



2019-20 Annual Report



REIMAGINE POSSIBILITY

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Stay connected with GIPS

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN PATH TO A REIMAGINED TOMORROW

MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION:

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

VISION:

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

EQUITY VALUE STATEMENT:

In Grand Island Public Schools, equity is providing each individual what they need, when they need it, in an inclusive and anti-discriminatory environment.

*Students who **thrive.***



Please note: Some photos used in this publication were taken before pandemic-related safety measures were needed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

None of us have ever experienced a year like 2020, and hopefully, none of us will again.

This unprecedented challenge forced many to make difficult decisions, alter their priorities and expectations, and band together even as our safety protocols encouraged social distancing.

The year reinforced the long-standing reality that schools are a fundamental component for developing the academic intelligence and social and emotional wellbeing of children. Not having students in our school buildings has been extremely difficult for families, children, and educators alike.

COVID-19 was also an invitation for innovation, and I'm proud to say that GIPS met the moment with the velocity that the pandemic required. We leaned on our technology infrastructure to bring eLearning opportunities into the home of every student in our district. Within 24 hours, we fed thousands of our community members. We created and refined safety protocols to keep students safe and schools open while working to address inequities and bolster support for virtual social-emotional learning resources.

Our students led the way. When the world called for courageous acts of sacrifice, they were part of the solution because our systems trained them to be adaptable. Many were essential workers in grocery stores and hospitals. They saved lives.

“Our students led the way. When the world called for courageous acts of sacrifice, they were part of the solution because our systems trained them to be adaptable.”

-Dr. Tawana Grover

We are so appreciative of each and every one of you — staff, students, parents, and community members — for making it possible. Collectively, you partnered to adopt a common mentality: We are stronger and better together. I firmly believe that commitment is what kept us in school and allowed education to continue at all levels.

More than anything, that's what I'll remember about 2020: We were there for each other. When the going got tough, we doubled down in support of our students who deserve the absolute best education, no matter what. We created road maps where there were none. We put safety first and never wavered in our commitment to Every Student, Every Day, A Success!

I am excitedly looking forward to what's possible in the new year.



Dr. Tawana Grover

Dr. Tawana Grover
GIPS Superintendent
tgrover@gips.org
@DrTGrover

FACTS & FIGURES



570
Classrooms



711
Teachers employed by GIPS



53
Sports teams



12,201
Combined years of teaching experience



113
Clubs, activities



59
AP, dual credit courses



93.6%
Attendance rate
(state: 94.3%)



56.6%
Teachers with a Master's degree
(state: 56%)



16.4%
Special Education
(state: 15.5%)



6.8%
Students who are highly mobile
(state: 3.6%)



64.9%
Free or reduced lunch
(state: 45.6%)



17.3%
Students who are English learners
(state: 7.4%)



82.6%
Graduation rate
(state: 87.5%)



6.7%
Students who are high-ability learners
(state: 13.3%)



61%
College-going rate
(state: 72.9%)



12.3
Average years of teaching experience
(state: 13.9)

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Grand Island Public Schools is now in the fourth year of a five-year strategic plan. We are proud to showcase ongoing success within each of the four main pillars of the plan as well as report a snapshot of district progress on the main objectives outlined within those pillars.



EMPOWER

Following the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, GIPS placed its focus on improving K-3 reading. GIPS began evaluating early literacy practices and piloted Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) skills in grades K-1. Growth among kindergarteners was measured as well or better than 91 percent of similar districts. In just 22 days of instruction with CKLA, the percentage of first-grade students in the district's five pilot schools with outstanding skills jumped by 19 percent. Those with adequate skills jumped by 8 percent and those with questionable skills decreased by 27 percent.



PERSONALIZE

GIPS added two full-day preschool classrooms at Howard Elementary in the fall after being awarded a \$241,672 grant through the Early Childhood Education Grant Program. This allowed us to serve an additional 30 students.



