

Teaching & Learning Department

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW & STUDENT PERFORMANCE TRENDS

June 1, 2026



WESTSIDE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY • INNOVATION • EXCELLENCE

BALANCED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM: PURPOSE & RATIONALE

Westside's balanced assessment system measures student learning at different points, for different purposes, so educators can improve outcomes over time.

Our system includes:

- Classroom Assessment
- Screeners
- Interim/Growth Assessments
- Outcome Assessments

ASSESSMENT PLATFORM OVERVIEW

Grade Band	Reading & Math Assessment	Frequency	Purpose
K-2	FastBridge	3x Annually	Screening; Early Detection
3-8	MAP	3x Annually	Growth + Proficiency
9, 10	PreACT 8/9, PreACT	1x Annually	ACT predictor, College Readiness
11	ACT	2x Annually*	College Readiness, State Accountability
3-8, 11	NSCAS, NSCAS-Alt	1x Annually	State Accountability

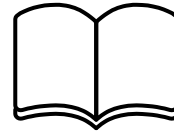
K-2 Assessment Overview

FastBridge Learning



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

FastBridge is a suite of assessments measuring basic literacy and math skills.

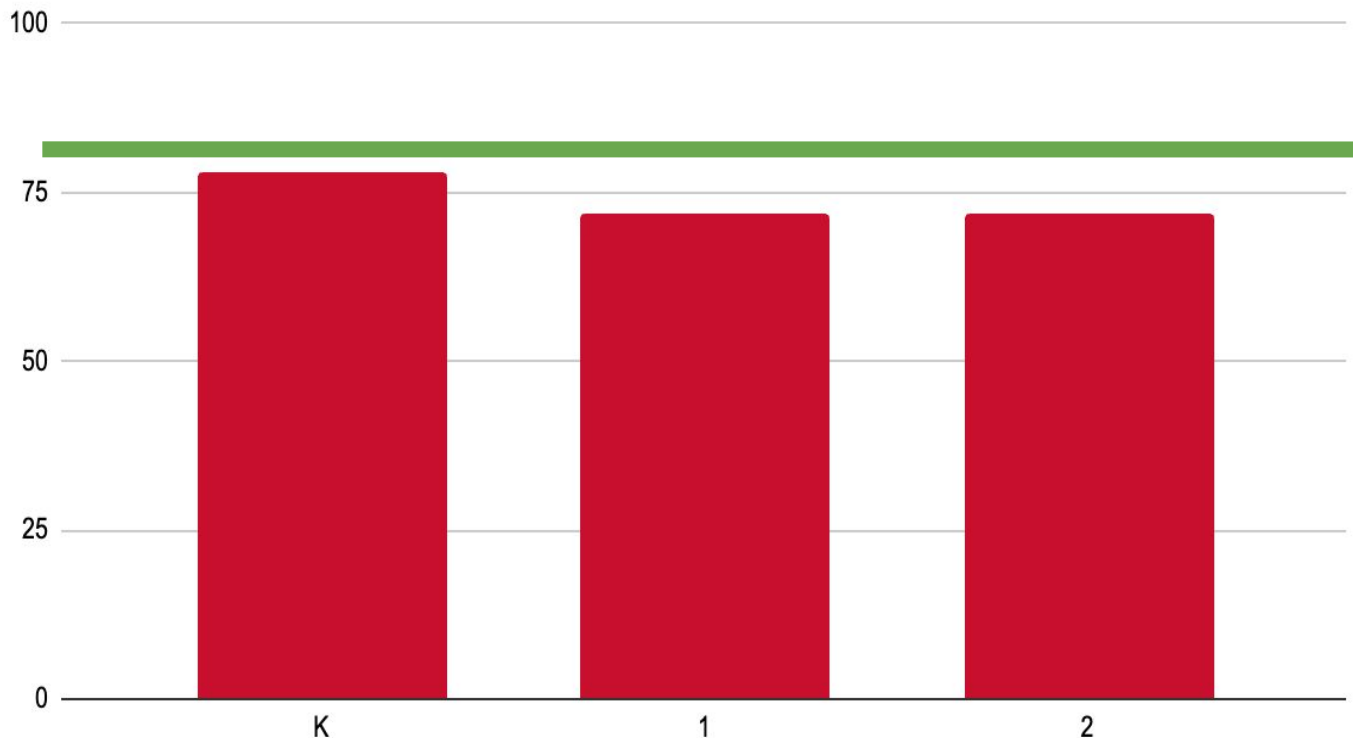


WHAT IT MEASURES:

- Concepts of print
- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Decoding
- Automaticity with basic math facts

