



**PAPILLION LA VISTA**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



# Annual Report

2023-24 School Year

***Be Known for Greatness***



# *Be known for* LEADERSHIP

## **Rooted in Academics. Grown to Greatness.**

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The PLCS staff kicked off the 2023-24 school year by honoring the roots of Papillion La Vista Community Schools as we celebrated 135 years of graduates. District graduates from 1953 to 2023 came to the event to demonstrate the impact our staff has made on generations of students. It was truly an amazing display of community support for PLCS staff and a meaningful way to start the 2023-24 year. Our theme for the school year is "Rooted in Academics. Grown to Greatness." Our roots are based in a strong core academic program, and we will continue to grow the greatness throughout our district. As our graduates testified, it is our dedicated staff that make the difference. The PLCS team is second to none.

You will find evidence of these accomplishments throughout this report. I hope you take a moment to review this information and stay up to date on the happenings in your school district. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our great community and school district.



## **Board of Education**

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Unless otherwise posted, all Board meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the PLCS Central Office (420 S. Washington St, Papillion). The agendas and live broadcasts are available through the website at [www.plcschools.org/BoardMeetingsLive](http://www.plcschools.org/BoardMeetingsLive).



### **Board of Education**

*Left to Right:*  
Skip Bailey,  
Treasurer Brian Lodes,  
Vice President  
Valerie Fisher,  
Secretary SuAnn Witt,  
Lisa Wood,  
President  
Marcus Madler



## Strategic Plan Focus Areas

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The PLCS strategic planning process determined three areas of focus. Action teams have been implementing plans to accomplish goals in each focus area.

# 1

### Teaching and Learning

Provide all students with a rigorous core curriculum that honors diversity, maximizes innovative instruction, provides levels of individualized support, and results in demonstrated growth and achievement.

# 2

### Mental Health

Provide each student with the opportunity to learn and refine the skills to achieve the mental, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing necessary for a happy, healthy, and productive lifestyle.

# 3

### Human Resources

Provide all students with highly qualified staff that will foster a positive environment based in relationships. Recruit, develop, and retain a diverse staff to serve all students.

## Our Mission

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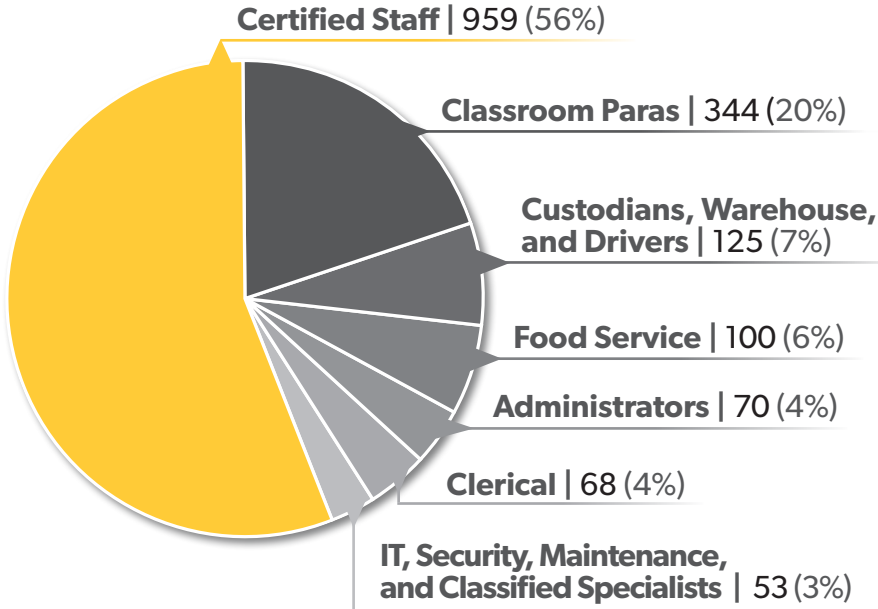
The mission of Papillion La Vista Community Schools, an organization dedicated to greatness, is to prepare all students to realize their unique aspirations through rigorous instructional and innovative educational pathways, delivered by highly qualified, passionate educators through bold partnerships with families and community.



