



# SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

DR. JEFF FASTNACHT

# Superintendent's Message

Dear BPS Community and Families,

I am truly honored to lead this exceptional school district and am incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished together this year. Bismarck Public Schools is filled with dedicated educators and staff who make supporting our children their life's work. Their passion and professional commitment have created a school system that provides extraordinary opportunities for our students to **THRIVE**.



A central focus this year has been around the word ELEVATE. We have been intentional in elevating our educators, showcasing the incredible work they do each day to deliver a world-class education for our students. We have elevated the importance of dignity, increasing awareness that how we communicate matters — and holding ourselves to a high standard, protecting the dignity of every person. We have also worked to elevate student opportunities — ensuring they are Choice Ready, expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, and amplifying student voice in shaping their educational experiences. Lastly, we focused on elevating well-being, reinforcing mental health supports for our students and providing resources to help our staff be at their very best.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the completion of the district's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. This sets the direction for the next five years, ensuring our highest priorities are aligned with where we put our resources and energy. Built through extensive input from parents, students, staff, and community stakeholders, the plan underwent a complete redesign to make it more engaging and accessible. This work resulted in the creation of Drivers of Excellence, which will sharpen our collective focus on the most important work for our schools and our community.

Of course, this year also brought challenges, chief among them was the difficult but necessary discussion around changes to our transportation system, ultimately leading to the approval of new bell times for the 2025–2026 school year. The input we received through community meetings, surveys, and direct correspondence was instrumental in shaping a plan that will improve the efficiency and reliability of transportation for our students. I recognize that these changes will create adjustments for some families, but continuing to operate a system that was not working was simply not sustainable. I am confident that by working together, we will navigate these changes and ensure a more reliable experience for our families.

I want to thank our community for being such vital and supportive partners in the BPS system. Our students, their families, and the many community organizations we work with are critical to the success of BPS. Your engagement — through open, honest, and productive conversations — helps us continue to grow and improve. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious gift. We look forward to working together in the coming school year to make BPS even better.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Hornsby", written over the printed name "Superintendent".

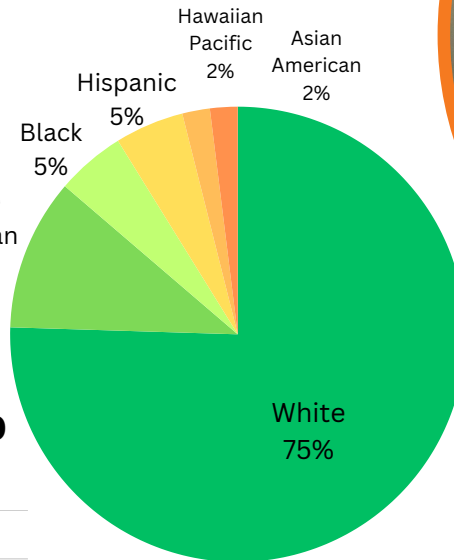
Superintendent



# WHO ARE WE

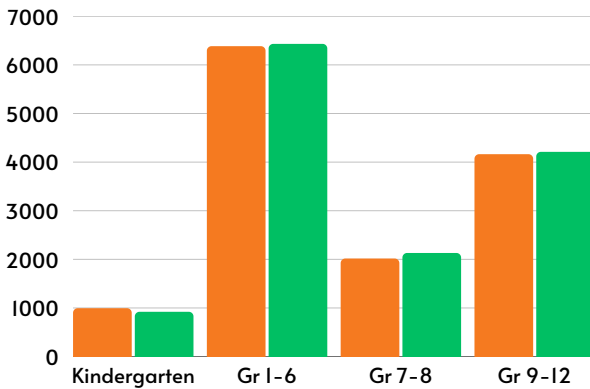
## Demographics

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



## Average Daily Membership

● Last Year ● This Year

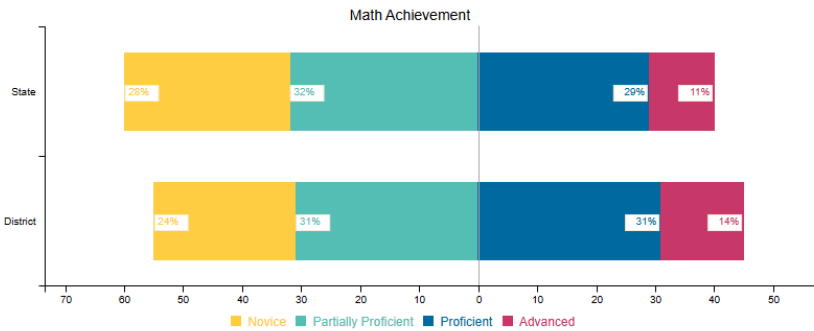
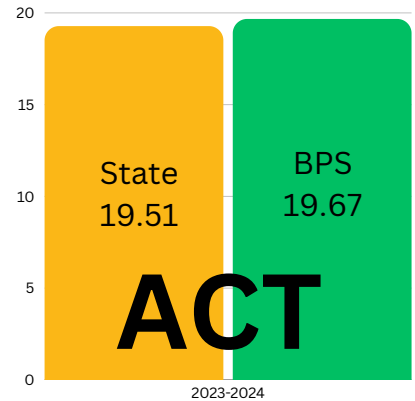


Spring 2024 - 13,871  
Spring 2025 - 13,970

(ADM - DPI Spring Enrollment Report)

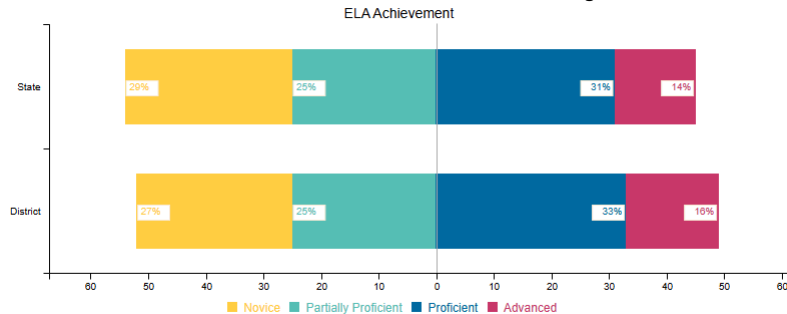
## Composite Score

● State ● District



## State Testing Results

Achievement Data - 2023-2024 from ND Insights



## 66% of BPS Graduates Attend College

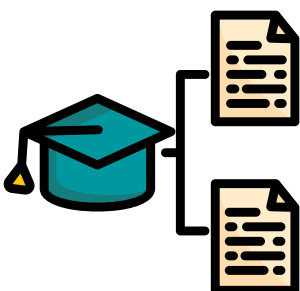
Top schools:

- Bismarck State College (38%)
- University of North Dakota (13%)
- North Dakota State University (13%)
- University of Mary (8%)



Essential Skills - 82%  
Post-Secondary Ready - 71%  
Workforce Ready - 91%  
Military Ready - 4%  
**Choice Ready - 65%**

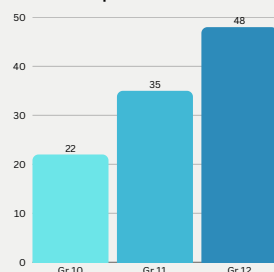
## Dual Credit & AP



2023-2024 Data from ND Insights

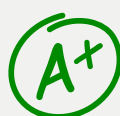
### Dual Credit

Participation Rate %



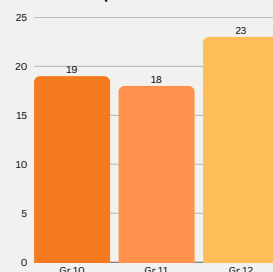
Pass Rate

**98%**



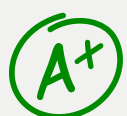
### Advanced Placement

Participation Rate %

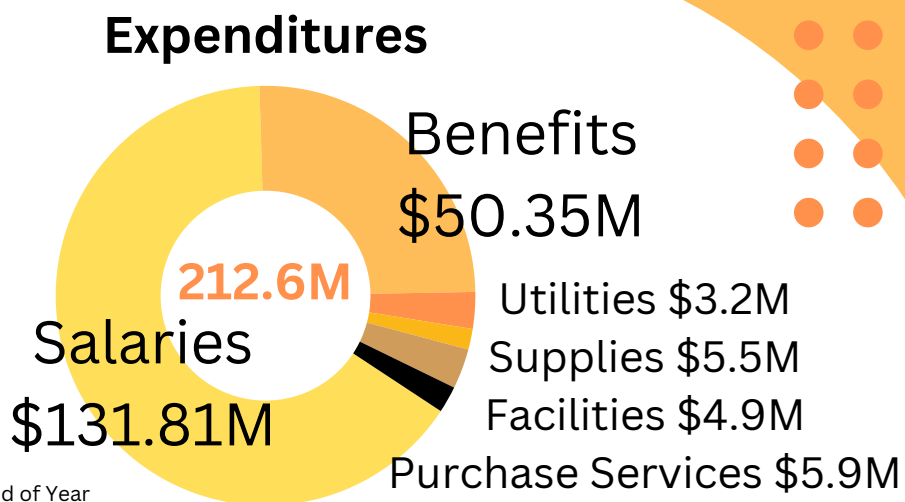
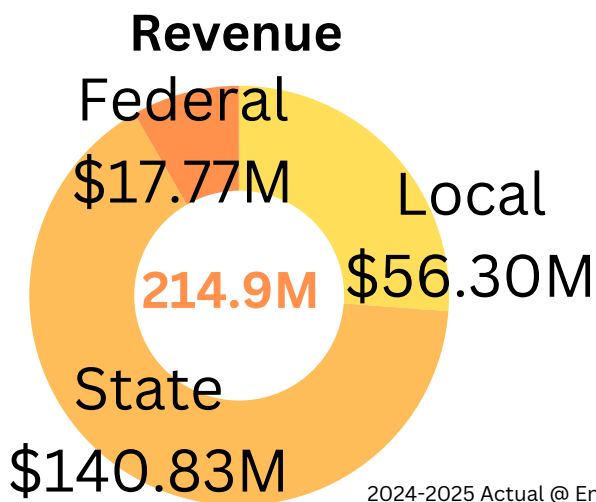


