



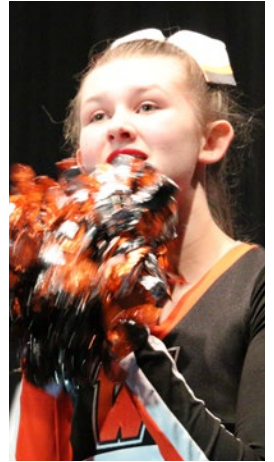
WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS

2014-15  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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2015-16  
**UPDATE**









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

### From the superintendent

As you read this annual report for 2014-15 and update on the 2015-16 school year, consider the stories of the individual students and staff members whose accomplishments are described and whose photos you see.

Consider learning more by viewing videos and reading additional information on our website.

Then consider visiting our schools, attending concerts, athletic events, and programs, and find out how you can be more involved in our stories of success!

Dr. Michael Lovett, Superintendent of Schools



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Find videos that share the district's story at [www.isd624.org/news/District-Videos.asp](http://www.isd624.org/news/District-Videos.asp)

# STUDENT GROWTH

Student growth is a key metric under our first Strategic Plan priority: *We will develop a comprehensive understanding of our students' needs and interests to ensure students are challenged and excelling academically.*

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## High School

High school teachers assess students through common assessments in each subject. Nationally-normed assessments include MAP test in reading and math given in the fall and spring for 9th and 10th graders, and the PSAT and ACT to 11th graders. Counselors and teachers use this data, along with an understanding of student motivation and goals, to help students select from more than 200 course offerings, including more than 30 college-level courses.



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## Middle School

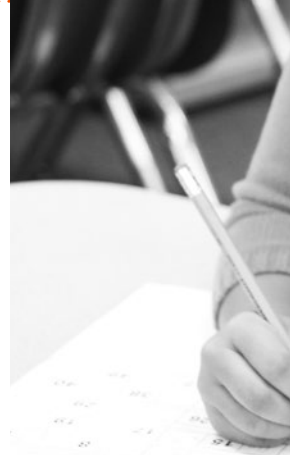
Students at Central and Sunrise Park Middle Schools receive the MAP assessment in the fall and spring in math and reading. Teachers and counselors use these assessments along with other data to help students select courses. Intervention support is provided for students who test below grade level. Accelerated class options assure that our students are challenged.



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## Elementary

Students at our eight elementary schools are assessed by teachers using a range of grade-appropriate assessments in reading, math and science to measure progress toward local and state standards. The MAP assessment is given in the fall and spring to students in grades 1-5. Instructional support is personalized so students who test below grade level receive extra intervention and support, and students who already exceed standards are challenged through our comprehensive Gifted and Talented program.



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## Preschool

More than 600 students at four sites (Normandy Park in White Bear Lake, Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Township, Hugo Elementary in Hugo, and Vadnais Heights Elementary in Vadnais Heights) are nurtured and develop a love of learning. All sites have a **Parent Aware rating of 4 stars**, the highest possible rating. Teachers assess the growth of children and take appropriate measures to ensure each child is kindergarten-ready.







### Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

The district measures the academic growth of each student in grades 1-10 with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test, a nationally-normed assessment based on national and state standards. Compared to the national average of one year of growth, our student gains in 2014-15 were highly competitive.

- » Average reading gains in grades 1-10 were one year, three months.
- » Average math gains in grades 1-10 were one year, five months.

Average  
**READING  
GROWTH**

**1** year  
3 months

Average  
**MATH  
GROWTH**

**1** year  
5 months

*NWEA provides nationally normed fall to spring growth targets for individual students. Average yearly growth is the sum of all actual student MAP growth, grades 1 through 10, divided by the sum of individual student expected growth. Reading growth in White Bear Lake Area Schools averaged 127% of a year and math growth averaged 144% of a year.*

# STUDENT PROFICIENCY

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) Student proficiency is measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests, Minnesota's state requirement for testing under the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

2014-15 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES			
	State	WBLAS	WBLAS % above state
Reading	59.5%	65%	+5.5%
Mathematics	60.2%	65%	+4.8%
Science	53.4%	60.6%	+7.2%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education's "Minnesota Report Card"

## SCIENCE

Science scores have risen 3 percentage points since the new science standards and assessment in 2012.

## READING

Reading scores have risen 1.4 percentage points since new reading standards and assessments in 2013.

## MATH

District math scores rose 2.4 percentage points since the new math standards and assessment in 2011.

### Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR)

The State Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR) measurement, which replaced Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), combines student proficiency, growth, and achievement gap reduction data. At the high school level, graduation rate is added as a fourth criterion. While all schools receive MMR ratings, only schools that receive federal funding based upon free and reduced lunch populations are considered for the recognition program.

- » Willow Lane Elementary, which was in the top 2% in the state, received a Reward school designation, given to the top 15% of Title 1 schools in the state.
- » Lakeaires is in the top 55% of schools in the state. Matoska and Oneka are in the top 50%. Otter is in the top 45%. Lincoln is in the top 35%.

Willow Lane Elementary MMR  
**Top 2%**  
of Minnesota schools

*Willow Lane Elementary received a Reward school designation, given to the top 15% of Title 1 schools in the state. Willow MMR scores ranked among the top 2% of Minnesota schools in 2015.*

Birch Lake & Vadnais Elementary  
**Celebration Eligible**  
Title 1 schools

*Birch Lake and Vadnais Elementary were recognized as Celebration Eligible schools.*

White Bear Lake High School - South  
**Top 3%**  
of Minnesota high schools

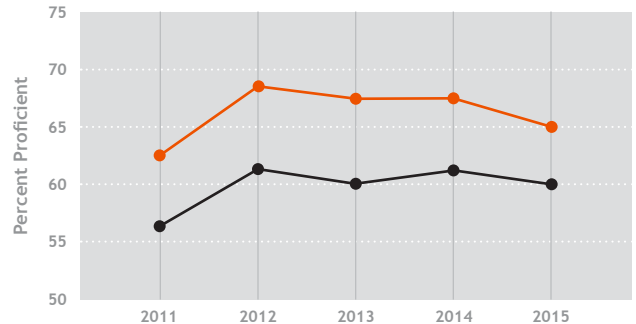
*White Bear Lake High School - South Campus scored in the top 3% of schools in the state while North Campus scored in the top 25%. Both Central and Sunrise Middle Schools scored in the top half of Minnesota middle schools.*