# Be known for DEDICATED STAFF

## PLCS Staff Breakdown 2023-24

*Note: The 2023-24 breakdown of staff is based on number of staff, not on full-time equivalents. Decimals are rounded.*



### Join our community of Difference Makers!

Are you interested in making a difference in the life and success of a student? Work for Papillion La Vista Community Schools! Scan this code to see available positions, or visit [www.plcschools.org/ApplyNow](http://www.plcschools.org/ApplyNow).





# 1,719

## PLCS Employees

for a full-time equivalent of 1,555.

## Average Class Size 2023-24

- Elementary - 19.52
- Middle School - 20.79
- High School - 22.68

Class sizes at all levels were reduced from the previous year.

## Certified Staff Degrees

All certified teaching staff have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and many have acquired additional degrees, including:

- **669** master's degrees
- **19** educational specialist degrees
- **8** doctorates
- **44** national certifications

**Current PLCS teachers average 14 years experience teaching.**

## Outstanding Staff Recognized as 2022-2023 Greatness Award Winners

Every year, five PLCS employees are recognized as the Greatness Employees of the Year for their outstanding service and dedication. Greatness awards are given to one classified staff member, one elementary teacher/specialist, one secondary teacher/specialist, a rookie teacher, and a substitute teacher. These awards are possible through the financial support of the Papillion La Vista Schools Foundation.



**Dan Innes**  
Rookie Teacher  
**Becky Peters**  
Substitute Teacher  
**Tim Keller**  
Secondary Teacher  
**Harry Carbullido**  
Classified Staff Member  
**Kerry Simmons**  
Elementary Teacher (front)









# Be known for EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

## PLCS 2023 Graduates

- ▶ **955** PLCS seniors graduated in 2023.
- ▶ **\$37.4 million** in scholarship money was awarded to **420** graduates receiving a collective **1,432** scholarships.
- ▶ **1 senior** was named a National Merit Finalist.

### Graduation Rate

The PLCS graduation rate remains very high, exceeding state numbers.



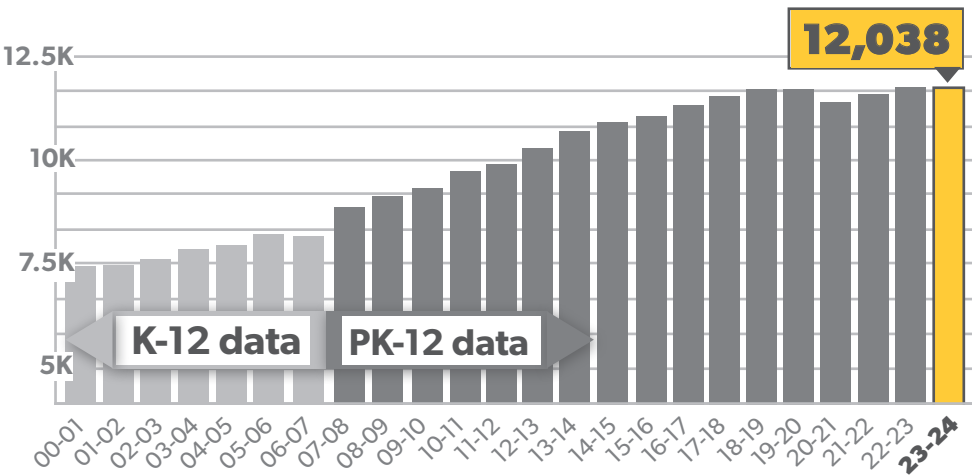
## 2023-24 Student Demographics

**28%** minority | **28%** free and reduced lunch | **8%** military

## PLCS Enrollment Remains Steady

PLCS enrollment continues to hold steady after the COVID dip. During COVID, PLCS lost over 350 students to homeschooling and various other educational options. Last year, the enrollment recovered to the pre-COVID days. Today, the district enrollment remains steady, gaining only a handful of students. Enrollment projections continue to show growth in the western portion of the school district with the elementary level seeing the largest projected increase.

