

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS **ANNUAL REPORT** **2021-2022**



Grand
Island
PUBLIC SCHOOLSSM



CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

Matt Fisher, Interim Superintendent, mfisher@gips.org

Dr. Robin Dexter, Associate Superintendent, rdexter@gips.org

Dr. Toni Palmer, Chief of Leadership & Learning, tpalmer@gips.org

Dr. Ken Schroeder, Chief Financial Officer, kschroeder@gips.org

Brian Kort, Acting Chief of Human Capital Management, bkort@gips.org

Jennifer Worthington, Chief of Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, jworthington@gips.org

Dr. Jonathan Doll, Chief Data Analyst & Organizational Strategist, jdoll@gips.org

Cory Gearhart, Chief Information Officer, cgearhart@gips.org

*Data reflects the 21-22 School Year.

Administrative staff updated to 22-23 School Year.



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GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS GROWING!

With growth brings exciting opportunities, new achievements, and hitting benchmarks. But more importantly — our growth means empowered students.

While the work is ongoing, we believe we have much to be proud of at GIPS. Which is why we have compiled this Annual Report, to share snapshots of our students, staff, and their meaningful experiences with you, our community.

Throughout these pages you will discover:

- The impact of CommUNITY Schools on **Early Childhood Education**
- Our exciting growth in **Elementary School Literacy**
- Middle School's emphasis on **Math & Science**
- **AP & Dual Credit performance** at the Academies of Grand Island Senior High
- Updates from notable **GISH Alumni**
- And **More**



And all of it is connected to our district wide strategic plan, **On Track to Thrive**.

As one of Nebraska's largest, most diverse public school districts — we invite you to join us in celebrating our student achievements, affirming our teacher expertise, and exploring new opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive. Because at Grand Island Public Schools, we believe in **Every Student, Every Day, A Success!**

We hope you enjoy learning more about our wonderful schools.

#WeAreGIPS



MISSION & VISION

Vision: Students prepared to make positive contributions to society and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Mission: Every Student, Every Day, A Success! In educating students, we teach hearts as well as minds.

Student Commitments: Within the school district of Grand Island

- Every student will be taught to read, write, and communicate effectively; solve problems; acquire and apply knowledge; and demonstrate mastery through performance to the best of the student's abilities;
- Every student will be treated with fairness and dignity;
- Every student will be honored for their unique qualities and backgrounds;
- Every student will experience a sense of belonging, contribution, and success;
- Every student will develop responsibility and show respect for others as well as oneself;
- Every student will have equitable access to high-quality learning;
- Every student will learn in an inclusive and anti-discriminatory environment.



GIPS SCHOOLS & LEADERSHIP



Early Childhood Education
O'Connor Learning Center
 Amy Richards, Coordinator



Dodge Elementary
 Angie Eberle, Principal



Engleman Elementary
 Dr. Carrie Kolar, Principal



Gates Elementary
 Joe Eckerman, Principal



Howard Elementary
 Julie Schnitzler, Principal



Jefferson Elementary
 Sheree Stockwell, Principal



Knickrehm Elementary
 Opal Bentley, Principal



Lincoln Elementary
 Breanna McDonald, Principal



Newell Elementary
 Nate Balcom, Principal



Seedling Mile Elementary
 Charity LaBrie, Principal



Shoemaker Elementary
 Lee Wolfe, Principal



Starr Elementary
 Selena Valentine, Principal



Stolley Park Elementary
 Whitney Flower, Principal



Wasmer Elementary
 Jim Tews, Principal



West Lawn Elementary
 Dr. Maggie Mintken, Principal



Barr Middle School
 Josué Covarrubias, Principal



Walnut Middle School
 Rod Foley, Principal



Westridge Middle School
 Brad Wolfe, Principal




Grand Island Senior High
 Jeff Gilbertson, Exec. Principal






9,829 
Students


713 
Classrooms

86 
AP, Dual
Credit Courses

16.97% 
Special
Education

7.7% 
Highly Mobile
Students*


19.18% 
English Learning
Students

9% 
High-Ability
Learning Students


61.17% 
Free or Reduced
Lunches

→ **91.29% Attendance Rate & 83.41% Graduation Rate**

GIPS FAST FACTS & DEMOGRAPHICS



GIPS Diversity



Our Students

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
Hispanic/Latino	5385	54.79%
White	3579	36.41%
Black/African American	433	4.41%
Two or More Races	285	2.90%
Asian	87	0.89%
Indigenous/Alaska Native	55	0.56%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	0.05%

