



ISD624.ORG



2024

White Bear Lake Area Schools
ANNUAL UPDATE

STUDENT GROWTH & PROFICIENCY

Early Childhood

Our District offers a diverse range of early childhood education options from family education, vibrant preschool programming and nature-based learning experiences. We partner with our early childhood special education team to provide support and services for our preschool students with exceptional needs. We are recognized as a 4-star Parent Aware preschool program, the highest rating possible in Minnesota.

Elementary

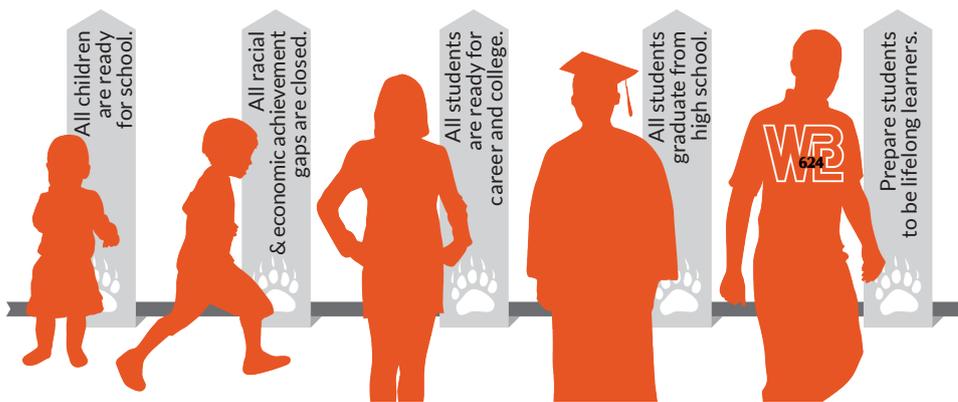
Our elementary students are assessed regularly in reading, math, and science using a variety of grade-level appropriate tools. To measure their progress against state standards, we utilize MCA tests. Students who need additional support or an added challenge receive personalized instruction.

Middle School

Middle school teachers and counselors use the MCA test, along with other data, to guide students in course selection. Instruction is personalized to meet the individual needs of each student.

High School

High school teachers assess students regularly using common assessments in each subject. Students also take nationally-normed tests like the PreACT, PSAT, and ACT at various points in their high school career. Counselors and teachers utilize this data, combined with knowledge of individual student goals and motivation, to help students select from a wide range of course offerings, including more than 250 courses and nine career pathways.



In addition to MCA data, White Bear Lake Area Schools utilizes a variety of local academic measures, including academic and social-emotional screeners, PreACT, ACT, and academic grades and credits, to apprise student progress.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS (MCA)

Student proficiency is measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests, Minnesota's state requirement for testing under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

2023-24 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES

	State	WBLAS	WBLAS above state
Reading	49.7%	50.3%	+0.6 pt
Mathematics	45.3%	47.1%	+1.8 pt
Science	39.2%	37.5%	-1.7 pt

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

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

To ensure our district remains at the forefront of education, we are focused on reimagining learning experiences to inspire student success.

A key step in this process was the unification of White Bear Lake Area High School, which will provide enhanced opportunities for our students. Additionally, we are excited to implement a trimester system at the high school starting in the 2025-26 school year. This new structure will allow for more focused learning periods and increased opportunities for student growth.

To further enrich our educational offerings, we will launch an Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program in fall 2025, creating a bilingual environment that values diversity and cultural understanding.

At the middle school level, our teachers continue to collaborate to set high standards and provide rigorous instruction.

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HIGH EXPECTATIONS & ENRICHMENT

WBLAS is a recognized leader in developing Career Pathways aligned with workforce needs.

Our pathways program helps students align their education with their career goals by offering opportunities to earn college credits, industry certifications, and valuable work experience through job shadowing and site visits.



NINE CAREER PATHWAYS CURRENTLY OFFERED AT ISD624



Automotive



Construction & Skilled Trades



Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS)



Business



Education



Health & Wellness



Communication Technology



Engineering & Manufacturing



Information Technology



The 4-year graduation rate for the White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus Class of 2023 was 93.5%, 10.2 percentage points above the state average.