### Historical Student Enrollment



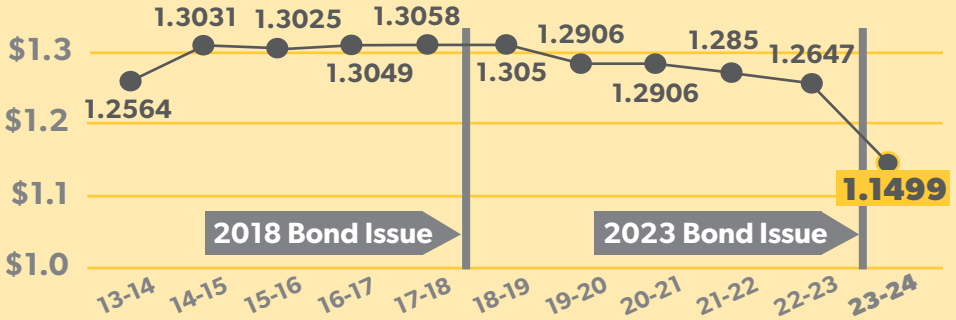
Note: Preschool enrollment data is not available before 2007-08.

# Be known for FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Tax Rate Drops 11.47 Cents!

The PLCS Board of Education approved the 2023-24 budget on September 25, 2023, with an overall general budget increase of only 3%. An increase to staff salaries makes up the largest portion of the budget increase. Staff salaries and benefits are nearly 86% of the total budget. Despite the slight overall budget increase, the **tax rate for 2023-24 will drop 11.47 cents.**

### Historical Tax Rate



### Per-Pupil Expenditure

**\$12,098.00**

spent per student annually.

That's \$3,015.01 less than the state average, and 7th lowest in the state! The most recent data from the state is from the 2021-22 school year.

### 2023-24 Tax Facts

#### Tax Rate:

General Fund - \$0.93  
Building Fund - \$0.02  
Bond Fund - \$0.20

Total Levy - \$1.1499

Taxes per \$100,000 home  
\$1,149.90

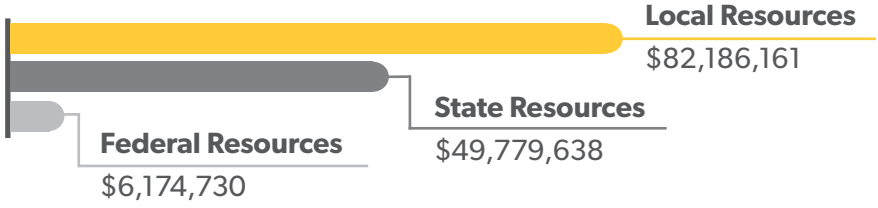
Total District assessed valuation  
\$8,736,497,436





