

Annual Report

2023-2024 School Year



Please visit our website for more information at:

<https://www.sterlingjets.org/>

MISSION

The mission of Sterling Public School will educate students to excel, prepare to compete, inspire to serve, and challenge to lead.

VISION

All Sterling Public School students will achieve their full potential.

Board of Education

Mr. John Harms

Mr. Russ Trauernicht

Mrs. McKenzie Saathoff

Mr. Mark Horstman

Mr. Rick Volmann

Ms. Julie Saathoff

PURPOSE

The administration, faculty, and staff are pleased to present the Annual Report to the patrons of Sterling Public School district. This report is designed to provide you with important information regarding the academic and financial operations of the school district.

We encourage all community members to become aware of the accomplishments and needs of the district, and to become involved in planning for continued improvement. If you have an interest in becoming more involved in the school improvement process, please contact Mr. Adrian Allen at 866-4761.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

All students K-12th will improve their writing skills.

All students K-12th will improve their reading comprehension.

All preschool students will improve their gross motor skills.

The district will also work to ensure that students have an opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful, to use this knowledge and skills in a variety of settings, and to stretch students abilities through problem solving situations that require students to develop and hone their critical thinking skills.

THE DISTRICT

Sterling Public Schools is located 35 miles Southeast of Lincoln, Nebraska, in Northwest Johnson County. It is a small town with a big heart. Sterling is the 2nd biggest community in Johnson county and is one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in the country. Approximately 224 students are served by a single PK-12 attendance center located in the village of Sterling. We currently have 21 teachers on staff (10.7:1 student/teacher ratio) and 18 non-classified staff members that provide support throughout the school year. Sterling Public Schools offer a wide range of sports and activities for all students. We offer volleyball, football, basketball, track, One Act Play, band, choir, Trap Shooting, cheerleading, FBLA, FFA, National Honor Society, and Student Council.

This school year (2023-2024) our staff has made a concerted effort to build improve our teaching and learning. Our professional development is working in Professional Learning Communities (P.L.C.) reading educational books to improve our crafts. The books we are reading are:

- Grading From the Inside Out
- Explicit Instruction
- Culturize
- Know Better, Do Better

The Multi-tiered Support System (MTSS) has allowed us to identify struggling students and provide them the necessary interventions to be successful. The Nebraska Department of Education classified Sterling Public Schools a “Great,” school district based on the Nebraska School Tenets and standardized test scores. This is an improvement from previous years. We

will continue to focus on our Reading and Writing, due to the low percentage of students who are proficient in those areas.

We installed numerous cameras around the facility and changed the locks to all the classroom doors. We purchased these with a grant through Nebraska Department of Education.

With the use of Perkins funds, we purchased a T-shirt press for our Entrepreneurship class. They are currently working on the machine and hope to have shirts out in the Spring of '25.

Future Plans: We are constantly reviewing curriculums to improve our reading and math foundational skills. We will be researching different reading curriculums this year and implementing that curriculum in a year. We have visited with architects to discuss a future renovation of the cafeteria, kitchen, commons area, and classrooms. CMBA has developed some preliminary plans for the board to review in hopes to expand our campus. The cafeteria and kitchen are going to need attention in the near future. The architects also discovered our elementary classrooms are almost 200 sq. ft. too small for our class sizes.

The Elementary classes are currently starting a fundraiser to purchase new playground equipment. The old playground is out dated and we cannot get replacement parts.

Demographic Information

The following charts demonstrate the student demographic for the District over the past few years. The information for the State of Nebraska is provided for comparison purposes.

Enrollment

| Grade | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PK | 29 | 31 | 32 | 35 | 26 | 34 | 36 |
| K-6 | 82 | 85 | 88 | 98 | 103 | 101 | 106 |
| 7-12 | 87 | 100 | 95 | 90 | 90 | 89 | 82 |
| Total | 198 | 216 | 215 | 223 | 219 | 224 | 224 |

*As of October 1st

Free/Reduced Meals

| | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sterling | 28.28% | 28.70% | 31.00% | 33.18% | 31.05% | 38.39% |
| State of Nebraska | 45.83% | 45.21% | 45.60% | 46.33% | 41.31% | 49.69% |

Special Education

| | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sterling | 15.38% | 15.14% | 19.67% | 18.82% | 21.24% | 21.05% |
| State of Nebraska | 15.12% | 15.48% | 15.56% | 15.67% | 15.92% | 16.45% |

Attendance Rate

| | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sterling | 95.96% | 93.40% | 92.25% | 92.26% | 92.74% | 94.18% |
| State of Nebraska | 94.48% | 94.30% | 93.21% | 92.28% | 92.50% | 92.59% |

Mobility

| | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sterling | 4.95% | 3.55% | 5.14% | 2.45% | 2.00% | * |
| State of Nebraska | 4.54% | 3.67% | 3.95% | 4.22% | 3.97% | 5.83% |

Costs Per Pupil Expenditures

| | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sterling | \$17,153 | \$19,588 | \$18,196 | \$18,196 | \$18,670 | \$20,388 |

Assessment & Student Achievement

The percentage is those students who are at or above the 50th percentile.