DESIGN

GIPS recognized that rising costs are a barrier to students being college-ready and responded. Thanks to expanding partnerships with post-secondary partners at Central Community College, Wayne State University, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney, all 59 Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit opportunities were made freely available to students — zero cost for 100 percent of the student body.



PARTNER

Thanks to fantastic district partners, 141 students across all academies participated in qualified job shadow or internship experiences, and 13 were awarded registered apprenticeships through eight industry partners. More than 275 students earned industry certifications to meet workforce needs.

2018-19 ACT Results

17.2 **17** **15**
Math Science English Language Arts

2018-19 NSCAS Results

43% **42%** **41%**
Science English Language Arts Math

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is a statewide assessment system given to Nebraska students in 3rd-8th grade in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. Science NSCAS assessments are given to fifth- and eighth-graders only. Data for 2019-20 is not available due to the pandemic.

CLASS OF 2020

The 564-student class of 2020 weathered unimaginable circumstances to graduate in the spring. It took commitment and courage to not let a pandemic get in the way of a monumental achievement: earning a high school diploma. Every member of the graduating class will forever hold a special place in the history of the district. As student speaker Grace Johnson said, "The unfairness we're going through isn't supposed to be easy, but it is supposed to make us stronger. It's supposed to make us better, and it's our job to learn from it."

“You will forever be an Islander. Islanders never quit. Islanders persevere. Islanders succeed. No one can ever take your education and your destiny away from you.”

-Principal Jeff Gilbertson

Unfortunately, the pandemic made it unsafe for graduation to be held in person, so GIPS pivoted to ensure that the ceremony was held virtually, making it available for streaming online and on News Channel Nebraska. Streaming was also incorporated for the summer and winter graduation ceremonies.

“You shall forever serve as a picture of encouragement for many others to come. You shall forever remind all of us that when the storms of life are presented, we are Islanders, and like the palm tree, we are built with what it takes to hold our ground with grace.”

-Dr. Tawana Grover



DID YOU KNOW:

98 students from the Class of 2020 received a total of \$531,058 in scholarship money thanks to the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation

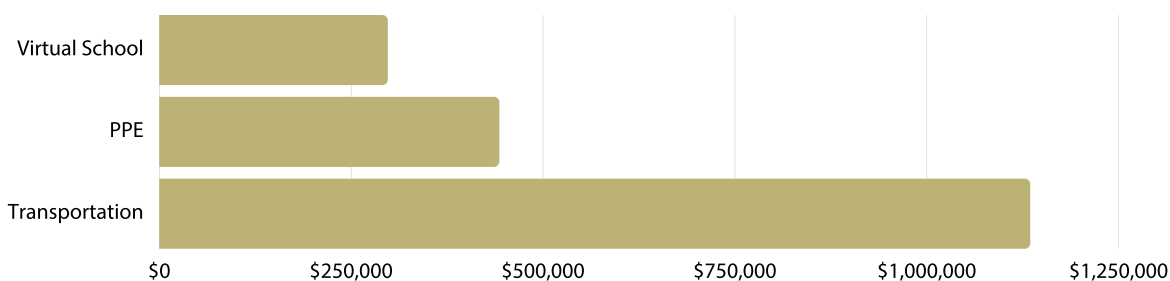
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The speed of the district's response matched the speed of the pandemic. When GIPS made the decision on March 15 to move to remote learning due to an increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the district acted swiftly to take care of the whole child — from feeding thousands within 24 hours to providing social-emotional resources virtually to continuing education for all.

The Nutrition Services team provided 673,396 meals from March 17 through July 28, and the district's technology infrastructure brought educational opportunities into the home of every student in the district. GIPS partnered with Verizon to purchase Jetpacks for those who needed Internet access, distributing 125 to families in an effort to ensure equity and access to all students for eLearning. GIPS released a 70-page Reimagined plan, which was recognized as a state model by Gov. Pete Ricketts and featured three education models — Reimagined, Select, and Remote — to allow the district and the students it serves to adapt as needed to ensure safety and security, continuity of learning, equity and access, and social-emotional support. A 43-member team was assembled to handle virtual learning.

