



ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

White Bear Lake Area Schools

*Leading minds to learning,
hearts to compassion
and lives to community service.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- GROWTH
- PROFICIENCY
- HIGH EXPECTATIONS
- PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE
- CURRICULUM

15 SCHOOL CLIMATE

16 TECHNOLOGY

17 FINANCE

18 DISTRICT PROFILE

18 SCHOOL BOARD

19 PARTNERSHIPS

The year in review

From the Superintendent

This annual report is a glimpse into one year in the life of the White Bear Lake Area Schools, from September 2008 to June 2009. We try to give you a sense of how our more than 8,200 students progressed during that school year, and how their progress compares with other school children around Minnesota and our nation. Finally, we describe opportunities and successes unique to White Bear Lake Area Schools.



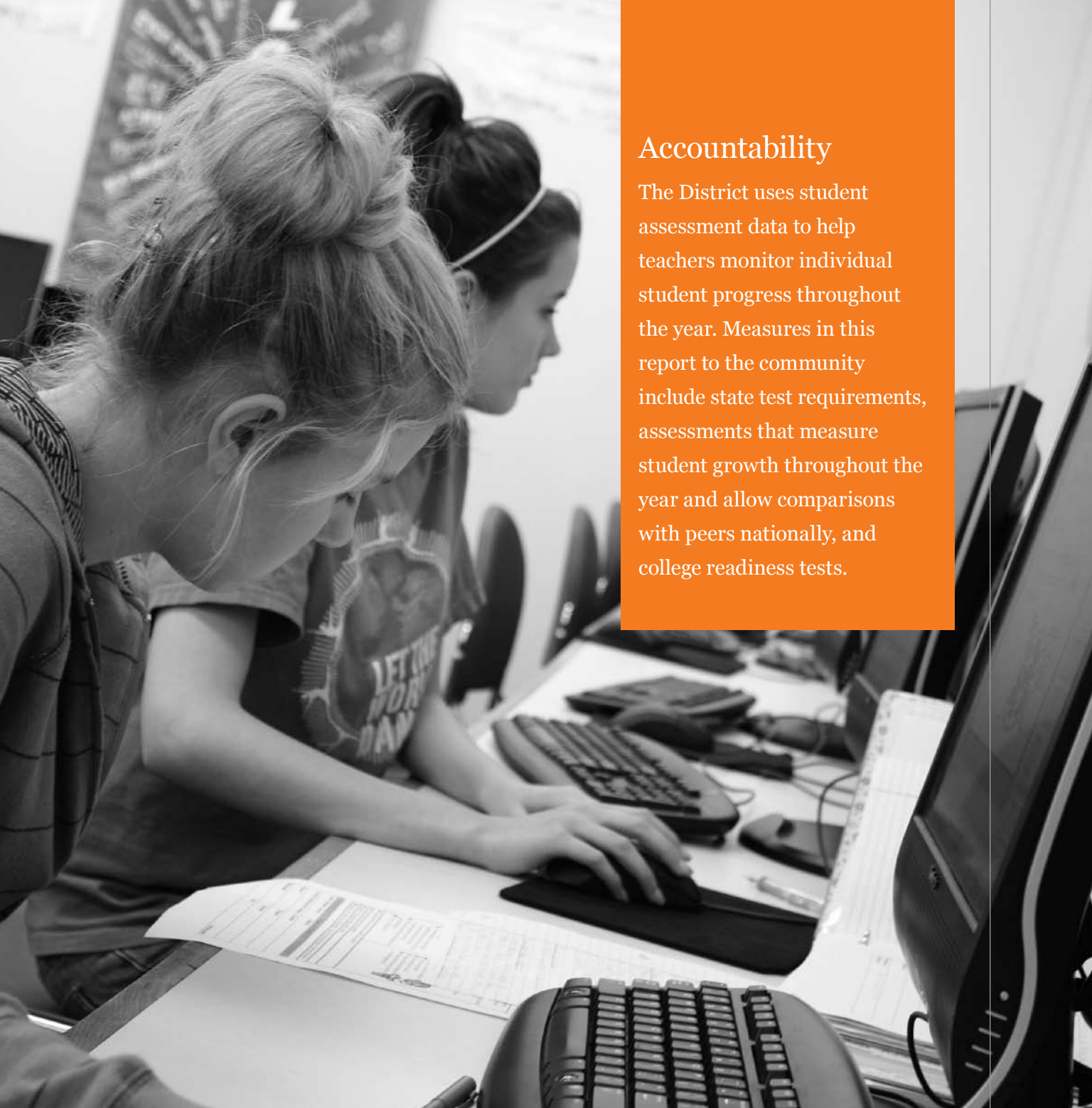
Photos throughout the report remind us that learning is also about an eagerness to come to school, to be among friends and to be with staff who care, challenge and encourage. The positive results you will read about reflect the partnership of committed staff, supportive parents and engaged students who make the decision to give their best every day.

There is much more, so please take the time to read on!

Michael Lovett
Superintendent of Schools

Highlights from 2008-09 include:

- Innovative new pre-school and early childhood classes were held at Normandy Park, Hugo Elementary and Tamarack Nature Center.
- In grades K-5, we saw exceptional student growth in reading and math at every level. We began our partnerships with the White Bear Center for the Arts and Tamarack Nature Center, and we expanded our partnership with MacPhail Center for Music.
- With our middle school students, we saw even more significant academic progress in reading and math. In addition, students enjoyed the opportunity to begin studying Spanish, French or German, as one new part of a restructured and enriched middle school curriculum.
- For students at the high school level, increasing numbers accepted the challenge of college credit classes, with the class of 2009 raising the bar for college credits taken, *Advanced Placement* honors received and taking advantage of the 22 separate college credit courses offered.
- At the district level, White Bear Lake Area Schools received a AA bond rating from Standard and Poor's - putting us in the top 12 of Minnesota's more than 300 school districts by receiving a rating of AA or higher. This affirms our community support for education and our stewardship of these important resources.



Accountability

The District uses student assessment data to help teachers monitor individual student progress throughout the year. Measures in this report to the community include state test requirements, assessments that measure student growth throughout the year and allow comparisons with peers nationally, and college readiness tests.

The White Bear Lake Area School District is committed to continuously improving instruction for all students and using the data to indicate where improvements should be made. This helps the District be accountable to each student and provides assurance that instruction is appropriate to each student's level of understanding while challenging him or her to reach even further.

Growth exceeds expectations

In some classrooms, students averaged more than two years of growth last year!