■ WBLAS ■ State

Data from Minnesota Department of Education's "Minnesota Report Card"

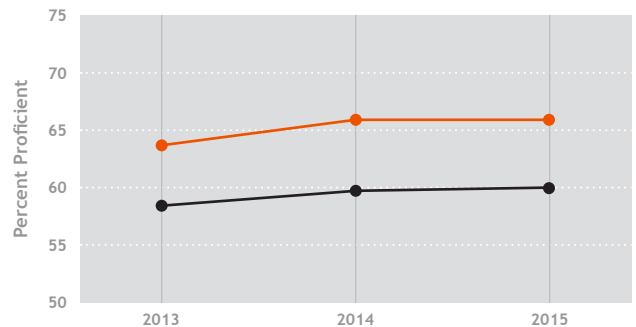
#### MATH PROFICIENCY

WBLAS MCA Math Results - 4 year trend since new test



#### READING PROFICIENCY

WBLAS MCA Reading Results - 2 year trend since new test







# HIGH EXPECTATIONS & ENRICHMENT

## University of Minnesota on campus

During the 2014-15 school year, our students earned a total of 1,196 University of Minnesota college credits through 11 College in the Schools courses taught at WBLAHS, valued at \$554,753 by the University of Minnesota tuition rates (based on \$463.84/cr).

## \$2.1 million

The total value of credits earned by WBLAHS students in College in the Schools (CIS), Advanced Placement (AP), Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) courses during 2014-15 was \$2.1 million at 2015 University of Minnesota tuition rates.

*\$2,145,759 is based on credit earned through a college-level class or earned via Advanced Placement scores. Cost savings is based on University of Minnesota AP credit requirements and 2014/15 tuition rate of \$463.84 per credit hour. Student credits earned include AP (\$1,035,313), CIS (\$554,753), PLTW (\$115,499), and PSEO (\$440,194)*

## Special Services

White Bear Lake Area Schools have high expectations for all students and offer a continuum of specialized instruction for students with special needs. Our programs are individualized and comprehensive.

## STEM initiatives

The middle schools and high school campuses offered courses through Project Lead the Way, a rigorous, innovative program focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

## International Baccalaureate

- » Both of the White Bear Lake Area School District middle schools became IB World Schools in January of 2015.
- » Matoska International IB World School, an elementary option for all families since 2010, received re-authorization in January of 2015.

**55%** Rising to the challenge



- » 55% of our middle school students took advanced or enriched courses.
- » 54% of the class of 2015 took college courses in their senior year.

*1016 out of 1863 middle school students took advanced or enriched courses in math, science, language arts, social studies, or world language.*

*341 out of 633 students in the class of 2015 took at least one college level course during high school. This includes Advanced Placement, College in the Schools, Project Lead the Way, and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options.*



PSEO / **\$440,194** / 241 seats

PLTW / **\$115,499** / 168 seats

CIS / **\$554,753** / 225 seats

AP / **\$1,035,313** / 783 seats

**\$2.1**  
**million**  
value earned

### Early Childhood

Class options at Tamarack Nature Center, Normandy Park, Hugo Elementary and Vadnais Heights Elementary have expanded to meet growing demand. A preschool and early childhood program review was conducted during the 2014-15 academic year.

### Elementary

- » As the result of a Gifted and Talented program review, innovative new programs were implemented to challenge all students in the fall of 2013. A school-within-a-school for the exceptionally gifted was approved by the School Board in the fall of 2014 and began in the fall of 2015 at Lincoln Elementary.
- » Full K-5 implementation of the district's elementary world language program began in the fall of 2013. All elementary schools offer a world language, with Spanish at Birch Lake, Hugo, Lakeaires, Matoska, Oneka, Otter Lake, and Willow Lane. Chinese is offered at Lincoln and Vadnais Heights.
- » An elementary orchestra program for district fifth graders began in the fall of 2015.



### Elementary Orchestra

An elementary orchestra program for district fifth graders began in the fall of 2015.

### Middle School

- » Students have the opportunity to take Chinese, French, German or Spanish during each of their middle school years.
- » For 2014-15, the percentage of middle school students at Sunrise and Central who took at least one advanced or enriched class in math, science, language arts, social studies, or world language is 55%.
- » Both of the White Bear Lake Area School District middle schools became IB World Schools in January of 2015.
- » In December of 2013, the School Board approved adding Project Lead the Way coursework at grade 6, giving students the opportunity to take these STEM (design and modeling, robotics) classes in grades 6, 7 and 8.

### High School

- » **COLLEGE-LEVEL CLASSES** - White Bear Lake Area High School offered a total of 33 college-level courses to students in 2014-15. The number of students enrolling in these classes is increasing.
- » **INCREASED RIGOR** - The percentage of the WBLAHS class of 2015 that took college level courses during their high school career was 54%. There were 100 AP Scholars in White Bear Area High School in 2015.



**100**  
Advanced  
Placement  
Scholars

564 students from White Bear Lake Area Schools took at least one AP exam in 2015, with 62% of these students earning a score of 3 or higher. These are both 5-year highs for our students.

**2015-16 Update**

- » White Bear Lake Area Schools and Century College have partnered to offer White Bear 12th graders access to the highest level developmental courses offered by Century. Students who successfully complete one of these courses will earn a waiver at Century which will allow them to begin their post-secondary career in a credit-bearing college level course. The new math and reading courses began in the fall of 2015 with a total enrollment of 145 students. The partnership was honored by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs with a Local Government Innovation Award in December of 2015.
- » White Bear Lake Area Schools is offering two new College in the Schools classes - Statistics and American Sign Language.
- » In the fall of 2015, White Bear Lake Area High School launched a Manufacturing Pathway, made possible due to a \$250,000 grant received from the United Way.

