

New Prague Area Schools
ISD 721

2013

Annual Report on Curriculum
Instruction and Student Achievement



Proud Tradition, Promising Future

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Citizens of our District,

On behalf of the Board of Education, it gives me great pleasure to present our 2012-13 Annual Report. New Prague School District 721 is filled with excellence when it comes to the quality of our educational programs, our teachers and support staff, and our students. This Annual Report is intended to provide you, the stakeholder, with evidence of that.

The mission of New Prague Area Schools is to engage and support high levels of learning for all students. As I reflect on the 2012-13 school year, there is much to be proud of. Our students demonstrated outstanding academic achievement earning high test scores on state and national tests. We are proud of the variety of academic, extracurricular, and enrichment activities that are provided in New Prague Area Schools.

Our vision is to become a premier school district and a national model for educational excellence that embraces the challenges of the 21st century. None of this could happen without the ongoing support from our community. It helps us provide a safe, welcoming, respectful, and motivating place to learn for our children.

We recognize our obligation to operate our schools in as efficient manner as possible. Our commitment to you, as taxpayers, is to spend the money in our budget wisely. New Prague Area Schools has always been and will continue to be fiscally responsible with our community's generosity. We are continually looking for ways to operate efficiently and cost effectively.

I know I speak for the entire Board of Education and District staff when I say that we are excited for what the future holds – for our schools and our community. Strong schools build strong communities and we thank you for your continued support, commitment and investment in building our bright future!

Sincerely yours,

Tim Dittberner
Superintendent
tdittber@np.k12.mn.us



New Prague Area Schools - School Board

Mission

To Engage and Support Everyone in High Levels of Learning

Vision

New Prague Area Schools will be a premier school district that models excellence and embraces the challenges of the 21st century.



*Back row, left to right: Jerry Walerius; Director, Jeanne Kubes; Director, Tim Dittberner; Superintendent, Kytyn Schoenbauer; Vice-Chair
Front row, left to right: Dennis Havlicek; Clerk, Tammy Pexa; Chair, Don Dvorak; Treasurer*



New Prague Public Schools and Communities

The New Prague Area School District is located approximately 45 miles south, southwest of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The district comprises 160 square miles and serves several population centers, along with the agricultural and land property between them.

The school district provides a comprehensive Pre K-12th grade education program focused on academic achievement and positive individual development. New Prague Area Schools regularly ranks amongst the highest school districts in Minnesota on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in Science, Math and English.

- 3,913 students were enrolled in New Prague Area Schools in 2013-2014
- 586 of these students (15%) attended New Prague Area schools through state open enrollment programs.
- 3.6% of New Prague Area School students reported minority status.
- 16% of students qualified for Free and Reduced Price Lunch.
- 28 students were involved in the District English as a Second Language Program

The three largest communities that make up the New Prague Area School District are the cities of New Prague (pop. 7428), Elko New Market (4,285), and Lonsdale (3,757). All three communities are growing and have a rich cultural history and active business district.

K-12 Enrollment by Building

School	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
New Prague High School	1106	1113	1136	1148
New Prague Middle School	848	867	887	878
Eagle View Elementary	633	671	515	512
Raven Stream Elementary	612	612	661	605
Falcon Ridge Elementary	487	465	626	669
Alternative Learning Ctr	N/A	N/A	N/A	46

New Prague

- Founded in 1856 New Prague maintains a unique identity recognized for its heritage.
- The city and surrounding area reflects the Czech, German, and Irish origins of many of their early residents.
- Its annual fall festival, Dozinky, is patterned after similar celebrations in the “Old Country” of Prague, giving thanks for the bountiful harvest.
- The city lies in both Scott and Le Sueur counties; the Main Street, running east and west, is on the county line.

Elko New Market

- In 2007 the fast growing cities of Elko and New Market merged as one city.
- Agricultural land surrounds the 150 year old cities and provides their pastoral landscape.
- The community’s vision is to preserve its historic landmarks, small town character, and Czech heritage while providing suburban amenities and services.
- Each summer the Fire Rescue Days help to celebrate the community’s identity and assets.

Lonsdale

- Lonsdale is situated in Rice County and is easily accessible by Interstate 35 which lies just six miles east.
- In 1903 Lonsdale was incorporated after the railroad came through and brought families west.
- Lonsdale’s business district serves the residents of many nearby townships and villages, as well as the extensive agricultural land surrounding it.

The small town feel of Lonsdale and its community’s heritage are celebrated each year with the August festival of Lonsdale Community Days.

Curriculum Advisory Committee

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is to ensure members of the community and educators work together in a positive way to improve the quality of education for children in the community. Being a member of Curriculum Advisory Committee provides an opportunity to serve as a sounding board for the community, to gain knowledge about the district's curricula and its development, and to positively influence change within each curriculum area based on knowledge, research, and community needs.

Purpose

The purpose of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is to advise the School Board in all phases of planning and improving the instruction and curriculum affecting state and district academic standards.