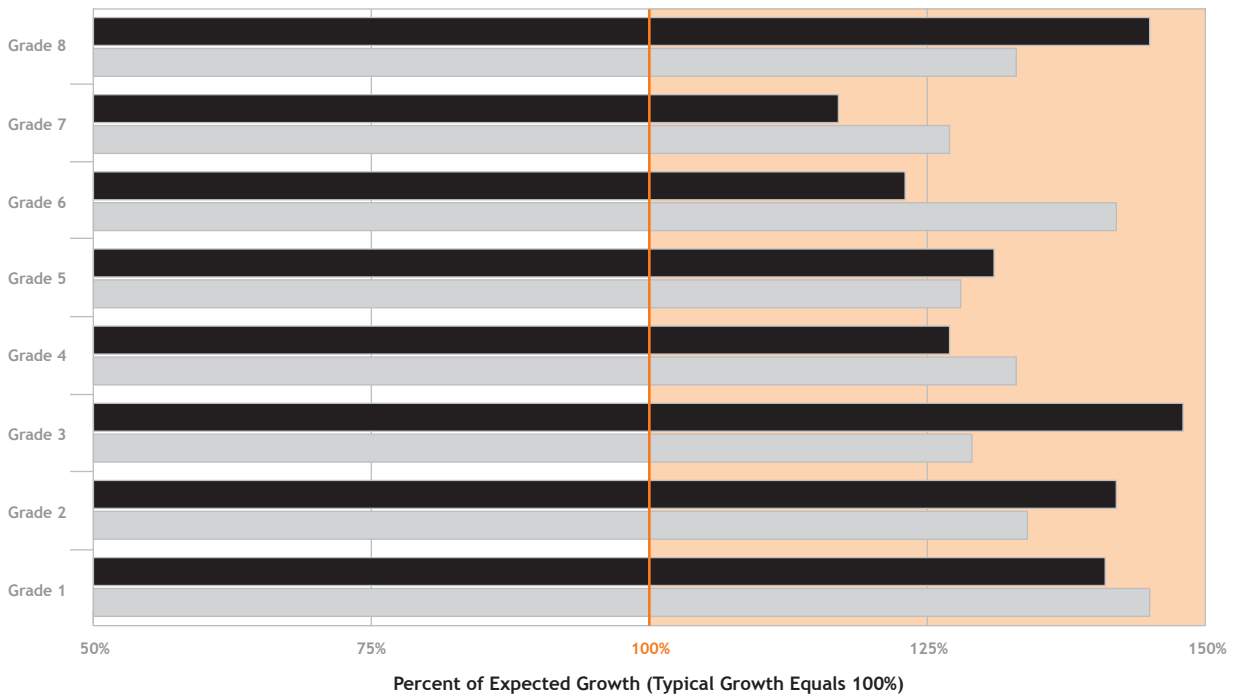
Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)

The White Bear Lake Area Schools (WBLAS) measures the academic growth of each student in grades one through eight with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test. These computerized tests are given in the fall and spring to monitor the progress of individual students on the District's curriculum and instruction. The tests enable teachers to individualize the curriculum to help students grow and learn.



■ Reading ■ Mathematics

MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP) 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR EXPECTED GROWTH



In both reading and math, students at all grade levels are showing more than one year of average growth in one year of school.







Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

Results of the MCA-II tests are used to set short- and long-term goals to improve student performance in the classroom and lay the groundwork for success after high school. The MCA-II test is Minnesota's state requirement for testing within the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.


The 2009 MCA-II results indicate that overall, WBLAS students continue to score above the state averages. The majority of students in the White Bear Lake Area Schools are meeting academic targets, even as the targets are increased each year by the state.

The District has begun work that focuses on intensifying support for subgroups of students who were identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

AYP SUBGROUP PROFICIENCY

	READING	MATH
All Students		
American Indian/ Alaskan Native		
Asian/Pacific Islander		
Hispanic		
Black, not of Hispanic origin		
White, not of Hispanic origin		
Limited English Proficiency		
Special Education		
Free/Reduced Price Lunch		

 = Met state proficiency level

 = Showed growth in 2008-09, but did not progress enough to meet rising AYP targets



All students are achieving

All subgroups in WBLAS met state proficiency levels in reading - a substantial accomplishment toward closing achievement gaps among different subgroups of students.

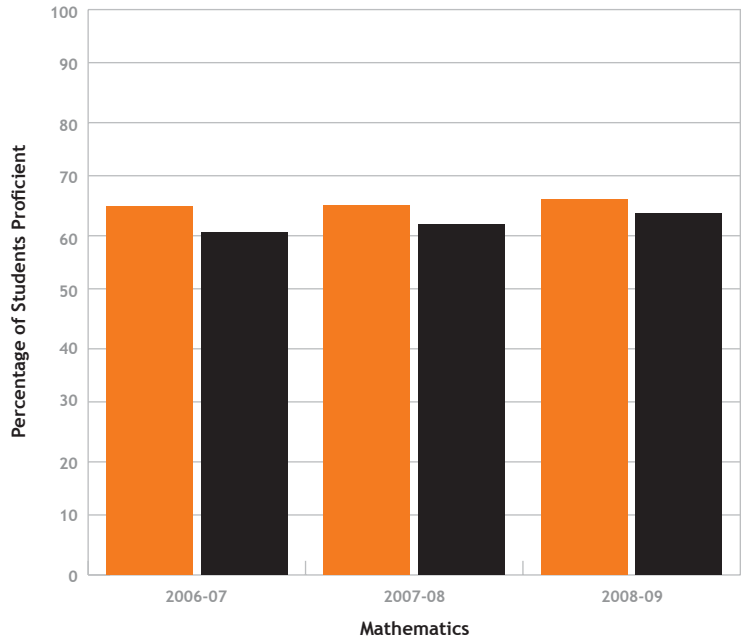
In six of the eight subgroups, WBLAS students met proficiency levels in both reading and math.

Outperforming the state

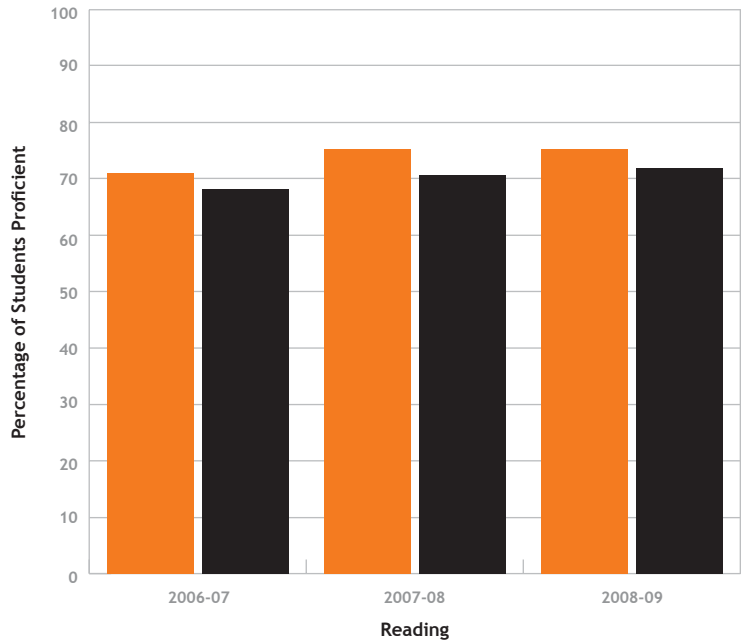
WBLAS students outperformed the state on the MCA-II in both reading and math.