A public-facing dashboard was launched and updated weekly. A pandemic team was assembled on March 6 and brought together leaders from nutrition services, facilities, finance, communication, and technology. Athletics and activities continued through the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Summer learning opportunities were provided virtually.

CARES ACT FUNDING

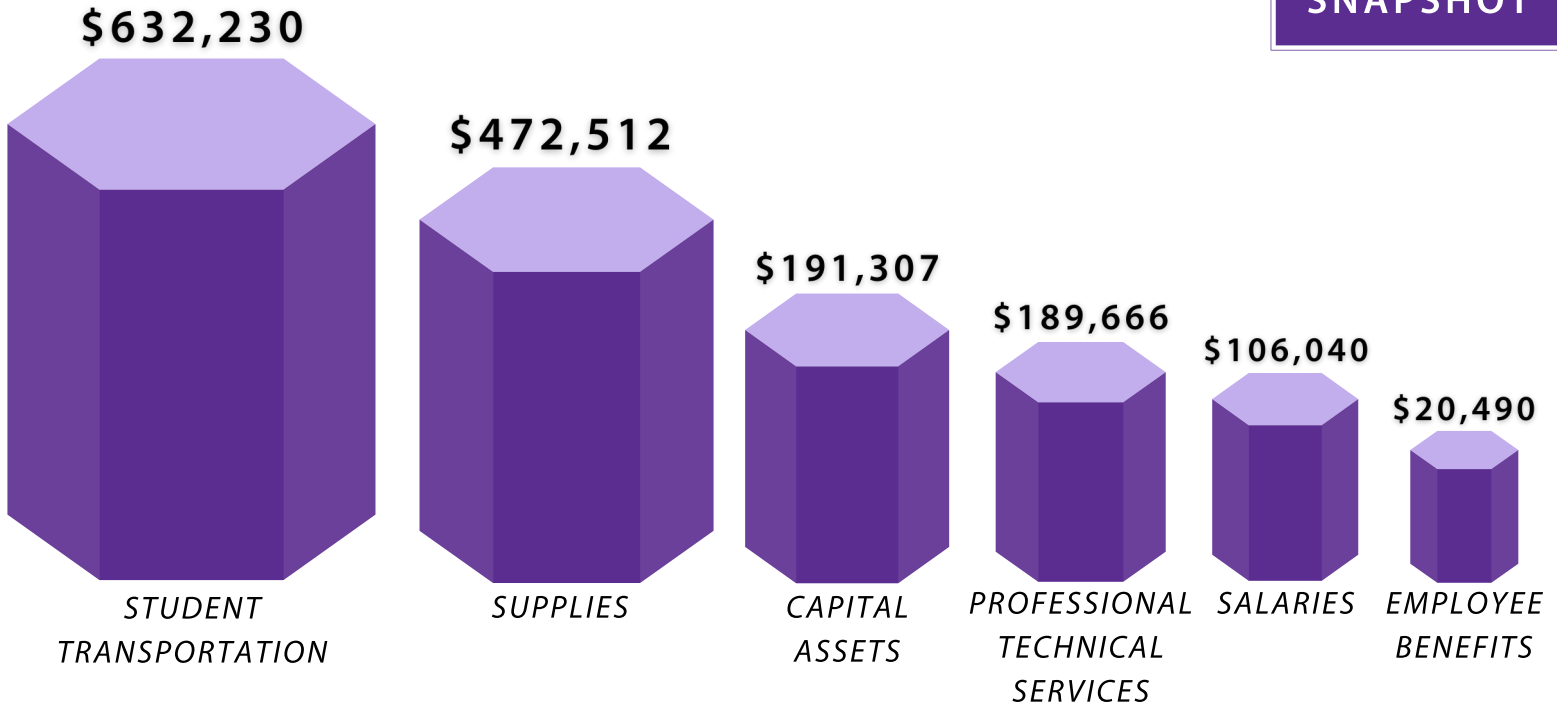


Faculty and students abided by mask and social-distance protocols and supported fluctuating quarantine measures. The district secured \$2.1 million in CARES Act funding, the majority of which went toward covering transportation costs. GIPS built upon what was learned and let data direct its decision-making.

