment or other district programs.

TEAMMATES IN GARDEN COUNTY!

Garden County has been a part of the TeamMates' program for the past 16 years, currently with 40 matches and 33 mentors. Co-Founders Tom and Nancy Osborne, started the program in 1991 and have a record high enrolled! This school based mentoring occurs in school buildings with mentors/mentees meeting an hour a week. Their mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring. What started with 22 Lincoln middle school students has grown to 8,000 students in 140+ communities across four states. Pam Jeffrey, our district coordinator, is always looking for more mentors! If interested, please call 308-772-3242. It only takes an hour a week to positively impact a child forever!

Together We Transform Lives
TEAMMATESSM
MENTORING

SAFETY UPDATE

A critical part in school safety is classroom response to an incident at school. Garden County Schools has expanded their safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Fire, weather, accidents, intruders, and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP is based on these four actions: Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. Signs are posted in several areas and classrooms in each school building. SRP is a statewide movement for Nebraska schools so students and staff will have the same protocol and know how to respond in case of an event, regardless of where they are enrolled.

The safety committee has also implemented additional safety items in each building:

- the posting of room numbers on windows, used in the event of an intruder and the number of the room can be communicated to responders so they know the quickest route to respond from outside the building
- keeping classroom doors locked throughout the day
- additional security cameras
- improved PA systems

Student safety is a top priority for our district and we encourage parents and patrons to become familiar with the protocols.

There will be upcoming parent informational gatherings to better inform all involved. If you have any questions about safety procedures, please contact Paula Sissel, Jason Spady, or Michelle Dormann.



STANDARDTM RESPONSE PROTOCOL

STUDENT SAFETY

A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fire, accidents, intruders and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by students, teachers, staff and administration.

SRP

Our school is expanding the safety program to include the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). The SRP is based on these four actions. Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. In the event of an emergency, the action and appropriate direction will be called on the PA.

LOCKOUT - "Secure the Perimeter"

LOCKDOWN - "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

EVACUATE - "To the Announced Location"

SHELTER - "For a Hazard Using a Safety Strategy"

TRAINING

Please take a moment to review these actions. Students and staff will be trained and the school will drill these actions over the course of the school year.

More information can be found at <http://iloveguys.org>



LOCKOUT SECURE THE PERIMETER

Lockout is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

TEACHERS

- Recover students and staff from outside building
- Increased situational awareness
- Do business as usual
- Take roll, account for students



LOCKDOWN LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT

Lockdown is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building.

STUDENTS:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence

TEACHERS:

- Lock classroom door
- Lights out
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Wait for First Responders to open door
- Take roll, account for students



EVACUATE TO A LOCATION

Evacuate is called to move students and staff from one location to another.

STUDENTS:

- Bring your phone
- Leave your stuff behind
- Form a single file line
- Show your hands
- Be prepared for alternatives during response.

TEACHERS:

- Grab roll sheet if possible
- Lead students to Evacuation Location
- Take roll, account for students



SHELTER FOR A HAZARD USING SAFETY STRATEGY

Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary.

SAMPLE HAZARDS:

- Tornado
- Hazmat

SAMPLE SAFETY STRATEGIES:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room

STUDENTS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies

TEACHERS:

- Appropriate hazards and safety strategies
- Take roll, account for students

LOCAL BEEF IS SERVED TO OUR STUDENTS!

Area ranchers/farmers graciously donate to this worthy cause. Thus far, two patrons have generously participated: Van Newkirk Herefords and Rush Creek Land and Livestock Company. We are extremely grateful to these two donors. If you are interested in donating, please contact the school.



Rush Creek Land and
Livestock Company