■ WBLAS Students ■ State
MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS II (MCA-II)
MATHEMATICS



■ WBLAS Students ■ State
MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS II (MCA-II)
READING





Elementary

Elementary age students are offered a range of opportunities and support to meet their full potential.

- In grades 1-2, students are recommended for *Primary Challenge* based on exceptional performance in the classroom and a readiness for advanced learning. These students meet with a building resource teacher once a week for accelerated instruction in literacy and math.
- In grades 3-5, identified students receive gifted services through the *REACH Program* in the form of pullout classes, online learning opportunities, and independent projects. The *REACH Program* offers gifted students an advanced, rigorous curriculum integrated with technology and real world experiences.

Middle School

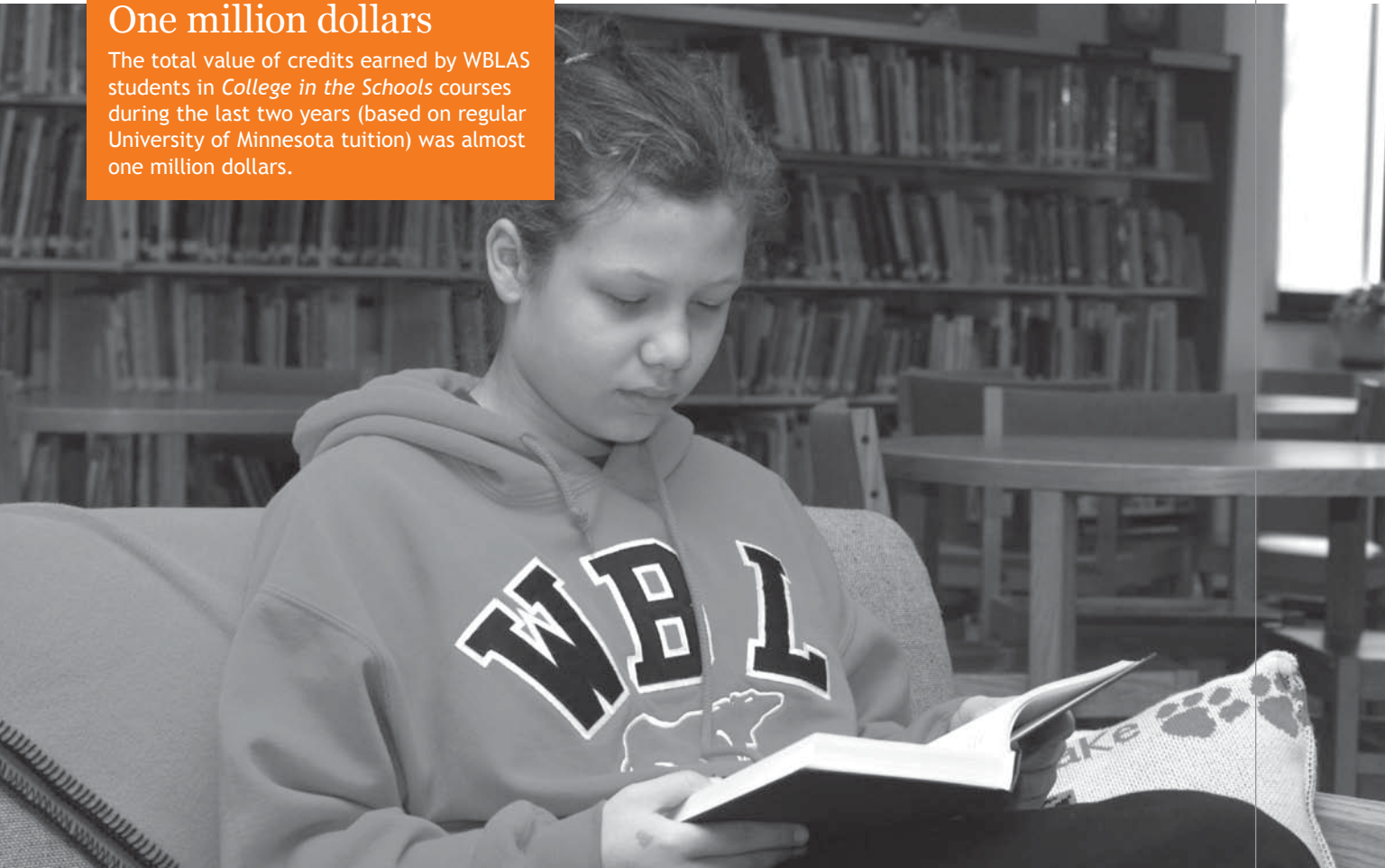
- Challenging classes are offered for all middle school students. Rigorous advanced classes are available in math, language arts, science and social studies.
- Students have the opportunity to take Spanish, French or German during each of their middle school years.

High School

- For the 2009-10 academic year, the District added initiatives to prepare all students for college.
- **Foreign languages** - White Bear Lake Area High School students can study up to six levels of Spanish, French and German. In addition to four levels of high school foreign language, students are offered two University of Minnesota *College in the Schools* foreign language classes. Three levels of American Sign Language also are now available.
- **College-level classes** - White Bear Lake Area High School offered a total of 22 college-level courses to students in 2008-09. This is the highest number of college course offerings in our area.
- Based on AYP data, the District's graduation rate is 97.2%, compared to a statewide rate of 91.6%. *The AYP graduation rate is determined by dividing the number of graduates by the total number of graduates and drops (number of students in grades 9-12 reported as having dropped and not found as re-enrolled anywhere in the state).*

One million dollars

The total value of credits earned by WBLAS students in *College in the Schools* courses during the last two years (based on regular University of Minnesota tuition) was almost one million dollars.



High Ranking

White Bear Lake Area Schools ranked number two in the state for *College in the Schools* (CIS) courses offered through the University of Minnesota for 2008-09. Nine CIS courses were available.