NSCAS-Reading

| | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Elementary | 62% | 57% | 44% | * | * | 46% | 53% |
| Peer | 50% | 59% | 55% | | * | 60% | 61% |
| State | 51% | 51% | 52% | * | * | 58% | 59% |
| High School | 61% | 58% | 59% | * | * | 62% | 50% |
| Peer | 45% | 42% | 45% | | * | 58% | 54% |
| State | 51% | 51% | 52% | | * | 58% | 59% |

NSCAS-Math

| | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Elementary | 89% | 57% | 56% | * | * | 64% | 55% |
| Peer | 80% | 56% | 55% | | * | 62% | 67% |
| State | 72% | 51% | 52% | * | * | 66% | 58% |
| High School | 76% | 61% | 76% | * | * | 69% | 46% |
| Peer | 66% | 48% | 47% | | * | 68% | 57% |
| State | 72% | 51% | 52% | | * | 61% | 58% |

NSCAS-Science

| | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Elementary | 84% | 86% | 55% | * | * | 69% | 76% |
| Peer | 76% | 80% | 84% | * | * | 84% | 85% |
| State | 70% | 68% | 66% | * | * | 70% | 74% |
| High School | 75% | 63% | 93% | * | * | 60% | 69% |
| Peer | 69% | 68% | 65% | * | * | 72% | 70% |
| State | 70% | 68% | 66% | * | * | 70% | 74% |

District Finances

Below are the tables with information from the past few years in regards to the district's valuation and levies, the general fund budget expenditures, and the general fund budget of receipts.

District Valuation and Levies

| | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Valuation | \$311,176,067 | \$321,151,894 | \$325,206,231 | \$331,415,224 | \$351,542,511 |
| General Fund Levy | \$.909550 | \$.911963 | \$.921317 | \$.928169 | \$.781491 |
| Building Fund Levy | \$.029004 | \$.028103 | \$.029818 | \$.027324 | \$.024543 |
| Bond Fund Levy | \$.054637 | \$.052840 | \$.054206 | \$.051615 | \$.04763 |
| QCPUF | \$.022301 | \$.022017 | \$.020812 | \$.021885 | \$.020145 |
| Total Levy | \$1.016492 | \$1.014923 | \$1.026550 | \$1.028991 | \$.873809 |

General Fund Budget of Expenditures

| | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| All Instruction | \$1,776,005 | \$2,071,257 | \$2,237,438 | \$2,622,383 | \$2,331,351 | \$2,250,4241 |
| Support Services | \$420,881 | \$359,213 | \$462,809 | \$376,216 | \$346,694 | \$379,322 |
| Board of Ed., Administration, Business Support | \$465,350 | \$502,329 | \$413,605 | \$437,101 | \$481,231 | \$525,227 |
| Operation & Maintenance of Plant | \$251,814 | \$383,575 | \$306,457 | \$394,486 | \$214,716 | \$245,742 |
| Pupil Transportation | \$143,899 | \$125,029 | \$101,705 | \$157,990 | \$141,734 | \$152,116 |
| State & Federal Programs | \$198,158 | \$166,210 | \$141,540 | \$6,085 | \$31,158 | \$118,684 |

General Fund Budget of Receipts

| | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Local Property Tax (1100) | \$2,382,477 | \$2,651,496 | \$2,665,935 | \$2,691,832 | \$2,772,757 | \$2,775,482 |
| Other Local Taxes | \$187,367 | \$153,412 | \$150,870 | \$169,996 | \$215,209 | \$218,962 |
| County Fines & Licenses (2110) | \$16,695 | \$12,708 | \$10,836 | \$14,375 | \$18,089 | \$10,343 |
| State Aid (3110) | \$18,123 | \$26,053 | \$23,338 | \$98,358 | \$31,767 | \$324,223 |
| Special Ed Programs (3161) | \$143,188 | \$117,622 | \$152,786 | \$143,023 | \$115,518 | \$255,786 |
| Special Ed. Transportation (3125) | \$11,615 | \$7,307 | \$3,056 | \$0 | \$181 | \$0 |
| Homestead Exemption (3130) | \$27,914 | \$32,847 | \$37,135 | \$38,238 | \$37,873 | \$38,094 |
| Property Tax Credit (3131/3132) | \$187,755 | \$227,910 | \$218,668 | \$229,726 | \$227,970 | \$244,675 |
| Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle (3180) | \$6,390 | \$6,571 | \$6,529 | \$7,291 | \$7,237 | \$6,935 |
| State Apportionment (3400) | \$26,148 | \$26,599 | \$18,827 | \$21,768 | \$31,895 | \$32,363 |
| High Ability Learner (3535) | \$2,697 | \$3,187 | \$3,276 | \$4,652 | \$2,891 | \$2,864 |
| Other State Sources (3599) | \$9,771 | \$494 | \$3,860 | \$750 | \$5,169 | \$7,641 |
| Federal Receipts (4310-4991) | \$163,396 | \$98,288 | \$172,060 | \$134,151 | \$262,793 | \$155,130 |
| Non-Revenue | \$676 | \$17,329 | \$185 | \$656 | \$22,721 | \$13,500 |

Thank You!

The school faculty and staff appreciate the continued support of all parents and patrons of the school district. Together we can ensure successful futures for our students!