2014-15  
792 AP EXAMS TAKEN

**ON THE  
RISE**

*District Advanced Placement (AP) Program has shown exams taken by WBLAHS students have risen each year*

2010-11  
590 AP EXAMS TAKEN

**2015 ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS**

**52 AP Scholars**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Michael Allen       | Lisa Eischens       |
| Jenna Amey          | Samantha Engrav     |
| Brady Anderson      | Hannah Falk         |
| Brian Anderson      | Alex Fuller         |
| Anna Andresen       | Madison Gohl        |
| Nicholas Beck       | Riley Grasdalen     |
| Caitlin Broberg     | Jason Hakamaki      |
| Isabel Brown        | Megan Hazen         |
| Samuel Burnham      | Rachel Hazzard      |
| Clare Craigan       | Chad Holman         |
| Francisca Dominguez | Ryan Hupert         |
| Christopher Doughty | Christopher Jenkins |
| Rachael Dumas       | Jacob Johnson       |

- |                    |
|--------------------|
| Justin Kaufer      |
| Mitchell Kohler    |
| Jacob Kramlinger   |
| Matthew Lee        |
| Alana Lemke        |
| Grant Loehlein     |
| Mitchell Maw       |
| Wolfgang Mayr      |
| Shea Niccum        |
| Kylie Noonan       |
| Benjamin Nottleson |
| Signey Oslund      |
| Owen Parker        |

- |                 |
|-----------------|
| Emily Perron    |
| Denny Pham      |
| Abigail Remiarz |
| Noelle Rivard   |
| Aaron Schmidt   |
| Garrett Shah    |
| Cullen Trobec   |
| Peter Wachtler  |
| Brendan Whalen  |
| Lauren Whalen   |
| Kelly Wilson    |
| Caden Wippler   |

**21 AP Scholars with Honor**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Jason Albertson   | Jonathan Osterlund  |
| Alexander Barton  | Maxwell Perron      |
| Kelly Buhl        | Kaley Rohlinger     |
| Nicole Daul       | Alexis Studler      |
| Alex Einck        | Ryan Thompson       |
| Spencer Gressen   | Kevin Walek         |
| Isabelle Hagel    | Alexandra Ward      |
| Madeline Humphrey | Benjamin Williamson |
| Elizabeth Karp    |                     |
| Corey Lendway     |                     |
| Scott Marston Jr. |                     |
| Rachel Miller     |                     |
| Maggie Nistler    |                     |



# PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE

17

## Advanced Placement (AP) Classes

- » Art History
- » Biology
- » Calculus A-B
- » Calculus B-C
- » Chemistry
- » English Language & Composition
- » English Literature & Composition
- » European History
- » Human Geography
- » Macroeconomics
- » Microeconomics
- » Music Theory
- » Physics
- » Statistics A-B
- » Studio Art
- » US History
- » World History

11

## College in the Schools (CIS) Classes

- » CIS Introduction to Literature 1001
- » eCIS Writing Studio
- » CIS American Democracy in a Changing World 1001
- » CIS Global America: US History Since 1865
- » CIS French 1003
- » CIS French 1003/1004
- » CIS German 1003/1004
- » CIS Spanish 1003
- » CIS Spanish 1003/1004
- » CIS Modern Chinese 1011
- » eCIS College Algebra through Modeling

*In 2014-15, the district added CIS Modern Chinese 1011.*

*College in the Schools classes are introductory-level college courses offered by the University of Minnesota. White Bear Lake Area High School students were enrolled in a total of 265 seats in CIS courses during the 2014-15 academic year.*

5

## Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Classes

- » Introduction to Engineering Design
- » Principles of Engineering
- » Digital Electronics
- » Biotechnical Engineering
- » Civil Engineering and Architecture

*Project Lead the Way STEM classes are nationally-certified courses that allow students the opportunity to earn university credits.*



### **Humphrey Innovation Award**

For the second time, White Bear Lake Area Schools has been honored by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs with a prestigious Local Government Innovation Award. The initiative for which the district has been recognized is Courses that Count: Partnering to Reduce Remedial Coursework, facilitated in partnership with Century College.

### **27 AP Scholars with Distinction**

Trey Anderson	Tapan Jasthi
Ethan Beauclaire	Michael Johnson
Zach Bleakly	Paul Jokinen
Connor Bosch	Julia Kancans
Francheska Crawford	Lillian Landsberger
Hanke	Derek Larson
Erin Edson	Mae Moris
Alberic Gaethke	Marcus Ochsendorf
Abby Gebhard	Jerad Olson
Mercedes Gohl	Michael Pearson
Shannon Herzog	Rachel Soika
Matthew Horwath	Peder Solberg

James Terry  
Mara Trudgeon  
Aaron Zarling  
Katerine Zoborowski

### **2 National AP Scholars**

Shannon Herzog      Matthew Horwath

### **3 National National Merit Scholars Commended Students**

Isabel Brown      Peyton King      Daniel Molitor

### **1 National Merit Semifinalists**

Ethan Beauclaire

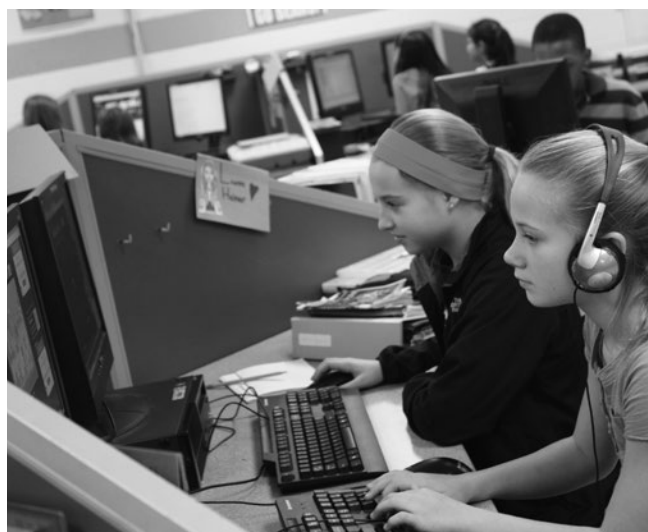
## Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID)

White Bear Lake Area High School began implementation of the Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program in the fall of 2010. The program offers rigorous instruction to students in the academic middle who have the individual determination to prepare for a four-year college. In AVID classes, students collaborate, engage in inquiry, and learn college-level reading, writing, and study strategies.