Graduation rate calculations follow one year behind the current graduating year.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We have high expectations for all students and offer a continuum of specialized instruction for students with unique needs. Our programs are individualized and comprehensive.

AVID

Our middle and high school students have the opportunity to participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which offers rigorous instruction to prepare students for college. Lakeaires Elementary is also an AVID school and uses Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR) strategies to enhance student learning.

BARR

Building Assets, Reducing Risk (BARR) programming is used in six of our schools to build strong relationships and provide early intervention support.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Since 2010, Matoska International has offered an IB World School option, providing a rigorous and globally-minded education for their elementary students.

55 COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES OFFERED AT WBLAHS DURING 2023-24

21 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 30 concurrent enrollment courses (CIS/CitHS) courses, and 4 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses. Students also took advantage of Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and Northeast Metro 916 Career and Technical Center offerings.

PLTW 48 students earned 139.5 credits

CIS/CitHS 470 students earned 1473 credits

AP 313 students earned 1461 credits

PSEO 123 students earned 2050 credits



All tuition calculations except concurrent enrollment based on U of MN tuition rate of \$557.55 per credit. Concurrent enrollment based on Century College tuition rate of \$287. PLTW grade cutoff B-, all others C-. Students may be counted more than once if they participated in more than one program. AP credit calculations based on U of MN score acceptance.

89 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) SCHOLARS

47 AP Scholars
 17 AP Scholars with Honors
 25 AP Scholars with Distinction

FINANCE

Financial Management

To ensure that maximum resources reach our classrooms, White Bear Lake Area Schools remains committed to fiscal responsibility.

Stewardship

The district continues to demonstrate strong stewardship, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used effectively and efficiently to support student learning and well-being.



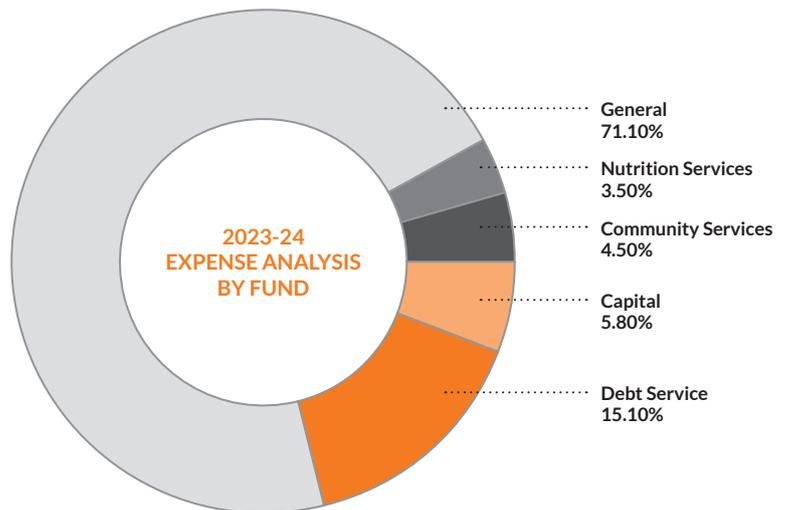
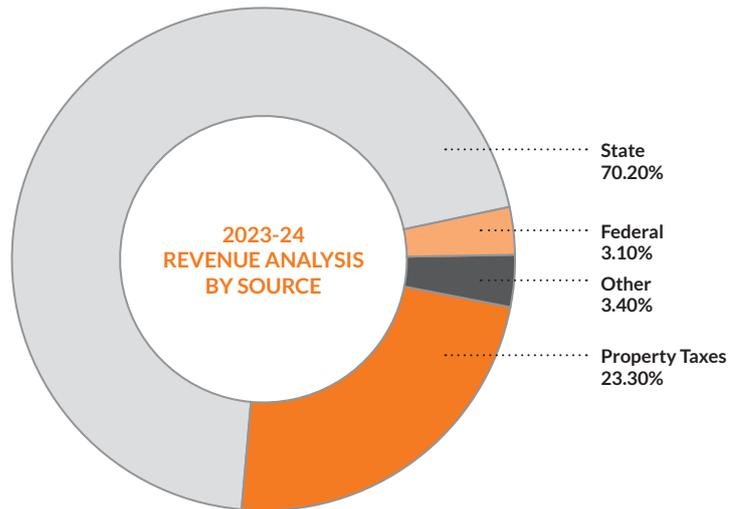
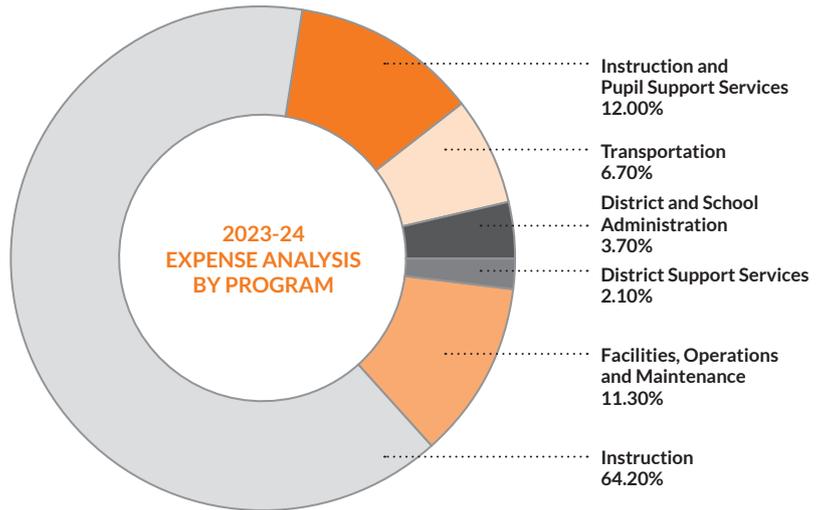
Financial Excellence