Section and state championship teams

- Boys cross country team - section champions
- Girls cross country team - section champions
- Bowling team - state champions
- Mock Trial team - region champions
- State Science and Engineering Fair - first place blue ribbon
- Archery team - national qualifiers
- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) - national qualifiers
- Girls basketball - section champions
- Boys track - section champions

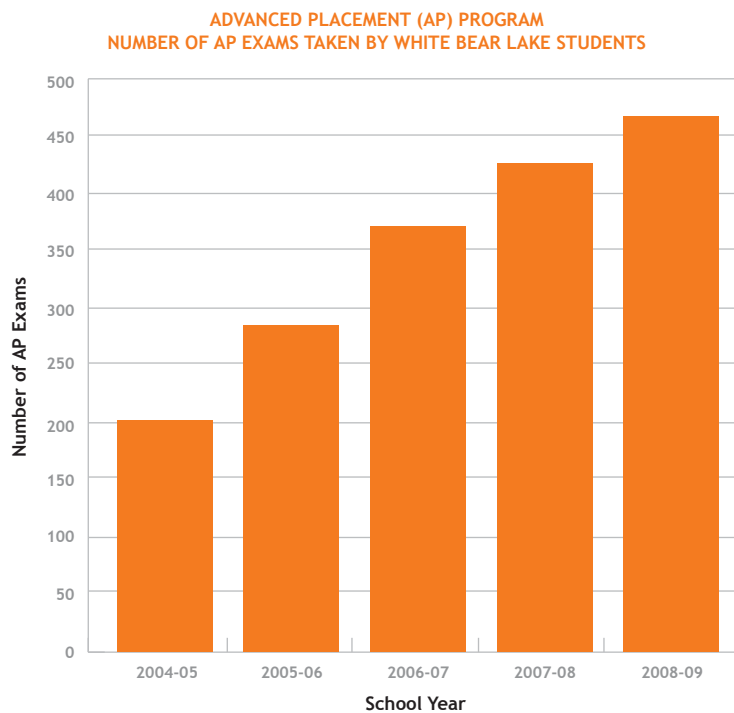


Advanced Placement (AP) Classes

The *Advanced Placement* (AP) program is a national program administered through the College Board that allows students the opportunity to pursue college-level classes while in high school. Qualifying test scores are accepted as credits earned by colleges and universities across the nation and internationally.

In 2008-09, 285 White Bear Lake Area High School student exams had scores of three or higher on AP tests, a score for which many colleges across the nation grant college credits.

There has been a positive trend in the number of students enrolled in *Advanced Placement* classes who are sitting for the AP exams: approximately 10% more students took AP exams in 2008-09 than in 2007-08.



College in the Schools (CIS)

College in the Schools classes are introductory-level college courses offered by the University of Minnesota. A total of 316 White Bear Lake Area High School juniors and seniors were enrolled in the program for the 2008-09 academic school year and earned a total of 1,356 University of Minnesota credits.

AVID Program

Planning is in place for the AVID (*Advancement via Individual Determination*) program which will offer rigorous instruction in academic “survival skills” and college-level skills to high school students.

42

The following 42 White Bear Lake Area Schools students were named 2009 AP Scholars.

AP Scholars

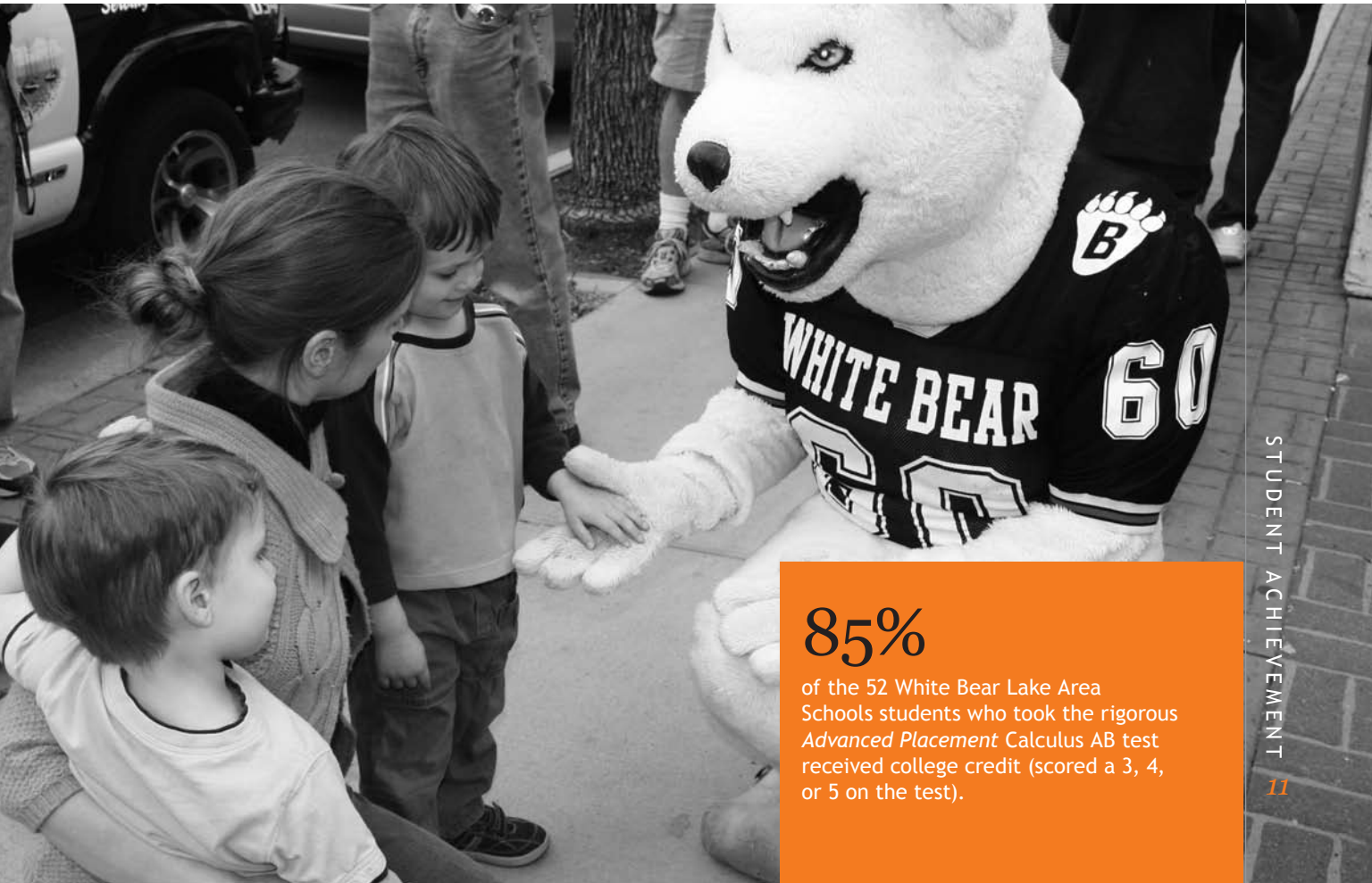
Evan Anderson
 Christian Barnard
 Mikaela Binsfeld
 Eric Chapin
 Joshua Cubstead
 Mariah Dorner
 Christofer Goldammer
 Ryan Heitkamp
 Matthew Hodsdon
 Ann Janneke
 Amy Moorhouse
 Shane Och
 Mitchell Powers
 Eric Reich
 Andrew Sanville
 Sam Schleisman
 Matthew Stang
 Finn Steffen
 Daniel Taylor
 Emily Vollbrecht
 Aliza Warwick
 Tyler Young

AP Scholars with Distinction

Andrew Bartling
 Benjamin Cammack
 Brett Gefre
 Zachariah Henseler
 McKenzie Kirkland
 Emma Phelps
 Alison Reed
 Nicholas Warren
 Joshua Woodruff

