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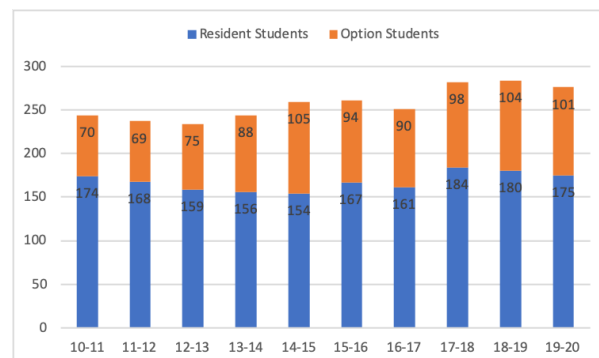
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Following are some statistics and information about Palmer Public School. This report to the public is outlined in district policy and its content is prescribed in Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10 (Rule 10); *Nebraska Rules and Regulations* governing the operation of schools. Much of the information contained relates to the 2019-20 School Year with information regarding prior years for purposes of comparison.

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

With regard to school finance, no factor applies greater influence than student enrollment, affecting state aid, per-pupil expenditure statistics, and staffing determinations. The chart below shows numbers of Resident students and Option students enrolled in K-12 at Palmer over the past 10 years. The enrollment count of K-12 students has fluctuated moderately during the past ten years, with an upward trend over the last six years.

During the ten-year period portrayed in the chart, the enrollment count of resident students has remained relatively stable, while the option student enrollment count has steadily risen, resulting in an overall increase in enrollment of 13%. The percentage of the total student population who are Enrollment Option students has increased during this time period from 29% of the students enrolled in 2010 to 37% in 2019. While districts of comparable size and makeup have endured large decreases in enrollment, Palmer Public School has maintained its overall student enrollment the past several years.



ENROLLMENT

The table on the right shows the enrollment by grade for the 2019-20 school year. In grades K-12, there are an average of 21.2 students per grade. With two class sections of preschool, the average class size in the elementary is 21.9 students. Including paraprofessionals, there are 11 elementary students per staff member. Palmer's low student to teacher ratio allows us to provide every student with individualized attention and support.

Grade	Students Enrolled	Grade	Students Enrolled
PreK	50	7th	19
Kdg	17	8th	14
1st	21	9th	20
2nd	24	10th	23
3rd	20	11th	27
4th	17	12th	26
5th	27		
6th	21		
Elem Total	197	Sec Total	129
Dist Total 326			

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

	Nebraska	Palmer
Free/Reduced Lunch	45.6%	47.55%
English Language Learners	7.43%	0.01%
Special Education Percentage	15.56%	10.87%
School Mobility Rate	8.36%	6.52%
Highly Mobile Students	3.67%	4.73%
Graduation Rate	87.51%	95.83%
Attendance Rate	94.3%	96.36%
Dropout Rate	1.15%	0.78%

The table on the left compares Palmer to the State on several demographic points. Palmer's rate for students receiving free/reduced lunch (a measure of the poverty demographics), special education, and English Language Learners (students whose first language is not English) are near or below the state average.

Any student who enrolls in two or more public schools during an academic year will be

considered a highly mobile student. Any child who enters or leaves school between October 1 and the last day of school is counted in the mobility rate. An individual child is counted only once and is divided by the K-12 Fall Membership count taken October 1. Example: A school building begins the year with 20 students. During the year three students move out and three students move in. The mobility number is six. Example: A school building begins the year with 25 students. During the year five students move out, but one of them returns. The mobility number is five. Palmer had a lower mobility rate but a slightly higher rate of "highly mobile" students moving in and out during the 2019-2020 school year than the state average.

Graduation rates are calculated on a cohort basis, which is calculated by dividing the number of students entering 9th grade by the number of students who graduate within four years (8 semesters). Again, Palmer regularly exceeds the state average in this category, even though having small class sizes means one student could significantly decrease the figure.

Palmer's attendance rate is consistently better than the state average. This is due largely to parental support. School attendance is one of the most important variables in a student's success. This can also effect funding, because a large difference between Average Daily Membership and Average Daily Attendance can adversely affect state aid.

The dropout rate is calculated by dividing the total number of 7th-12th grade students who dropped out by the official fall enrollment for grades 7-12. Palmer has rarely had a student included in this statistic.

STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nebraska Department of Education cancelled the 2019 - 2020 assessments; therefore, there are no results to report.

FACULTY AND STAFF

The table below shows the Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) count of teachers for Palmer Public Schools over the past three years, along with the number and percentage of teachers who have earned advanced degrees.