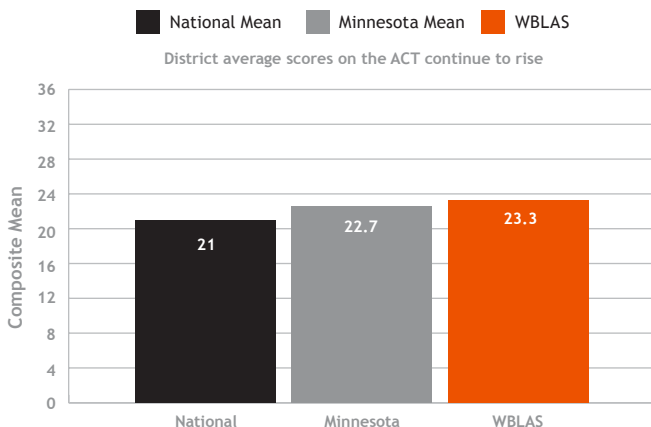
AVID enrollment continues to be strong, with 115 students enrolled in the 8-12th grade program for the 2014-15 school year and 195 students in 2015-16. Starting in the fall of 2015, seventh grade classes and an additional ninth grade section were added.

AVID is an important college and career readiness program. The AVID class of 2015 scored higher than a comparison group on both the 11th grade MCA assessment and the ACT.

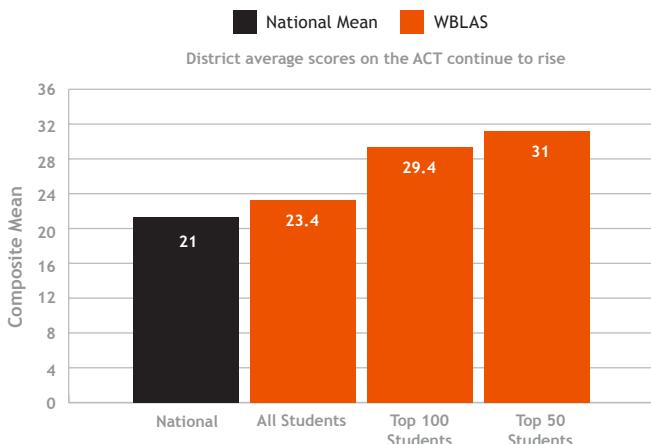
*For reference, the comparison group was constructed using the same GPA and test data that describes the 9th grade characteristics of the class of 2015 AVID seniors.*



ACT COMPOSITE AVERAGES - 2015



ACT COMPOSITE SCORE COMPARISON - 2015



## Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO)

Juniors and seniors at White Bear Lake Area High School have the opportunity to attend Minnesota post-secondary institutions as high school students. Thirty-five members of the class of 2015 were PSEO students.

## ACT

The ACT is the most commonly taken college entrance exam in Minnesota, required by most Minnesota colleges. The White Bear Lake Area School District 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 exams.

## SAT

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





### Manufacturing Pathway

Industry partners have been actively engaged in guiding the Manufacturing Pathway work and in determining the skill requirements for employment and career progression in high-demand occupations. That support, along with a \$250,000 grant received from the United Way, has allowed White Bear Lake Area High School to build a program that resembles those generally available only at the college level.

### Rigorous Curriculum

- » **SCIENCE** - The White Bear Lake Area School District is clearly making significant progress in science as a result of science notebooks, Engineering is Elementary, Foss Science Curriculum and staff professional development. District science scores rose 3 percentage points since the new standards and test in 2012.
- » **READING** - Factors contributing to a positive 5.5 percentage point spread between the state average reading score and White Bear Lake Area Schools average reading scores include continued literacy training for teachers and implementation of new literacy curriculum aligned to state standards. We continue to successfully implement a highly structured intervention program designed to meet the individual needs of all students.
- » **MATH** - The district's average proficiency growth across grade levels is 2.4 percentage points since new standards were first assessed in 2011.
- » **CURRICULUM ADVISORY** - The World's Best Workforce Advisory Committee includes parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members. They serve as a sounding board for the community, gain knowledge about the district's curriculum and its development, and positively influence changes within each curriculum area.

### Response to Intervention (RtI)

This framework is a system of high-quality instruction and tiers of intervention matched to student need. RtI is implemented in all elementary schools and middle schools.

### Community Support

- » Community volunteers provide important mentoring, math and reading help and classroom support. Families actively support students through parent-teacher organizations.
- » In November of 2013, the White Bear Lake Area community supported the district's Capital Projects Levy.

### Excellent Teaching and Support

White Bear Lake Area High School teacher Pamela Johnstone was named 2015 Teacher of the Year and represented the district in the state Teacher of the Year program.

### Continuous Improvement

The district conducts a thorough continuous improvement process to review and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction and curriculum. The focus of the review process is to use timely, accurate data to regularly inform and improve teacher practice and student achievement. Stakeholders throughout the system are involved in setting measurable goals and evaluating progress toward the goals. In 2015-16, building school improvement teams participated in a two-day data retreat where disaggregated data was studied, reflected upon and used to develop building continuous improvement goals. Teams collaboratively monitor student progress and adjust instructional strategies to assist students in meeting their learning goals.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### » Boys' Lacrosse

The Boys' Lacrosse team competed at the state tournament for the second consecutive year.

### » AP Scholarship program

One hundred students were honored in the Advanced Placement Scholar program in the categories of AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, AP Scholar with Distinction, National AP Scholars.

### » National Merit Scholars

Four students received National Merit honors. Three students were recognized as National Merit Scholars Commended Students; one student was named a National Merit Semifinalist.

### » Girls' Cross Country Team

The Girls' Cross Country Team finished second at the 4AA Section Championship and earned a trip to the State Meet and finished 15th place.

### » Boys' Cross Country Team

The Boys' Cross Country Team won the Milaca Mega-Meet, finished second in the conference and sectional meets, and earned 12th place at the state meet.

### » Cheerleading Team

The White Bear Lake Cheerleaders earned their fifth consecutive State Championship at the Minnesota State Cheer-Off. At nationals, they placed 12th in the Routine contest and 2nd in the Game Day competition. Five members were named to all-state or honor teams.

### » Theatre

The WBLAHS Theatre Department set school records with a total of 25 awards, including both Outstanding Overall Production and Outstanding Overall Performance, from the Hennepin Theatre Trust's SpotLight Music Theatre Program for "The Addams Family."

### » Patriot's Pen Essay

Central Middle School student Isaac Maruyama was a State Champion of the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay who advanced to the national competition in Washington, D.C. along with only 45 others in the nation.

### » Band

Thirty-four band students earned a place in honor or all-conference bands or orchestras.

### » Choir

Twelve choir students earned a place in honor or all-conference choirs.

### » Wrestling Team

The Wrestling Team won the section 4AAA championship to earn a trip to the state tournament. Seven individual wrestlers also competed at the state competition.

### » Middle School Cheerleading Team

The district's Middle School Cheerleading Team placed first out of 11 teams at the state competition.

### » Nordic Ski

Three Nordic Ski Team members represented White Bear Lake Area High School at the state competition.





› **Middle School Honors Choir**

Fifteen district middle school students participated in the Minnesota American Choral Director's Association Honor Choir.

› **Middle School Scholastic Art Awards**

Ten WBLAS middle school students received Scholastic Art Awards.

› **High School Art Awards**

Five district high school students received state-level art awards, including Scholastic Art Awards, Ordway ARTwalk honors and "Best 100" exhibit participation.

› **Swim and Dive**

Senior Caleb Odmark represented White Bear Lake Area High School at the State Swim and Dive Meet in the Boys 100 Yard Freestyle.

› **Girls' Basketball Team**

The girls' basketball team won the section championship and competed in the state tournament.

› **State Geography Bee**

Eighth grader Madeline Lamwers competed in the State Geography Bee.

› **Athena Award**

Katie (Katherine) Zoborowski was one of just 43 female athletes in Minnesota to receive the Athena Award for athletic prowess, academics, and community service.

› **Technical Programs National Competition**

Four district high school students advanced to national competition in technical-related programs through the district's partnership with Northeast Metro 916 Career and Technical Center.

› **National Art Awards**

Two White Bear Lake Area High School ceramics students had their work accepted into nation-wide art contests.

› **National History Day**

Sixty district students, representing both middle schools and the high school, earned spots at the State History Day competition. Seven students represented the district in at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

› **Archery Team**

The White Bear Lake Area Schools Archery Team represented the district at the state and national levels.

› **Unified Bears basketball team**

Three district teams participated in the Special Olympics State Basketball tournament.

› **Boys' Track**

The boys' 4 x 800 relay team represented White Bear Lake Area High School at the state track meet.

› **Girls' Track**

Eleven Girls' Track Team members qualified for state, including the girls' 4 x 400 relay team that set a school record.



# INNOVATION

## Technology Integration

- » Technology integration is expanding across our schools. We continue to advance the District mission by providing tools, training and support that:
  - strengthen Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity. (4C's)
  - equitably support best practice teaching and personalized learning.
  - promote innovation.
  - accelerate preparation for college and career.
- » Technology & Leadership Cohort participants, 4C's mentors and Instructional technology coaches at each building support teachers and help them make best-practice use of these resources. This support ensures that we are maximizing resources in White Bear while sharing our best ideas across grade levels, departments and buildings. We are expanding our innovative use of technology at all levels, including our Chromebook 1:1 that started in eighth grade in 2014-15 and expanded to grades seven through ten in 2015-16.



**1:1**  
The district's 1:1 initiative kicked off in 2014-15 with eighth grade students and expanded to grades seven through ten in 2015-16.



## Infrastructure

- » WBLAS continues to strengthen and expand our technology infrastructure. With wireless access points in every learning space and increased bandwidth, we continue to prioritize a safe, secure and fast network. With over 4,000 computers in the district, we maintain a student to computer ratio of nearly 2:1.

## Innovative technology

- » WBLAS is committed to integrating technology in every classroom in order to engage students, accelerate student learning, and ensure that students gain the 21st century skills they need to succeed. The Technology Department follows a deliberate and successful course of action that prioritizes usable and sustainable devices, a secure and reliable network infrastructure, efficient and integrated applications along with innovative professional support anchored in Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity.





### Chromebooks and Tablets

- » We employ more than 1000 tablets to ensure technology is easy to use, equitable, authentic and innovative. Unique usage of tablets included work in K-1 classrooms, teacher evaluations, special education, middle school math, and the buildings and grounds department.
- » Always seeking to provide the best technology for each situation, we deployed nearly 3000 Chromebooks across the district in 2014-2015. These devices are at the core of our 1:1 and offer instant access to the collaborative features of Google Apps, Schoology and countless other online resources. They also help our students develop stronger 21st century skills and help staff members increase the digital impact of their curriculum.

### Integrated Systems

- » Google Apps, Schoology and Skyward integration expanded dramatically in 2014-15. WBLAS staff and students incorporated these tools into our daily practice, using them to communicate more efficiently, collaborate more easily, provide more equitable access, offer more timely feedback and expand learning beyond the traditional school day.

### Communication Innovation

White Bear Lake Area Schools embraces innovative new communications tools to connect with families and community members.

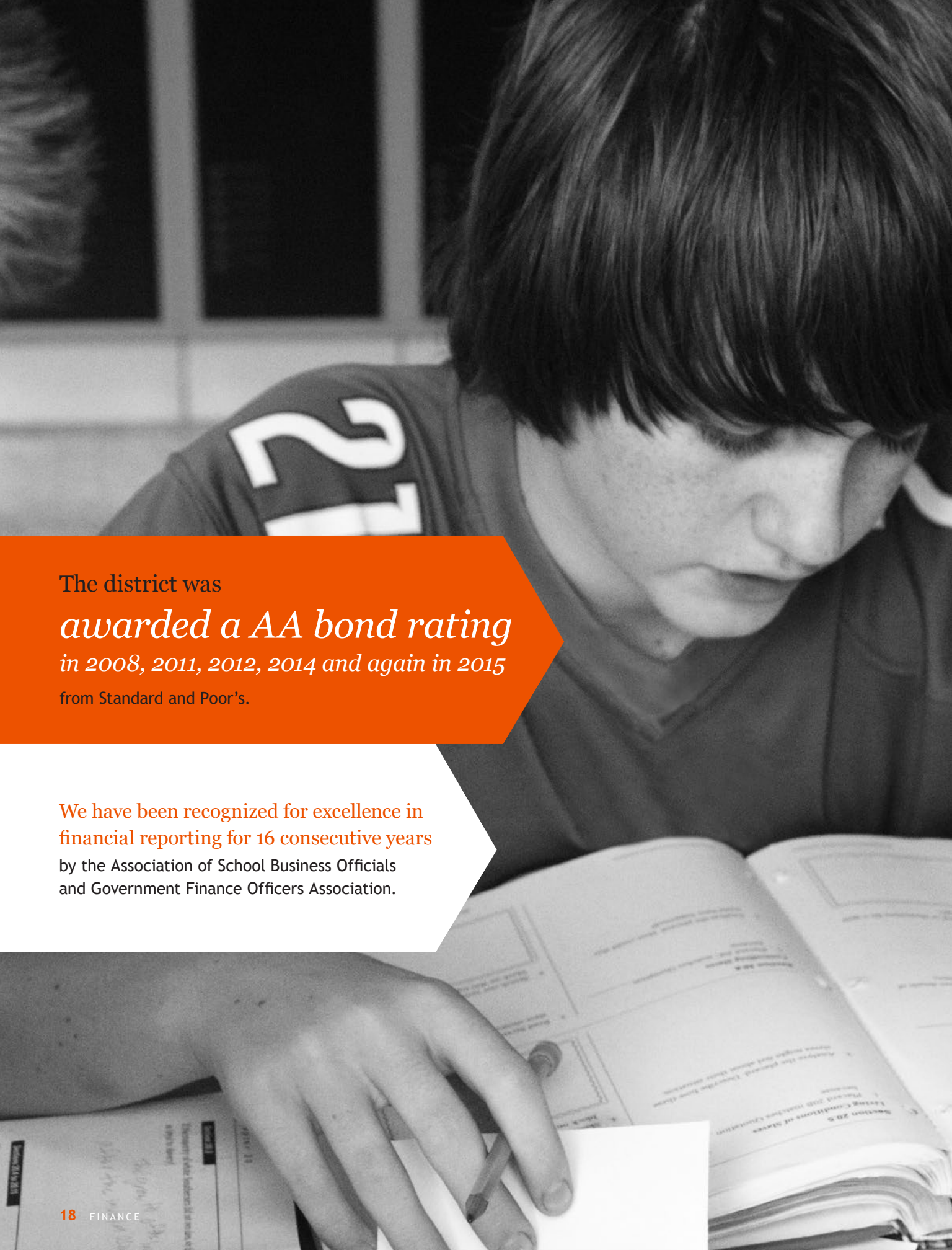
- » **PARENT ALERT SYSTEM** - The district uses the School Messenger parent alert system. The system allows for voicemail and email alerts to be sent out instantaneously.
- » **COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER** - The Community e-Newsletter, sent out twice a month to families and community members, covers School Board proceedings, student and staff achievements as well as school and Community Education offerings.
- » **STAY SOCIAL** - Currently, 5,000 people follow the district on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. Starting in 2014-15, daily 624Facts are shared out through Facebook and Twitter.
- » **WWW.ISD624.ORG** - The district and school websites are designed to be easy-to-use and informational.
- » **VIDEOS** - White Bear Lake Area Schools began to tell its story through video. In the fall of 2013, the district began sending a Community e-Newsletter Video Edition twice a month, sharing both professional videos and student videos. Starting in the fall of 2014, the district began sharing weekly 62.4-second video updates.

### Innovation in the News

Many of the district's students, staff members and programs were highlighted in the news as examples of innovation and excellence.



Find links to media stories at [www.isd624.org/news/WBLAS-in-the-News.asp](http://www.isd624.org/news/WBLAS-in-the-News.asp)



The district was  
*awarded a AA bond rating*  
*in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014 and again in 2015*  
from Standard and Poor's.

We have been recognized for excellence in  
financial reporting for 16 consecutive years  
by the Association of School Business Officials  
and Government Finance Officers Association.



# FINANCE

## Financial Management

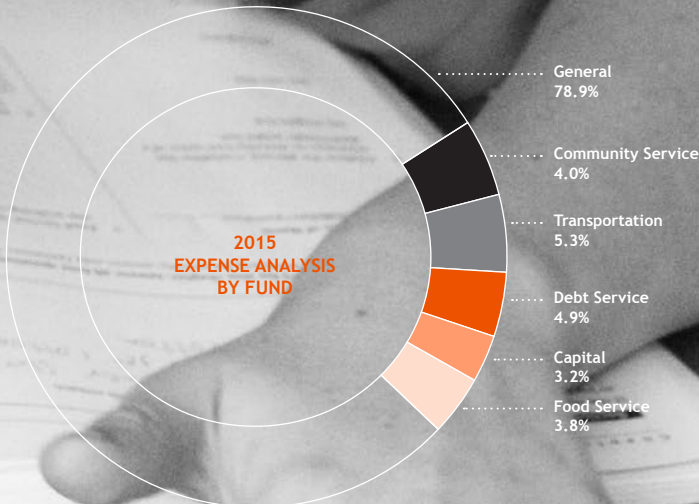
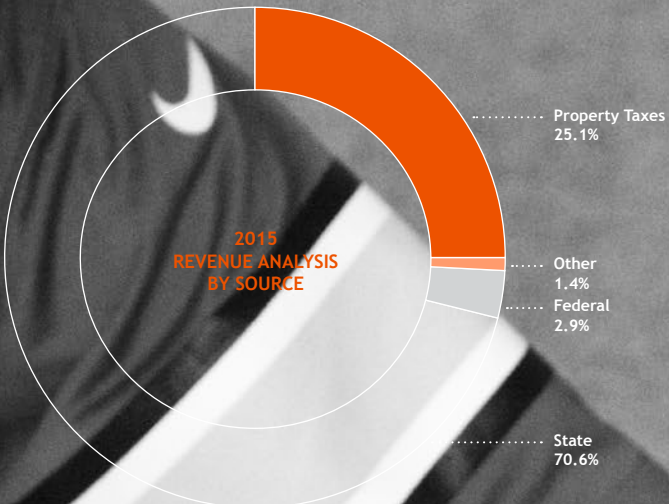
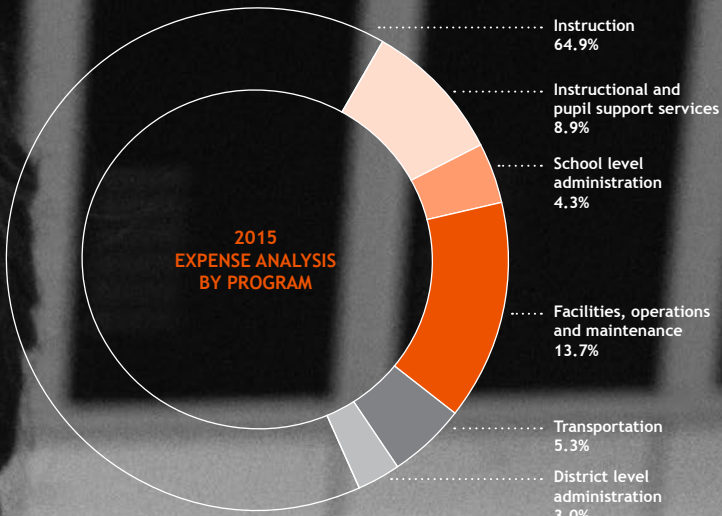
To help the district meet its educational goals, White Bear Lake Area Schools remain committed to fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget to ensure that maximum resources reach our classrooms.

## District Efficiencies:

- » We are among the most efficient districts in the state with some of the lowest district administrative costs per student.

## Stewardship:

- For 2014-15, White Bear Lake Area Schools continued to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities.
- » We have been recognized for excellence in financial reporting by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 16 consecutive years.
- » The district was awarded a AA bond rating from Standard and Poor's in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014 and again in 2015.
- » Our supportive community passed a capital projects levy increase with a 61% to 39% margin in November of 2013.



Source: Consolidated Financial Statement MDE



# 2014-15 DISTRICT PROFILE

The White Bear Lake Area School District serves all or parts of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township.

## Core Values

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

## Mission

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, a leader in innovative education and community partnerships, is to ensure our students:

- » develop a love for learning,
- » excel academically,
- » are inspired to realize their dreams, and
- » become engaged citizens with a global understanding by challenging each student within a dynamic, respectful and inclusive environment that nurtures the unique talents and abilities of every student.

In addition to English, students in our district

Speak  
**56**  
home  
languages

- Afan Oromo/Oromo/Oromiffa
- Afrikaans
- Amharic
- Anauk
- Arabic
- Balinese
- Bantu
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Cambodian/Khmer
- Cebuano
- Chinese, Mandarin
- English Creolized
- Estonian
- Fanti
- French
- Fulah
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hawaiian
- Hiligaynon/Illo
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Icelandic
- Igbo
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kannada
- Kikuyu
- Kiswahili, Swahili
- Lao, Laotian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Luganda, Ganda
- Mandar
- Mandingo
- Marathi
- Nepali
- Pilipino, Tagal
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Samoan
- Slovak
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Yoruba



DISTRICT 624 STAFF PROFILE 2014-15	
Teachers with fewer than 3 years experience	9%
Teachers with 3-10 years experience	32%
Teachers with more than 10 years experience	59%

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2014-15	
Free/Reduced Lunch	28.7%
English Language Learner	4.2%
Special Education	13.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.0%
Hispanic	5.5%
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.2%
White (non-Hispanic)	79.4%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 2014-15	
Pre-K <i>Pre-K includes all district programs including preschool and early childhood at all district locations.</i>	718
Elementary (Grades K-5)	3,755
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1,852
High School (Grades 9-12)	2,409
Transition Plus (Special Ed - ages 18-21)	27
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL K-T+</b>	<b>8,043</b>
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL BIRTH-T+</b>	<b>8,761</b>

Source: Minnesota Department of Education and District data

## Strategic Planning

During the 2014-15 academic year, the district continued work on goals identified during the 2010-11 community-driven Strategic Planning process.

### Strategies

- » We will develop a comprehensive understanding of our students' needs and interests to ensure students are challenged and excelling academically.
- » We will create and implement a plan for global experiences and relationships to further understand world connections.
- » We will ensure our facilities support our district's mission and objectives.
- » We will create a district-wide culture that inspires innovation, a passion for learning, and confidence to pursue dreams.
- » We will build a network of partnerships to provide personal and educational growth and service opportunities for students.
- » We will foster connections with and among students and staff members to ensure all feel valued, supported and understood; and we will establish an environment that cultivates understanding and respect for differences among people.

Full details of the Strategic Planning process can be found at [www.isd624.org/about/Strategic-Planning.asp](http://www.isd624.org/about/Strategic-Planning.asp).



**School Board Members, 2014 to January 2016**  
 Clerk Lori Swanson, Don Mullin, Kim Chapman,  
 Vice Chair Chris Hiniker, Chair Janet Newberg,  
 Treasurer George Kimball, Cathy Storey.



**School Board Members, January 2016 to present**  
 Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovett,  
 Student Liaison Kyra Renner, Don Mullin,  
 Vice Chair George Kimball, Chair Janet Newberg,  
 Clerk Ellen Fahey, Treasurer Kim Chapman,  
 Marge Newberg, Scott Wilson.

# DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS

- » **HANGZHOU FOREIGN LANGUAGES SCHOOL**  
White Bear Lake Area Schools partners with Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, located in Hangzhou, China, for teacher and cultural exchanges. Teachers serve residencies in each school.
- » **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS**  
WBLAHS partners with schools in Meaux, France and Leipzig, Germany to provide international exchange experiences for students in German and French world language programs.
- » **LAKESHORE PLAYERS**  
The district works with Lakeshore Players, a highly-regarded community theater based in White Bear Lake, to provide after-school classes and workshops for students.
- » **MACPHAIL CENTER FOR MUSIC**  
Birch Lake Elementary partners with MacPhail Center for Music to offer an enhanced music program including piano and violin. Additional after-school and weekend music lesson opportunities are offered to the whole community.
- » **TAMARACK NATURE CENTER**  
Otter Lake, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementary Schools and Central and Sunrise Park Middle Schools partner with Tamarack Nature Center to provide students with experiential learning on environmental issues. The Early Childhood Program also benefits from a partnership with the Center, which serves as a program site for “My Nature Preschool,” which expanded for the 2015-16 academic year.
- » **VADNAIS SPORTS CENTER**  
The Vadnais Sports Center serves as the home arena for the boys’ and girls’ high school hockey teams.
- » **WHITE BEAR CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
Every elementary student receives six lessons annually through a partnership with the White Bear Center for the Arts. The partnership received a Local Government Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute in 2010.
- » **YMCA**  
Through a partnership with the YMCA, elementary students receive water safety lessons during the school year. Extended Day participants receive summer swimming lessons. The YMCA serves as the home pool for our girls’ and boys’ swimming and diving teams and as a site for an outreach teen and senior center. The district also partners with the Y on a childcare center at Birch Lake Elementary and on afterschool tutoring opportunities at district elementary schools.
- » **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**  
Individual schools and programs partner with local businesses and organizations. The partnerships often are highlighted in our Community e-Newsletters. Find story archives at [www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org).
- » **CENTURY COLLEGE**  
In our continued efforts to improve student learning and opportunities, our secondary schools are working with Century College to improve college readiness and increase concurrent enrollment options.



### ***Tamarack Nature Center Grand Opening***

In September of 2015, the Early Childhood Learning Center at Tamarack Nature Center hosted a grand opening celebration that featured local legislators, county representatives and current preschool students.



» **EQUITY ALLIANCE MN**

The district's involvement in Equity Alliance MN offers inter-district partnerships and support for student and educators. The partnership coordinates students and educator programs.

» **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

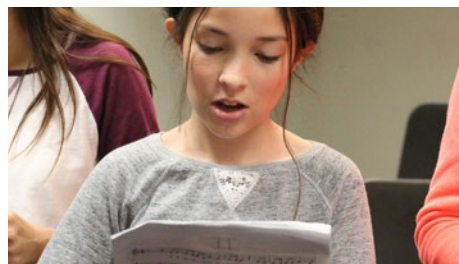
White Bear schools have been identified as exemplary training sites for future teachers. Through the Teacher Education Redesign Initiative (TERI), the University of Minnesota has designated four district schools as Professional Development Sites and provided additional resources for teachers and students.

» **VOLUNTEERS**

Community volunteers provide important mentoring, math and reading help and classroom support. Families actively support students through parent-teacher organizations.

» **WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The Foundation supports our schools with the help of local businesses, alumni, and community members. The Foundation provides teaching grants, scholarships, fellowships for teachers; an Angel Fund and Closet clothing donation for families with special economic needs; and works closely with the White Bear Lake Area Alumni Association.





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

Interactive pdf available online

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

HAISQHIA! Yog koj xav tau tsev kawm ntawv cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu tus Hmoob Liaison rau (651) 407-7623.  
ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625.

The White Bear Lake Area School District serves all or parts of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township.

**Elementary Schools**

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

HUGO / 651-288-1800  
14895 Francesco Avenue  
Hugo, MN 55038

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

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

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

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

MATOSKA INTERNATIONAL  
IB WORLD SCHOOL  
651-653-2847  
2530 Spruce Place  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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

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

**Middle Schools**

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

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

**High School Campuses**

WBLAHS - NORTH CAMPUS  
651-653-2920  
(Grades 9-10)  
5045 Division Ave  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

WBLAHS - SOUTH CAMPUS  
651-773-6200  
(Grades 11-12)  
3551 McKnight Road  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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

**Other Sites**

DISTRICT CENTER OFFICES  
651-407-7500  
4855 Bloom Avenue  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM  
651-653-3100

- Normandy Park Education Center  
2482 East Cty Rd F  
White Bear Lake
- Tamarack Nature Center  
5287 Otter Lake Rd  
White Bear Township
- Hugo Elementary  
14895 Francesca Ave, Hugo
- Vadnais Heights Elementary  
3645 Centerville Road  
Vadnais Heights

WHITE BEAR AREA SENIOR PROGRAM / 651-653-3121  
2482 East County Rd F  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

TRANSITION EDUCATION CENTER  
651-773-6051  
1440 Fenway Blvd Circle N  
Hugo MN 55038