# Where Does the Money Come From?

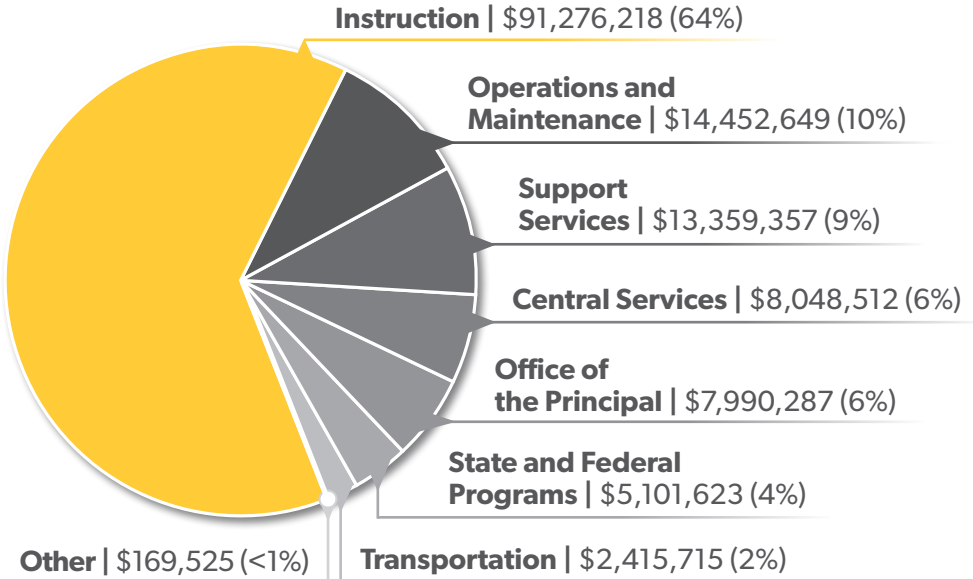
2022-2023 Total Revenue: \$138,140,529



Historically, state aid and property tax are the two primary sources of revenue for PLCS. As property taxes increase, state aid decreases providing PLCS tax payers with little to no relief. This past year as the assessed value in the school district increased, state aid decreased, but the Governor and state legislature increased special education funding. This additional funding source allowed tax payers to benefit. The PLCS Board dropped the tax rate 11.47 cents.

# Where Does the Money Go?

2022-2023 Total Expenditures: \$142,813,886



Note: Percentages are rounded.



# *Be known for* **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

## **PLCS Voters Pass 2023 Bond Issue for \$129.9M**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 represents a remarkable moment in Papillion La Vista Community Schools' history. Residents from PLCS voted overwhelmingly in support of a \$129.9 million bond, the largest bond in district history passing with over 66% approval.

### **Construction Begins**

Planning, design work and construction started immediately after the voters approved the bond issue. Already the PLCS Board has approved the start of construction at Hickory Hill, Parkview Heights, Tara Heights, and Trumble Park. Work is also underway at both PLHS and PLSHS baseball and softball complexes.

## **2023 Bond Issue Goals**

**1 Improve safety and security.**

**2 Update older facilities to today's standard of greatness.**

**3 Serve projected growth in student enrollment.**

## **Safety and Security Improvements**

### **Happening at ALL PLCS schools:**

- Additional access control throughout school, and door-propping alert systems.
- Updated intercom/paging system throughout schools so all staff have access to call a lockdown.
- Updated front entrance video system.
- Integration of all systems.
- Expanded chain link fencing around perimeter of elementary playgrounds.
- Security film and other bullet-resistant features.



**Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information and videos about the projects!**

[plcschools.org/BondIssue](https://plcschools.org/BondIssue)



## Elementary Projects

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### **Parkview Heights, Tara Heights, and Trumble Park**

Major renovations to update these older schools to today's standards, including:

- Expand physically smaller classrooms to standard size.
- Interior and exterior improvements.
- Playground updates.

### **Bell, Hickory Hill, Patriot, Portal, and Walnut Creek**

- Install secure entrance, moving visitors through the office.
- Add finishing kitchen,\* allowing for an additional entree and permanent ware.
- Minor interior updates.\*\*

*\*Bell Elementary already has a finishing kitchen.*

*\*\*Hickory Hill is an older school that will require more interior renovation to bring it to today's standard.*

### **New Elementary School**

The new elementary school will be built near 100th and Lincoln Street. This school will relieve the overcrowding at Prairie Queen Elementary.

## La Vista and Papillion Middle Schools Projects

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- Renovation of science classrooms.
- Interior and exterior improvements.
- Addition of counseling center (LVMS).
- Gym renovation (PMS).

## PLHS and PLSHS Projects

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- Auditorium/theatre renovation.
- Update baseball and softball complexes.
- Addition of PE classroom/activity space (PLHS).
- Addition of flex classroom for health class and academy programs (PLSHS).

## Additional Projects

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### **Young Adult Transition Program (YATP):**

A new facility built on land PLCS currently owns just east of Liberty Middle.

### **Technology Infrastructure:**

Increase performance and reliability of technology in all schools and support new safety and security systems.

### **Future School Property:**

Land potentially for a new elementary school and a new middle school. The land will be purchased now while it is available and can be sold if it is not needed in the future.

# Be known for STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## NWEA MAP Growth Testing Drives Instruction

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments are administered to PLCS students in Kindergarten through 9th grade. These nationally normed achievement tests are given two to three times during the school year. The MAP test is a valuable tool for PLCS teachers to understand how to respond to individual student learning needs, determine instruction groups, monitor progress, and differentiate instruction. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers the previous question. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. The chart below includes percentiles which indicate how each grade is performing compared to national comparison groups.