AP Scholars with Honors

Patrick Charbonneau
 Matthew Christie
 Ellen Duthoy
 Matthew Haechrel
 David Hartman
 Claire Heitkamp
 Charles Moertel
 Kaitlyn Waller
 Colleen Wood
 Joshua Worley
 Jiahua Wu



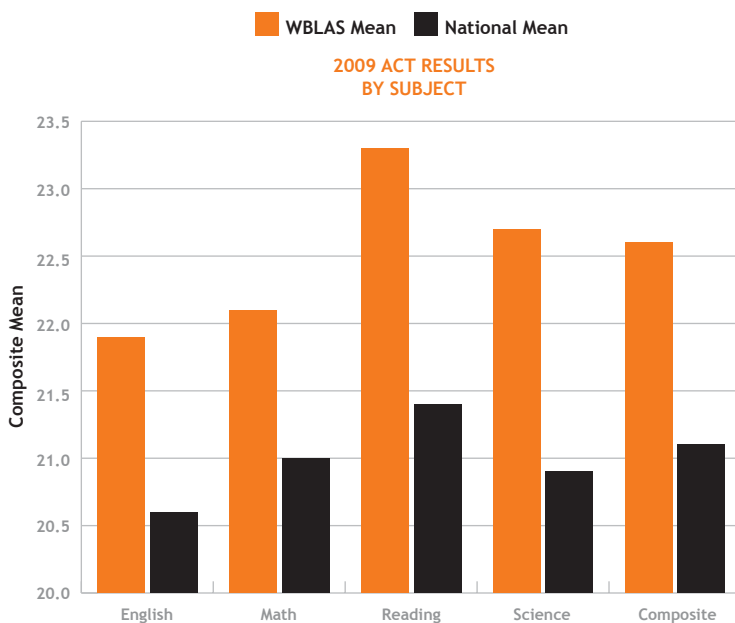
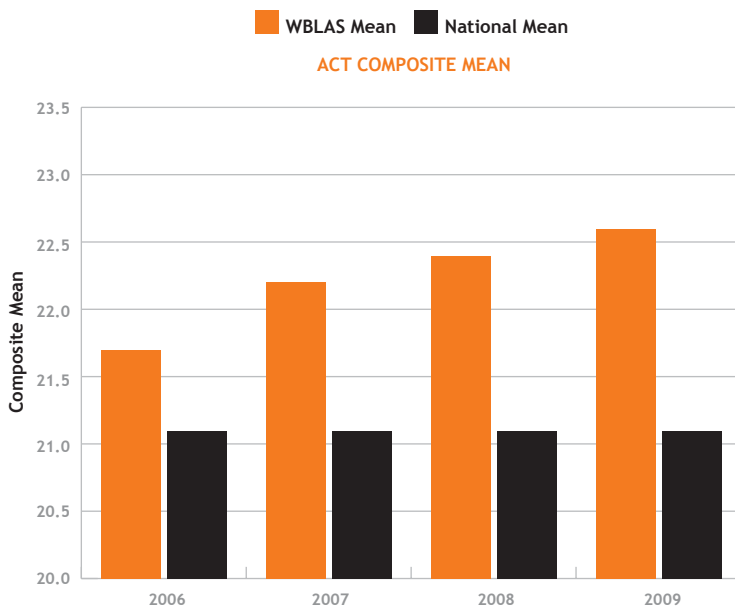
85%

of the 52 White Bear Lake Area Schools students who took the rigorous *Advanced Placement* Calculus AB test received college credit (scored a 3, 4, or 5 on the test).

ACT

The ACT is the most commonly taken college entrance test in Minnesota, required by most Minnesota colleges. White Bear Lake Area Schools encourages all students to take the ACT test.

There is a strong relationship between taking challenging courses, such as honors, AP and CIS classes, and increased scores on college entrance tests.



22

Our students had the opportunity to earn college credit in 22 courses at the high school. This is the highest number of college course offerings in our area.

9

Nine *College in the Schools* courses were available to White Bear Lake Area High School Students.

13

White Bear Lake Area High School students had the opportunity to take 13 *Advanced Placement* courses.



Special honors

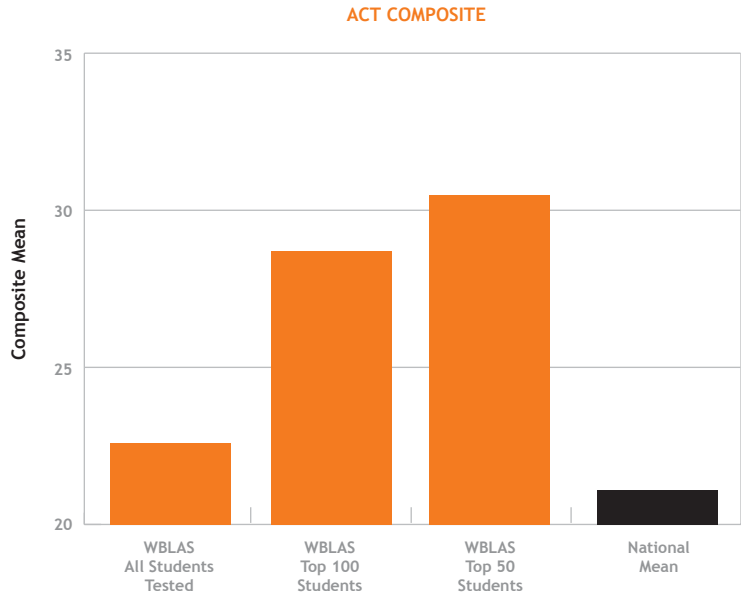
Willow Lane Elementary was named a 2008 National Blue Ribbon School.

WBLAS student Ellen Duthoy was one of only two Minnesota students to score a perfect 36 on the ACT Composite in October 2008.

WBLAS student Emily Brown earned third place in the National History Day competition in 2008-09.

National Merit Scholarship Competition

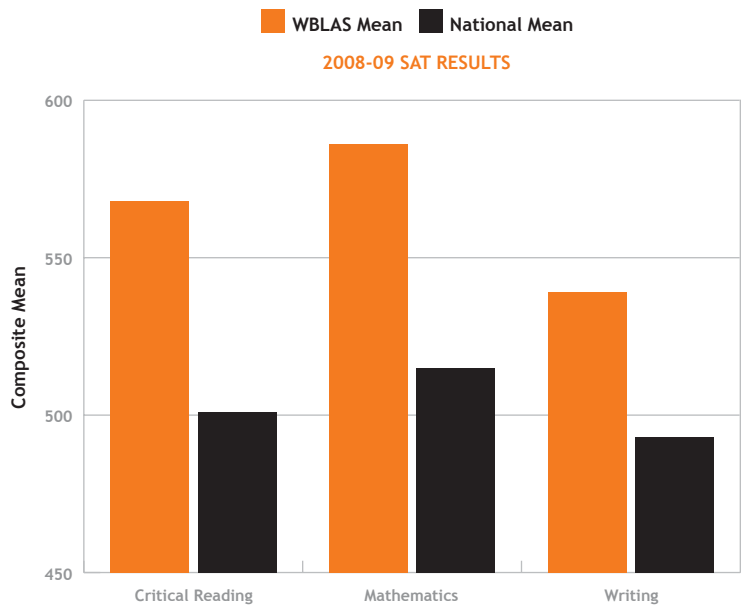
- Nine White Bear Lake Area Schools students were recognized for their outstanding academic promise.
- White Bear Lake Area High School student Ellen Duthoy was named a 2009 National Merit Scholarship Finalist.
- Brett Gefre was named a semi-finalist in the competition.
- Students Jonathan Dang, Matthew Haechrel, Emma Phelps, Kaitlyn Waller, Joshua Woodruff, Joshua Worley and Jiahua Wu were commended.



