



**bps**  
BISMARCK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empower every  
learner to  
*thrive!*

# SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

DR. JEFF FASTNACHT



## Superintendent's Message



Dear BPS Community and Families,  
As we prepare to welcome our students back for the 2024-2025 school year, I am filled with immense pride and excitement for the journey ahead. Reflecting on the past year, I am deeply grateful for the trust and support we have received from our community and parents. On a personal note, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the encouragement and confidence so many of you have offered me during my first year at BPS.



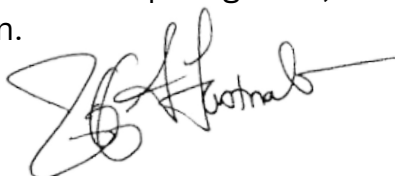
It has been an honor to serve as your superintendent, and I look forward to the coming school year. Our commitment to enhancing communication and transparency has been central to our efforts, and I am proud of the progress we have made in building stronger connections and fostering trust within Bismarck Public Schools and the broader community.

One of our significant achievements this past year has been our focus on personalized learning. This work has not only enriched the educational experiences of our students but has also earned us the prestigious recognition of being named the District of the Year by K12 Dive. Additionally, our advancements in career and technical education (CTE) programs have been transformative, empowering our students to explore their passions and thrive in their chosen fields. We are at the forefront of schools in the number of students taking dual credit and AP courses, helping our graduates get a head start on their future. BPS is leading in student placements in worksite internships. Moreover, we are pioneering new CTE opportunities at our Silver Ranch site, addressing local workforce needs and providing our students with relevant skills for future employment.

Looking forward, we are excited in several key areas for the upcoming year. Our primary goal is to expand educational opportunities for our students, whether they are pursuing their interests in the arts, excelling on the athletic field, or exploring potential careers through internships and our robust CTE programs. We believe that offering a diverse range of opportunities that allow every student to discover and pursue their passions is the best path forward. When our students are following their passions, they are highly engaged in learning, leading to their ultimate success as graduates.

Furthermore, we are committed to elevating our problem-solving approaches by fostering a culture of dignity and respect in all our communications. We believe that people need to feel safe speaking up, offering feedback, or addressing concerns. Solving problems requires candid conversations, and BPS is dedicated to creating an environment that supports these crucial discussions. Guided by the principles of the Dignity Index ([dignity.us](https://dignity.us)), Bismarck Public Schools aims to lead in how we interact with others, lifting those around us and preserving their dignity.

As we kick off this new school year, I warmly welcome each of you back to our schools. BPS is excited to see your children and you as we begin this journey together on August 21. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will achieve great things and create a brighter future for all our children.

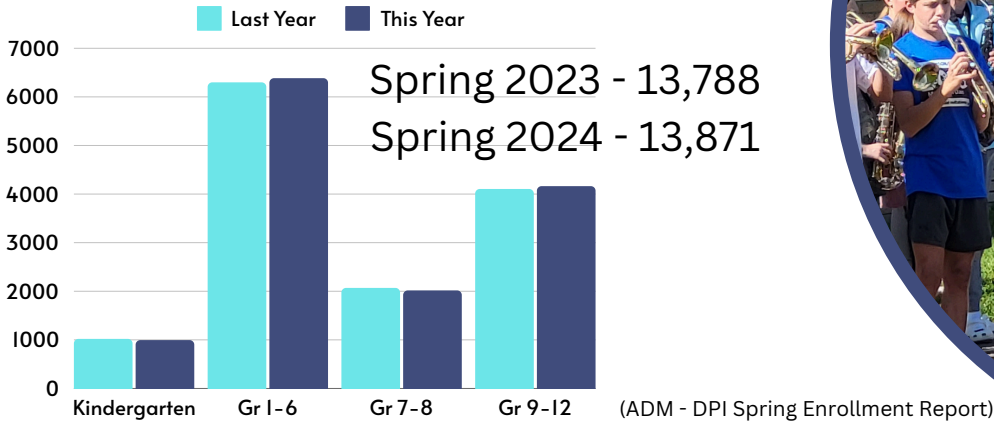




# STUDENT DATA



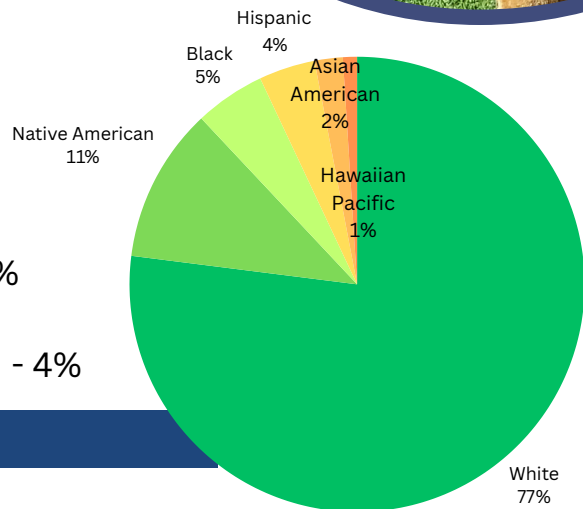
## Average Daily Membership



## Demographics



Low Income - 22%  
Homeless - 1%  
English Learners (EL) - 4%

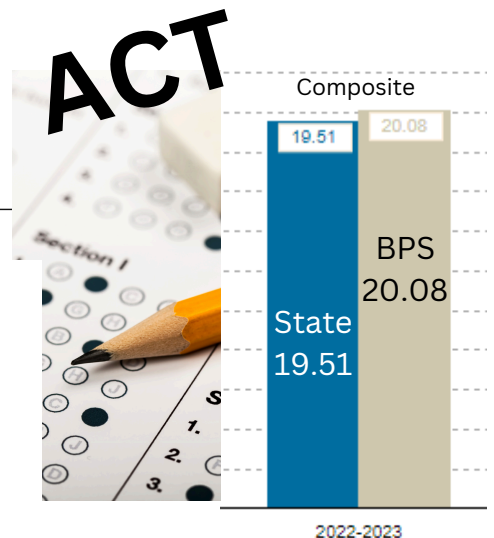
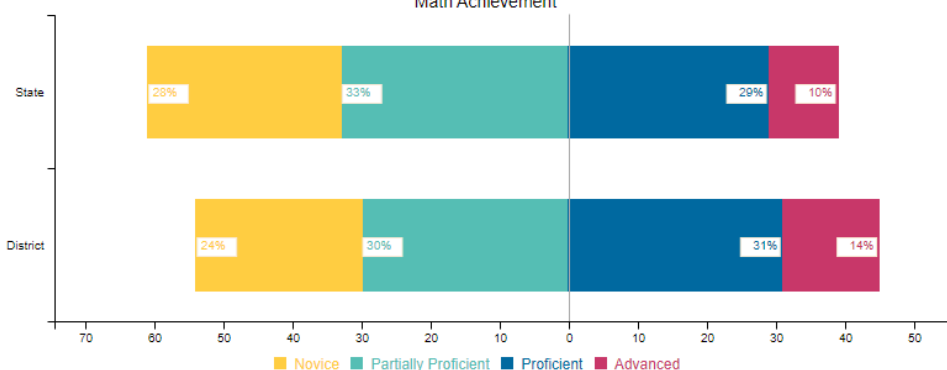
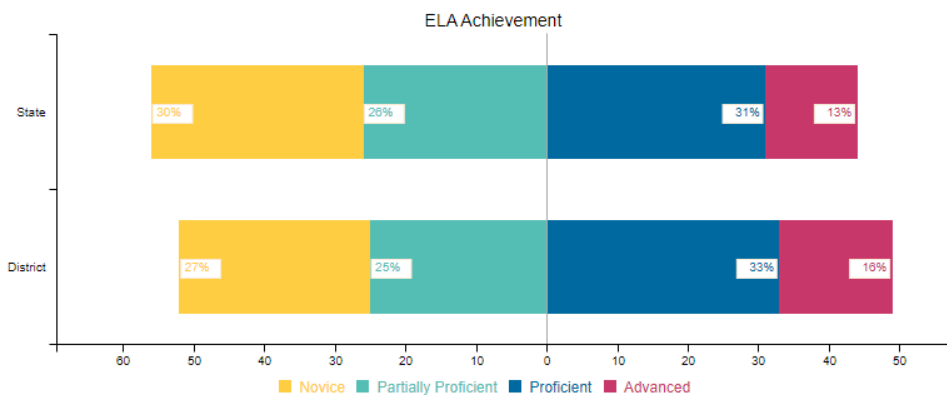


## Attendance Matters

**65% of Seniors** had  
 **95%** attendance  
 **or better**

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

## Chronic Absenteeism



Achievement Data - 2022-2023 from ND Insights

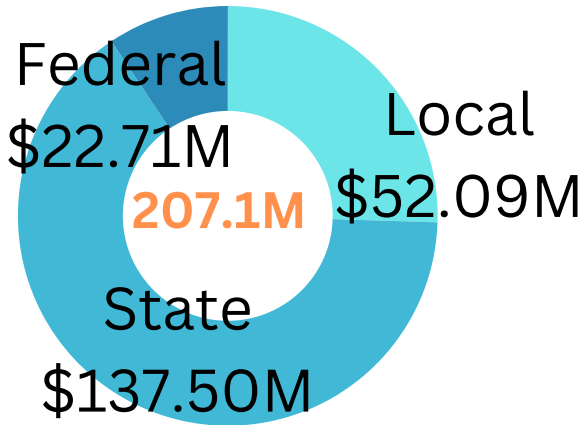


# Transportation (DPI -Transportation Report)

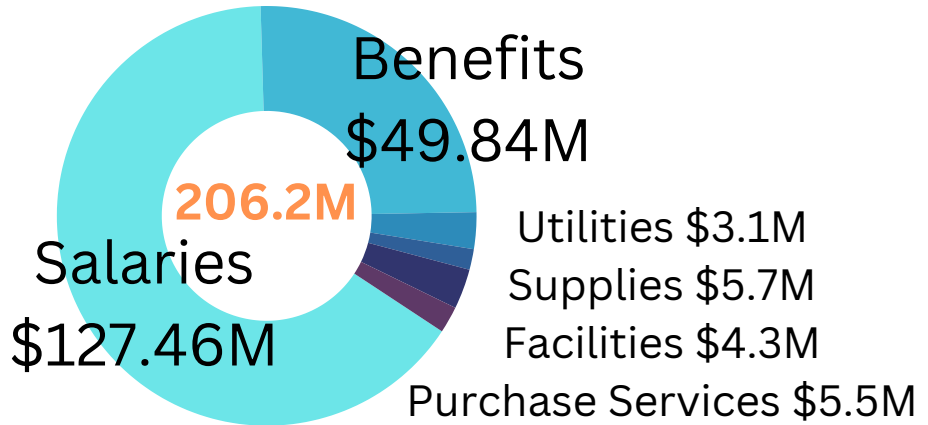
Total Annual Rides **908,552**

Total Annual Miles **807,568**

## Revenue



## Expenditures 2023-2024 Actual @ End of Year



## Staffing



Teachers: 1,146  
 Support Staff: 903  
 Professional Support: 117  
 Administration: 71  
 Total: 2,237  
 July 2024

**55%** of educators have an advanced degree  
ND Insights

## Retention Rates 2023-2024 BPS HR

### Administration



**99%**

### Instructional Aides



**74%**

\*Includes retirements & resignations

### Teachers



**94%**

## 64% of BPS Graduates Attend College

Top schools:

- Bismarck State College
- University of North Dakota
- North Dakota State University
- University of Mary



## Child Nutrition 2023-2024 Meals Served



Breakfast: 479,454

Lunch: 1,553,226







## PRIORITY

### BUDGET



Budgets should align with priorities in our school system, similar to what we have to do in our own homes. As we move forward the BPS community must begin to align strategic priorities to programs, student outcomes, and budgets. We must invest in our top priorities first and in what works. These discussions are a priority to ensure we spend our resources wisely.

## Busing Improvements

Improving student transportation continues to be a focus area for the district. Workforce needs hamper our abilities to ensure 100% of buses are available each and every day. The district must find ways to improve overall reliability of busing services. Public meetings being planned on this topic this year.



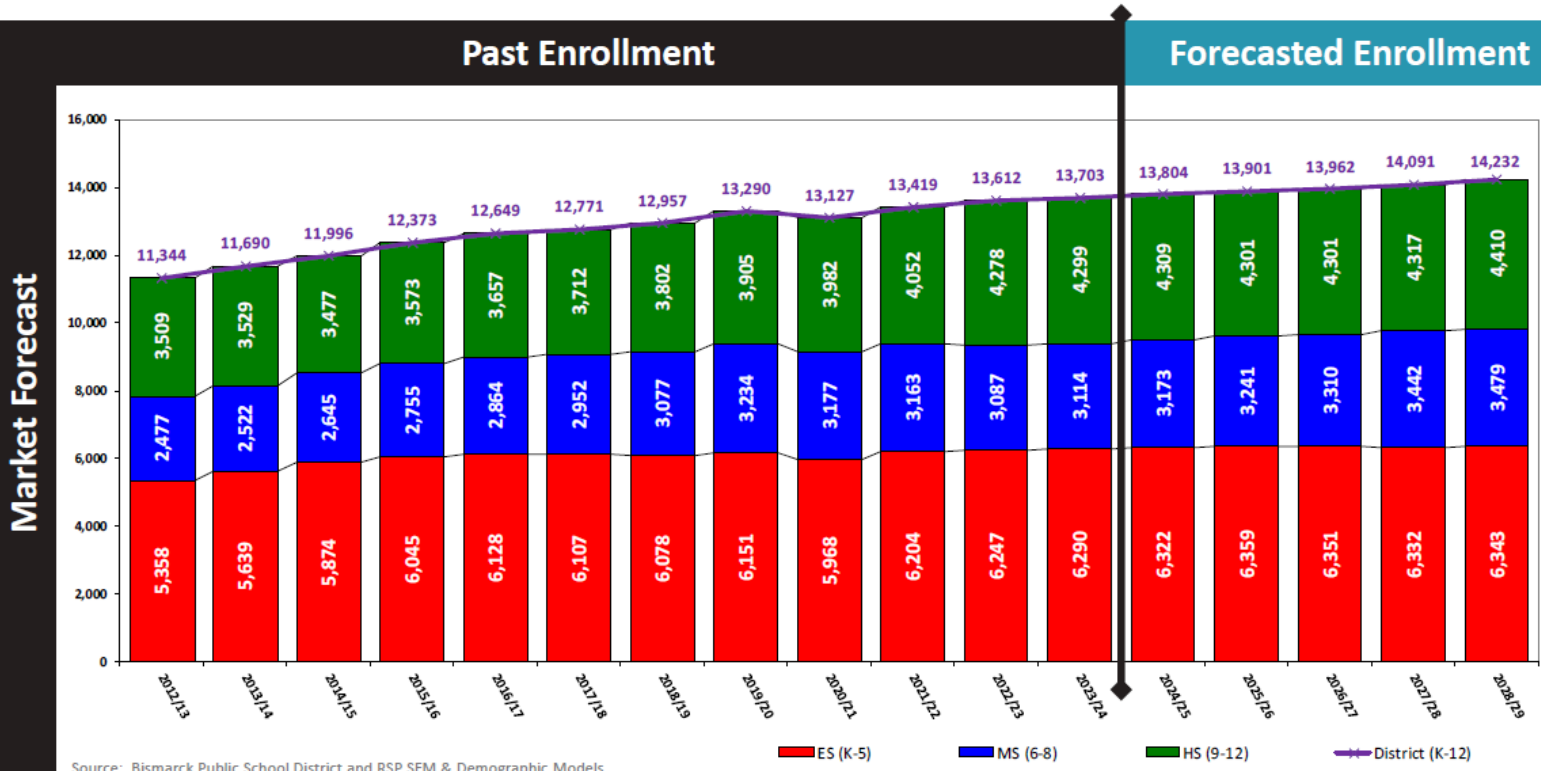
## Career & Technical Education Program Expansion

As workforce demands increase in our community, BPS will continue to provide a wide range of robust CTE programs. The expansion planned at Silver Ranch will provide new programs including HVAC.



Increasing student enrollment has slowed from previous years. Projections, this from RSP, is expecting 529 new students in the next five years.

## Past, Current, & Future Enrollment



Source: Bismarck Public School District and RSP SFM & Demographic Models

**bps**

**EMPOWER EVERY LEARNER  
TO THRIVE**

**BISMARCK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**Together, our strong relationships build inclusive, collaborative, and innovative environments that create agency and inspire a passion for learning, excellence, and discovery.**



**Mission Vision Values**