	Total Teacher Count		Total Teachers with Master's Degrees		Percentage of Teachers with Master's Degrees	
Years	State	Palmer	State	Palmer	State	Palmer
2017-2018	23,492	24.08	13,199	11	54.92%	42.31%
2018-2019	23,702	24.08	13,570	14	55.99%	53.85%
2019-2020	23,856	23.51	13,374	10.51	56.06%	44.7%

The table at right shows both Average Years Experience and Average Salary for teachers in Palmer and the state average. Average teacher salaries in comparison

Years	Average Years Experience		Average Teacher Salary	
	State	Palmer	State	Palmer
2017-18	14.03	13.31	\$54,422	\$48,676
2018-19	14.01	14.15	\$54,601	\$50,612
2019-20	13.96	13.36	\$55,479	\$52,204

to the state change accordingly as Palmer's average years of experience increases or decreases; and as the percentage of Masters Degrees increases or decreases.

FINANCES: GENERAL FUND BUDGET, TAX LEVY, TAX ASKING

The largest single source of receipts for the District is property tax. The table at right shows the District's assessed valuation with a breakdown by county over the past four years, with this year's assessed valuation Decreasing 2.64%.

County	Assessed Valuation			
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Howard	\$42,959,236	\$42,306,734	\$42,019,598	\$43,171,433
Merrick	\$197,451,682	\$195,398,909	\$184,319,139	\$177,993,373
Nance	\$86,136,478	\$85,580,937	\$80,745,750	\$77,803,030
Total	\$326,547,396	\$323,286,580	\$307,084,487	\$298,967,836
% Change	1.64%	(-1.0%)	(-5.01%)	(-2.64%)

The table at right shows the General Fund budget requirements for the past three fiscal years as well as the current year. The General Fund is the

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund	\$4,692,500	\$4,727,738	\$4,893,208	\$5,162,334
Cash Reserve	\$937,136	\$772,913	\$906,665	\$629,209
Total Requirement	\$5,629,636	\$5,500,651	\$5,799,873	\$5,791,543
Expenditures	\$4,296,327	\$4,204,859	\$4,261,293	

District's day-to-day operating fund and does not include fiduciary funds such as those used to support activities (Activity Fund) and the Nutrition Fund, or the Bond Fund and Special Building Fund. The difference between budgeted amounts and audited expenditures is due to unforeseeable expenses over the course of the budget year, cash flow requirements, and varying needs for transfers from the General Fund and other funds within the General Fund, reflected as expenditures from the General Fund.

The table below shows the property tax rates, by fund, for the past three fiscal years and for the current year, as well as a calculation of the amount by which each levy changed. Note: Levies are expressed in dollars and cents per \$100 of valuation.

Fiscal Year	General Fund Levy	Bond Fund Levy	Special Building Fund Levy	QCPU Fund Levy	Total	Levy Change	Percent Levy Change
2017-2018	0.769607	0	0.036	0.025022	0.830629	-.038181	-4.39%
2018-2019	0.793312	0	0.025531	0.020163	0.839006	.008377	1.0%
2019-2020	0.835169	0	0.025621	0.031344	0.892134	.053128	6.3%
2020-2021	0.872751	0	0.0274	0.04105	0.941201	.049067	5.5%

The table at right shows the recent history of the tax amounts the district has asked in support of Palmer Public Schools. The All Other Funds amount includes the General Fund asking as well as the Special Building and

Tax Asking	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Bonds	\$81,708	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other Funds	\$2,630,689	\$2,712,397	\$2,739,604	\$2,813,891
Total Asking	\$2,712,397	\$2,712,397	\$2,739,604	\$2,813,891

Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) asking for debt payments.

The District's State Aid over the last four years is presented below. State aid to Palmer Public Schools decreased for years before rebounding in 2018-19. The decreases can be attributed to state budget cuts, and increases in property valuations, which increased the amount of local resources calculated in the state aid formula. In 2015-16, the district became a "Non-equalized" district, meaning we receive no State Aid for equalization, and received state aid only for option enrollment students and the income tax rebate. In 2020-21, the district again received equalization aid due to decreases in property valuations which decreased the amount of local resources.

When state aid has decreased, the cost of education has not. Some of this cost is due to increased personnel costs, but costs associated with increased data tracking and reporting requirements cannot be overlooked.

Fiscal Year	State Aid	Difference	% Change from previous
2017-2018	\$785,732	-\$71,856	-8.38%
2018-2019	\$915,310	\$129,578	16.49%
2019-2020	\$1,002,182	\$86,872	9.5%
2020-2021	\$1,295,638	\$293,456	29.28%

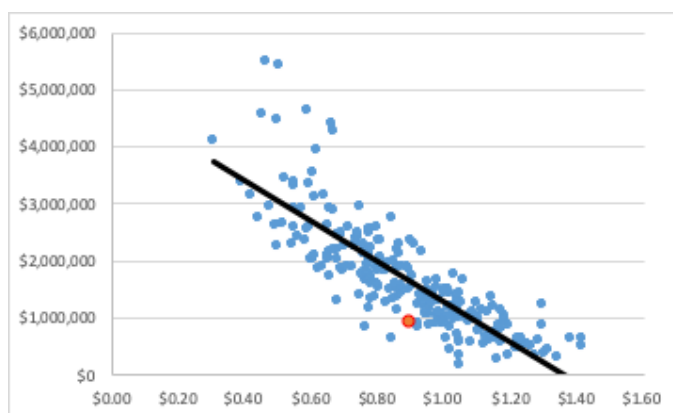
In comparing 2017 receipts to 2020 receipts, we see the level of support from each source remained relatively stable, with local support decreasing slightly and state support increasing slightly. The cost associated with the federal and state requirements for data tracking, assessment, and reporting continued to increase. When state and/or federal support decreases, the local sources necessarily increase to make up the difference in required funding.

FSY 2016-17		Funding Source	FSY 2019-20	
% Total	Receipted		Receipted	% Total
63.4%	\$ 2,567,290	Local Sources	\$ 2,415,470	58.2%
0.28%	\$ 11,432	County/ESU Sources	\$ 13,790	0.33%
31.6%	\$ 1,279,024	State Sources	\$ 1,520,302	36.6%
3.8%	\$ 153,367	Federal Sources	\$ 181,384	4.37%
1.0%	\$ 40,467	Non Revenue	\$ 22,626	0.54%
Total	\$ 4,051,580	Total Receipts	\$ 4,153,572	Total

Per pupil expenditures (PPE) can be affected by a number of factors including fluctuations in enrollment and General Fund expenditures, number of building sites and depreciation on the building and equipment, and transfers to the Depreciation Fund. Palmer's overall PPE consistently remains near the statewide average and below that for schools of comparable size. Per Pupil Expenditure varies only slightly from "General Fund Operating Expenditures per Formula Student," a critical component in the State Aid funding formula. The GFOE for the next nine larger and next nine smaller schools in the state for 2019-20 are portrayed at right. Unique circumstances (poverty, transportation needs, Special Education...) can have a dramatic effect on a district's budget and should be considered when comparing such data.

District	Formula Students	Adjusted GFOE Per Formula Student
SOUTHWEST	277.23	16,720.65
BANCROFT-ROSALIE	281.14	10,564.97
PLEASANTON	282.06	10,718.60
LOUP CITY	282.17	16,896.48
BURWELL	285.32	14,639.49
HITCHCOCK CO	291.82	10,950.19
PENDER	291.89	16,217.25
WEEPING WATER	294.09	14,550.44
PLAINVIEW	294.92	15,209.26
PALMER	296.21	12,606.48
MAXWELL	296.58	12,459.59
FULLERTON	296.68	13,997.82
CAMBRIDGE	300.81	12,849.86
DUNDY CO STRATTON	305.09	14,933.02
HUMBOLDT TABLE ROCK STEINAUER	309.09	19,051.10
CROFTON	310.16	14,492.21
BOYD COUNTY	312.43	16,036.38
BLUE HILL	312.54	13,327.26
ELM CREEK	319.68	12,173.43

As the black trend line shows, the more valuation per student a district has, the lower its levy. The graph at right shows this with the dots representing every school district in the state for 2019-20. The valuation per student ratio is on the left side of the graph and the total levy on the bottom. The Palmer School District (in orange) has \$941,977 of valuation per student (down from \$971,272 the previous year) and a 94.1 cent levy, putting us below the trend line for district levies. This graph shows that the two main drivers of a district's levy are the number of students enrolled and the amount of valuation in the district.



The total assets for the funds used by Palmer Public Schools for the past three years are portrayed below. Palmer Public Schools attempted to build reserves prior to 2017 in anticipation of continued funding cuts from other sources. That effort has mitigated increases in the tax asking to operate the district, but has caused total assets to decrease by 12% over the last two years.

Fiscal Year	Governmental Funds	Fiduciary Funds	All Funds
2017-2018	\$3,043,052	\$98,023	\$3,141,075
2018-2019	\$2,780,300	\$100,878	\$2,881,178
2019-2020	\$2,632,372	\$130,505	\$2,762,877

Governmental Funds=Total Assets of The General Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Bond Fund, Special Building Fund and The Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Cooperative Fund
Fiduciary Funds=Activities Fund