Curriculum Advisory Committee Members

Tony Buthe

Shawn Brandt

Kari Woyda

Carrie DeValk

Will Rimmert

Tim Dittberner

Julie Hull

Heather Novak

Bridget Barnett

Rachel Radermacher

Nancy DuBois

Robbie Cheever

Brian Grensteiner

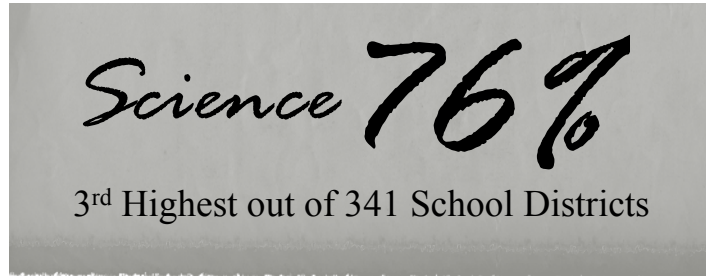
Honor Society Student



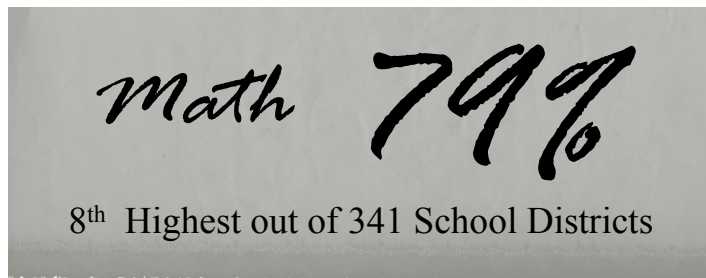
Student Achievement

New Prague Students Shine on State Reading, Math and Science Assessments

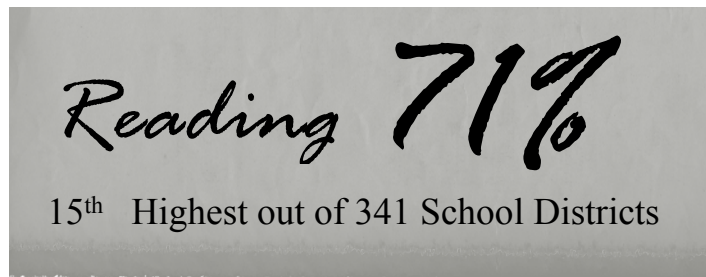
New Prague Proficiency



New Prague Proficiency



New Prague Proficiency



- New Prague students demonstrated outstanding academic achievement on state tests.
- Of the 98% of students who graduate from New Prague High School, 88% go on to post-secondary schooling
- New Prague Middle school received a Multiple Measurement Rating of 96.37% from the Minnesota Department of Education. This was the second consecutive year that NPMS was rated in the top 5% of all schools in Minnesota.
- In the past three years, 286 students have earned 1,223 credits and saved approximately \$176,000 in college tuition costs by enrolling in College in the Schools (CIS) classes that are offered at the New Prague High School.

Student Achievement

New Prague's Elementary Schools Attain State's Highest Academic Ratings

Congratulations for Eagle View Elementary School's recent designation as a Reward School. This designation reflects the gains their school has made in proficiency, growth, and achievement gap reduction. It is also a reflection of teaching and support staff's tireless efforts to improve outcomes for students.

Reward schools are the top 15 percent of Title I schools based on the Multiple Measurement Ratings (MMR). Currently, the reward for these schools mainly comes through public recognition. The Minnesota Department of Education plans to share practice from these schools with low performing schools in an effort to replicate best practices across the state. These schools are identified annually.

The Multiple Measurement Ratings (MMR) is a 0 to 100% for all schools in the state and includes data on proficiency, growth, and achievement gap reduction. The Focus Rating (FR) is a 0 to 100% for all schools in the state and includes data on proficiency and growth for only students of color, special education students, student in poverty and English learners.

Reward schools represent the highest performing in Minnesota's Title I schools. Eagle View's Multiple Measure Rating (MMR) was ranked 29th highest in the state and their Focus Rating (FR) was 8th highest in the state out of 853 Title I schools.

New Prague's two other elementary schools were named "Celebration Eligible" schools. These are the 25 percent of schools directly below the Reward school cutoff. The Minnesota Department of Education selects approximately 10 percent of Title I schools to receive the Celebration school recognition.

Eagle View Elementary

Multiple Measure Rating : 96.64%

Focus Rating: 99.51%

Falcon Ridge Elementary

Multiple Measure Rating : 73.72%

Focus Rating: 79.88%

Raven Stream Elementary

Multiple Measure Rating : 70.68%

Focus Rating: 81.56%

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments 2012-2013

In 2013, Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) was administered to students in reading in grades 3-8 and 10, mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11, and science in grades 5, 8 and high school when students complete biology. The purpose of the MCA is to measure Minnesota students' achievement on the Minnesota Academic Standards. The MCA results inform curriculum decisions at the district level and inform instruction at the classroom level. It also demonstrates student academic progress from year to year in Reading and Mathematics.

Grade level proficiency is determined by the students who meet or exceed the state standards. New Prague Area Schools students scored above the state in mathematics, reading and science.

New Prague Area students exceeded the statewide proficiency reading and math averages for **ALL** eight grades tested in spring 2013 (grades 3-8, 10, and 11).

2013 MCA-III Reading <i>(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)</i>		
New Prague Area Schools	State	
Grade 3	65%	57%
Grade 4	61%	54%
Grade 5	76%	64%
Grade 6	74%	59%
Grade 7	73%	54%
Grade 8	77%	54%
Grade 10	73%	62%

