



SOUTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Home of the Roughriders”

Dear Patrons,

Included below is the annual report to district patrons. The annual report requirements for Rule 10 compliance allow us to utilize the Nebraska Department of Education’s (NDE) website for much of our annual report. Academic and demographic information as well as financial information on any public school in the state can be found on this state site. Individual district information can be compared to state and national averages.

We encourage patrons to access these detailed reports by going to the Department of Education website at education.ne.gov. Click on the “Nebraska Education Profile” link found on the right column of the page. The Nebraska Education Profile (NEP) link has an extensive amount of data available to patrons regarding all public schools in the state. Our annual report is just a small summary of the data that can be found on the NDE website.

Mission Statement: Providing Education Opportunities for All Students.

Demographic Information

The Southwest Public School System is a consolidated district that covers approximately 650 square miles of Red Willow, Frontier, and Furnas Counties. A highly qualified and dedicated staff works with the 315 students at the Southwest Public School District. This staff has designed and implemented a curriculum that aligns with the State Standards. The district's student assessment process includes a system of ongoing classroom assessments, NSCAS reading, math, science and writing, a criterion-referenced assessment system known as the Nebraska Online Assessment System, and the NWEA MAPS as a nationally normed referenced test. The ACT test has been recently added for 11th graders to complete the assessment process. These assessments provide the staff with information to review and revise the curriculum, providing students with a learning environment that will assist them throughout life. District 179 is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Program Participation

- 53% of students qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program.
- 5% are identified as English Language Learners.
- 9% are recognized as High Ability Learners.
- 10% of students have a disability.

Key Metrics

- Student attendance rate is 95%.
- Graduation rate is 100%.
- College-going rate is 82%.

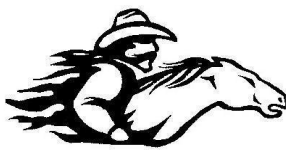
Financial Information

- Valuation: \$741,698,821
- Tax Asking: 4,793,119
- Levy: \$0.646263
- State Aid: \$444,042

Southwest Elementary
719 E Street
Indianola Nebraska 69034
Phone: 308-364-2613
Fax: 1-888-626-3092

Mr. Drew Billeter, Superintendent
Mr. Matt Springer, Secondary Principal
Mrs. Tara Fries, Elementary Principal
Mr. Les Roggenkamp AD

Southwest Jr./Sr. High School
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- Expenditures: \$6.47M
- Cost Per Pupil: \$26,151

Academic Performance

ACT

The ACT Exam required for college admission at most institutions. In addition, state law mandates that all juniors take the ACT exam as their state standards assessment test. Listed below are the score summaries for this class as compared to the state for the past 3 years.

Average Scale Score

Level	Data Years	English Language Arts ¹	Mathematics ¹	Science ¹
State	2023-2024	16.67	18.00	18.40
	2022-2023	16.74	17.89	18.35
	2021-2022	16.66	17.74	18.06
District	2023-2024	19.13	18.00	18.81
	2022-2023	19.50	18.58	20.19
	2021-2022	17.31	16.92	18.62

NSCAS

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is the state test for students in grades 3 through 8, assessing English Language Arts and Mathematics in all grades, and Science in grades 5 and 8. Aligned with Nebraska’s state standards, NSCAS is administered primarily online and uses various question types to measure students’ mastery of grade-level content. Results help families and educators identify strengths and areas for growth, supporting student learning and instructional decisions.

Data Years	English Language Arts ¹	Mathematics ¹	Science ¹
2023-2024	64%	51%	75%
2022-2023	61%	60%	82%
2021-2022	41%	33%	71%

In Spring 2022, Southwest Public Schools began a new five-year school improvement cycle, following a successful External School Improvement Evaluation. This evaluation commended our district’s strong strategic direction, meaningful staff-student relationships, and commitment to academic excellence. Since then, we have been hard at work bringing our improvement plan to life, and the results are beginning to show.

We’re proud to share our literacy, math, school culture, and professional learning progress. This annual report reflects the collective effort of our students, staff, families, and community partners. Thank you for helping us create a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

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School Improvement & Student Success Update

Literacy: Building Strong Foundations for Lifelong Readers

Foundational reading skills continue to be a top district priority. With high teacher engagement and a strong phonological curriculum, our students are gaining the skills needed for long-term success in reading.

✓ **Priority Goal:** All students will make individual gains in foundational reading.

DIBELS Highlights (Spring 2024):

- **Kindergarten:** 80% at or above grade level
- **1st Grade:** 78% at or above grade level
- **2nd Grade:** 69% at or above grade level

From fall to spring, students well below benchmark decreased in all grades. However, we are continuing targeted support, especially for 1st and 2nd grade students who started the year below benchmark. Our goal remains: for every child to be a confident reader.

Math: Strengthening Number Sense Across All Grades

We are focused on building number sense and fluency to empower confident, capable mathematicians.

✓ **Priority Goal:** 80% of students will be proficient in number sense.

Math Proficiency Snapshot:

- **Grade 3 MAPS:** 79% Proficient
- **Grade 4 MAPS:** 56% Proficient
- **Grade 5 MAPS:** 75% Proficient

NSCAS Results:

- Grade 4: 71% On Track
- Grade 5: 65% On Track

Middle School MAPS Growth (Fall 2023–Spring 2024):

- **6th Grade:** 13/15 met growth goals
 - **7th Grade:** 16/22 met growth goals
 - **8th Grade:** 21/28 met growth goals
- ➡ **77% of students in grades 6–8 demonstrated growth!**

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While proud of this growth, we continue to address fundamental skill gaps through daily fluency practice and intervention.

High School Success in Reading & Math

High school students are making substantial gains across core subjects.

✓ **Priority Goal:** 80% of students proficient in English Language Arts and number sense.

ELA MAPS (Grades 9–12):

- 60–80% of students are above the 50th percentile
- Goal: All students perform at or above the 61st percentile and show growth

Math MAPS (Grades 9–12):

- 73% at or above benchmark
- 27% working toward proficiency
- Goal: 80% at benchmark by year-end

Collaboration, Support & Professional Growth

Our staff’s dedication is what drives student success. Across the district, we are strengthening systems that help teachers collaborate and students thrive.

Key Staff Initiatives:

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for team collaboration
- Strengthened Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Effective use of Student Assistance Teams (SAT)
- Consistent use of the MTSS RIDERS Problem-Solving Model
- Advisory and intervention periods for academic and social-emotional support

In Closing

Southwest Public Schools is growing stronger every year, thanks to the hard work of our students, staff, families, and community. We are proud of our progress and excited for what’s ahead. Let’s keep the momentum going!

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