

A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a purple t-shirt, is smiling and holding a large white paper hat decorated with colorful drawings. She is also holding a ruler. The background is a grassy field with red cones.

2019-2020

Annual Report
Where All Students Learn

Photo Courtesy of Joe Burns

BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Blair Community Schools
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Blair, NE 68008
www.blairschools.org

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The Annual Report is intended to share a glimpse of information with the school community and others interested in Blair Community Schools. Data from other schools around the state can be found at the Nebraska Department of Education Website.

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Blair Community Schools Mission Statement

*The Blair Community Schools... Where All Students Learn
We believe the following:*

- *Each child is unique with special talents.*
- *Human diversity is recognized and respected.*
- *Each student will achieve proficiency of essential content and skills.*
 - *Change is necessary for continued growth.*
- *Efficient and effective use of technology will improve student learning.*
- *Frequent and varied assessments are essential for effective education.*
- *A supportive environment nurtures, challenges and encourages students to reach their full potential.*
- *A safe and secure environment, including mutual respect and self-discipline, is essential for student learning.*
- *A partnership with the community, home, school, and student is necessary for student success.*
 - *Thinking and problem solving skills are essential for student learning.*



Governing Board: Pictured from left front - Bob Schoby, Kari Loseke (President), Back, Brittany Gunderson, Denise Ray, Steve Callaghan, Brandi Peterson (Vice-President), Lyle Schjodt (deceased), Deb Parks, and Laura Ronning. Not Pictured: Amy Hansen.



Superintendent's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Blair Community Schools. We take pride in serving all students, families, and the community and believe each child is unique with special talents. Our experienced teachers and staff are committed to supporting each student to develop a learning process to support each student's cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral growth.



Blair Community Schools provides an enriched environment that nurtures, challenges, and encourages students to reach limitless potential. Our students are highly involved in curricular and co-curricular activities. They are dedicated to growth that occurs through concentrated effort to reach targeted goals. Blair students actively develop thinking and problem solving skills designed to explore their strengths and deficiencies and stretch themselves to solve challenging real world problems.

We actively develop collaborative partnerships between the school, parents, and community to play an active role in monitoring and supporting each child's ongoing performance to maximize the educational experience. Consequently, our students are prepared to take increasing responsibility for their learning, decisions, and actions and continue to be recognized for their superior efforts to be continuous learners and high achievers.

Welcome to Blair Community Schools and join us as we continue to work together to support all students as they strive for excellence.

Randall Gilson,
Ed.D.Superintendent

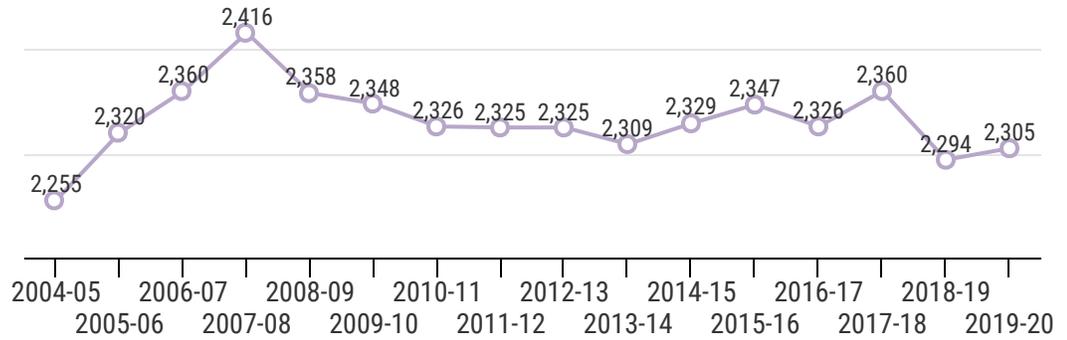


Enrollment

2305

Total PK-12 Students in 2019-2020

- 2018/19 - 2294 Students
- 2017/18 - 2360 Students
- 2016/17 - 2326 Students
- 2015/16 - 2347 Students
- 2014/15 - 2329 Students

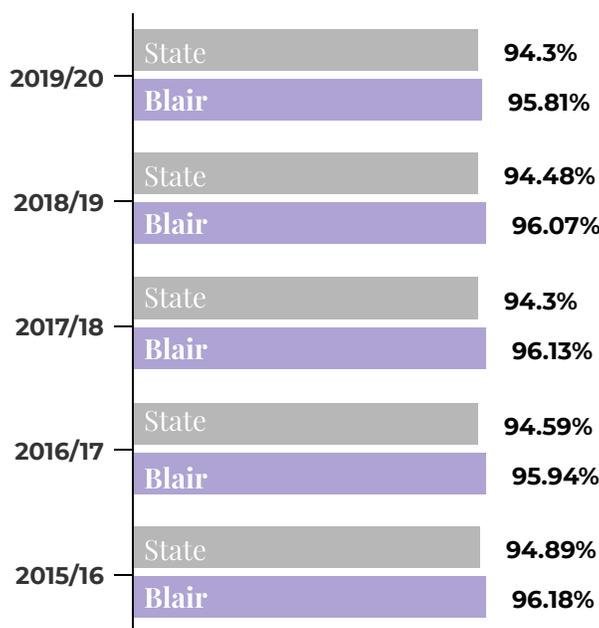


PK-12 Enrollment

Fall Membership 2019-2020

Pre-school	113
Kindergarten	168
1st Grade	149
2nd Grade	159
3rd Grade	168
4th Grade	160
5th Grade	171
6th Grade	166
7th Grade	178
8th Grade	165
9th Grade	162
10th Grade	183
11th Grade	155
12th Grade	208
Total PK-12	2305