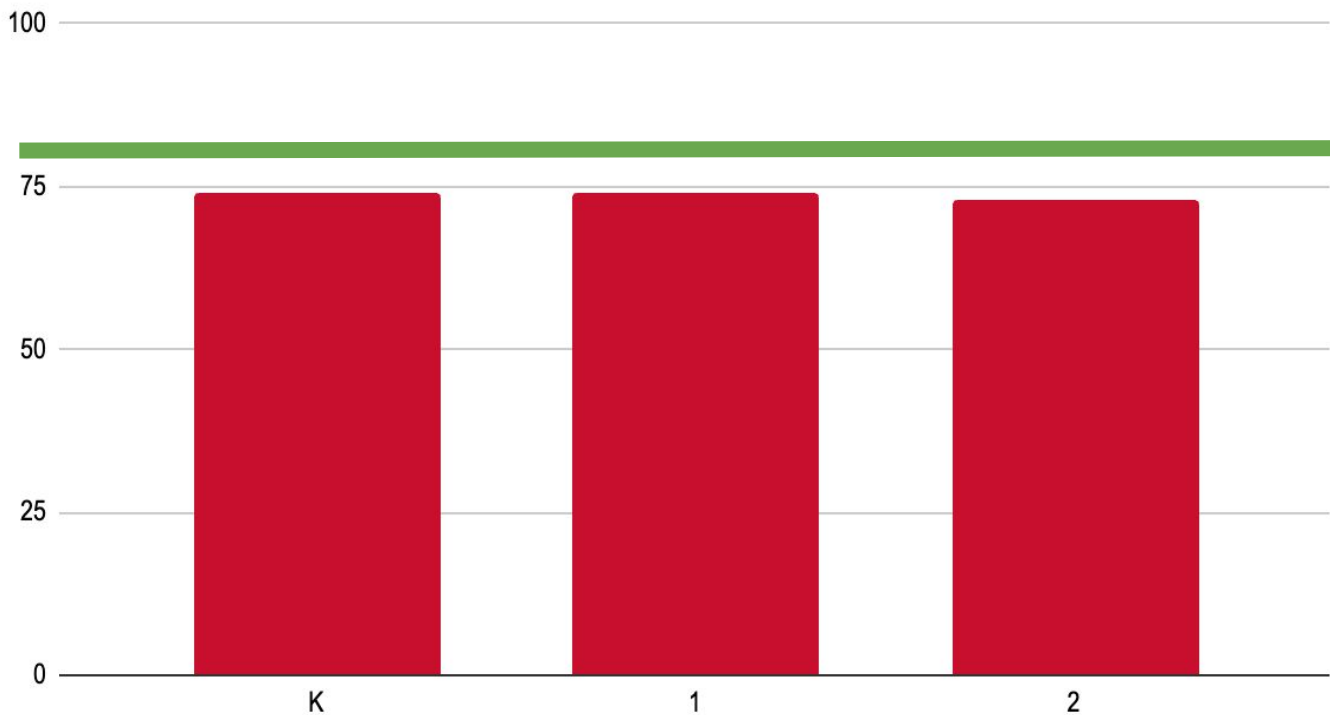
Student proficiency and growth is measured against established benchmarks to see how our learners compare to their peers.

FastBridge Early Reading & aReading SPRING 2026: % At or Above Benchmark



K-2 MATH PERFORMANCE

FastBridge Early Math & aMath SPRING 2026: % At or Above Benchmark



K-2 Fall to Spring: **Typical to Aggressive Growth**



Reading

K	✓
1	✓
2	✓



Math

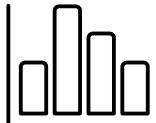
K	✓
1	
2	✓

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ★ Early literacy is a traditional strength in the district
- ★ Continued focus on both student growth AND achievement
- ★ Focus on student group performance
- ★ State requirement - DIBELS 8 screener starting with 2027-2028 school year

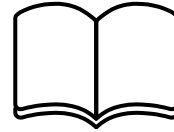
3-8 Assessment Overview

NWEA MAP



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

The NWEA MAP is an adaptive, nationally normed assessment that provides teachers with data to inform instructional practices.

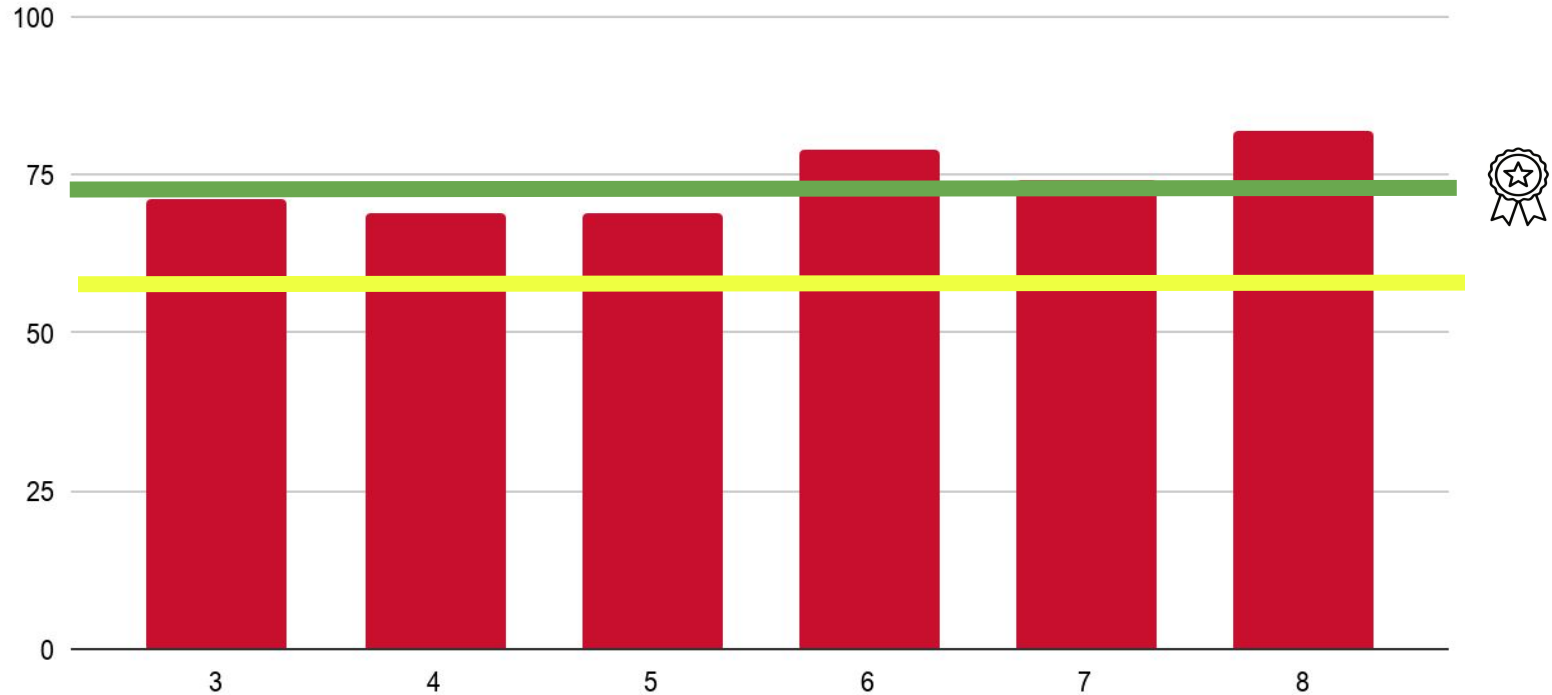


WHAT IT MEASURES:

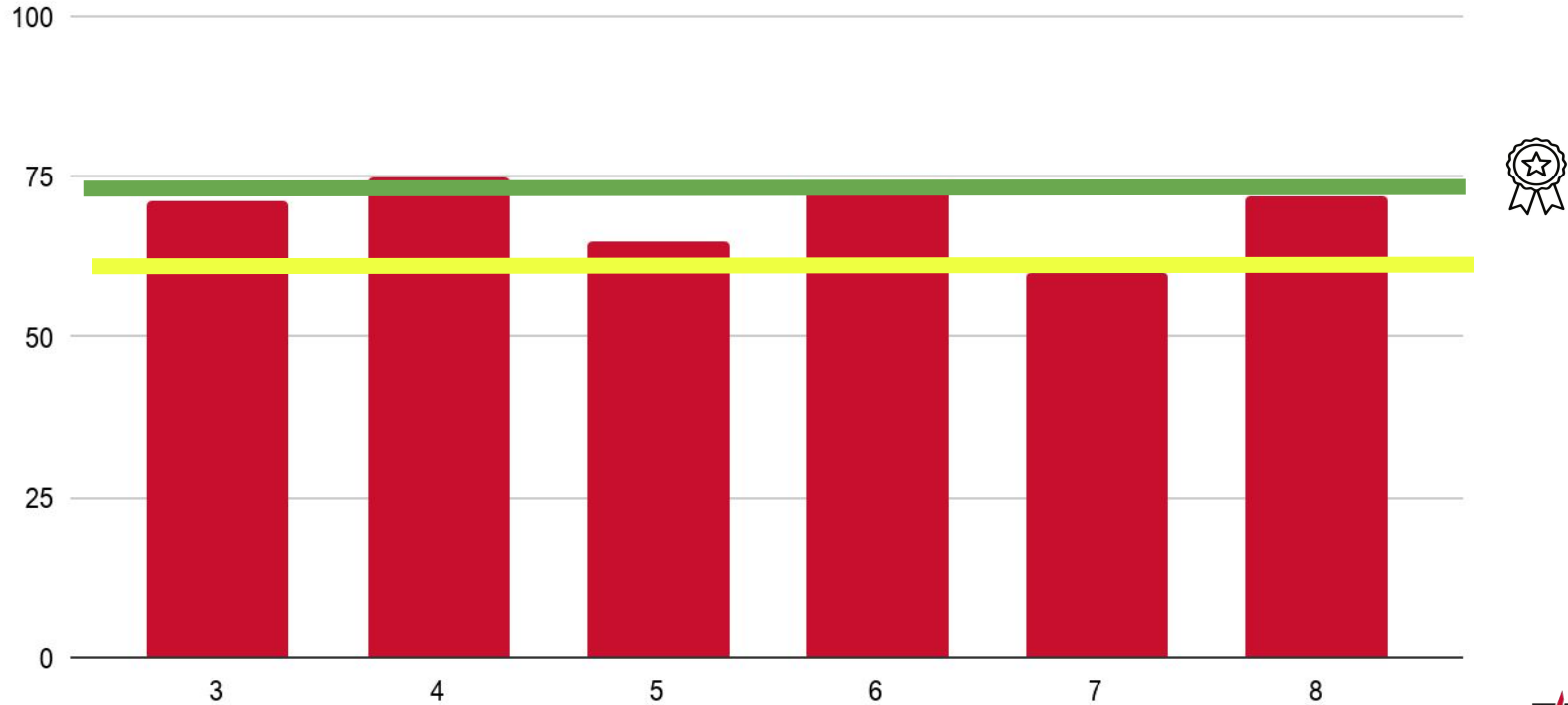
- Reading & Math Achievement and Growth
- NSCAS (State Accountability) Predictor

NWEA MAP provides information about how the student achievement and growth of our students compare to students across the nation.

3-8 READING ACHIEVEMENT: MAP % Projected Proficient



3-8 MATH ACHIEVEMENT: MAP % Projected Proficient



3-8 Fall to Spring: **Met or Exceeded Expected Growth**



Reading

3	✓
4	✓
5	✓
6	✓
7	
8	✓



Math

3	✓
4	✓
5	✓
6	✓
7	✓
8	✓



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ★ Achievement remains above state and national averages. Our standards are higher - but it's a common benchmark used by school districts.
- ★ Focus on growth maintains achievement at high levels
- ★ Traditionally we have seen higher performance in reading; math is catching up
- ★ Continuous improvement work focuses on instructional best practices and student group performance

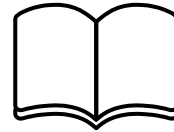
WHS Assessment Overview

PreACT 8/9, PreACT, ACT



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

The ACT family of assessments is designed to determine college readiness. Since 2017, the ACT has served as the state accountability test in Nebraska, meaning all but 1% of Nebraska students take it at least once. This increased the percentage of students taking the test by 30%. The state average ACT composite was 21.4 in 2016.