Pass Rate

**75%**







### Staffing



July 2025  
BPS HR

Teachers: 1,143  
Aides: 442  
Professional Support: 117  
Administration: 71

### Retention Rates

#### Administration



99%

#### Instructional Aides

79%



\*Includes retirements & resignations

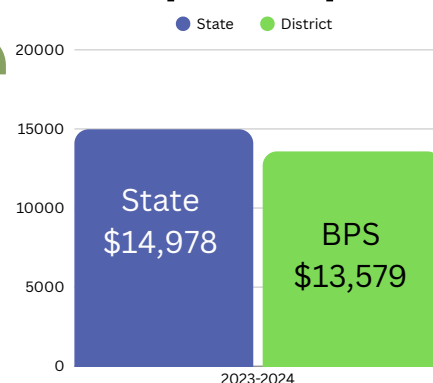
#### Teachers



94%



### Cost per Pupil



### Child Nutrition

2024-25 Meals Served

Breakfast: **608,438**

Lunch: **1,623,389**



Annual miles equates  
to **2,646** trips across  
North Dakota

### Transportation (DPI -Transportation Report)

Total Annual Rides **933,335**

Total Annual Miles **931,581**

////// DISTRICT DATA

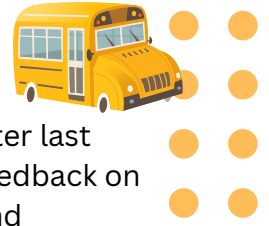




# WORTH TALKING ABOUT

## Efficient Services

The challenges surrounding reliable and efficient transportation for our students were front and center last year as we held community meetings and sought feedback on the subject. The realities of a bus driver shortage and ensuring we have a trusted service for our families led the district to alter bell times for the 2025-2026 school year.



## Preparing the Future Workforce



Workforce demands continue to stretch our community. To address these challenges, the Career Academy in the Silver Ranch addition will open this fall with a focus on construction trades and agriculture. Future programs will also include electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and large equipment operation.

## Ensuring Well Rounded Students



The district continues to expand access to behavioral health supports for our students through community partners. Expansion of Medicaid reimbursable services, provided by the district, has also provided additional funding to expand our present Renew(Ed) programs. Starting in the fall of 2025, the district will be expanding this placement option to now include services for elementary students needing extensive behavioral health support embedded into the educational environment.



## New Bell Times

**Elementary - 7:50 - 2:20**

**High School - 8:30 - 3:38**

(LHS 8:30-3:50)

**Middle School - 8:40 - 3:50**

## Budgets Tighten



Budgets are tightening at the federal, state, and local levels. This is causing the district to review spending to ensure resources are used

wisely and making the most impact on our students. This critical review and prioritization will continue into next year as we face further reductions in federal funding and a tight 2.5% from the State of North Dakota in foundation aid increase.

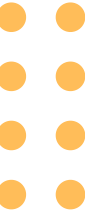
## ELEVATING Educators



For the second year in a row, Wachter Middle School, and BPS have been honored to have the ND Teacher of the Year serving our children. Mr. Bergrud (2025 ND Teacher of the Year) is a prime example of the talented and dedicated educators we have working within BPS. We have

been focusing our attention on elevating our present educators and building future educators to serve our community. The role of an educator in a child's life is critically important, and I believe we need to return to appreciating all educators for the work they do for our children. The time is now to stop tearing them down, and building them up. **Please join us in doing just that.**

# THE FUTURE



This past year, the district renewed our [Strategic Plan](#), which serves as a roadmap for Bismarck Public Schools. It guides our efforts to meet the goals set by the Bismarck School Board under its coherent governance model. It outlines clear strategies and actions to help every student, educator, and stakeholder thrive in a culture defined by:

## Excellence - Innovation - Leadership - Inclusion

At the center of the plan are our **Drivers of Excellence**. The drivers represent the core outcomes we want to achieve.

### LEARNING EXCELLENCE



**Empowering Learners**



**Strengthening Teaching Practices**



**Preparing the Future Workforce**

### PERSONAL EXCELLENCE



**Nurturing Well-Rounded Learners**



**Elevating Educators**

### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



**Building Partnerships**



**Providing Efficient & Responsive Services**

### ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE



**Strengthening Our Community**



**Enhancing Communication**



**Ensuring a Safe Environment**

## Reporting

Within the Strategic Plan is a timeline to identify how the district will be reporting out on our progress in meeting our expectations and aligning our work to the drivers. This report, the Superintendent's Report, is just one means of sharing information with our stakeholders on how the district is performing.

### SUMMER

- **Superintendent's Annual Report**
- Mega Results - R-1 Board Report
- Global Operations Expectations - OE-1 Board Report