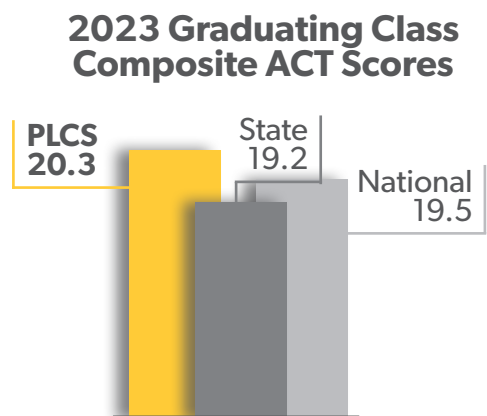
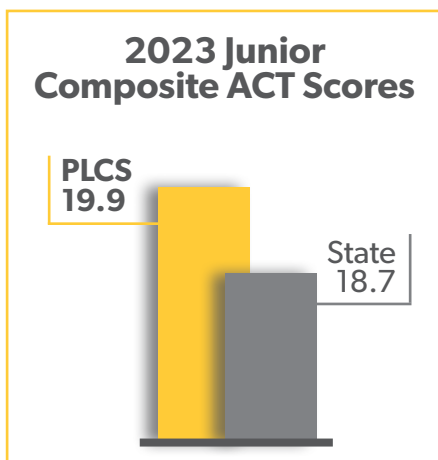
	Reading	Math
1st Grade	85th percentile	86th percentile
2nd Grade	74th percentile	63rd percentile
3rd Grade	77th percentile	73rd percentile
4th Grade	77th percentile	74th percentile
5th Grade	80th percentile	73rd percentile
6th Grade	81st percentile	74th percentile
7th Grade	84th percentile	82nd percentile
8th Grade	78th percentile	77th percentile
9th Grade	76th percentile	82nd percentile

*A percentile is a national comparison score. For example, if PLCS 1st graders are at the 86th percentile in math, it means that PLCS 1st graders scored as well as or higher than 86% of other 1st grade students across the nation taking the same test.*

*Note: The most recent MAP data is from Fall 2023.*

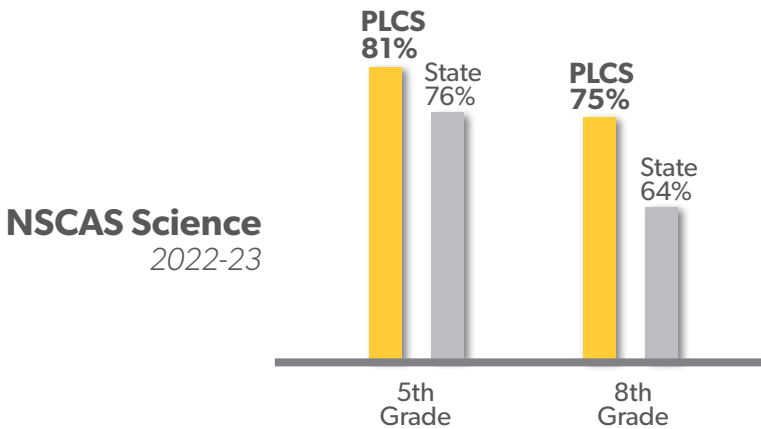
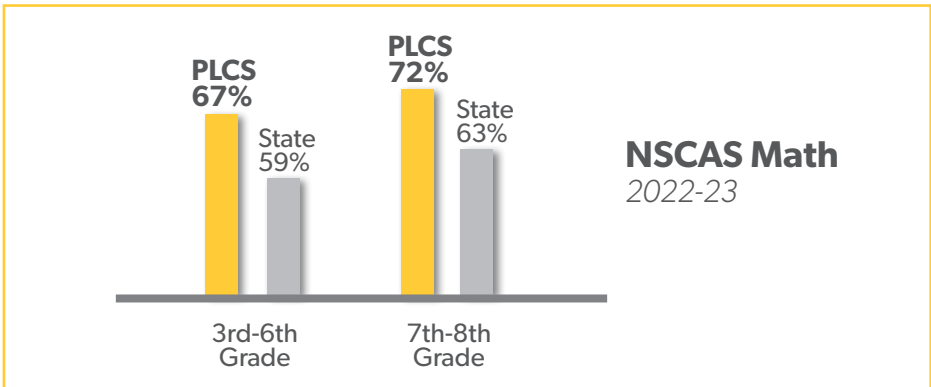
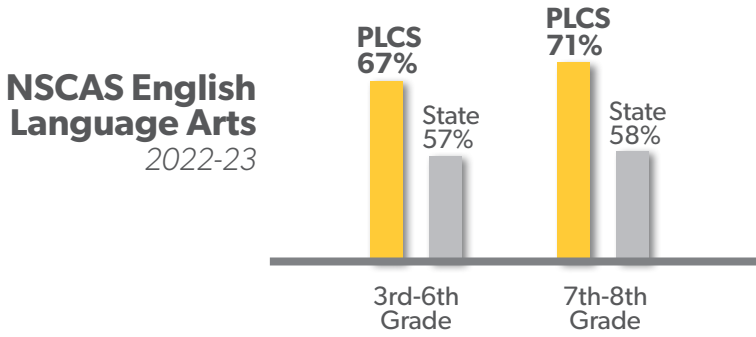
## PLCS Exceeds State and National ACT Test Scores