WHAT IT MEASURES:

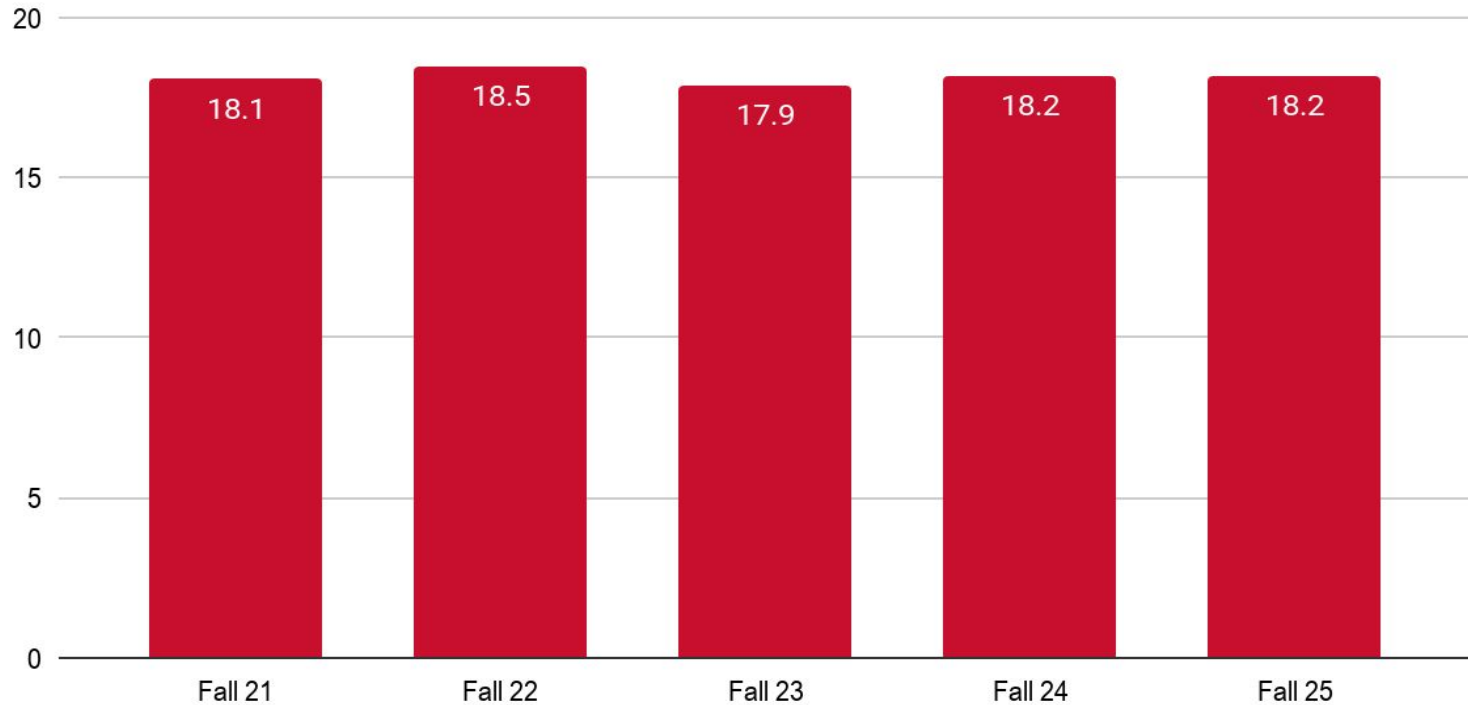
College readiness in the areas of English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.

Starting in the fall of 2025, only English, Math, and Reading scores are used in the composite (overall) score

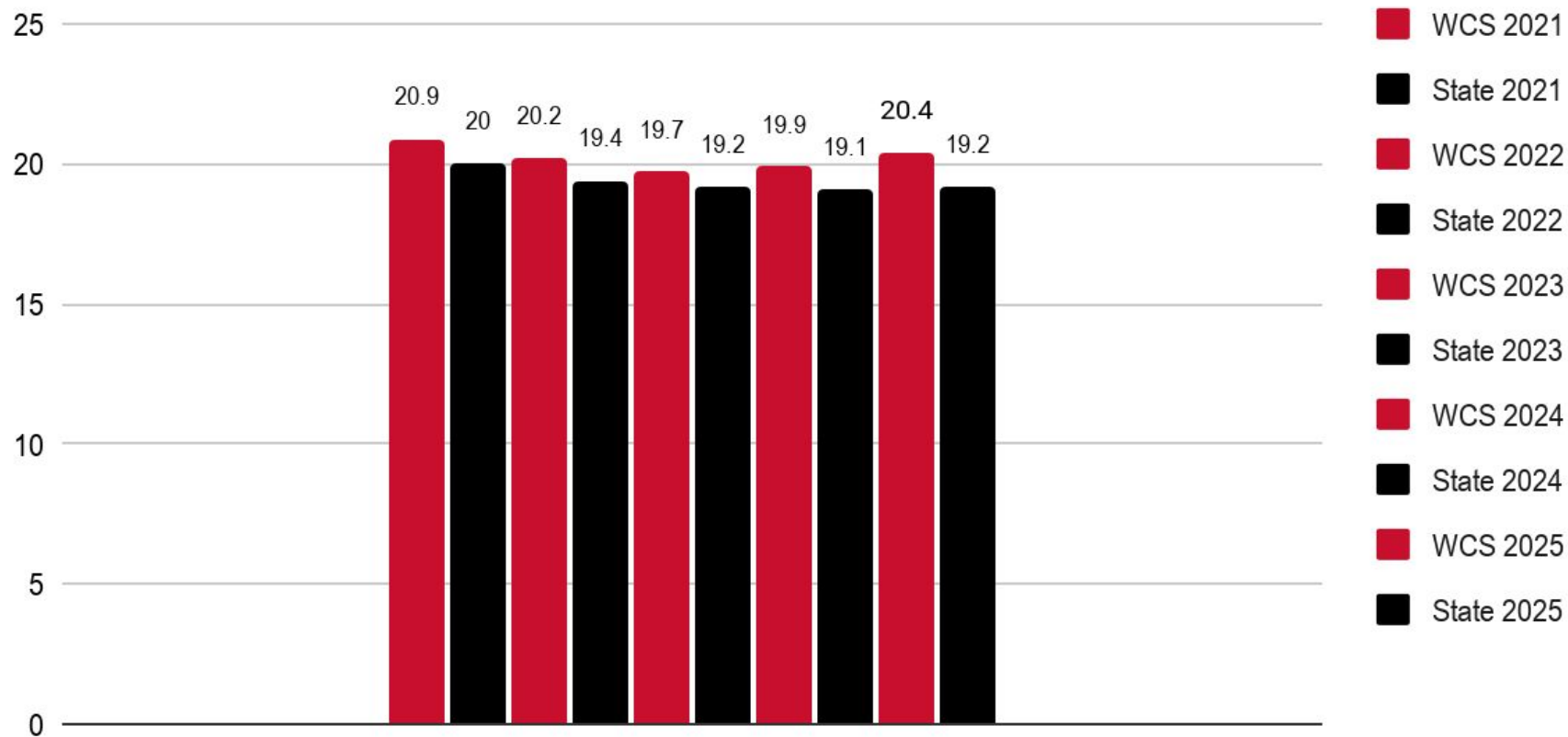
The “Graduating Class” composite score is the average of our students’ most recent score.