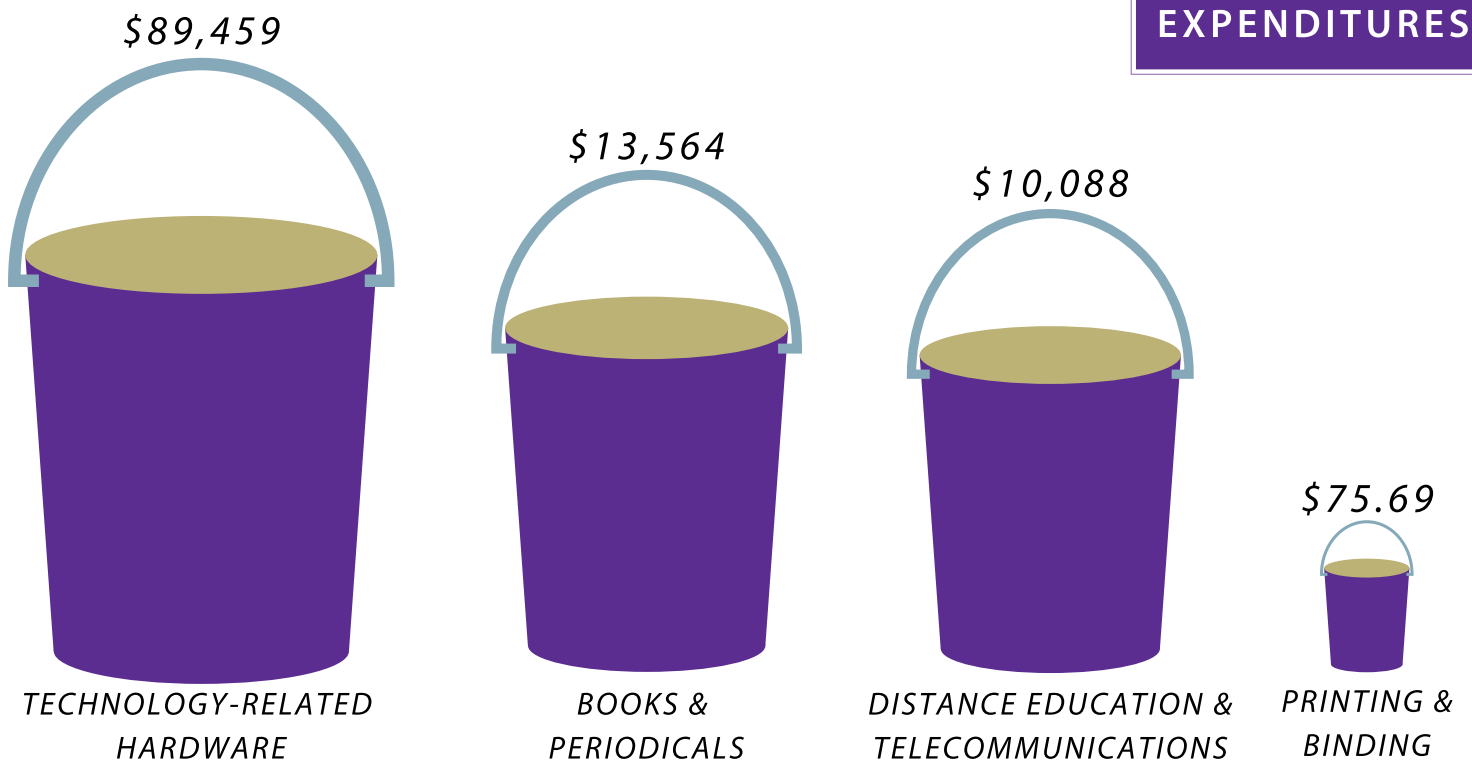


COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE FINANCES

SNAPSHOT



EXPENDITURES



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Yosivel Alvarado

Early Childhood Social Worker,
Child Saving Institute



*Lincoln Elementary /
Walnut Middle /
GISH Class of 2012*

Yosivel Alvarado attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and majored in Child, Youth and Family Studies. After graduating in 2016, Yosivel moved back to Grand Island to work as a Family Support Worker for two years. In 2018 she moved to Omaha to work as an Early Childhood Social Worker with the Pediatric Social Services program at the Child Saving Institute.

Working for the program allows Alvarado to be placed at a pediatric clinic that serves low-income populations. She then receives referrals to work one-on-one with families who need extra support or parent education outside of the clinic. Alvarado is currently working to complete her Master's degree in social work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"The social work field is a high-stress level field, but at the same time it's extremely rewarding," she said. "I love being able to be a support to many families through difficult or stressful times. Social work is vital to the community and really ensures that families with barriers are getting their concerns and needs addressed."

Growing up in the Grand Island Public Schools district helped shape Alvarado into who she is today.

"I was able to have amazing teachers and role models who helped guide me in regards to education," she said. "I will always be extremely grateful for the experiences and memories that GIPS provided me with and will treasure them always."

Joshua Wiemers

Sophomore,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



*Seedling Mile Elementary /
Barr Middle /
GISH Class of 2019*