PK-12 Daily Attendance Data



Student Population Characteristics

Enrolled in Special Education
BLAIR- 13% STATE- 15%

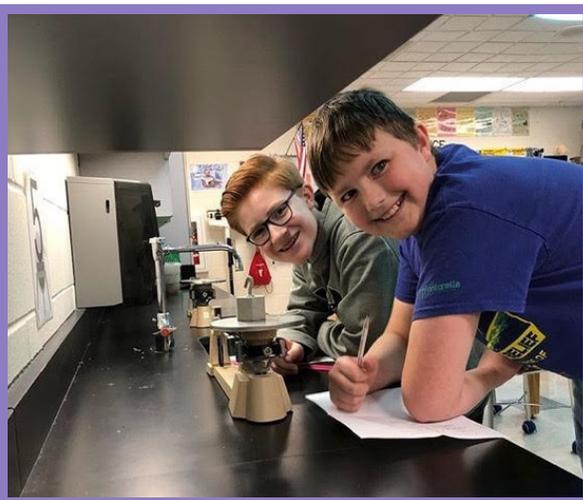
English Learners
BLAIR- 1% STATE- 7%

Eligible for Free/Reduced School Meals
BLAIR- 25% STATE- 46%

Gifted Learners
BLAIR- 6% STATE- 13%

Graduation Rate
BLAIR- 96% STATE- 88%

College-Going Rate
BLAIR- 69% STATE- 73%



2019-2020 Certified Staff



Average Teacher Salary

Blair \$58,021
State \$55,479

Average Years Experience

Blair 17.92
State 13.96



Teaching Staff with Masters Degree/Higher

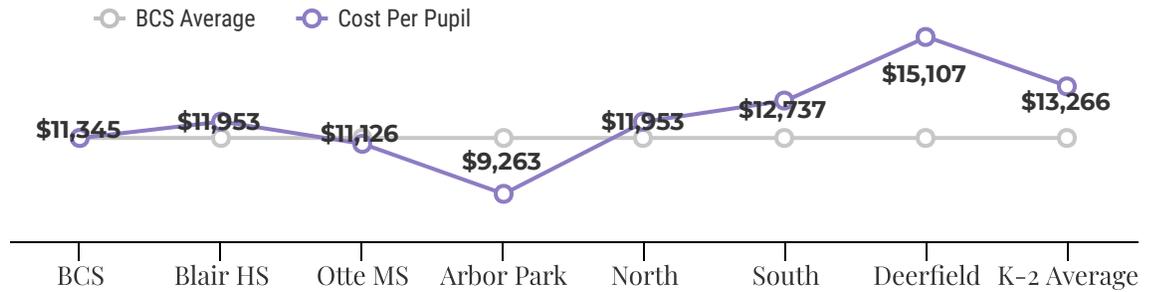
Blair 73.24%
State 56.17%



Per Pupil Expenditure

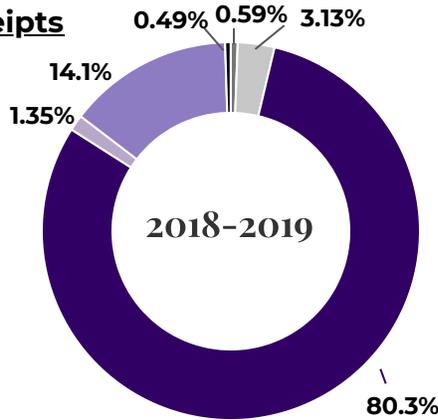


\$11,345



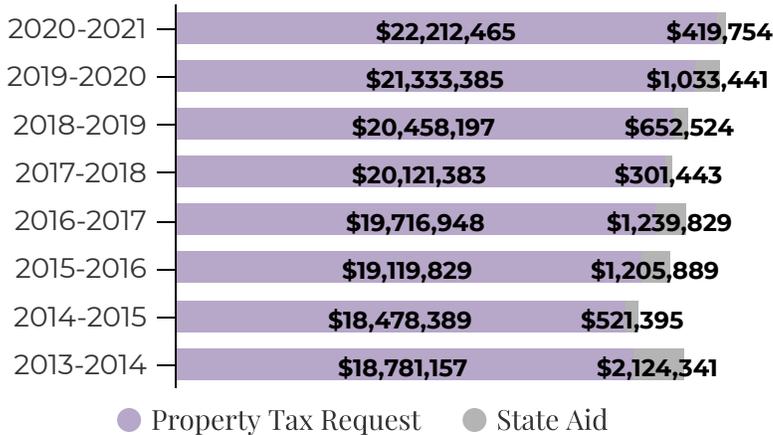
School Finance Receipts

- County Receipts
- Federal Receipts
- Local Receipts
- State Aid (TEEOSA)
- State Receipts other than TEEOSA
- Other Receipts



Revenue	\$ Amount	Percentage
County Receipts	\$130,808	0.59%
Federal Receipts	\$699,252	3.13%
Local Receipts	\$17,951,902	80.30%
State Aid (TEEOSA)	\$301,443	1.35%
State Receipts other than TEEOSA	\$3,150,338	14.10%
Other Receipts	\$109,893	0.49%
Total Receipts	\$22,343,636	100%

Property Tax Request and State Aid



Number of School Meals Served (K-12)

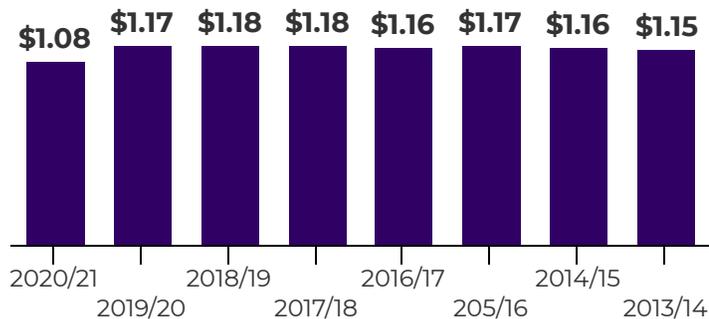
	Breakfast	Lunch	YTD Earned
2018/19	47,612	206,312	\$387,322
2017/18	52,051	266,666	\$408,570
2016/17	46,417	259,359	\$378,359
2015/16	51,973	260,487	\$371,568
2014/15	48,786	254,998	\$360,787
2013/14	37,744	255,588	\$353,079

BCS Budget Expenses- \$22,964,448

- All Instructional Expenditures - 65.50%**
- Maintenance & Operational Expenditures- **9.21%**
- Office of the Principal Expenditures - **5.35%**
- Support Services- Pupils Expenditures- **4.56%**
- Support Services- Pupil Transportation - **4.29%**
- Support Services- Staff Expenditures - **3.60%**
- Federal Expenditures - **2.97%**
- Support Services - Business - **2.00%**
- General Administration - **1.82%**
- State Categorical Programs - **0.33%**
- Other Expenditures - **0.14%**
- Categorical Grants from Corps & Private - **0.12%**



Historical Mill Levy



Student Achievement: NSCAS ACT

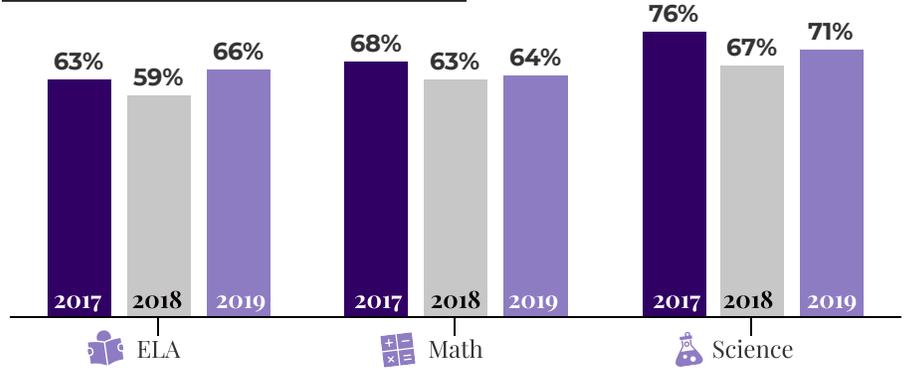
In the spring of **2019**, all Blair 11th graders took the ACT as a statewide assessment. Students' scores in three areas, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science are shown at right in terms of what percent of Blair students were on track for approaching the ACT College Readiness Benchmark or above. The ranges for each performance level are shown below:

ACT

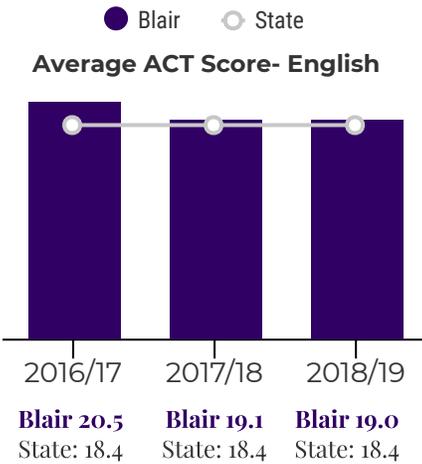
Developing: On Track: Benchmark:

<u>ELA</u>	1-17	18-19	20-36
<u>Math</u>	1-17	18-21	22-36
<u>Science</u>	1-18	19-22	23-36