The mean ACT Composite for the top 50 WBLAS graduating students is 30.5. The mean ACT Composite for the top 100 WBLAS graduating students is 28.7. The national mean is 21.1. The range of scores is 0-36.

SAT

The SAT college entrance exam required by many nationally competitive colleges and universities is taken by fewer students in the District than the ACT. It is not generally required of colleges or universities in the Upper Midwest.



Curriculum

Throughout the 2008-09 school year, curriculum committees worked to plan new social studies and mathematics elementary curriculum to be implemented in the 2009-10 school year.

The Community Curriculum Advisory Committee (CCAC) serves to convey community beliefs and opinions as they relate to curriculum issues. The committee includes parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members who are interested in sharing information about the educational values and beliefs held in the White Bear Lake Area School District. Being a member of CCAC provides an opportunity to serve as a sounding board for the community, to gain knowledge about the District's curriculum and its development, and to positively influence change within each curriculum area based on knowledge, research and community needs.



2008-09 COMMUNITY CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC) MEMBERS

Member Name	Term Ends	Representing
Jill Becker	2010-2011	Parents
Beth Brisch	2010-2011	Parents
Linda Gondringer	2010-2012	Parents
Debbie Keller	2010-2011	Parents
George Kimball	2009-2010	School Board
Laura Mittelbrun	2010-2011	Parents
Jenny Nadeau	2010-2011	Community
Janet Newberg	2010-2011	School Board
Jan Peterson-Bjostad	2009-2010	Parents
Lori Roth	2010-2011	Parents
Nancy Roth	2010-2011	Business
Dawn & Jim Segermark	2009-2010	Parents
Cathy Soloman	2009-2010	Parents
Cathy Storey	2009-2010	School Board
Sheila Sullivan	2010-2011	Parents
Nancy Thom	2009-2010	Parents



2008-09 COMMUNITY CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC) STAFF

DISTRICT STAFF	
Madelyne Benson	Assessment Coordinator
Gretchen Harriman	Curriculum Specialist
Barb Kearn	Principal
David Law	Principal
Dr. Michael Lovett	Superintendent
Ann Malwitz	Staff Development Coordinator
Cynthia Moore	Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Becky Peterson	Learning Skills Specialist/Associate Principal
Marisa Vette	Communications Coordinator
Kate Whelan	Teacher





Smaller Class Sizes

Passage of the levy in fall 2007 allowed the District to reduce class sizes in each grade for the 2008-09 academic year. Programmatic improvements for the 2009-10 school year also included lower class sizes; kindergarten class sizes average 18 students per classroom.

Extended School Day

The District studied several programmatic improvements during the 2008-09 school year, including extending learning opportunities and in-class time.

- Due to the six period day schedule implemented in the fall of 2009, high school students spend 23% more time in each course and an additional 483 hours throughout four years in the core content areas.
- High school students are able to take zero hour, after school classes and online learning offerings.
- The length of both the elementary and middle school days were increased to extend learning time for students.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant

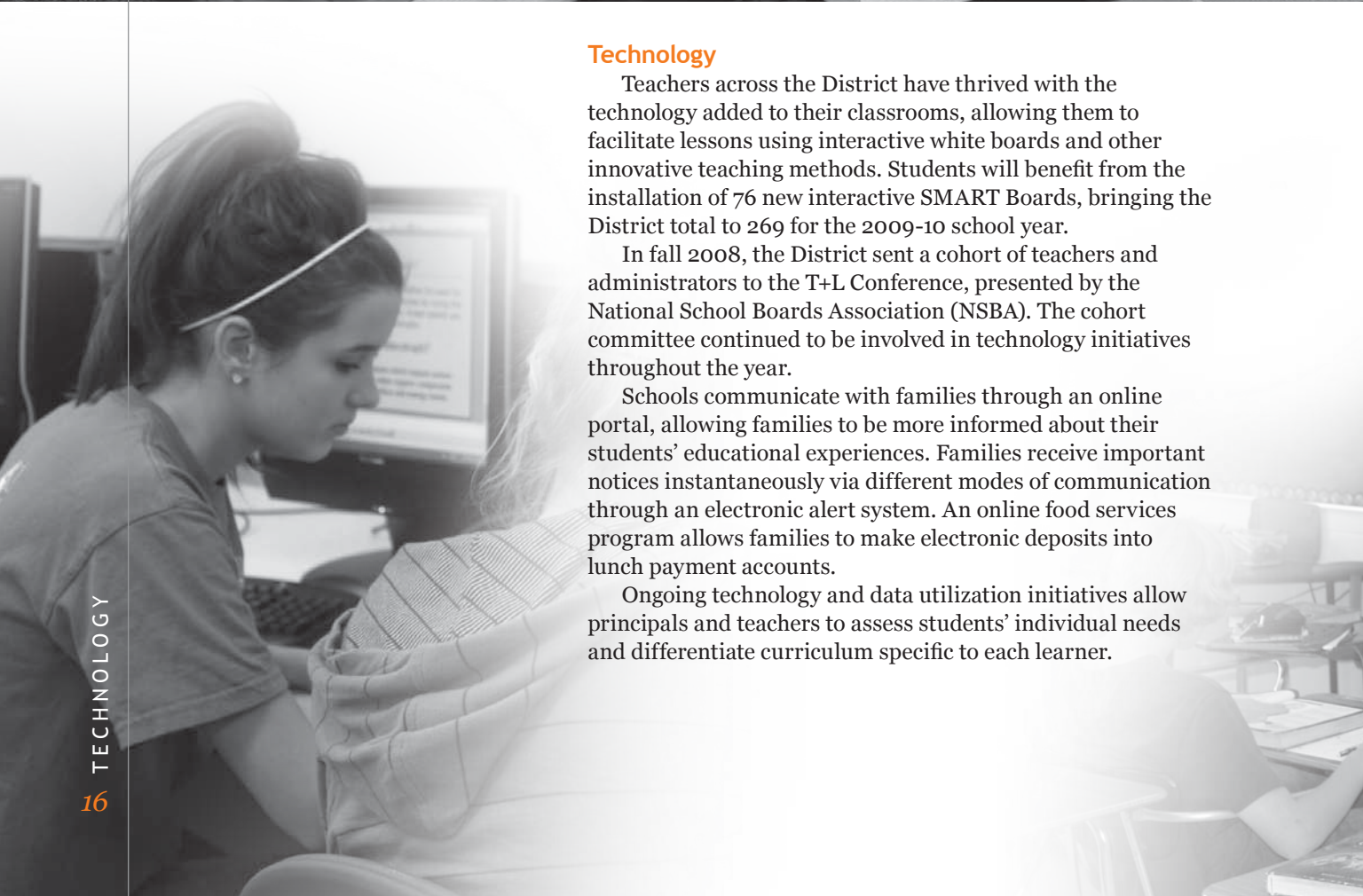
The White Bear Lake Area School District was awarded a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant through a Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative initiative. The grant provides nearly \$5 million total through four years. Initiatives to be funded by the grant include support and assistance programs and training, implementation of additional security measures, and crime and violence reduction and risk prevention.