For 24 consecutive years, the White Bear Lake Area School District has been recognized by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting.

These prestigious awards are the highest honor a governmental agency can receive in the field of financial reporting.

Partnerships

The district has innovative partnerships with Bear Care, Lakeshore Players, Tamarack Nature Center, White Bear Center for the Arts and many others.



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

PROJECTS

Completed

- Area Learning Center Phase 1
- Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementaries Updates
- Transportation Facility
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 Gym Addition
- Birch Lake, Lakeaires, and Otter Lake Elementaries Updates
- North Star Elementary
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition
- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates
- Mariner Middle School
- Central Middle School Phase 1 Updates
- White Bear Lake Area High School

Ready for Winter 2024-25

- District Service Center and School Board at Sunrise Park

Ready for Fall 2025

- Mariner Middle School HVAC Improvements
- Central Middle School Phase 2 Updates
- Senior Center at Sunrise Park

Ready for Fall 2026

- Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center (TEC) at Sunrise Park

The 2019 bond referendum list of comprehensive building projects is nearing substantial completion marking an exciting chapter for White Bear Lake Area Schools. This fall, we celebrated two major milestones with the opening of two sites.

After welcoming students and families to the newly configured grades 9-12 campus for open house and back-to-school events, the community came together for a special Open House event at White Bear Lake Area High School. It was heartwarming to see hundreds of community members explore the updated spaces, enjoying the enhancements alongside our students, staff, and families.

During Homecoming week, we hosted a "Set Sail with Mariner Middle School" Open House to celebrate the opening of Mariner Middle School while honoring the rich legacy of Mariner High School. Attendees enjoyed reconnecting and reminiscing, with former Mariner High School students proudly donning their letter jackets and spotting themselves in yearbook-inspired displays throughout the hallways.

The new White Bear Lake Area High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) has officially opened its doors. With seating for 800, this state-of-the-art facility recently hosted its first student music performances and will serve as the venue for future events, including the high school's fall musicals.