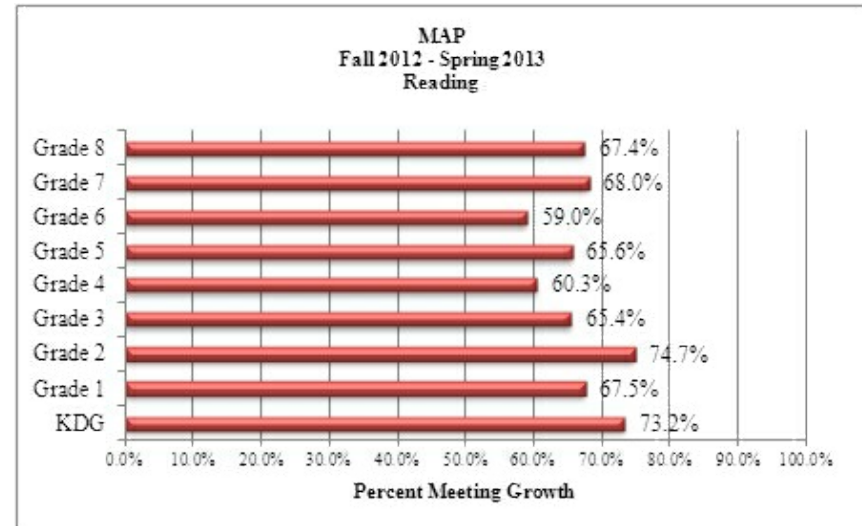
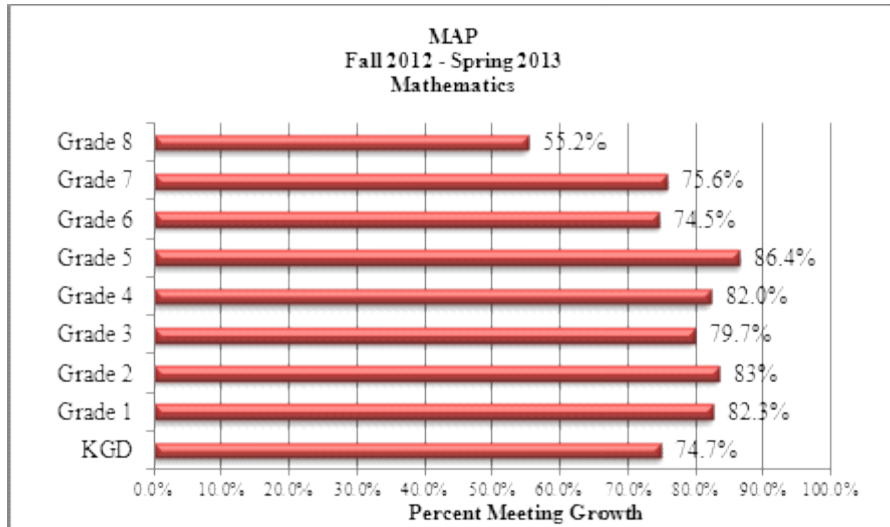
2013 MCA-III Science <i>(Percent of Students Proficient or Better)</i>		
New Prague Area Schools	State	
Grade 5	79%	60%
Grade 8	72%	44%
High School	76%	53%

2013 MCA-III Mathematics <i>(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)</i>		
New Prague Area Schools	State	
Grade 3	86%	71%
Grade 4	85%	71%
Grade 5	81%	60%
Grade 6	78%	57%
Grade 7	81%	56%
Grade 8	86%	59%

2013 MCA-II Mathematics <i>(Percentage of Students Proficient or Better)</i>		
New Prague Area Schools	State	
Grade 11	58%	52%

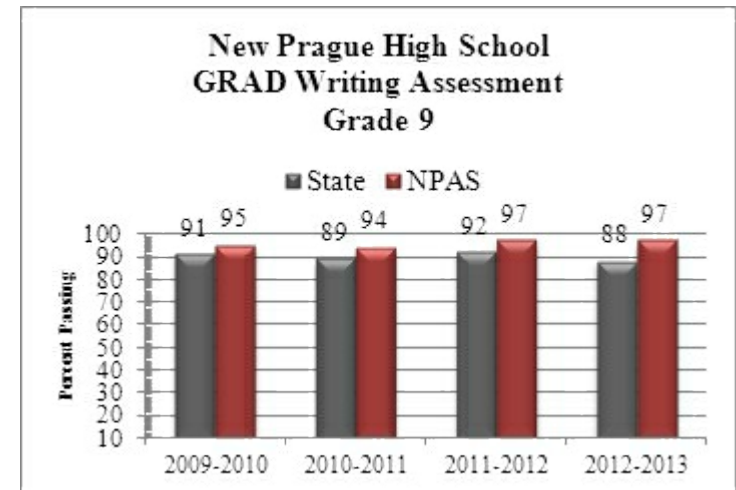
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

New Prague Area Schools chooses to administer MAP tests to students in grades K-8 to help parents and educators track individual student growth, determine student placement, and improve curriculum and instruction. Results also help gauge New Prague Area Schools achievement nationally. Typically about half of the students in any school will show growth that meets or exceeds their specific growth estimates and about half will not. Test results indicate strong growth in New Prague Area Schools in grades K-8.



GRAD Writing Assessment

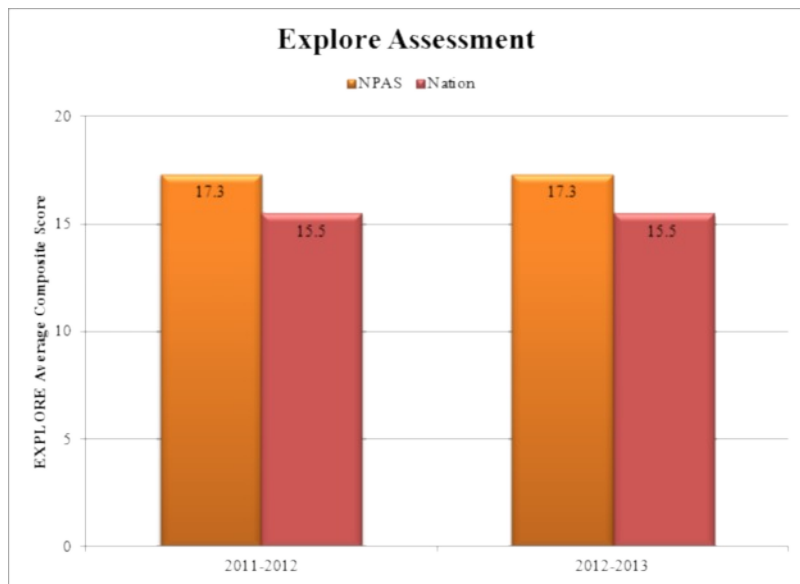
Minnesota schools perform this assessment in ninth grade. Students must pass this test to receive a diploma from a Minnesota public high school.