Transition Support for Students

- **WEB Program** - In 2008-09, Sunrise Park Middle School eighth graders served as mentors to incoming sixth grade students through the school's WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program. The program expanded to include Central Middle School during the 2009-10 school year.
- **C.A.M.P.** - In the spring of 2009, members of the White Bear Lake Area High School Student Council initiated a Cross-Aged Mentoring Program (C.A.M.P). The project, created to welcome ninth grade students to North Campus and eleventh grade students to South Campus, was implemented successfully during the fall of 2009.



Technology



Teachers across the District have thrived with the technology added to their classrooms, allowing them to facilitate lessons using interactive white boards and other innovative teaching methods. Students will benefit from the installation of 76 new interactive SMART Boards, bringing the District total to 269 for the 2009-10 school year.

In fall 2008, the District sent a cohort of teachers and administrators to the T+L Conference, presented by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). The cohort committee continued to be involved in technology initiatives throughout the year.

Schools communicate with families through an online portal, allowing families to be more informed about their students' educational experiences. Families receive important notices instantaneously via different modes of communication through an electronic alert system. An online food services program allows families to make electronic deposits into lunch payment accounts.

Ongoing technology and data utilization initiatives allow principals and teachers to assess students' individual needs and differentiate curriculum specific to each learner.

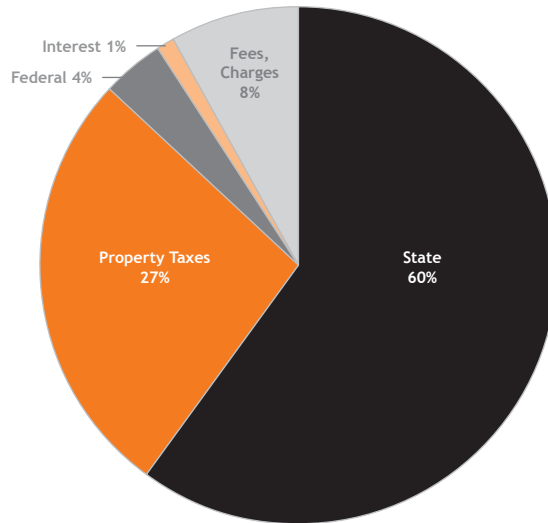
Technology Grants

- **Ingenuity Grants** – The 3M Corporation awarded District staff members with grants to add new technologies to their classrooms.
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Grants** – The H.B. Fuller Company Foundation awarded STEM Mini-Grants totaling nearly \$18,000 to five District teachers from Central and Sunrise Park Middle Schools. The grants were used to provide materials to support classroom instruction and student work.
- **Project Lead the Way** – The District was awarded a grant of \$60,000 to be distributed over a three year period to support implementation of *Project Lead the Way*. The project will introduce and prepare middle and high school students for engineering and technical careers through partnerships with institutions of higher education and the private sector. The District is completing the certification process and could be eligible by the end of the 2009-10 school year to grant students college credit.
- **SMART Board Grants** – The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation presented the District with \$65,000 to fund the purchase of SMART Boards for classrooms.

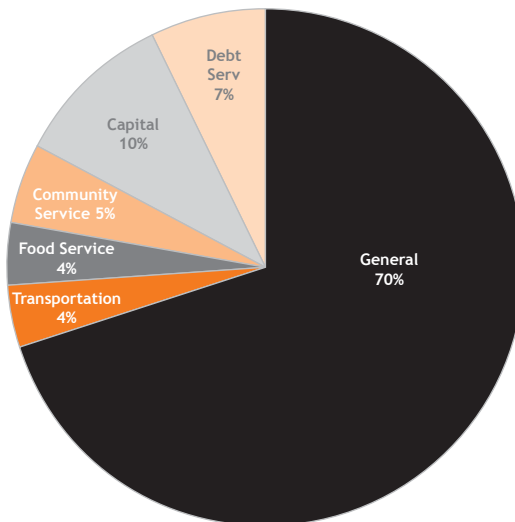
Financial Management

To help the District meet its educational goals, the White Bear Lake Area Schools remains committed to fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget to ensure that maximum resources reach our classrooms.

2008-09 REVENUE ANALYSIS BY SOURCE



2008-09 EXPENSE ANALYSIS BY FUND

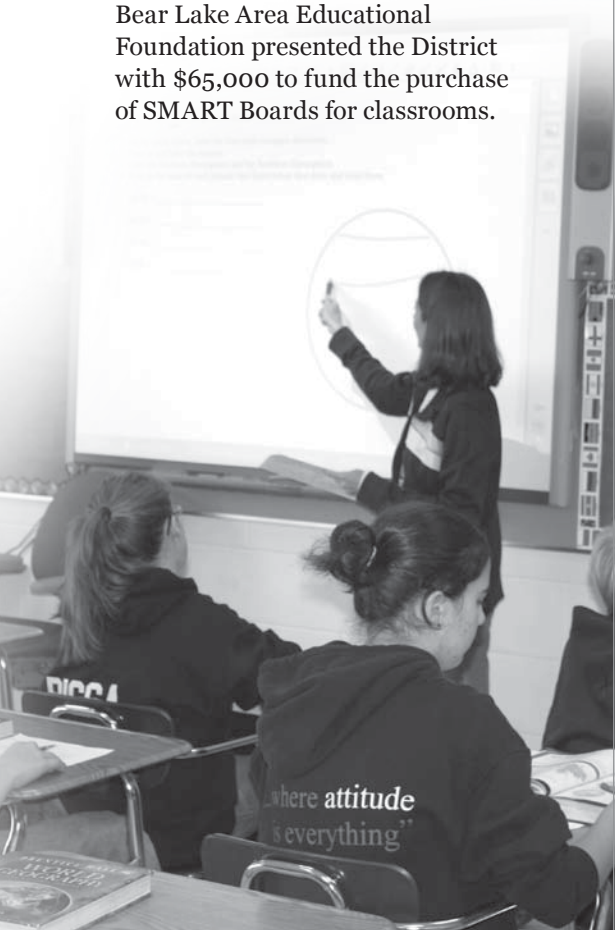


Nine consecutive years

WBLAS is the only Minnesota school district to receive Excellence in Financial Reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and the Government Finance Officer's Association. These are the highest forms of recognition in this area.