Josh is currently a sophomore studying business at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is involved with the UNL Business Honors Academy, Clifton Strengths Institute, and Cru. He currently plans to earn a degree with an accounting major along with a finance minor. In addition to being a full-time student, Josh also works part time at Pathway Bank.

Josh said the combination of accounting and finance makes him more employable.

"I also enjoy the responsibility and the consistency of those jobs," he said. "My hope is to finish my degree and come back to the Grand Island area for a career."

Josh said Grand Island Public Schools gave him a number of great experiences, from JROTC to AP Classes.

"My education grew my confidence and allowed me to excel in my studies. I'm a better leader and student in college because of my history at GIPS," Josh said. "My favorite memory of GIPS was my involvement in the JROTC program. From the pride of my first color guard to the last day of my tenure as group commander, the JROTC program challenged me to succeed. I know from my experience that I can lead a team of cadets to do anything, and I can negotiate any peril with professionalism."

Devin Duren

IT Technician,
Grand Island Public Schools



*Newell Elementary /
Westridge Middle /
GISH Class of 2015*

After high school, Devin attended a small college in Utah focused on technology sciences, where he studied Information Systems. His degree covered topics from enterprise network equipment configurations and setup to management of any server you could think of.

Devin joined Grand Island Public Schools in 2020 as an IT Technician. He is in charge of a cybersecurity program where he gets to manage the phishing awareness program.

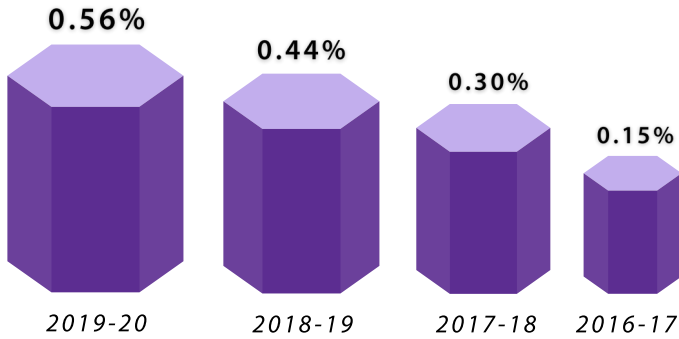
"I love the mystery around how the technology works," he said. "A majority of our population directly interacts with technology every day, but so few understand where a message goes when you hit 'send'. For the same reason, I considered becoming a car mechanic, but technology spiked more curiosity."

During his Junior and Senior year of high school, Devin studied at the Career Pathways Institute in the Information Technology path. He said the IT path helped in cementing his choice of pursuing a career in IT.

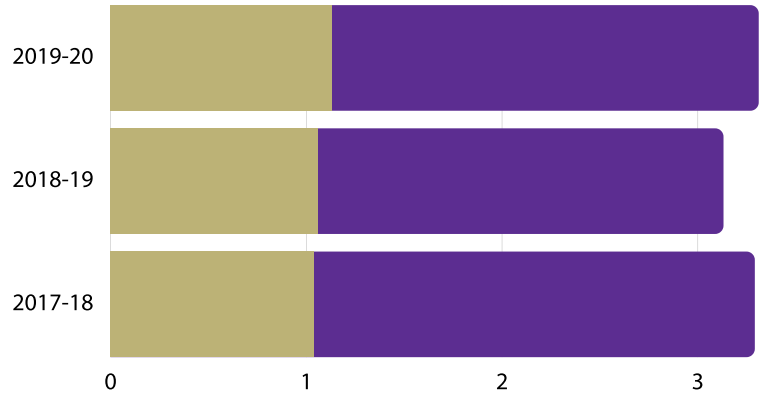
"Through the exploratory courses taken through CPI and my internship with KDSI, I was able to build my first computer," Devin said. "Additionally, CPI helped prepare me for college courses by giving me a new perspective. I was able to ask questions in my college courses that I wouldn't have known to ask if college was my first exposure to IT."

DIVERSITY OF GIPS

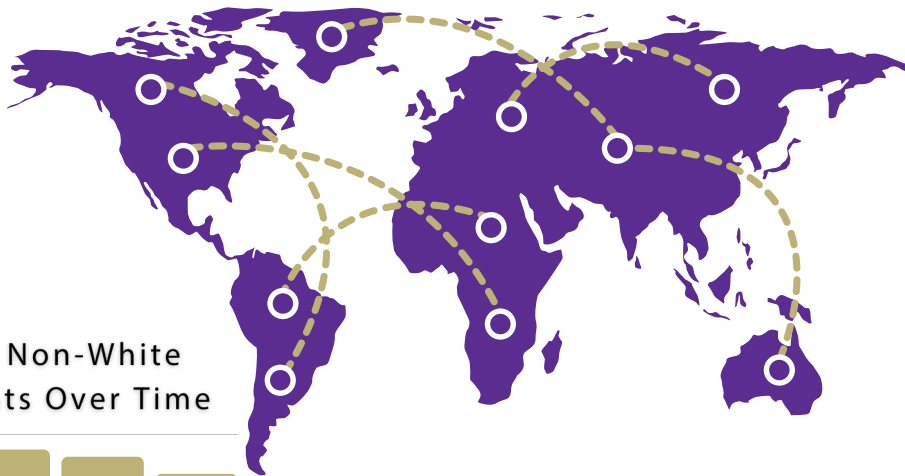
Teacher FTE % by Race + Ethnicity:
Two or More Races



Percentage of GIPS Students By Race + Ethnicity:
American Indian or Alaska Native, Two Or More Races