The ACT is a national high school exam intended to measure college readiness. Since 2017, the Nebraska Department of Education has provided the opportunity for all 11th grade students to take the ACT as a part of the state test system. The Junior ACT graph features the 2023 PLCS 11th grade composite ACT score in comparison to the Nebraska average. The graduating class results illustrate how PLCS 2023 graduates rank in comparison to the state and nation.



# PLCS Continues to Exceed State Testing Scores

NSCAS is the statewide assessment given to Nebraska students in 3rd-8th grade in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and math, and in 5th and 8th grades in science. Below you will see how PLCS students performed compared to students across the state. The charts depict percent proficient.



**Note:** The most recent state data is from 2022-23. To review the complete State of Schools Report, visit [nep.education.ne.gov](http://nep.education.ne.gov).





# Be known for **OPPORTUNITY**

## Academic Programs Provide Foundation for Success

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- 9** **Academy Programs** give high school students hands-on education and experiences in specific careers.
- 18** **Unique Advanced Placement (AP) Classes** are offered.
- 24** **Exploratory Classes** are available for middle school students.
- 101** **High School Students** began their college career through College Jump Start programs.

## Opportunity at a Glance

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*Numbers reflect the 2023-24 school year unless otherwise specified.*

**659**

students receive additional services through the High Ability Learner (HAL) program.

**921**

PLCS sixth grade students spent two days at Outdoor Education.

**90**

Kindergarten students jump started their education through Kindergarten Jump Start.

**873**

vocal music students in middle and high school.

**1,335**

band students in 6th-12th grade.

**76**

sports teams at the middle and high schools.

**259**

clubs and activities throughout all PLCS schools.

**19**

Unified teams at the middle and high schools.

**37**

state championships in sports and activities in 2022-23.

**319**

elementary students participated in summer school.

**5,717**

computer devices distributed to middle and high school students.

**427**

students are in PLCS preschool.



◀ Scan to watch classroom stories on our YouTube channel!



# Connect WITH PLCS!

Register today to receive emails with updates on student achievement, bond issue projects, finances, student and staff highlights, job openings, and more!

Scan the QR code to sign up for our community newsletter:



or send an email to [communications@plcschools.org](mailto:communications@plcschools.org).



Find us on the social media platform of your choice!

This report contains information primarily focused on the 2023-24 school year. However, some of the state data contained in this report also reflects the 2022-23 school year, because this is the most recent data available.

The annual report has been produced by the Communications Department. For more detailed information, check out the PLCS website at [www.plcschools.org](http://www.plcschools.org). You can contact the Central Office at 402-537-6200 or [communications@plcschools.org](mailto:communications@plcschools.org).



The Papillion La Vista Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Students: Dr. Trent Steele, Director of Secondary Human Resources and Student Services, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046, (402) 537-6214 ([trent.steele@plcschools.org](mailto:trent.steele@plcschools.org)). Employees and Others: Dr. Kati Settles, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources, 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046, (402) 537-6204 ([kati.settles@plcschools.org](mailto:kati.settles@plcschools.org)). Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, #320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or email [ocr.kansascity@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov).