



SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE STATUS

APRIL 2025

SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATION

With respect to OE-9 Communicating with the Public taken as a whole, the superintendent certifies that the proceeding information is accurate and complete, and the district is:

- X In Compliance
In Compliance, with Exception
Not in Compliance

Summary Statement by Administration

Monitoring of operational expectations policies is part of the ongoing process of district performance evaluation and superintendent evaluation. This report includes a Data Analysis on page 3 presenting an administrative summary of the data and a Capacity Building section on the last page outlining new practice or protocol to be utilized for the next reporting timeframe. The Capacity Building section also documents suggested changes to Operational Expectations or Results policies and/or indicators and interpretations. This report addresses seven indicators of the superintendent's responsibility regarding general operations. All seven indicators were determined to be in compliance. Reporting dates for this report are July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Progress Reporting Summary

In Compliance

- 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.1.3, 9.1.4, 9.1.5
9.2.1, 9.2.2

In Compliance with Exception

- N/A

Not In Compliance

- N/A

Areas of Focus for Continuous Improvement

The Community Relations Department of Bismarck Public Schools has developed, and continues to refine, a revised communications plan. As part of these efforts, new communication strategies were implemented this year for both the Superintendent and the School Board to ensure ongoing, effective, and meaningful dialogue with the public. Stakeholder input collected through the community survey, referenced in Indicator 4 of Item 9.1, will remain a key consideration as BPS maintains its focus on strengthening community engagement.

At this time, administration does not recommend any changes to current practices.

Signed: [Signature] Superintendent

Date: 4/28/2025



**SCHOOL BOARD ACTION**


With respect to OE-9 *Communicating with the Public*, the Board:

- Accepts the report as fully compliant.
- Accepts the report as compliant with noted exceptions.
- Finds the district to be noncompliant.

**Summary Statement/Motion of the Board**

I first encourage the public, hopefully, to dig into those survey results. I think that they were fascinating, and I think in a district as large as ours, we're not going to ever get 100% that agrees with everything that we do, but I believe that we have been transparent with our communication tactics. I was really impressed. So far this year, we're leaning into the dignity index and how we communicate with those, and I felt that was kind of weaved in throughout the two pieces. Engage and you take the survey, then you may wonder if these results are accurate, but I do hope that we have more families, more teachers, more students, that the next time this comes around, it really does open our eyes. We do really look at the results. I think that the thing that's helpful is when we either have workshops or retreats, we do come back to some of the overarching themes. I do think these common themes and the things that we're hearing, obviously, this year, we did a lot of engagement with the forums that were on the bussing issue and know that that's a continued concern from the public and just want them to be aware that these things are definitely something that we're leaning into and paying attention.

It was moved by Mrs. Peterson and seconded by Ms. Preskey to accept the monitoring report for Policy OE-9 *Communicating with the Public* as In Compliance. Motion carried.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/28/2025

Board President

## Data Analysis

The data points contained within this document describe the nature and frequency of communications between Bismarck Public Schools and various stakeholder groups, both internal and external. The district survey associated with this report provides valuable insight into stakeholder perceptions of the organization.

Some specific items in this report that merit attention:

- In the public survey associated with 9.1 Indicator 4, 75% of respondents voiced approval of the district's direction. The approval target set in this document is 70%.
- Some areas of the community survey saw a slight decline in favorable responses, while other categories remained the same or increased. Overall approval remained within the target range. Themes from the comments are included in the linked survey summary report.
- Due to the transition to a new web platform, Finalsight, reporting methods for site visitors have changed.
- For indicator 5, community forums for the bell time topic were cited. This is one example of several engagement opportunities offered by district schools.
- In addition to the district's annual report, Dr. Fastnacht also shared a superintendent's annual report.
- Samples to work are included in the OE-9 website page.

On the basis of evidence presented in this report, Bismarck Public Schools finds itself to be in compliance with the criteria for communicating with the public set forth by OE-9.

**OE-9 – Communicating with the Public**

The Superintendent shall assure that the public is adequately informed about the condition and direction of the district.

**Interpretation:**

- **Adequately** shall mean sufficiently but not exhaustively.
- **Informed** shall mean provide information in writing and verbally through a variety of communications channels.
- **Public** shall mean Bismarck residents, including parents, staff and other stakeholders.
- **Condition** shall mean the district's finances, academic results, climate or honors.
- **Direction** shall mean the strategic goals and initiatives of the district.