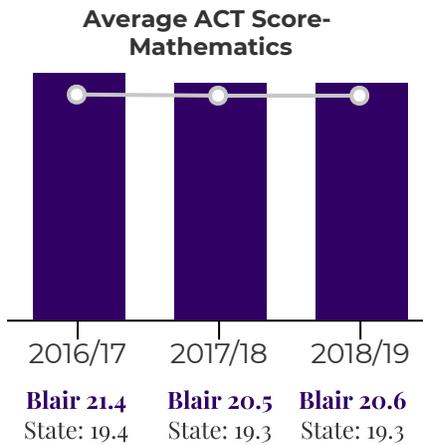
ACT Percent On Track and Above



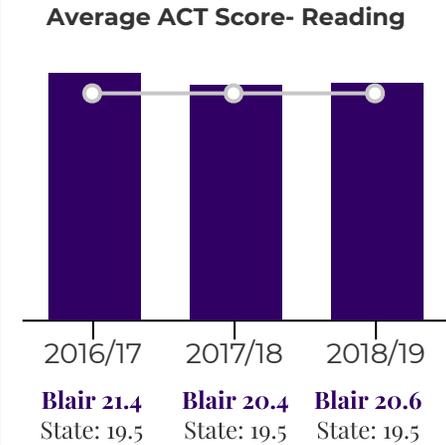
Average ACT Score- English



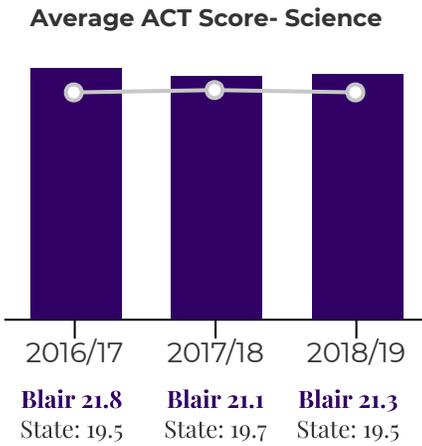
Average ACT Score- Mathematics



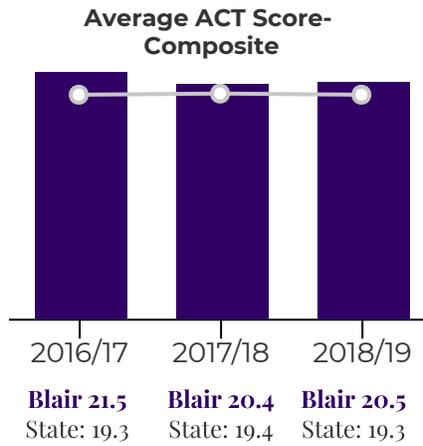
Average ACT Score- Reading



Average ACT Score- Science



Average ACT Score- Composite



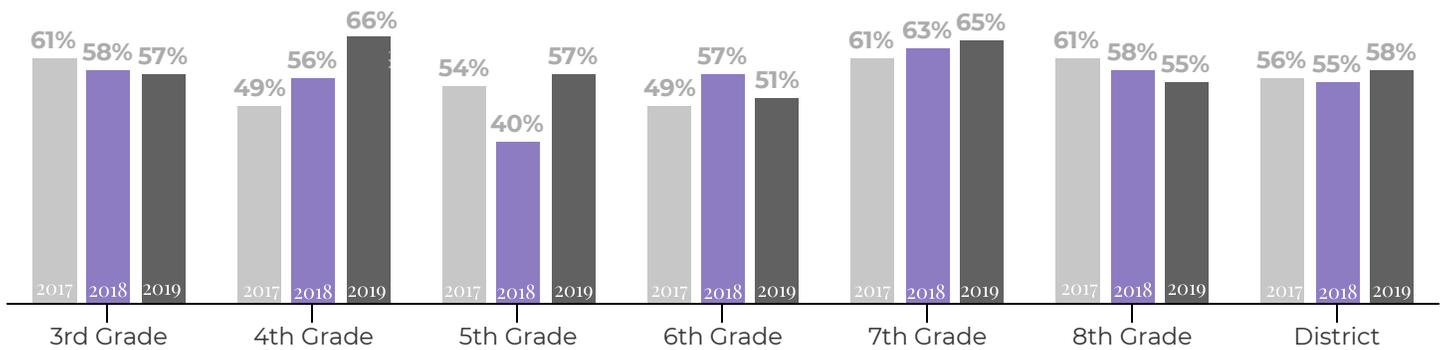
Class of 2020 Student Cohort Group

	All	Eligible for Free/Reduced Meal	SPED
9th Pre-ACT	17.76	16.1	14.32
10th Pre-ACT	19.5	17.18	13.95
11th ACT	20.3	18.35	15

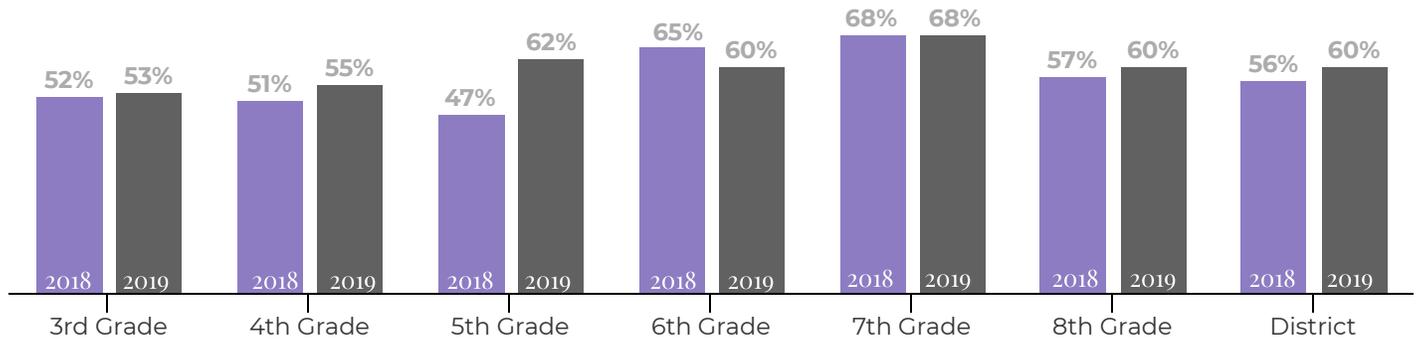


Student Achievement: NSCAS 3rd - 8th Grade

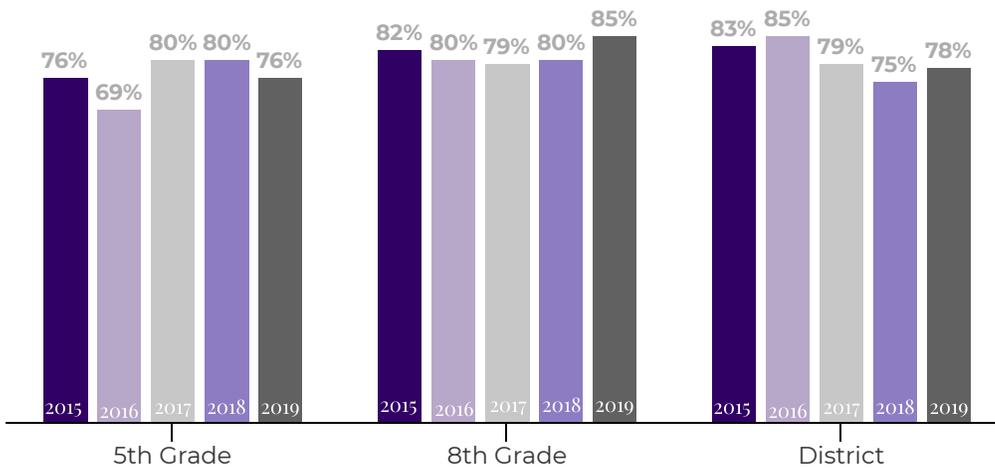
NSCAS Reading and English Language Arts Percent Proficient



NSCAS Mathematics Percent Proficient



NSCAS Sciences Percent Proficient



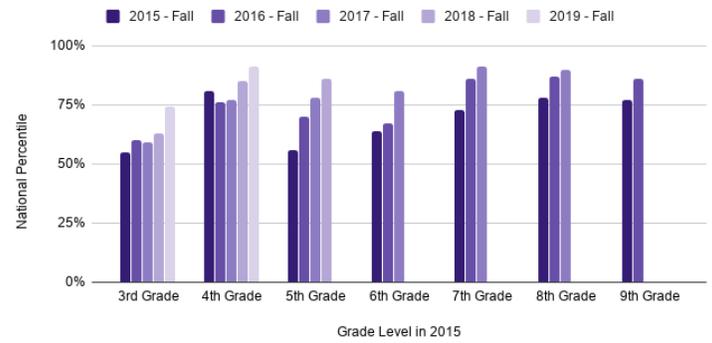
Student Achievement: MAP Growth 3rd - 9th

Blair Community Schools began testing students using MAP Growth assessments in 2014. The MAP assessment will become the Nebraska State test in 2021.

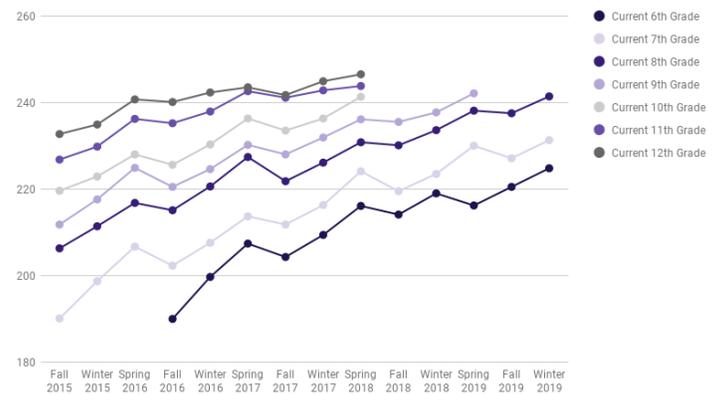
A **RIT score represents a point on a continuous scale of learning.** We use them for measuring an individual student's progress over time. It indicates the difficulty level at which the student is answering about 50% of the questions correctly. Although it is possible to score as high as 265 or more on the reading test and 285 or more on the math test, 240 (reading) and 250 (math) are typical top scores.

We expect RIT scores to increase over time. Students at lower grade levels tend to show a greater increase in RIT scores (10 to 14 points) during a school year than students in higher grade levels (2-5 points). At higher levels, questions get much harder and the overall growth is a smaller proportion of all that one knows. **Anticipated growth rates for each student are based on national norms and should be viewed as "typical," not expected.**

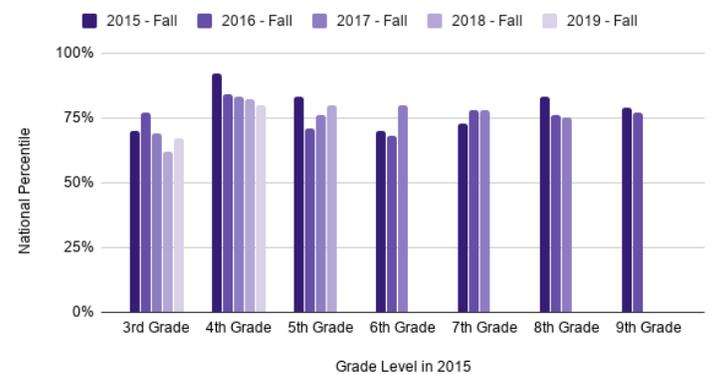
MAP Growth Cohort Math Results Fall of 2015 - 2019