PreACT ACHIEVEMENT: 10th Grade Composite



ACT ACHIEVEMENT: Graduating Class Composite



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ★ Nebraska is one of 12 states testing 90%+ students in the state; only Wisconsin has a higher average composite score
- ★ The graduating class composite has increased each of the past three years at a rate faster than the state
- ★ Introducing a “Comprehensive Preparation Model” at WHS
 - PreACT 8/9 added in 25-26 (in addition to PreACT in 10th grade)
 - Classroom, online, plus in-person test prep opportunities at no cost to student
 - Three school day test opportunities w/ college reportable scores
- ★ Not including science in the composite score has a negative impact on composite scores for all schools
- ★ More students scoring 30+ now than ever; focus is on the students scoring <21
 - Student groups (e.g., special education, etc.)
 - Math

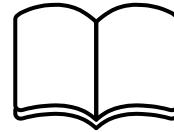
Statewide Assessment Overview

NSCAS



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

NSCAS is the state accountability test administered annually in the spring to students in grades 3-8 and 11. Tests are administered in ELA and Math to all students. Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 also take a science assessment.

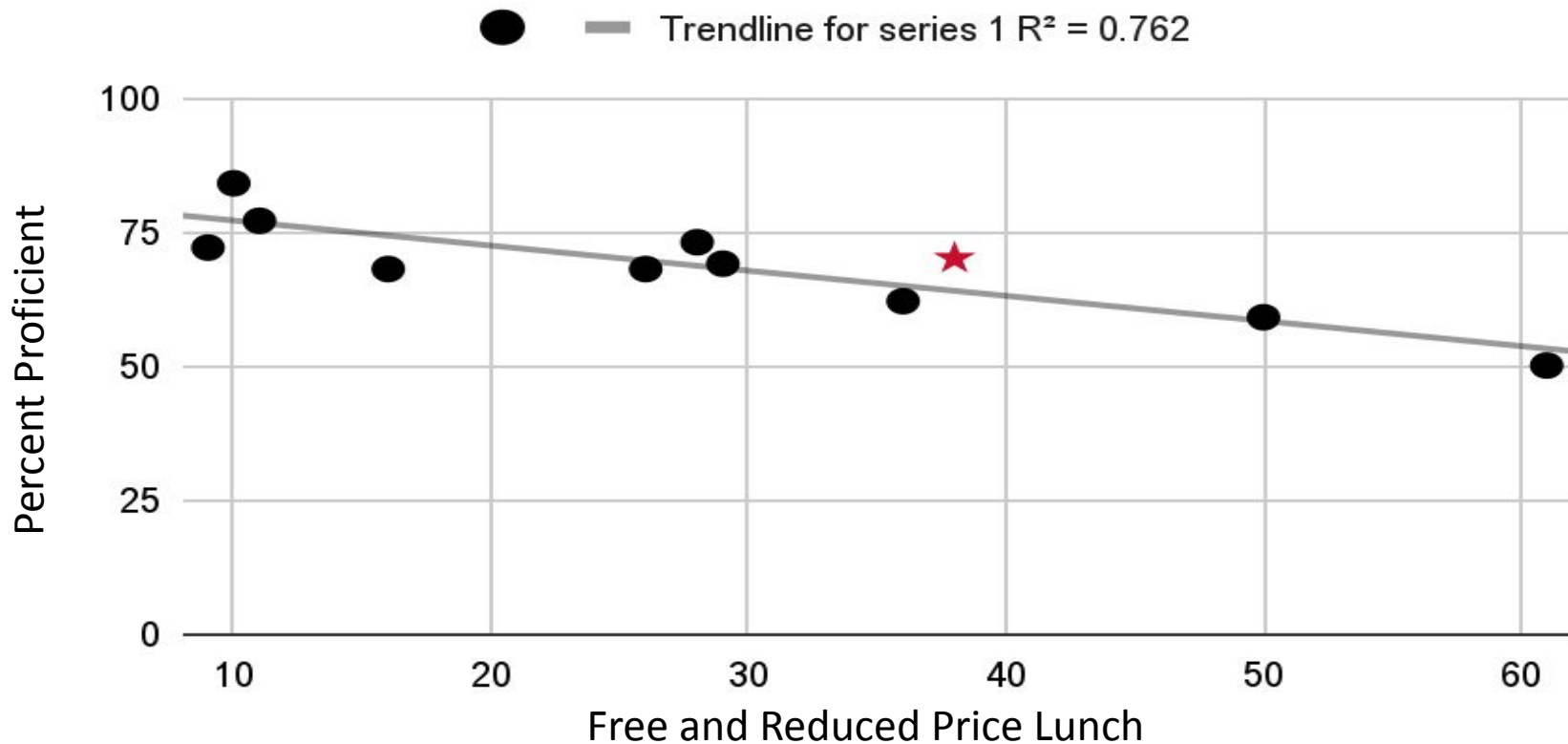


WHAT IT MEASURES:

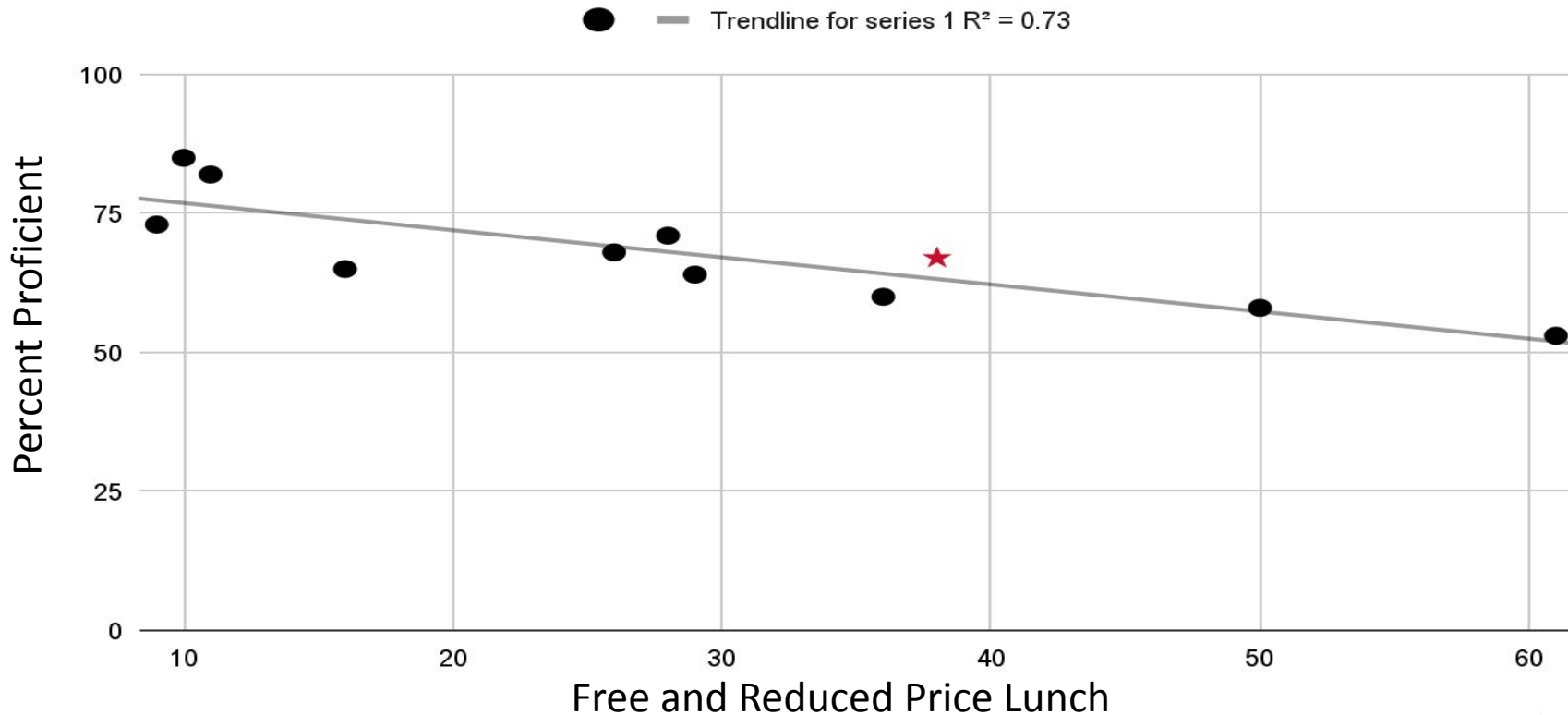
NSCAS measures proficiency on Nebraska State Standards. Students are placed into one of three achievement levels based on their spring summative test scores: Developing, On Track, and Advanced. The “percent proficient” is determined by adding the percentage of students at the “on track” and “advanced” levels.

An alternate form of the assessment - NSCAS Alternate - is available to no more than 1% of a school district's students with the most severe cognitive disabilities