EXPLORE & PLAN Assessment

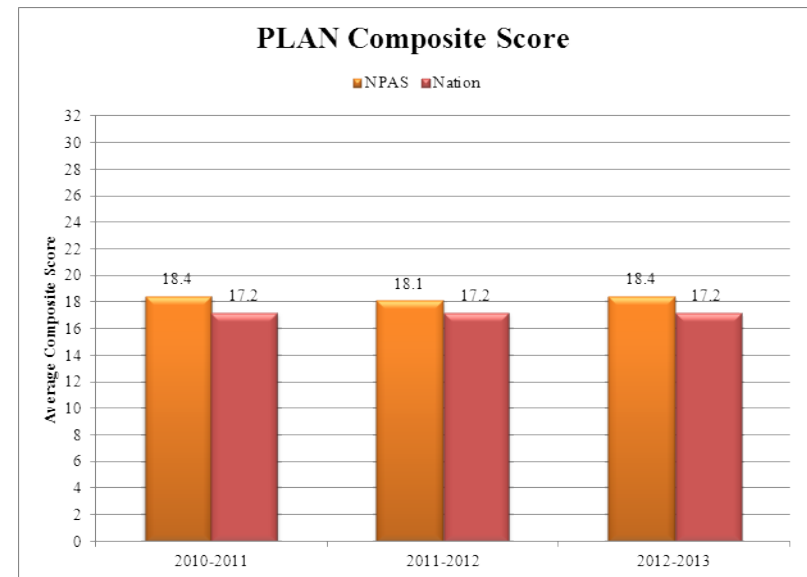
The EXPLORE Assessment is based on the major areas of high school and post secondary instructional programs and measures the skills and concepts needed for college success. Through EXPLORE, students' strengths and weaknesses can be identified early in their educational development, when they have the greatest opportunity to establish a four-year program of study in high school that will help them achieve their career and educational goals. Students receive a composite score of 1-25 and a predictive score as to how they will do on the PLAN assessment.

New Prague students in the eighth-grade took the EXPLORE assessment for the first time in 2011-2012. The assessment has four components: English, mathematics, reading and science. The nationwide composite score average for eighth grade students is 15.5 percent. The average composite score for New Prague Area Schools was 17.3.



The PLAN assessment helps tenth grade students build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. The PLAN serves as the midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT's College and Career Readiness Systems. It contains four tests: math, English, reading and science. Students receive a composite score of 1-32.

On the 2012 PLAN, New Prague High School sophomores scored an average composite of 18.4.



ACT: Scores on College Placement Tests

The American College Test (ACT) assesses high school students' general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. This report reflects the achievement of our New Prague Area School graduates on the ACT over time and gives an indication of the extent to which they are prepared for college-level work.

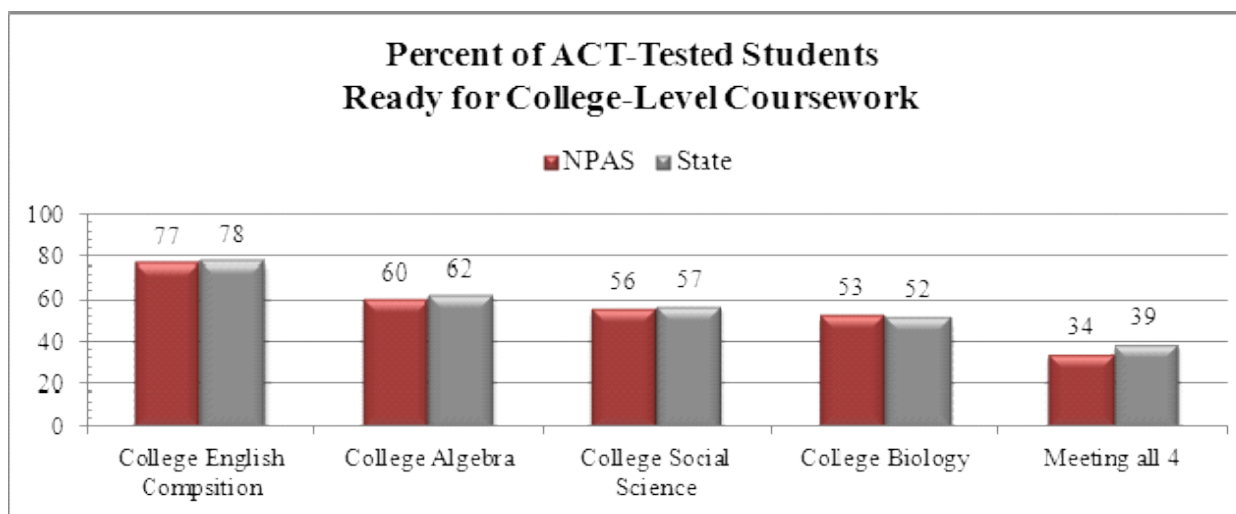
The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework.

Table 1 shows the five-year trend of NPAS ACT-tested graduates. From this table you can determine:

- Changes in the number and percentage of participants
- Score changes in subject areas and the ACT composite
- How NPAS graduates compare with state averages

Table 1: Five Year Trends - Average ACT

Grad Year	Total Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2008	182	44863	21.6	21.9	22.2	22.6	23.0	23.0	22.1	22.5	22.4	22.6
2009	181	43642	21.6	22.0	22.1	22.7	22.8	23.1	22.4	22.6	22.3	22.7
2010	190	44323	22.0	22.3	22.5	22.9	23.1	23.2	23.0	22.8	22.8	22.9
2011	188	44952	21.3	22.3	22.4	23.0	22.6	22.9	22.5	22.8	22.3	22.9
2012	183	44977	22.0	22.1	22.6	23.0	23.1	22.9	22.9	22.7	22.8	22.8
2013	188	44646	21.8	22.2	22.7	23.1	22.8	23.1	23.2	22.9	22.8	23.0

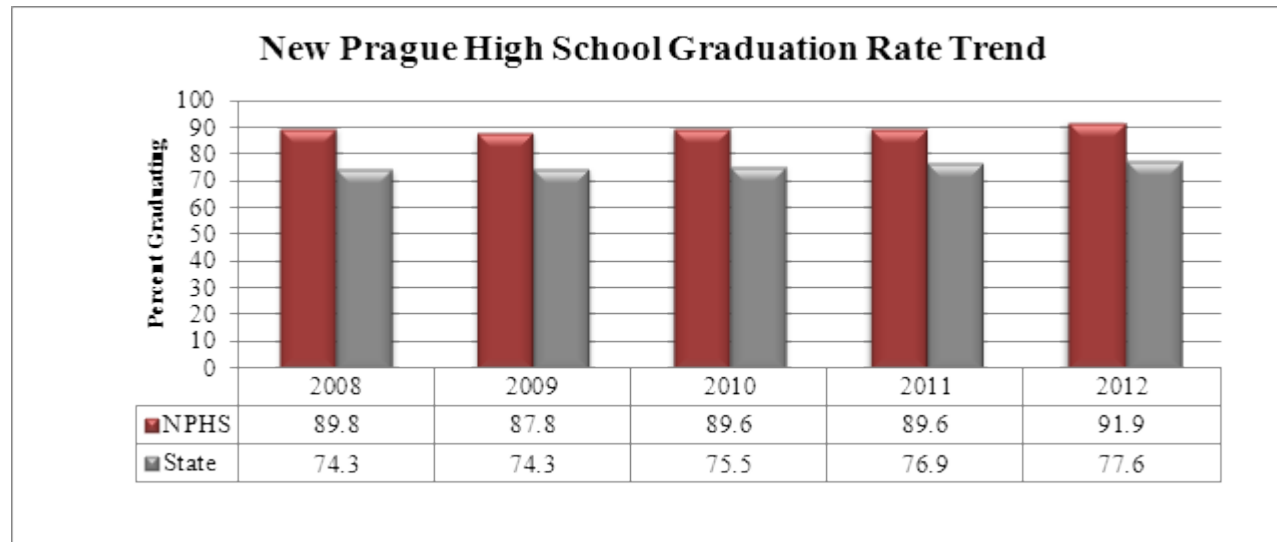


A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses.

(College Readiness Letter, 2013)

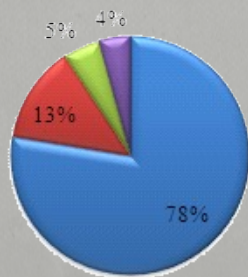
RATES: Graduation

High school graduation is a large predictor of future success. Students who graduate from high school have more opportunities to succeed in college, work and life. In New Prague Area Schools, we want every student to earn a diploma.



Minnesota State Wide
4-Year Graduation Rate

■ Graduate-78% ■ Continuing-13%
■ Dropout-5% ■ Unknown-4%

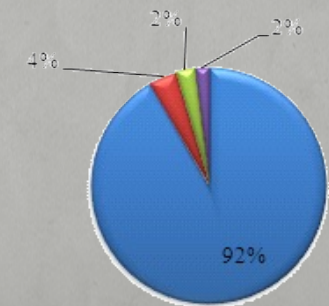


The state modified its method for calculating high school graduation rates to allow rates to be uniformly compared across states. The 4-Year Graduation Rate shows the number of students graduating from high school within four years after entering grade nine. To determine this rate, we identify all students who entered ninth grade four years ago.

The next step is to add in any students who moved into the district and subtract out any students who moved away. This adjusted number represents the total number of students who are eligible to graduate. The actual Graduation Rate is determined by dividing the total number of students who actually graduated by the number eligible to graduate.