AA Bond rating

The District received a AA bond rating from Standard and Poor's. WBLAS is one of only 12 school districts in Minnesota to receive a rating of AA or higher.

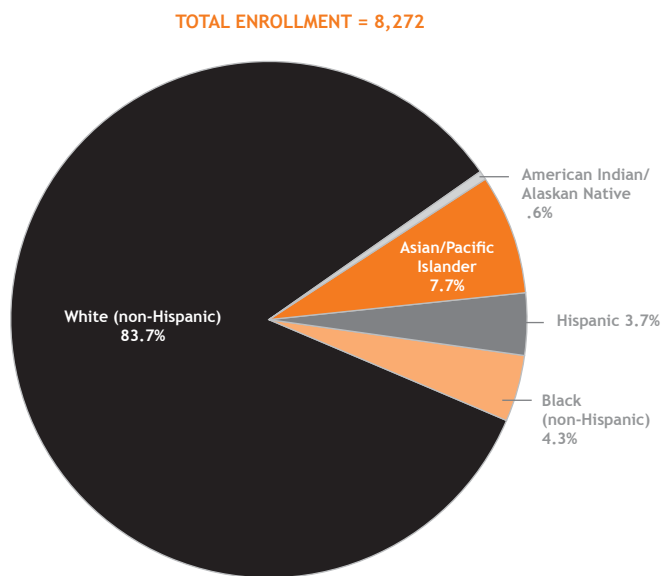


Student Enrollment

Elementary (Grades K-5)	3650
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1837
High School (Grades 9-12)	2743
Transition Plus (Special Ed, ages 18-21)	42
DISTRICT TOTAL	8272

Student Demographic Information

Throughout the last decade the District has seen greater racial and economic diversity; nearly 28% of WBLAS students qualify for free and reduced lunch, and 4.3% are English-Language Learners.



Staff Profile

	WBLAS	State
Teachers with Master's Degrees	65%	50%
Teachers with fewer than three years experience	2%	5%
Teachers with more than 10 years experience	63%	62%
Teachers meeting federal "Highly Qualified" requirements	100%	98%

School Board Members

Gregg Larson, Chair
 Lori Swanson, Vice Chair
 Chris Hiniker, Treasurer
 Cathy Storey, Clerk
 George Kimball
 Janet Newberg
 Rolf Parsons

Mission

District 624 strives to provide a high-quality educational experience for all learners. To accomplish our mission we believe that a high-quality educational experience must:

- be in partnership with the community;
- take place in a safe, supportive and challenging environment;
- develop lifelong learners;
- allow each learner to reach full potential; and
- encourage each learner to be a contributing member of a global society.

Goals

- **Student Achievement** - We will be a district whose students are prepared for the challenges of a complex and diverse world.
- **Staff Excellence** - We will be a district that recruits, retains and values exemplary staff in all areas.
- **Resource Management** - We will be a district committed to fiscal responsibility and efficient use of all its resources.
- **Leadership** - We will be a district that models excellence in governance and meaningfully involves the community in the work of the district.

Core Values

The White Bear Lake Area School District builds quality lives and strong communities through compassion, integrity, respect, responsibility and service.

Improvement Plans

Each school completes an annual Building Improvement Plan, providing a clear focus for the utilization of both building resources and District support. To view individual school improvement plans, contact the building administrator.

In planning and delivering professional development opportunities for staff members, the District aligns such programs with the District goals. Opportunities also are based on current student data and best practice educational research.



Partnerships

The White Bear Lake Area School District worked in partnership with a variety of community organizations in 2008-09. The partnerships continue during the 2009-10 school year.

- **White Bear Center for the Arts** - Every elementary student received art lessons during the school year through a partnership with the White Bear Center for the Arts.
- **YMCA** - Through a partnership with the YMCA, District elementary students received water safety lessons during the school year. Extended Day participants received summer swimming lessons.
- **MacPhail Center for Music** - Birch Lake Elementary partnered with MacPhail Center for Music to offer an enhanced music program to the school's students. Additional after-school and weekend music lesson opportunities also were offered to the whole community.
- **Tamarack Nature Center** - Otter Lake Elementary partnered with Tamarack Nature Center to provide students with experiential learning on environmental issues throughout the school year. The Early Childhood Program also benefits from a partnership with the Center, which serves as a program site.
- **EMID** - The District's involvement in the East Metro Integration District (EMID) offers interdistrict partnerships, a multicultural resource center, and networks and advisory groups. The partnership makes available various student and educator programs.
- **Community partnerships** - The District partnered with various municipalities throughout the year to provide fitness classes and sporting activities throughout the area.
- **Volunteers** - WBLAS is fortunate to have thousands of hours of volunteer help. Volunteers do everything from playground supervision, offering reading help, assisting with field trips and helping in classrooms.

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD#624)
DR. MICHAEL LOVETT, SUPERINTENDENT
4855 BLOOM AVENUE, WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

www.whitebear.k12.mn.us

This report is published by the White Bear Lake Area Schools Office of Communications.
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This Annual Report is based upon the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement, which is required by Minnesota Statutes.



Elementary Schools (grades K-5)

BIRCH LAKE
1616 Birch Lake Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2776

LAKEAIRES
3963 Van Dyke Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2809

LINCOLN
1961 Sixth Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2820

ONEKA
4888 Heritage Parkway North
Hugo, MN 55038
651-288-1800

OTTER LAKE
1401 County Road H2
White Bear Township, MN 55110
651-653-2831

PARKVIEW/CENTERPOINT
2530 Spruce Place
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2847

VADNAIS HEIGHTS
3645 Centerville Road
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
651-653-2858

WILLOW LANE
3375 Willow Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-6170

Middle Schools (grades 6-8)

CENTRAL
4857 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2888

SUNRISE PARK
2399 Cedar Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2700

High Schools (grades 9-12)

WBLAHS - NORTH CAMPUS
5040 Division Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-2920

WBLAHS - SOUTH CAMPUS
3551 McKnight Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-6200

WBL AREA LEARNING CENTER
2449 Orchard Lane
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-773-6400

Additional Sites

NORMANDY PARK EDUCATION CENTER
Early Childhood Program
2482 East County Rd F
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-3100

Early Childhood Programs are also offered at:
Tamarack Nature Center
5287 Otter Lake Road
White Bear Township, MN 55110
and
Hugo Elementary
14895 Francesca
Hugo, MN 55038

TRANSITION PLUS PROGRAM
13497 Fenway Blvd Circle N
Hugo MN 55038
651-773-6051

SENIOR PROGRAM
2484 East County Road F
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-653-3121