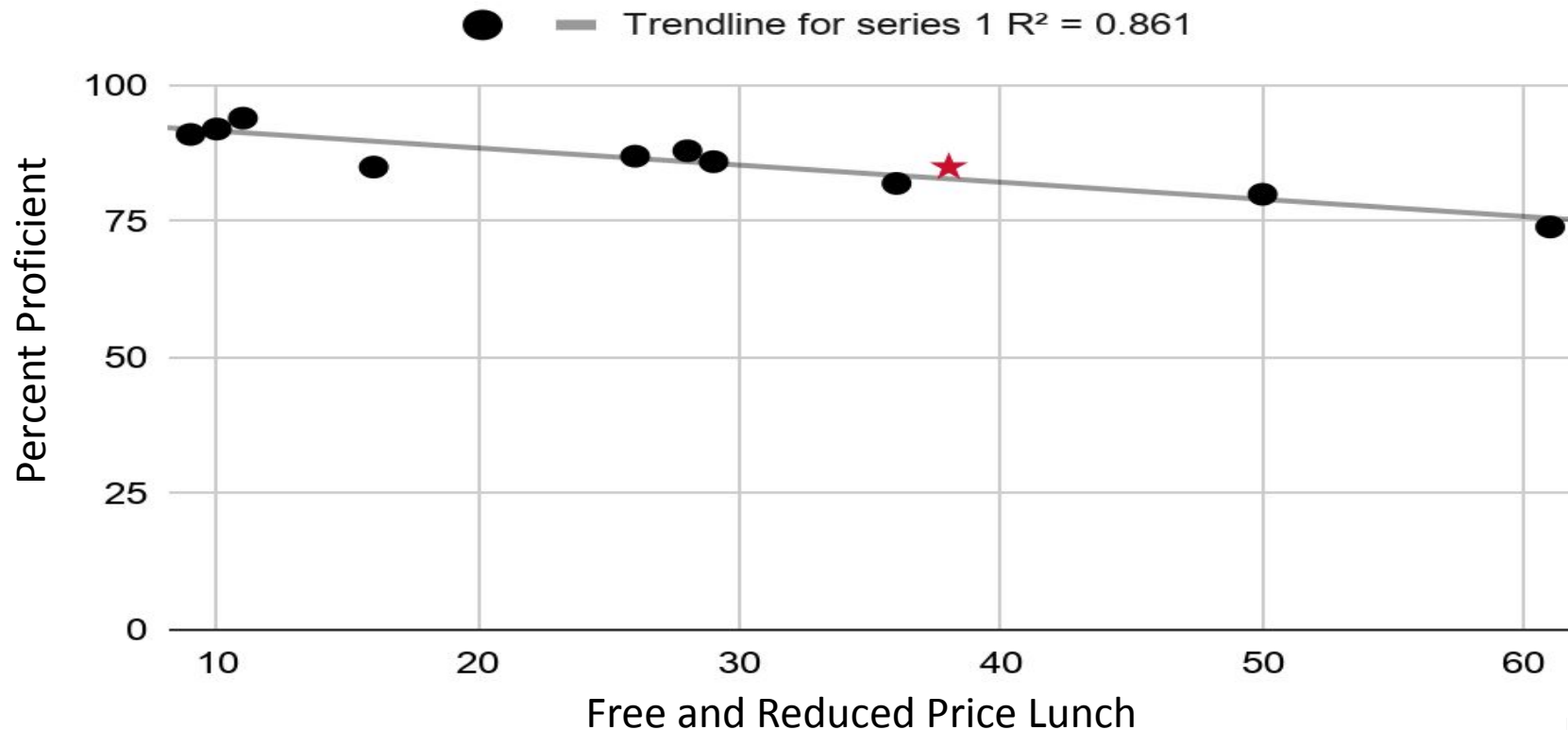
2025 NSCAS 3-8 ELA with Metro Lunch Status



2025 NSCAS 3-8 Math with Metro Lunch Status



2025 NSCAS 3-8 Science with Metro Lunch Status



ELA - YEARS IN DISTRICT RESULTS (2025)

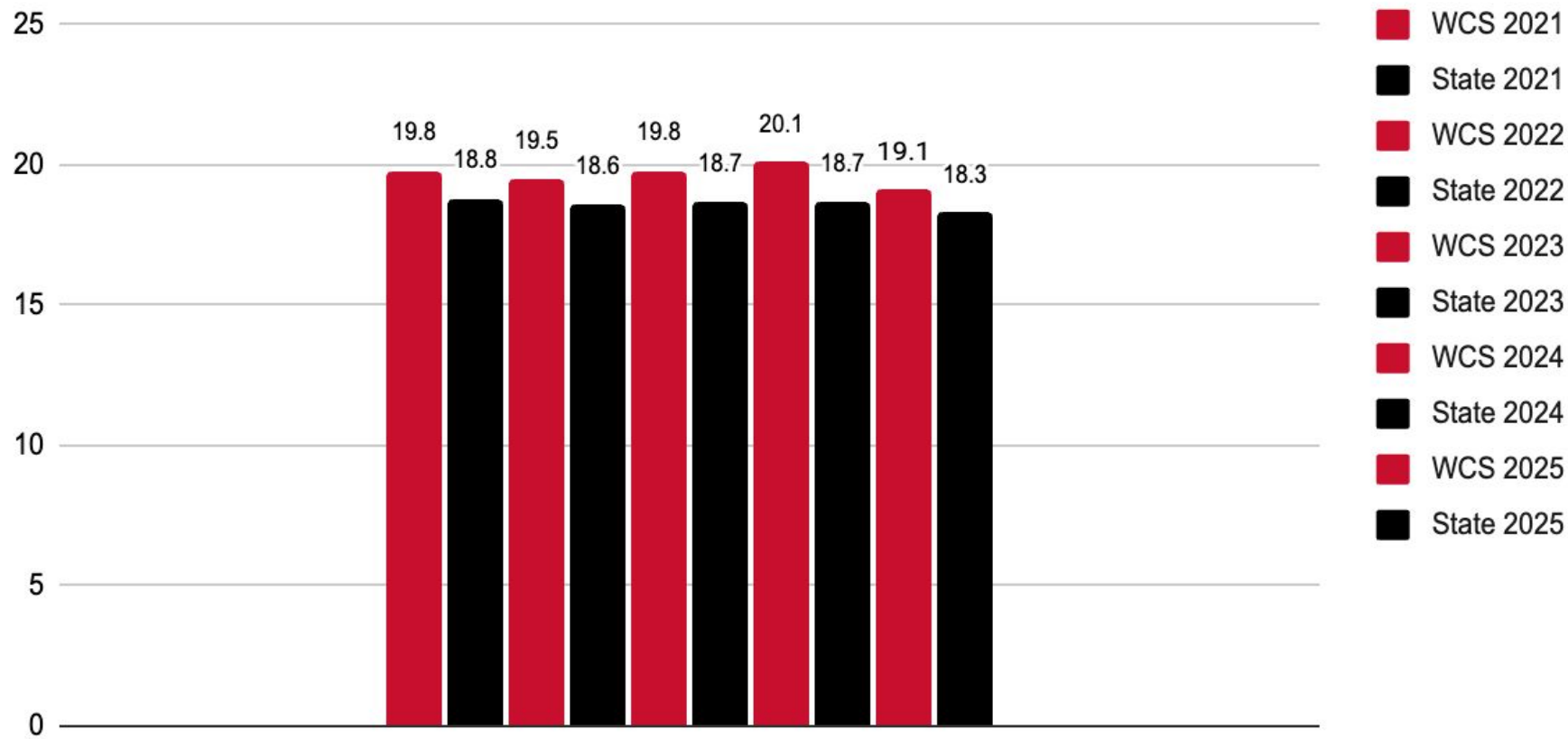
	Westside 2025	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3+ Years
3	65	38 ₍₃₂₎	59 ₍₁₇₀₎	73 ₍₂₈₁₎
4	68	61 ₍₃₆₎	54 ₍₈₀₎	73 ₍₃₀₈₎
5	69	48 ₍₃₃₎	53 ₍₆₂₎	74 ₍₃₇₀₎
6	69	54 ₍₅₀₎	59 ₍₉₈₎	74 ₍₃₃₇₎
7	73	60 ₍₆₆₎	68 ₍₇₁₎	78 ₍₃₃₅₎
8	74	45 ₍₂₉₎	66 ₍₉₄₎	80 ₍₃₄₇₎