### Monitoring Report

**The Superintendent Shall:**

<p><b>9.1</b> Assure the timely flow of information, appropriate input, and strategic two-way communication between the district and the public that builds understanding and support for district efforts.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p><b>Interpretation:</b> BPS works to provide timely information to the public and provide opportunities for input to build understanding for district initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timely</b> shall mean routine mechanisms are in place to inform the public and news media; mechanisms are also in place for communicating urgent, immediate issues such as emergencies.</li> <li>• <b>Flow of information</b> shall mean the distribution and/or availability of information.</li> <li>• <b>Appropriate input</b> shall mean useful ideas, thoughts, questions and concerns brought to the district through the established chain of command or another identified method.</li> <li>• <b>Strategic</b> shall mean in relation to the vision, plans and challenges facing the district.</li> <li>• <b>Two-way communication</b> shall mean disseminating and listening.</li> <li>• <b>Understanding</b> shall mean fact-based knowledge about the district.</li> <li>• <b>Support</b> shall mean general support for the district and agreement with the vision and strategic plan.</li> </ul>	

Indicator	Finding
<p><b>Indicator 1:</b> The number of visits to the district website’s home page will maintain or increase on an annual basis.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">OE-9 Communicating with the Public activity indicators</a></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 2:</b> The Community Relations Office will respond to standard media requests for information or interviews the same day but no later than 24 hours during the regular work week, with the exception of formal Open Records Requests which are subject to state law and handled by the Business and Operations Manager’s office. Evidence will be a list of all requests that were not completed within the stated timeline.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">OE-9 Communicating with the Public activity indicators</a></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3:</b> The Community Relations Office will annually write, produce and email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 35 Media Tip Sheets emailed to local news media with story ideas.</li> <li>• A minimum of 35 Public Service Announcements to media regarding BPS events.</li> <li>• A minimum of 20 Intercom employee newsletters.</li> <li>• A minimum of 10 Chamber/BMDA newsletter or community publication contributions.</li> <li>• A minimum of 20 Friday Fliers to advertise youth events to K-8 grade parents.</li> <li>• A minimum of 8 district newsletter pages for school newsletters to all parents.</li> <li>• A minimum of 3 social media posts per school day.</li> <li>• A minimum of 12 emails to PTOs &amp; Key Communicators during the school year.</li> <li>• Important district information or emergency information to parents via email, text and/or phone, as necessary.</li> <li>• Stories about student and staff awards/honors to news media, as applicable.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">OE-9 Communicating with the Public activity indicators</a></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 4:</b> A survey to measure public support of the District with the goal of at least 70% of respondents expressing support for the direction of the District will be conducted annually.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">Survey Summary</a></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 5:</b> Each year, the district will hold at least one parent presentation or a School Board forum to gain public input on a topic of interest. Examples could include facility planning, boundary changes, bond elections, bullying, sexting, etc.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: All community members were invited to participate in Bell Time Community Forums: <a href="#">News Article</a></p>	

**The Superintendent Shall:**

<p><b>9.2</b> Prepare and publish, on behalf of the Board, an annual progress report to the public that includes the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Data indicating student progress toward accomplishing the Board’s Results policies.</li> <li>b. Information about school district strategies, programs and operations intended to accomplish the Board’s Results policies.</li> <li>c. Information about the district’s financial condition, including revenues, expenditures and costs of major programs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p><b>Interpretation:</b> Each year, BPS prepares and publishes an annual progress report to the public on the academic and financial status of the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Publish</b> shall mean to make available to the public.</li> <li>• <b>Student progress data</b> shall mean the data outlined in the Board’s <b>Results</b> policies on Academic Achievement, Personal Development, and Citizenship.</li> <li>• <b>District strategies, programs and operations</b> to accomplish the Board’s <b>Results</b> policies shall mean the operational plans created annually to address the strategic plan.</li> <li>• <b>District financial condition information</b> such as revenues, expenditures and major program costs shall mean data such as state, local and federal revenues, as well as major expense categories such as salaries/fringe benefits, purchased services, supplies and materials, capital improvements, and utilities.</li> </ul>	

Indicator	Finding
<p><b>Indicator 1:</b> The district’s annual report is presented to the School Board by the spring. Print copies are available at each school and the district office. The full report is also available online and is inserted in the <i>Bismarck Tribune</i> for local subscribers.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">Report</a> (District), <a href="#">Report</a> (Superintendent)</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 2:</b> The annual budget is submitted to the School Board and posted on the district webpage. A synopsis of the budget is also contained in the annual report, which is posted on the district webpage and inserted in the <i>Bismarck Tribune</i>.</p>	<p><b>In Compliance</b></p>
<p>Evidence: <a href="#">Budget</a></p>	

### **Capacity Building**

This section provides new inputs by administration placed into practice or protocol since this data was collected.

Bismarck Public Schools continues to prioritize transparency and meaningful engagement with the community. To strengthen this commitment, the district is actively integrating enhanced public reporting mechanisms designed to provide greater visibility into key initiatives, decisions, and outcomes (one pagers, superintendent annual report, strategic plan updates, etc.). These tools will ensure stakeholders have regular, accessible updates and a clearer understanding of district operations and progress.

The recent unveiling of BPS's new strategic plan will be instrumental in guiding future communication and engagement efforts. In alignment with this work, stakeholder input remains a central pillar of district decision-making. Insights gathered through the community survey referenced in Indicator 4 of Item 9.1 are being actively considered, with results informing current and future strategies for community engagement. BPS remains committed to listening to its constituents and creating authentic opportunities for families, staff, and the broader community to participate in shaping the district's direction.