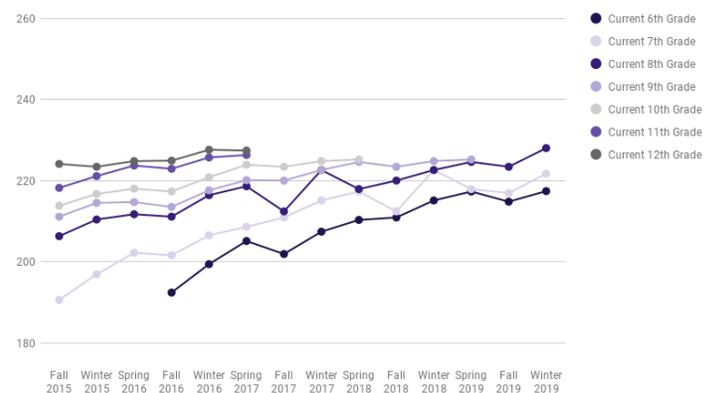
MATH Cohort RIT Over Time: Fall 2015-Winter 2019



MAP Cohort Reading Results Fall of 2015 - 2019



READING Cohort RIT Over Time: Fall 2015-Winter 2019



2020-2021

Dual Credit / College Enrollment Course Offerings

Course	College credit is through and if dual	Teacher	Cost	Currently offered or projected offering	College Credit
AP English AP History AP Chemistry AP Calculus	NWU/dual	Laura Joy	\$285 per semester	ENG 1010 English Language and Writing ENG 1020 Composition, Language and Literature	3 semester credits 3 semester credits
Comp I	Metro/dual	Metro teacher at BHS (remote)	\$171	ENGL_1010 English Composition I	4.5 quarter credits
Comp II	Metro/dual	Metro teacher at BHS	\$171	ENGL_1020 English Composition II	4.5 quarter credits
Public Speaking	Metro/dual	Metro teacher at BHS	\$171	SPCH_1110 Public Speaking	4.5 quarter credits
Nutrition	Metro/dual	Cherise Wry	\$50	HLTH_1050 Nutrition in the Life Cycle	4.5 quarter credits
Human Anatomy	Metro/dual	Jennifer Brown	\$50	BIOS_1310 Survey Human Anatomy	5 quarter credits
CNA	Metro/dual	Mary Jo Veskrna	\$50	HLTH_1200 CNA	6.5 quarter credits
Med Term 1	Metro /dual	Mary Jo Veskrna	\$50	HIMS_1120 Medical Terminology I	4.5 quarter credits
Med Term 2	Metro/dual	Mary Jo Veskrna	\$50	HIMS_1130 Medical Terminology II	4.5 quarter credits
Disease Process	Metro/dual	Metro teacher/Mary Jo Veskrna proctor	\$171	HIMS_1180 Disease Processes	4.5 quarter credits
CPR	Metro/dual	Mary Jo Veskrna	\$50	EMPS_1000 CPR	1 quarter credit
CERT	Metro/dual	Mary Jo Veskrna	\$50	EMPS_1020 Community Emergency Response Team	1 quarter credit
Machine Principles	Metro/dual	Metro Teacher at BHS	\$171	PRIMA_1401 Machine Tool I	9 quarter credits
Adv Welding	Metro/dual	Metro Teacher at BHS	\$171	WELD_1100 Industrial Cutting Processes	3 quarter credits
Modular Math Pre-Alg	Metro/dual	Vicki Griffin	Grant pays tuition	MATH_0910 Pre-Algebra	5 quarter credits
Modular Math Intermediate Alg	Metro/dual	Vicki Griffin	Grant pays tuition	MATH_0930 Intermediate Alg Part I MATH_0931 Intermediate Alg Part II	4 quarter credits 4.5 quarter credits
Modular Math Technical Math	Metro/dual	Vicki Griffin	Grant pays tuition	MATH_1220 Business Math	4.5 quarter credits
Modular Math Business Math	Metro/dual	Vicki Griffin	Grant pays tuition	MATH_1240 Technical Math	4.5 quarter credits



District Highlights

Overall, **Blair Community Schools** had three percent more students reach proficient status in Reading Language Arts and five percent more in Science. In Math, four percent more students reached proficiency.

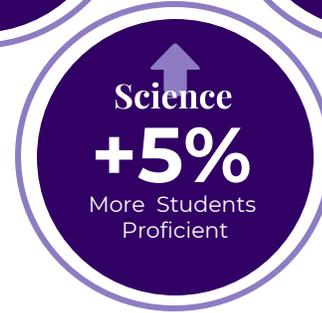
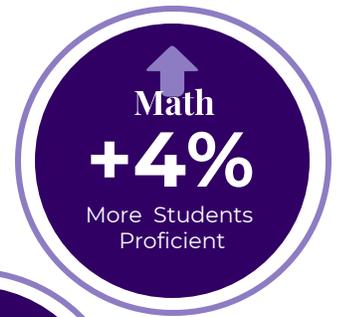
Some highlights to celebrate is **5th grade increased the number of students proficient in Math by 17%** and **4th grade had 10% more students proficient** over the previous year in Math. Also, there were really nice gains in 11th grade where **5% more students were proficient** in Math.

In **Reading**, again the 5th grade had a significant gain, **increasing proficient students by 15%** over the 2017-18 school year. There was also really nice improvements in 4th, 8th, and 11th grade.

Blair Community Schools performs best in the area of **Science**. **Nine percent more students** were proficient in 11th grade and there was a **5% increase in 8th grade**.

Blair Community Schools has made significant changes for this school year to add **time and support to increase academic achievement**. At Otte Middle School, **13 minutes was added to each day** so that math, reading/language arts, and science time could be doubled from 47 minutes daily to 74 minutes. At Arbor Park, reading and language arts, was increased to 90 minutes and there is an additional 30 minutes for writing. Plus, math time at Arbor Park has increased to 60 minutes in fifth and 80 minutes in 3rd and 4th.