Our Teachers

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
Hispanic Latino	36	5.26%
White	633.88	92.55%
Black/African American	2	0.29%
Two or More Races	4	0.58%
Asian	7	1.02%
Indigenous/Alaska Native	1	0.15%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.15%

Information sourced from NDE *Student attending two or more schools in a twelve month period

60
Spoken
Languages

NORTH AMERICA



CAYMAN ISLANDS: 1
COSTA RICA: 1
CUBA: 251
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: 8
EL SALVADOR: 77
GUATEMALA: 414
HONDURAS: 67
MEXICO: 163
NICARAGUA: 7
PUERTO RICO: 25
UNITED STATES: 8,550

SOUTH AMERICA



ARGENTINA: 2
BRAZIL: 2
CHILE: 2
COLOMBIA: 5
ECUADOR: 5
PERU: 1
VENEZUELA: 18

EUROPE & ASIA



AFGHANISTAN:	21
ALBANIA:	1
BELGIUM:	1
CHINA:	2
CYPRUS:	1
DENMARK:	2
FRANCE:	2
GERMANY:	4
NORWAY:	1
INDIA:	2
IRAQ:	5
ITALY:	3
JAPAN:	4
JORDAN:	1
LAOS:	1
MALTA:	6
MICRONESIA:	2
PHILIPPINES:	3
SAUDI ARABIA:	3
SOUTH KOREA:	2
SPAIN:	9
THAILAND:	3
UKRAINE:	1
VIETNAM:	6

AFRICA



EGYPT:	12
TOGO:	2
NIGERIA:	4
CHAD:	3
CAMEROON:	1
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:	1
SUDAN:	51
ERITREA:	1
DJIBOUTI:	1
ETHIOPIA:	11
SOMALIA:	28
KENYA:	31
SOUTH AFRICA:	4

*Data current as of December 2022



COMMUNITY SCHOOL INSIGHT

CommUNITY Schools are present to establish essential relationships between school, parents, and the community to eliminate barriers to services and create a solid foundation for student achievement.

In 2018, the first CommUNITY School was opened at Lincoln Elementary. In 2021, a second CommUNITY School opened at the O'Connor Learning Center for the Early Childhood Education Program.

CommUNITY schools often hold events to connect families to services. Some services offered at events include dental checks, parenting classes, and immunizations. The focus at the O'Connor Learning Center is to provide education, services, supports and opportunities that lead to improved student learning, stronger families and a healthier community.



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
A partnership between Grand Island Public Schools and community partners



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

Success Area Three: Students learning in a culturally responsive environment.

For more information on the Grand Island Public Schools strategic plan **“On Track to Thrive 2025,”** scan the QR code or visit: www.gips.org.



**SCAN
ME!**

**ON TRACK
TO THRIVE**





PreK Enrollment: 2021-2022

Fall Snapshot Enrollment.....	2021.....	2022.....
Early Learning Center.....	273.....	337
PreK Lincoln Elementary.....	62.....	64
PreK Starr Elementary.....	101.....	103
PreK Howard Elementary.....	36.....	36

2021 PreK Total: 472

2022 PreK Total: 540



***Data from Nebraska Department of Education and Fall 2022 GIPS Enrollment Data.**



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👤

DID YOU KNOW?
🔍

O'CONNOR LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS:

👤
21-22 Class Attendees: 968

👤
Event Attendees: 1,737

✕
214
Community Cafe Attendees

✕
91
Food Boxes Distributed
Impacting 432 People

↑
1,410 Literacy Kits Distributed

+
In Addition:
↓

99% of families responded that they felt **comfortable or very comfortable** coming into school and **99%** of families reported that they are **satisfied** with the programs, resources, and support OLC provided this school year.