MATH - YEARS IN DISTRICT RESULTS (2025)

	Westside 2025	0-1 Year	1-3 Years	3+ Years
3	66	44 ₍₃₂₎	58 ₍₁₇₀₎	75 ₍₂₈₁₎
4	67	47 ₍₃₆₎	61 ₍₈₀₎	71 ₍₃₀₈₎
5	64	30 ₍₃₃₎	50 ₍₆₂₎	70 ₍₃₇₀₎
6	69	50 ₍₅₀₎	58 ₍₉₈₎	75 ₍₃₃₇₎
7	64	56 ₍₆₆₎	51 ₍₇₁₎	70 ₍₃₃₅₎
8	72	50 ₍₂₉₎	60 ₍₉₄₎	79 ₍₃₄₇₎

2025 NSCAS High School: 3rd Year Cohort ACT Composite



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ★ Depending on changes to the state test or adoption of new state standards or cut scores, the “percent proficient” can change fairly drastically
- ★ One consistent measure is to look at the “positive distance” we have from state proficiency
- ★ Continuous improvement efforts are assisting in breaking the correlation between poverty and achievement
- ★ Continued work with student groups to raise overall achievement levels; comprehensive and “final push” efforts with the ACT

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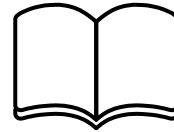
Advanced Placement

Select WHS Courses



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

Advanced Placement is a program created by the College Board providing college level curriculum and exams to high school students. Courses and exams are available in a variety of subject areas, from core subjects like English and math to elective areas like art and computer science



WHAT IT MEASURES:

Students may elect to take the College Board exam at the end of the year. Students earn a score of 1-5. Many universities will provide some form of credit for a score of “3” or higher.

Westside has 28 Advanced Placement offerings. Elkhorn South offers 16, Gretna offers 0, Millard North offers 26, Papillion LaVista South offers 17.

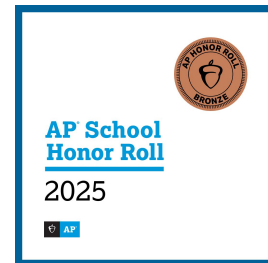
Advanced Placement (AP) at WHS: 2020 - 2025

YEAR	EXAMS TAKEN	% SCORING a 3 or HIGHER
2020	538	72%
2021	468	66%
2022	498	62%
2023	652	61%
2024	678	66%
2025	871	77%



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ★ Westside was one of only 6 public schools in Nebraska to be named to the AP Honor Roll in 2025, and the most socioeconomically diverse
- ★ We have expanded course offerings, registrations, exams taken, and the percentage of students earning a 3 or higher over the past three years
- ★ Some students take the AP course without taking the exam because of dual enrollment



Westside CIP: The Engine of Student Success



Driven by the Four-Step Cycle

Teams Identify needs, Analyze causes, Implement action plans, and Reflect/Evaluate results to ensure growth.



Team-based approach:
“building upon foundations”
to ensure every student
achieves excellence

Turning Data into Building-Level Action

Educators use the Data Workbook to track Academics (Reading/Math), SEBL, and Perceptual trends.



Collaborative Commitment, Not Just Compliance

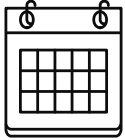
CIP is a shared responsibility where teams work together to refine instructional strategies and student supports.



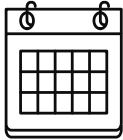
Equity: Demography is Not Destiny

The process ensures all students have access to supports that enhance their specific educational outcomes.

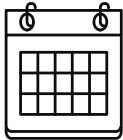
Moving Forward



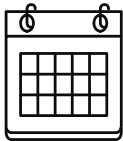
FALL: Student Benchmarking Data Update (FastBridge/MAP)



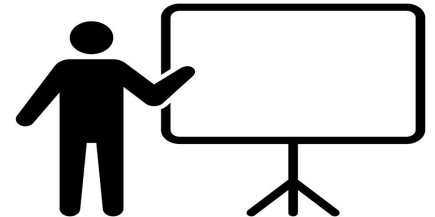
WINTER: State Summative Assessment (NSCAS & ACT) Update



SPRING: Student Benchmarking Data Update (FastBridge/MAP)



SUMMER: Annual Data Review





Questions? Thank you!