At Blair High School, **15 minutes was added to each school day and a new Tutorial is held each Thursday** in place of AEP, where students receive **extra time and support** every day for extra practice and instruction from their teacher outside of their regular instructional time. Middle school and high school students can come in Friday mornings during PLC time to continue their learning or do retesting. At Arbor we also offer **30 minutes of extra time and support every day beyond core instruction** where students can get interventions and extensions to push students who need extra challenge.



Blair High School	+ 15 min / a day	Tutorial is now offered.
Otte Middle School	+ 13 min / a day	DOUBLED TIME FOR Math Reading/ELA Science
Arbor Park Intermediate	Increased to: 90 min of Reading 30 min Writing 60/80 min Math (5th/3rd-4th)	



Student Activity and Athletics Highlights

BCS is proud of its students, coaches, and sponsors for their dedication in activities.

In **volleyball**, the Bears won their first game at Districts and lost in the Sub-District Final match to Bennington. In softball, the Bears won Sub-Districts and traveled to Hastings for an opportunity to qualify for the State Tournament. The Bears fought hard losing the second game 4-3 on a late inning rally by Hastings.

Three Blair students qualified for State in **girls' cross country**. At State, sophomore **Sophia Baedke** medaled and finished 15th and **Mary Roskens** narrowly missed medaling, finishing in 19th-place. **Grace Galbraith** also qualified.

The **boys' cross country team** qualified for the State Tournament. Congratulations **Sam Lueders** who finished 3rd and the boys finished 9th as a team. **Aiden Klanderud** was 41st, **Zac Boswell** was 44th, **Jacob Rupp** was 55th, **Ethan Funk** was 70th and **Mason Bell** was 76th.

The **Bears' football team** qualified for the State Playoffs for the fourth season in a row. The Bears led the #1 seed Omaha Skutt for almost half of the game, but eventually lost, ending another successful season.

The **Blair girls' golf team** qualified for State for the first time since 2012. The Bears finished 11th overall. Junior, **Rachel Parks** finished 19th overall just missing a medal. **Anna Moore, Kaia Stewart, Ava Rech, Mallory Stirek** all qualified for State.

Congratulations to Schmitt Music's 2019 Educators of the Year **Ms. Chiyo Trauernicht**. She is the coordinator of the annual Blair Middle School Honor Band Festival, which hosts over 230 students from more than 60 schools. She has previously received the NSBA Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2012 and the NMEA Bryan R. Johnson Distinguished Service Award in 2017. She has served as middle level chairs for Nebraska Bandmasters Association and Nebraska Music Education Association and as the President-Elect of NSBA.

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Haggstrom**, a sophomore, who auditioned and was selected to attend the All-National Honor Band Ensemble, which represents the top performing high school musicians in each state across the country. Caitlyn is the first student from Blair to attend, and only one of two people from Nebraska to be selected for the concert band.

Mr. Hutsell and Blair's Vocal Music Department was selected once again to perform in the Omaha Symphony's Choral Collaborative giving vocal students an "unparalleled experience." BCS vocal students had the opportunity to perform world-class repertoire, work with professional soloists, and participate in an intense learning and rehearsal process with the artistic staff of a professional orchestra, the Omaha Symphony at the Holland Center.

Ms. McNamara led 51 high school students in performing *Fiddler on the Roof*.

In 2016, **the Blair Bear Backers** was established as a 100% volunteer organization with the mission to provide in-kind and financial support to Blair High School athletics and activities. **The Bear Backers** have raised over \$140,000 to support different projects around Blair High School. Such as renovations of the Press Box at Krantz Field, to purchase a new electronic display sign located in the student parking lot, to support the purchase of a digital Hall Of Fame Kiosk and to support funding for a new Athletic Training Room.

State Tournament Qualifiers

-  2018/19 Softball
-  2018/19 Football
-  2018/19 Cross Country (Girls)
-  2018/19 Cross Country (Boys)
-  2018/19 Wrestling
-  2019/20 Golf (Girls)

The wrestling team won the Class B State Dual Team Championship in 2018-19 and finished as Eastern Midlands Conference Champions in 2019-20.



School Board & Superintendent Goals

Student Learning and Achievement Leadership - Provide quality learning experiences for all students of Blair Community Schools.

1. Adopt a curriculum review policy to ensure the district strategically reviews and adopts quality curriculum to support student learning success.
2. Support and sustain PLCs to allow staff to work collaboratively to improve instruction and the academic performance of students.
3. Commit time and the necessary resources to ensure the district curriculum is vertically and horizontally aligned to support the academic success of student transitions from grade to grade and level to level.
4. Consider, identify, and implement alternative coursework to expand learning opportunities at the High School level (ex. dual credit and/or etc.).



Financial Leadership-Provide fiscally responsible leadership of management and district resources.

5. Provide a short/long term facility and grounds plan to support a quality and safe learning environment for staff and students.
6. Engage and educate both internal and external stakeholders to grow an understanding of district/board adopted strategies to address the financial challenges and to ensure the district continues to provide quality instruction, curriculum, and within safe and effective learning facilities.



Visionary Leadership-Develop and grow a vision to advance instruction and learning for the students of Blair Community Schools.

7. Work collaboratively with the board to engage district Legislative representative(s) to ensure they understand the unique financial challenges of the Blair school district.
8. Sustain stakeholder engagement (e.g., internal and external stakeholders) in the development of a strategic plan to support the growth of instruction and learning for the students of Blair Community Schools.
9. Conduct a review and assessment of all programs, district operations, facilities, class sizes, staffing, etc. to ensure the district is utilizing all resources in the most effective and purposeful manner.
10. Implement a succession plan to proactively identify and develop new leaders to succeed and meet the future leadership needs of the district.



Communication Leadership-Establish a working relationship with internal and external stakeholders.

11. Actively engage internal and external stakeholders to build and sustain an effective partnership between the district and the community of Blair.
12. Partner with community and business leaders to build cooperative relationships to support student learning opportunities through job shadow, career readiness, mentor leadership, etc.



Road to Financial Independence



Problem

BCS had overspent its General Fund Budget in 10-11, 11-12, 13-14, & 16-17 leaving less than \$2 million in cash reserve.

From 2014-2019, 86% of Revenue was spent on Payroll. Leaving no \$ for Capital Projects, Curriculum, Technology, & Wage increases.

Still need to complete priority Capital projects from failed \$28 million dollar 2016 Bond, increase wages, and lower taxes.



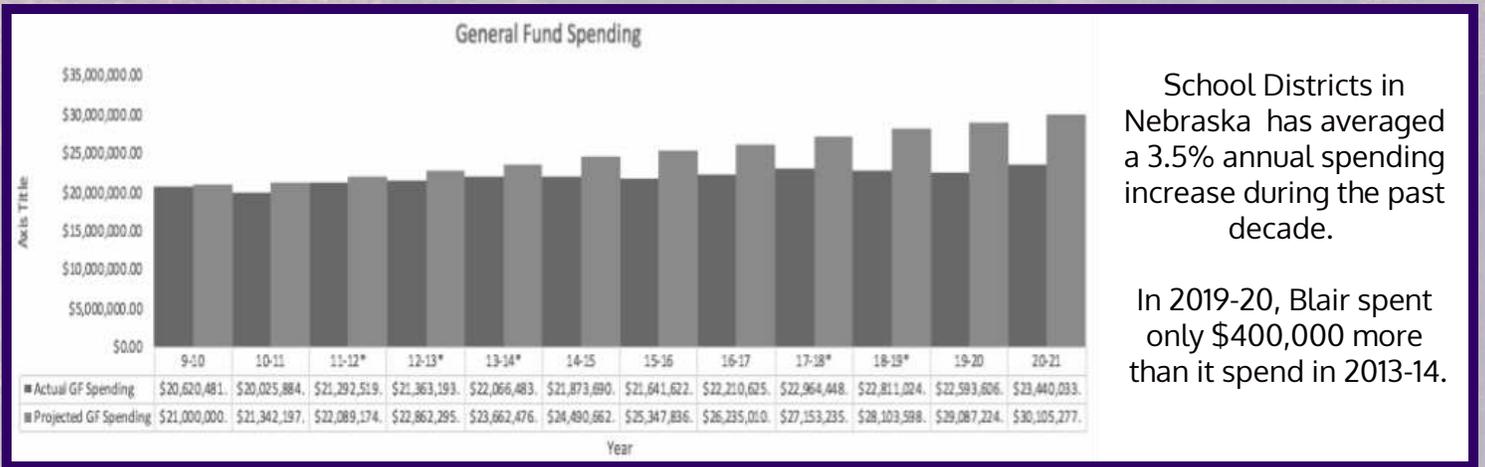
Solution

Lower the percentage of Revenue spent on Payroll. Be more efficient with staff assignments, buildings, grounds, & transportation.

Align spending Property Tax Revenue, not to State Aid.

Develop partnerships with City, Metro, Local Businesses, and Community.

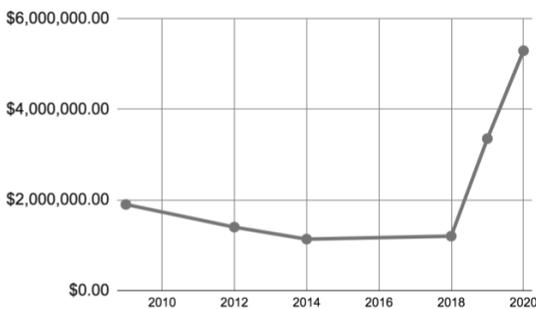
Increase Classified & Certified Wages. Increase Building & Depreciation Funds.



School Districts in Nebraska has averaged a 3.5% annual spending increase during the past decade.

In 2019-20, Blair spent only \$400,000 more than it spend in 2013-14.

Cash Reserve is NOW 5.3M



It is recommended that school districts have a cash reserve of 3-6 months. Blair Community Schools spends 2.1 million per month. In January of 2018, BC had to get board approval for a loan. Since then, the Cash Reserve has dramatically increased..

Capital Forecast

Special Building Fund Projects			\$10 Million Bond	
Playground Rubber Mulch K-5	Office Relocation	Expansion of Industrial Arts Area	Carpet @ H.S., Arbor Park	All Roofs & Windows at North & South
Otte HVACs	Press Box	Training Room	H.S. Bleachers	Science & Food Science Labs
High School Kitchen Ventilation hood and equipment including ovens	Painting H.S. Lockers, Gyms, Hallways, etc. Auditorium Rigging Replacement	Krantz Restrooms, Concessions, & Storage	Concrete @ Bus Barn & North Parking Lot / HVAC Units @ Otte	Replace all Lights w/ Sensor LED's. Classrooms, Hallways, Gyms, Krantz





*Where All
Students Learn*