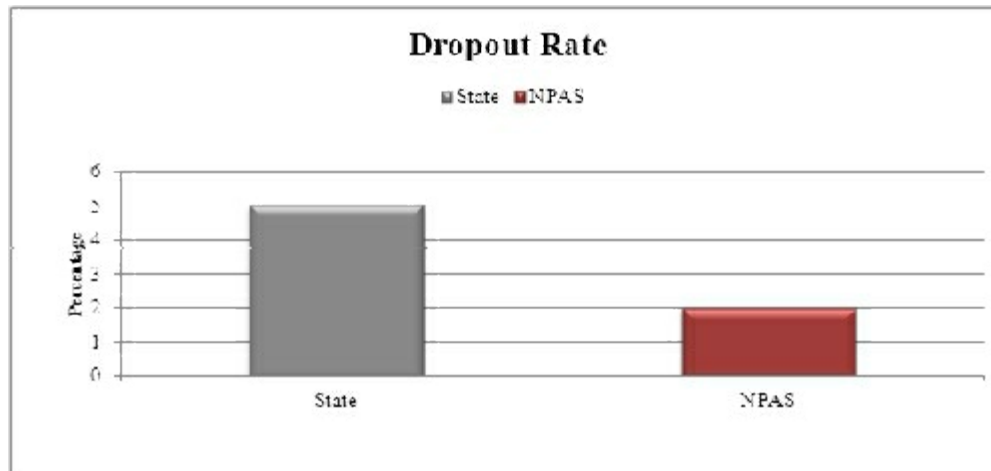
New Prague High School
4-Year Graduation Rate

■ Graduate-92% ■ Continuing-4%
■ Dropout-2% ■ Unknown-2%

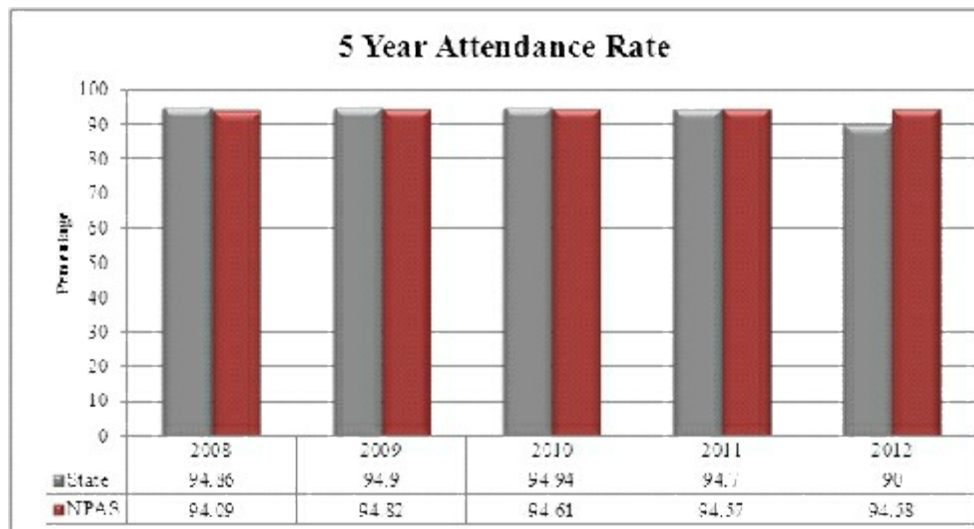


RATES: Dropout and Attendance

New Prague Area Schools dropout rate of 2 percent is lower than the state average of 5 percent.



New Prague Area Schools average attendance rate has remained stable for the last five years.



Financial Integrity

New Prague Area Schools recognizes the importance of being held accountable to its stakeholders for the financial health of the school district. NPAS is dedicated to professional, prudent, and conservative financial management. Financial challenges strengthens our commitment to ensuring taxpayers' money is invested wisely in public school education.

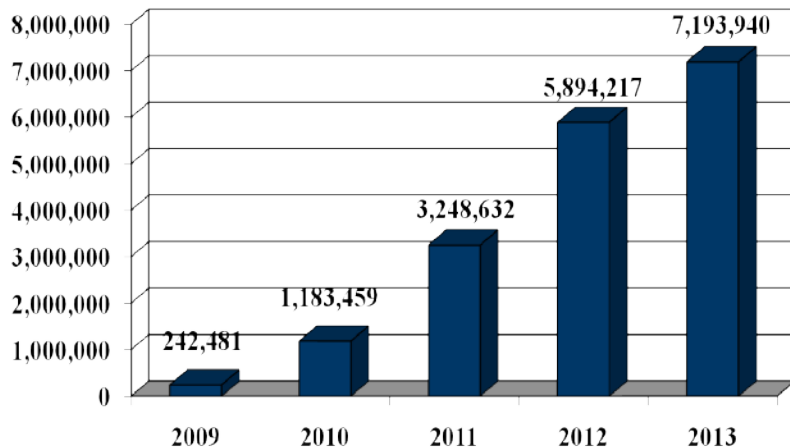
Maintaining fiscal integrity is one of NPAS's three district priorities identified by the district's strategic plan. Designing and implementing plans and procedures to maintain the fiscal integrity of New Prague Area Schools is critical to the future of our students and the entire community. Fiscal integrity has many facets including:

- Utilizing resources responsibly
- Focusing on identified priorities
- Promoting transparency and accountability
- Creating internal controls to ensure assets are protected
- Evaluating short-term financial health of the district

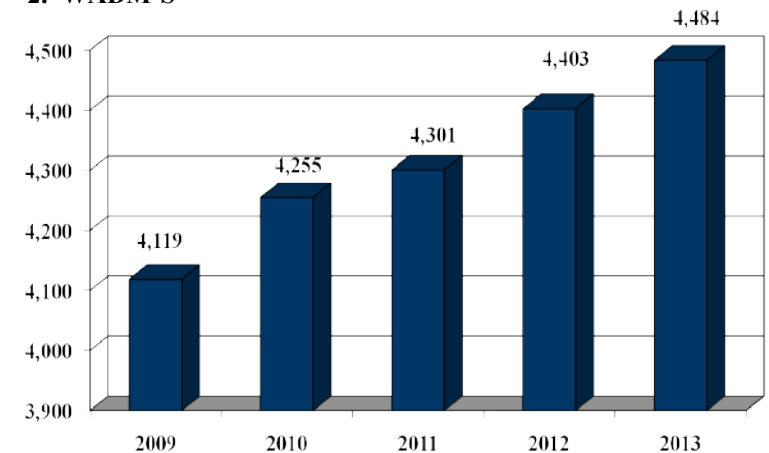
The following graphs highlight our district's financial results that indicate our commitment to fiscal integrity.

Graph 1 – Our unassigned fund balance has increased dramatically during the last several years due to several factors including increased enrollment, significant budget adjustments, federal grants, and sensible spending

1. General Fund -Unassigned and Unreserved/Un-designated Balance



2. WADM'S

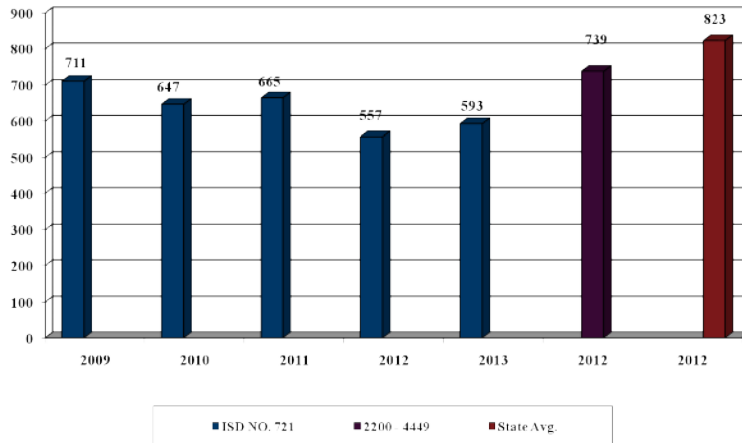


Graph 2 – Steady enrollment growth had contributed to our financial stability. The district had a 275 student gain from open enrollment in FY 12-13.

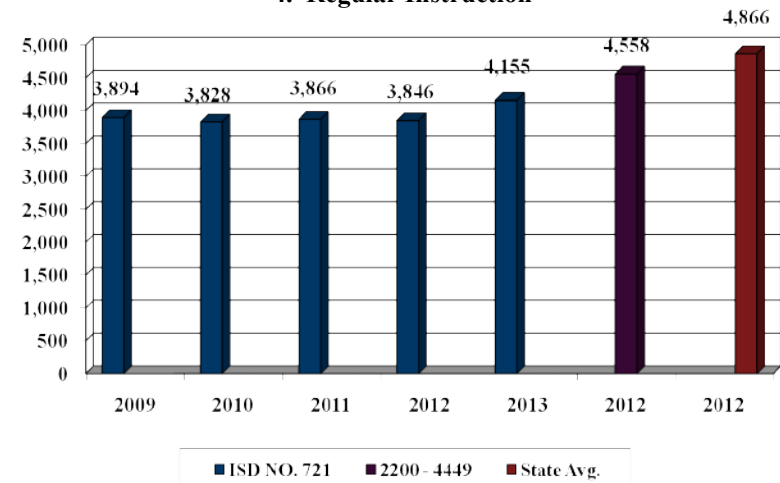
Financial Integrity

Graphs 3-7 – The next set of graphs compare NPAS’s FY 12-13 expenditures per student in several key areas compared to data from FY 11-12 for schools in Minnesota of similar size as well as all districts in the state of Minnesota.

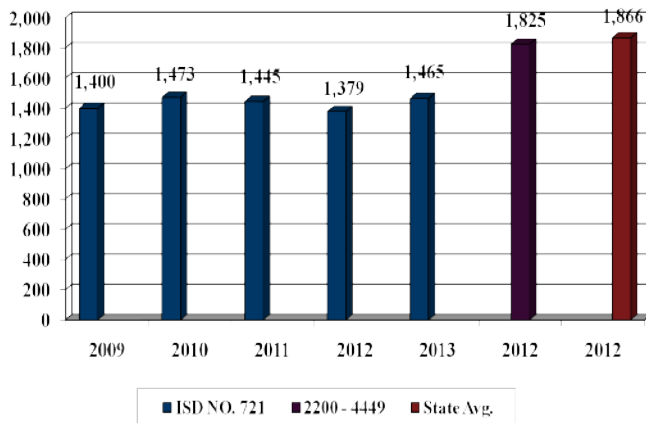
3. District and School Administration and Support