*Data from 2021-2022 school year

11



EARLY LITERACY DATA INSIGHT

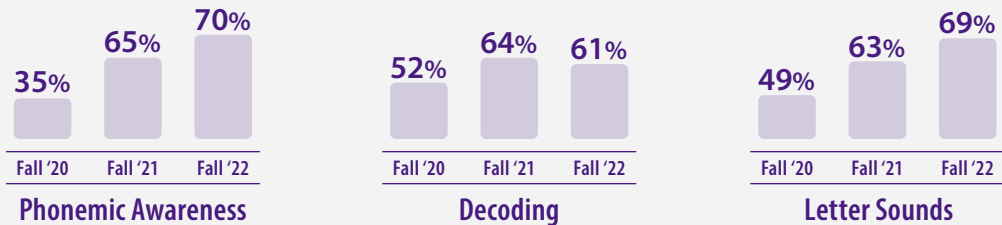
Grand Island Public Schools students and staff continue to see positive results and progress as literacy efforts are championed across the district.

In fall 2020, GIPS began implementing a high-quality foundation skills program for K-2 students. In the 2021-2022 school year, more than 80 percent of Kindergarteners met the end of year benchmark in 11 GIPS classrooms. In four of those classrooms 90 percent of students met the end of year benchmark.

In fall 2021, GIPS added a supplemental piece to address phonemic awareness because our fall 2020 data suggested it was a need. Since then, we have seen significant increases in first grade students' phonemic awareness, decoding, and letter sound knowledge, which are important reading skills for students entering first grade.



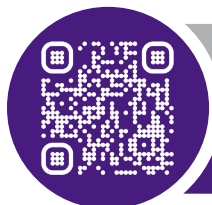
Percentage of First Grade Students Meeting Critical Fall Early Reading Benchmarks



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

Success Area Two: Students empowered through literacy.

For more information on the Grand Island Public Schools strategic plan "On Track to Thrive 2025," scan the QR code or visit: www.gips.org.



SCAN ME!

ON TRACK TO THRIVE



Elementary Enrollment: 2021-2022

Fall Snapshot Enrollment.....	2021.....	2022
Dodge Elementary.....	400.....	413
Engleman Elementary.....	487.....	481
Gates Elementary.....	327.....	301
Howard Elementary.....	440.....	471
Jefferson Elementary.....	330.....	360
Knickrehm Elementary.....	212.....	223
Lincoln Elementary.....	315.....	330
Newell Elementary.....	356.....	348
Seedling Mile Elementary.....	96.....	112
Shoemaker Elementary.....	458.....	433
Starr Elementary.....	420.....	446
Stolley Park Elementary.....	307.....	250
Wasmer Elementary.....	350.....	351
West Lawn Elementary.....	304.....	314
Skills Academy: Elementary*.....	11.....	10

2021 Elementary Total: 4,802

2022 Elementary Total: 4,833



*Data from Nebraska Department of Education and Fall 2022 GIPS Enrollment Data.

**Skills Academy totals included with their resident school*



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DID YOU KNOW?



Elementary Literacy:



A new reading resource for **grades 3-5** was implemented in fall 2021. In 21-22, students' ability to read increasingly complex grade-level text with sufficient accuracy **improved** throughout the year. By the end of the school year, **80 percent of third through fifth graders** were reading grade-level text with **sufficient accuracy**.



Scan the QR Code!



BEYOND GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS



"The GIPS Cast" is our conversation-based podcast exploring the voices of GIPS. We are driven by our mission of *Every Student, Every Day, A Success*. "The GIPS Cast": a window into the world of public education through the lens of one of Nebraska's largest, most diverse school districts.

"The GIPS Cast" mini-series, "Beyond GIPS", features voices of GIPS alumni sharing their journeys in careers and communities. Because part of what makes the work of public education so meaningful is seeing how passionate individuals continue to make an impact, even after high school graduation.