Construction at the Sunrise Park building is progressing steadily. This winter, District Center offices will relocate to Sunrise, which is being transformed to house the District Service Center and the Senior Center. Once the administrative move is complete, School Board meetings will also transition to the new School Board Room at Sunrise Park. By Fall 2026, the building will also house the Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center.



Complete info about the district's facilities projects, including construction details about individual projects, videos and presentations, can be found online at www.isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.





In December, students, staff, alumni and community members gathered for a pre-game reception and packed the game gym at White Bear Lake Area High School. The special event took place prior to the first Boys' Basketball game. Long-time coach, teacher, and community member Jim Galvin was honored at a dedication event naming the WBLAHS gymnasium as "Galvin Court."

Galvin began his teaching and coaching career at White Bear in 1970. He served as head basketball coach from 1972 to 1998. Under Galvin's guidance, the success of the White Bear basketball program was unparalleled. His 1984 and 1985 teams won 52 consecutive games and earned back-to-back Class AA State Championships. Galvin was named State Coach of the Year in 1985. Under his leadership, the Bears won five conference championships and made three state tournament appearances.

When he was not on the sidelines, Jim was a devoted and outstanding math teacher. He is fondly remembered by alumni for his engaging teaching style and positive influence on students. During his career in White Bear, he also served as Athletic Director for almost five years.

Galvin continues to serve the school district and community. After his retirement in 2000, he returned to the classroom to serve as a substitute teacher until 2020 and hosted basketball camps through 2023. He continues to support White Bear athletics and is rarely seen out of his orange and black attire. He served on the district-wide facilities planning team and has served as a trusted, influential voice in support of the school district, always focused on what's best for students.

NEW SPANISH DUAL IMMERSION

The White Bear Lake Area School Board recently approved an Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program, set to launch in Fall 2025. This program will be offered at Otter Lake Elementary and Matoska International, with each school hosting up to three kindergarten immersion classrooms for a potential total of six classrooms district-wide. Transportation will be available to resident families throughout the district for students enrolled in this program.

The new immersion program is designed to serve both Spanish-speaking and non-Spanish-speaking students together in a bilingual environment that values the contributions of every student and family. Participants will learn in a mix of English and Spanish, experiencing unique benefits such as academic growth, enhanced language and cultural understanding, social and emotional development, and expanded future opportunities.

"This is forward-thinking education. When I look in the job market, almost all of the employers want you to have a second language," said School Board Vice-Chair Angela Thompson. "I think this is another asset for our students. I'm really excited to see what this program does in the district."

Families will be able to select this option during the kindergarten registration process. Enrollment information was mailed to all incoming kindergarten families in December 2024, with the enrollment window for the 2025-26 school year opening on Dec. 16, 2024. Priority placement will be given to district students, with open enrollment applications considered after Jan. 15, 2025.

"This program addresses the needs of families seeking unique educational options, including immersion programs, and it supports multiple goals in our district's strategic plan," said Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent of White Bear Lake Area Schools. "We're committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment for all students, personalizing education, and helping each student recognize and develop their unique talents."

Find complete information about the Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion Program at www.isd624.org/immersion.

EXCITING NEWS...
We're launching a Spanish Dual Immersion program for elementary students!

GO DISCOVER.

GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO EXPLORE GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE GO GRADUATE GO IGNITE GO



Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625
Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

WHY BE A BEAR?

Benefits of being a BEAR:

- **Student-centered instruction.** We believe all students grow and learn in different ways and at different rates, all can achieve.
- **More academic opportunities** to explore interests, excel and design your future.
- **Students are agents and owners of their own learning** in an environment that is safe, supportive and challenging – with high expectations for student success.
- **Our educators inspire, facilitate, and challenge students,** nurturing curiosity and confidence. We provide a window to their future.
- **We are transforming learning.** Our flexible learning spaces and learning studios ignite opportunities for communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

*Design Your Future.
Create Your Success.*

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE
AREA SCHOOLS

   /isd624

**KINDERGARTEN
ENROLLMENT IS
NOW OPEN!**



White Bear Lake Area Schools