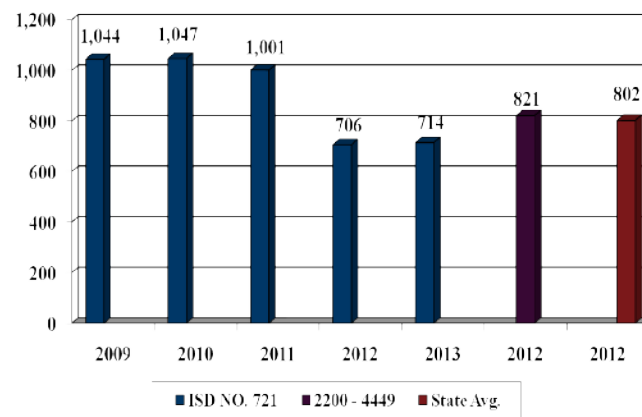
4. Regular Instruction



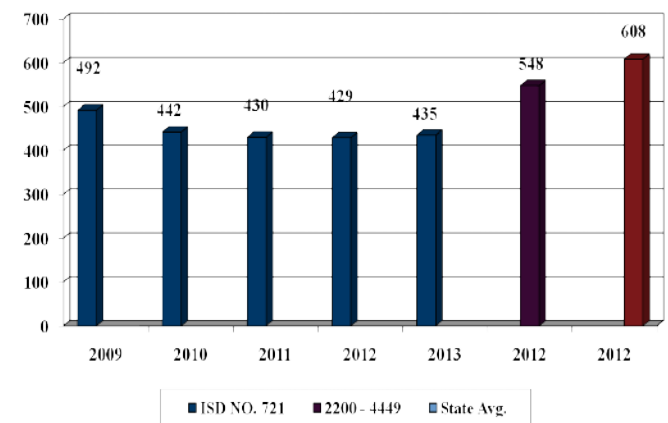
5. Special Education Instruction



6. Site, Buildings, Equipment and Other



7. Transportation



Community Education

The Community Services Department of District 721 supports the District's mission and vision by providing learning opportunities for all ages, birth through the senior years. Community members are encouraged to participate in classes and activities that build new skills, expand perspectives, strengthen personal networks, and improve the overall quality of life.

New Prague Area School's Community Education statistics for 2012-13 include the following:

Early Childhood Services

- Awarded MN Parent Aware – 4 Star status
- Staff trained in S.M.A.R.T. curriculum
- Use OWL (Opening the World of Learning) curriculum and assessments in all preschool classrooms
- 249 children ages 3-5 attended the District Preschool classes
- Early Childhood Screening tested 274 children ages 3-5.
- 570 children and their parents participated in Early Childhood Family Education classes

Adult and Youth Enrichment

- 795 classes were offered, 651 were held
- 1,980 people participated in Adult Enrichment classes and events
- 5,153 students participated in Youth Enrichment classes and activities
- Driver's Education prepared 327 new drivers with classroom instruction and 269 with Behind the Wheel training
- 75 high school students attended ACT Prep classes
- 1,053 youth attended swimming lessons

School Age Care

- Kids' Company School Age Care is located in all 3 Elementary School buildings
- Care was provided for 375 students before and/or after their school day and 150 students on summer and no school days

Adult Basic Education/GED preparation

- 12 people attended GED prep classes



Additional information regarding all Community Education programming can be found at ce.np.k12.mn.us

Technology & Learning

The mission of New Prague Area Schools is to engage and support everyone in high levels of learning. We believe technology is an essential component in helping students prepare for their future.

2012-13 Accomplishments

- Implemented new student information system (Infinite Campus)
- Provided over 60 opportunities for technology-related staff development sessions
- Established an Educational Technology Team to explore best practices in technology and learning
- Expanded wireless coverage at Eagle View, Falcon Ridge, and Raven Stream Elementary
- Integrated 400+ Chromebooks in the 6-12 social studies curriculum
- Integrated 200+ iPads in classrooms across the district
- Upgraded 700+ laptops/netbooks in the elementary, middle, and high schools



Special Education

In 2012-2013, New Prague's Special Education Services program served 492 students ranging in age from birth to 21.

Speech/Language was the disability area with the largest percentage of total special education population (18.3%), followed by Learning Disabilities (20.3%), Early Childhood Developmental Delay (13.2%), Other Health Impairment (11.9%), Emotional Behavior Disorder (11.99%), and Autism Spectrum Disorder (11.38%).

New Prague offers Adapted Athletic programs sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League in Floor Hockey and Softball as well as a Physically Impaired consolidation with Lakeville schools.

New Prague also offers a Special Education Parent Advisory Board that meets quarterly during each school year.



Gifted & Talented Education Services

The New Prague Area School District provides programming for gifted and high performing students. The program has two components: curriculum-based services and student-based services.

Curriculum-based services are modifications of the regular curriculum in response to the learning needs of the student which may include cluster grouping, and differentiated instruction with enrichment activities delivered to the students by classroom teachers.

Student based services are those learning opportunities that may differ from the regular curriculum and often extend learning activities outside the classroom. These may include opportunities to listen to guest speakers and extracurricular activities, often provided through Community Ed. Services in the Middle and High Schools may include cluster grouping, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, College in the Schools, Partnership in Academic Advancement (PAA), and extracurricular competitions.

The district employs a part-time Gifted and Talented Coordinator who works on various programming components and staff development for all teaching staff.

New Prague Area Schools - Departments and Services

Buildings, Grounds, & Transportation

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cmost@np.k12.mn.us

Special Education Services

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Educational Services

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Community Services

Janelle Kirsch, Director
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Early Childhood Services

Lana Puffer, Coordinator
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Food Services

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Operations/Technology

Greg Pint, Co-Director
Shawn Brandt – Co-Director
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gpint@np.k12.mn.us
sbrandt@np.k12.mn.us

Curriculum & Assessment

Nancy DuBois, Director
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nduois@np.k12.mn.us

Eagle View Elementary

Principal – Will Remmert
25600 Nevada Avenue
Elko New Market
952-758-6000



Raven Stream Elementary

Principal – Pat Pribyl
300 11th Avenue NW
New Prague
952-758-1500



Falcon Ridge Elementary

Principal – Dave Giesen
1200 Columbus Avenue
New Prague
952-758-1600



New Prague Middle School

Principal – Brad Gregor
721 Central Avenue North
New Prague
952-758-1400



New Prague High School

Principal – Lonnie Seifert
221 12th Street NE
New Prague
952-758-1200



Alternative Learning Center

Principal – Lonnie Seifert
405 1st Avenue NW
New Prague
952-758-1745

District Office & Student Registration

410 Central Avenue North
New Prague
952-758-1700

Get Connected and Get Informed...

Learn more about New Prague Area Schools by visting: www.np.k12.mn.us

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