LISTEN NOW

TECH STARTUPS & STORYTELLING

Ben Pankonin (GISH Class of 1998), CEO & Founder of Class Intercom, sits down with "**The GIPS Cast**" to share how his time at GIPS shaped his journey to Silicon Prairie. Along the way, he expands on why Class Intercom exists and how it strengthens student opportunities. He also shares a vision for what the future of educational storytelling may look like and why Grand Island has much to be proud of.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Joseline Reyna (GISH Class of 2014), Community Organizer of YWCA and Community Engagement Coordinator for Leadership Unlimited, sits down with "**The GIPS Cast**" to share her story of immigration, education, and advocacy. Reyna speaks to the challenges and opportunities she experienced as a student. She also shares her passion for building bridges in the community and being proud of where you come from.



LISTEN NOW

FINE ARTS IN SCHOOLS & BEYOND

Peter Palermo (GISH Class of 1983), Executive Director of the Sheldon Arts Foundation in St. Louis, joins "**The GIPS Cast**" to share his story of art, public education, and celebrating creativity. Palermo affirms the life-changing trajectory that arts opportunities bring to students and urges listeners to remember the power of tapping into our creative side. He also looks forward to coming back for a class reunion this year to see how GISH has transformed.



LISTEN NOW

GIPS DISTRICT FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

A few snapshots of learning, achievement, and fun across the district.

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY COIN WAR

Jefferson Elementary students traded their coins for pies-in-the-face in an effort to help one of their fellow **All-Star families**. The school organized a coin war between grade levels. The winning grade level got the chance to throw whipped cream pies in the face of willing (and sometimes hesitant) staff participants, all in good fun. The money raised went to a **Jefferson Elementary family**, who has a student with medical issues. What an awesome way to support one another. **Great job, All Stars!**



WATCH NOW



MR. JEFF GILBERTSON NAMED NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

GISH WINS THEATRE SHOWCASE AWARDS!



GIPS NEWS

GEAR UP HOSTS FIRST EVER STUDENT POETRY SLAM.



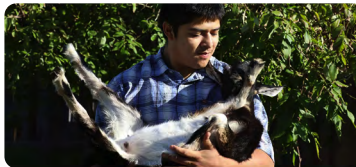
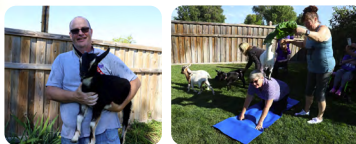
GISH STUDENT

AWARDED GIPS FOUNDATION GRANT TO HOST A SUMMER GRIT ROBOTICS CAMP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.



GIPS NEWS

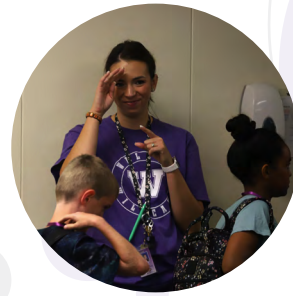
GOAT YOGA WITH SUCCESS ACADEMY & INDRA HOUSE STUDENTS PROMOTES MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS.



GIPS NEWS

GISH HOSTS SKILLS USA NEBRASKA CONFERENCE & EXCELS IN COMPETITIONS.





MATH & SCIENCE OVERVIEW

In the 2020-2021 school year, GIPS middle school teachers rolled out new math curriculum resources. Results were immediate; while the state saw proficiency scores decrease at all grades 6th, 7th, and 8th from 2019 to 2021, GIPS middle school proficiency percentages stayed the same or increased.

Prior to the Pandemic in 2019, there was a 15 percent gap between the percent of sixth graders proficient at the state compared to GIPS. By Spring 2022, that gap had been reduced to three percent.

GIPS Middle school teachers implemented a new science curriculum in 2017, which aligns with new state standards that were also released that year. These science standards are more focused on problem solving and students doing science. GIPS science teachers were trained in and wrote rigorous grade-level standards-based tests for the district to provide data to make sure our students were progressing. In the 2021-2022 school year, GIPS eighth graders were 14% more proficient than in 2018, where the state only saw a 3% growth. The work teachers did, combined with the science curriculum, contributed to students' positive growth and success in science.



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

Success Area One: Students engaged in learning.

For more information on the Grand Island Public Schools strategic plan **"On Track to Thrive 2025,"** scan the QR code or visit: www.gips.org.





Middle School Enrollment: 2021-2022

Fall Snapshot Enrollment.....	2021.....	2022.....
Barr Middle School.....	789.....	718.....
Walnut Middle School.....	872.....	853.....
Westridge Middle School.....	559.....	599.....
Middle School Skills Academy*.....	10.....	12.....
Middle School Success Academy*.....	14.....	10.....
Middle School Ombudsman*.....	2.....	3.....

2021 Middle School Total: 2,220

2022 Middle School Total: 2,170

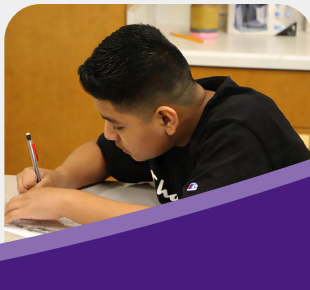
**Academy totals included with their resident school*



*Data from Nebraska Department of Education and Fall 2022 GIPS Enrollment Data.



photogallery



DID YOU KNOW? 🔍



Mental Health & Wellness:



In January 2022, Grand Island Public Schools implemented **"Hello Hero,"** a zoom-based therapy service.

This counseling resource is a free referral-based service for **all GIPS students**, no matter their grade level.



430 students have used **"Hello Hero"** since its implementation at GIPS.

1,116,919 Lunches were served throughout 2021-2022.

496,135 Breakfast meals were served in 2021-2022.



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

The Academies of Grand Island Senior High continue to focus on dual credit offerings as the district emphasizes college & career readiness opportunities for students. In the 2021-2022 school year, 662 students took 1,350 dual credit classes. Of those 662 students, 335 were seniors. These dual credit offerings give students the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. This can help students learn at a higher level, while also saving time and money rather than taking the course in college, as college credit is offered at no charge to students.



GIPS has been a leader in implementing the state's first Registered Apprenticeship Program in 2017. Through community partnerships, the program offers students an opportunity to gain experience in a specialized area in the spring of their junior year and continue through their senior year. Registered apprenticeship areas of focus include: automotive, diesel, manufacturing, and welding. The program takes an "earn while you learn" approach, and allows students an opportunity to gain real-world experience at a local business.

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

Success Area Four: Students thriving in school and life.

For more information on the Grand Island Public Schools strategic plan "On Track to Thrive 2025," scan the QR code or visit: www.gips.org.



**ON TRACK
TO THRIVE**

ACADEMIES OF GISH LEADERSHIP



Academy of Freshman Exploration
Fawn Gernstein, Academy Principal



Academy of Engineering & Technology
Matt Wichman, Academy Principal
• Career Pathways Institute



Academy of Business & Communication
Nate Helzer, Academy Principal



Academy of Medical Sciences
Greg Schlegel, Academy Principal



Academy of Education, Law & Public Safety
Augusta Beahm, Academy Principal
• Wyandotte Learning Center



Academy of Technical Sciences
D.W. Holley, Academy Principal
• Career Pathways Institute

Jeff Gilbertson,
Executive Principal

Calvin Hubbard,
Assistant Principal

Cindy Wells,
Activities Director

Chris Ladwig,
Asst. Activities Director

Dr. Ken DeFrank,
Success Academy Principal

Kristina Hirschman,
Skills Academy Principal

High School Enrollment: 2021-2022

Fall Snapshot Enrollment.....	2021.....	2022.....
Grand Island Senior High.....	2,534.....	2,560.....
High School Skills Academy*.....	9.....	11.....
High School Success Academy*.....	110.....	82.....
High School Obudsman*.....	42.....	55.....

2021 High School Total: 2,534

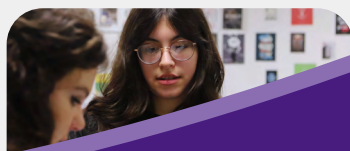
2022 High School Total: 2,650

↑ *Data from Nebraska Department of Education and Fall 2022 GIPS Enrollment Data.

*Academy totals included with their resident school



photogallery



DID YOU KNOW? 🔍

+ Alternative Education: ↓

Success Academy offers innovative, non-traditional approaches for students, which aide in achieving academic and life-long success. This program provides an opportunity to earn academic credit in an alternative learning environment, while also providing extended teacher and peer supports. **Locations at Success Academy, Barr Middle School.**

Skills Academy is a temporary placement that promotes academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth within a supportive environment for students. Skills Academy is based on positive behavior strategies, clear expectations, constructive feedback, and intensive social-emotional learning. **Locations at Dodge Elementary, Westridge Middle School, Wyandotte Learning Center.**

i Registered Apprenticeships ↓

19 Business Partners

13 Registered Apprentices in 21-22

21 Registered Apprentices in 22-23

124 Nutrition Services Staff work at GIPS.



21-22 STATE ASSESSMENT SCORES

TERMINOLOGY:

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

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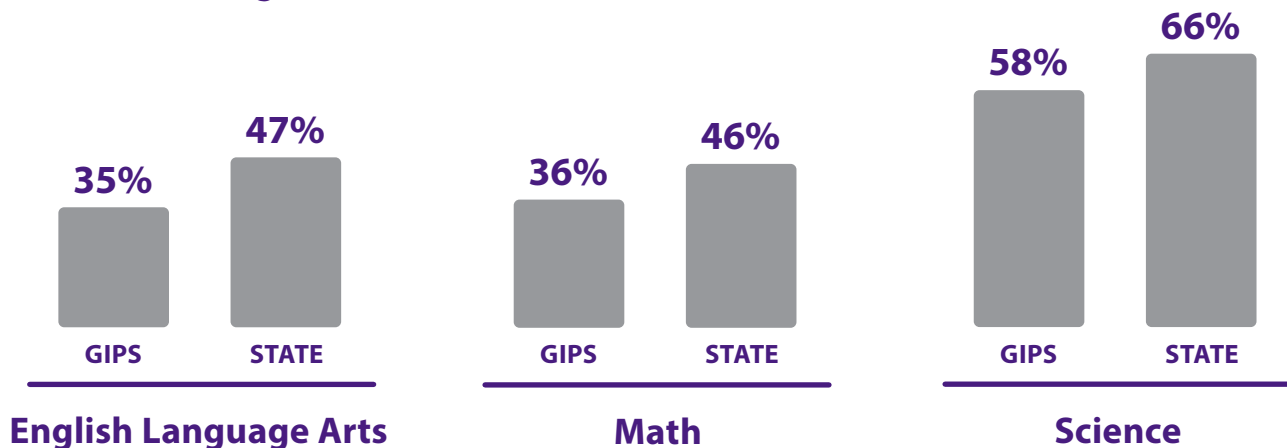
Statewide assessments for 3rd-8th graders in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics and Science.

American College Testing (ACT)

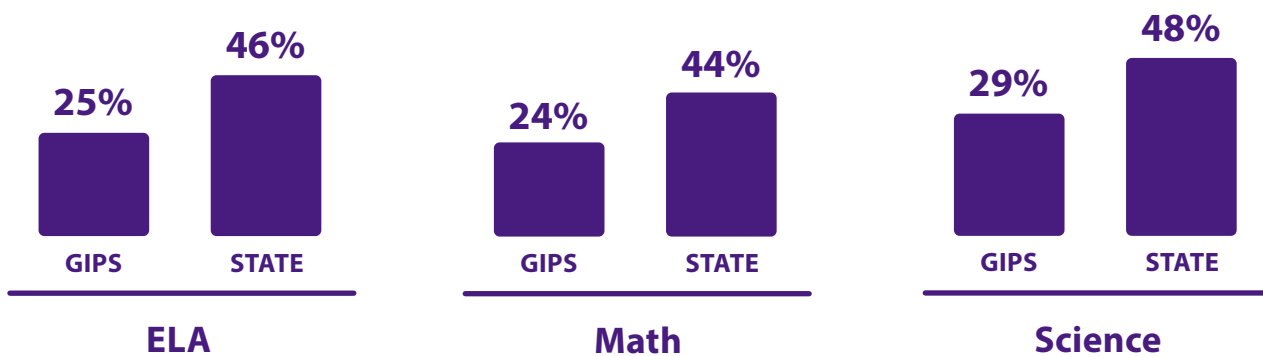
🔊) *"eɪ siː ˈtiː" /ACT/*

Standardized test for 11th graders that is used for college admissions in the United States.

NSCAS: Percentage of Students Proficient 21-22



ACT: Percentage of Students Proficient 21-22



GIPS DISTRICT FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

A few snapshots of learning, achievement, and fun across the district.



GISH UNIFIED CHEERLEADERS WIN STATE!

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE DAY

Lincoln Elementary launches a new tradition of science with Edgerton Explorit Center to ignite a fun learning experience.



GIPS NEWS

O'CONNOR LEARNING CENTER GRAND OPENING:



MORE NEWS CONTENT FOR YOU:

BOWLING & WRESTLING MAKES NEWS

GIPS approved the implementation of both **high school bowling** and **girls wrestling** on August 30, 2021.

"This will give high school students another opportunity to participate, compete and earn college scholarships," Wells said. In their first year, boys bowling has already **won state** and girls wrestling continues to grow **bigger and stronger** as a team.



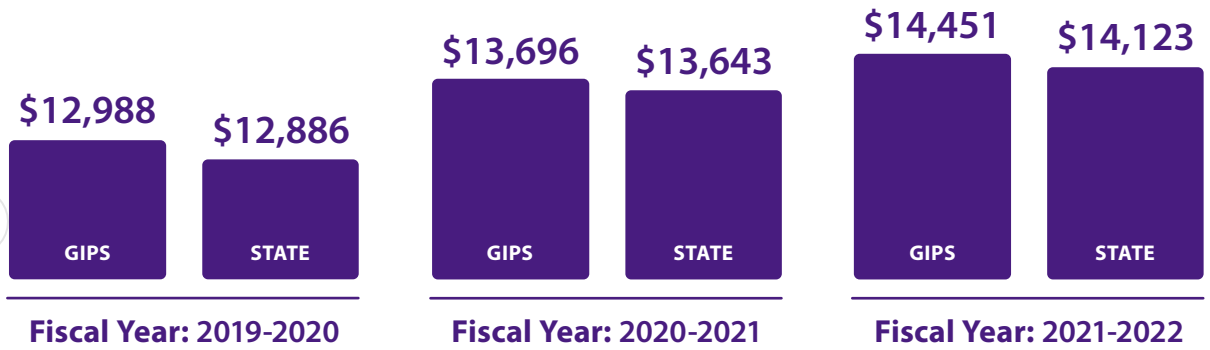
News Update: 105,000 lbs of apples consumed in one school year.

WALNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES A MINI GRANT FOR ART GARDEN



COST PER PUPIL GIPS VS. STATE

Figures Based On: Average daily membership (ADM)



PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED

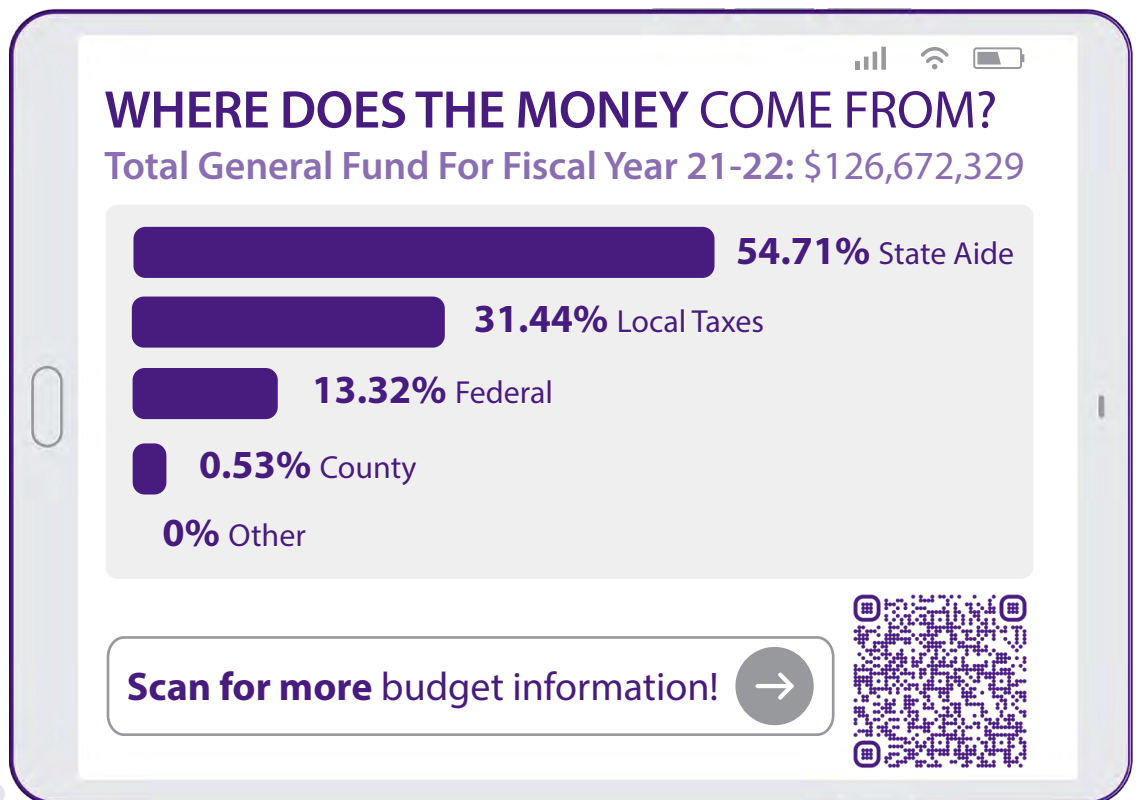
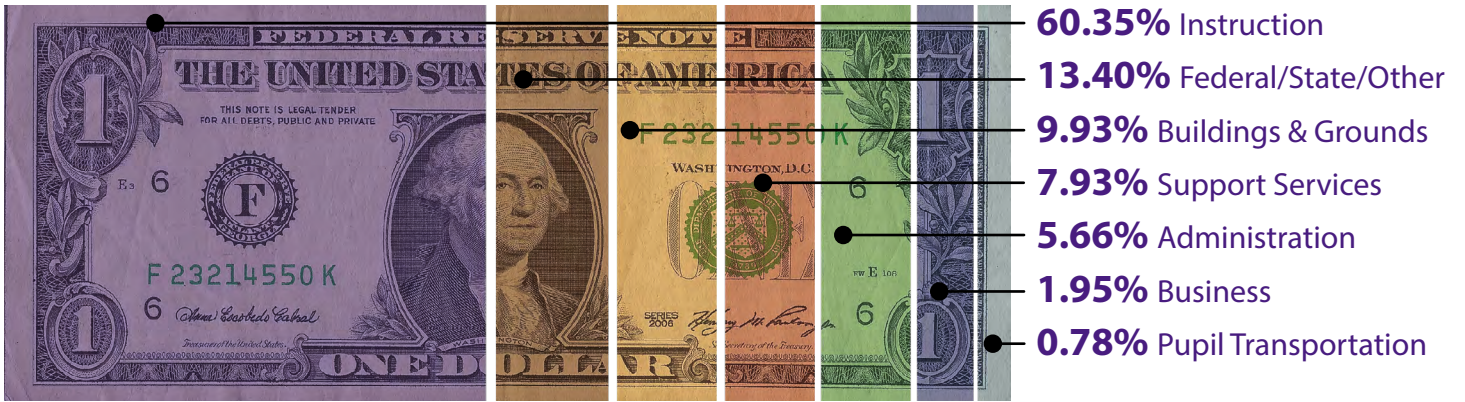
Per: \$100 of assessed valuation

FUND TYPE:	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
General	\$1.040000	\$1.040000	\$1.040000
Bond	\$0.177807	\$0.167105	\$0.156205
Building	\$0.010000	\$0.010000	\$0.010000
Qualified	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	\$0.030000
Total Levy	\$1.257807	\$1.247105	\$1.236205



HOW DOES GIPS USE EACH DOLLAR?

Total General Fund For Fiscal Year 21-22: \$123,940,973



Grand Island Public Schools

PO Box 4904

Grand Island, NE 68802



Online registration for the 2023-2024 school year is open now until March 31, 2022. Visit gips.org/registration to get started today!



Grand Island Public Schools is searching for every day heroes in all areas to support students. Could that be you or someone you know? Visit gips.org/employment for job listings.