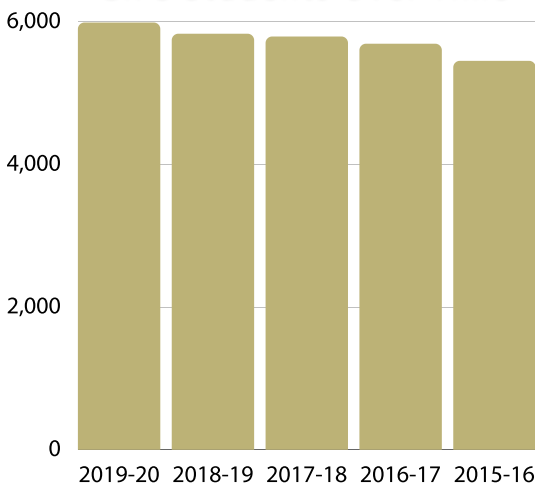


DID YOU KNOW:
GIPS includes students from 48 countries with 48 languages spoken across the district

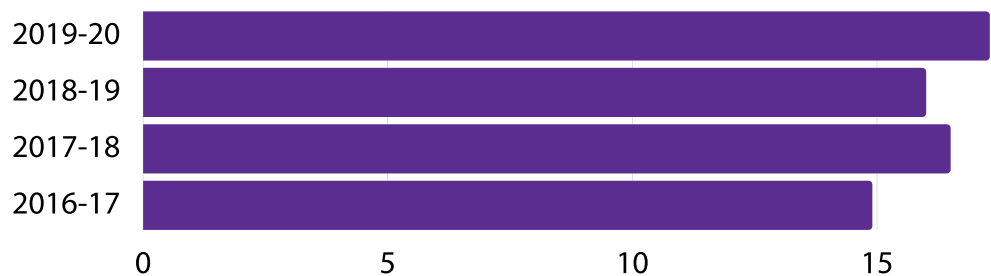


DID YOU KNOW:
This is the third consecutive academic year that the percentage of Latino or Hispanic students has grown in GIPS

Number of Non-White GIPS Students Over Time



English Learner Rate Over Time



OUR STUDENTS

Numbers from 2019-20 fall snapshot data

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
Hispanic/Latino	5093	50.6%
White	4090	40.6%
Black/African American	451	4.5%
Two or More Races	220	2.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	114	1.1%
Asian	96	1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	6	0.1%

OUR TEACHERS

Numbers from 2019-20 fall snapshot data

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
White	667	93.8%
Hispanic/Latino	32	4.5%
Asian	6	0.8%
Two or More Races	4	0.6%
Black/African American	2	0.3%

DISTRICT FINANCES



\$131.6 million
FY 2019-2020 budget

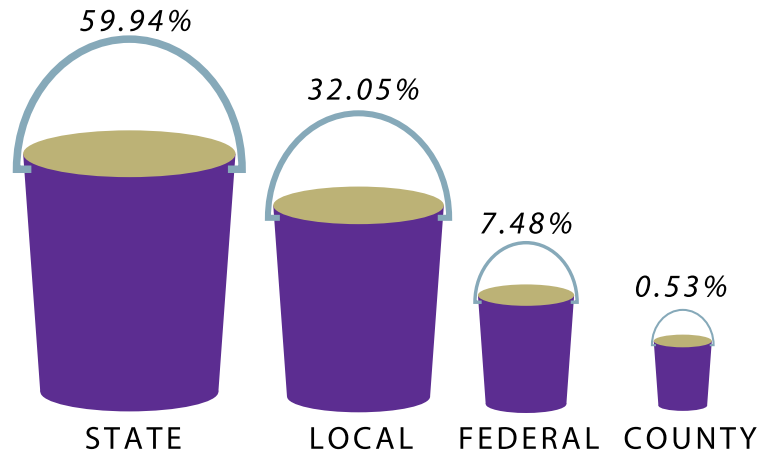


\$3.35 billion
Valuation



\$12,427
Cost per pupil

2019-20 ACTUAL REVENUE



DID YOU KNOW:

The Grand Island Public Schools Foundation invested \$2,319,636 into programs, scholarships, and grants benefiting students, an average of \$230.25 per GIPS student

PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE

Based on Average Daily Membership; 2018-19 (latest statewide numbers available).

GIPS	\$12,427
State average	\$13,184
Difference	-\$757
x 10,000 (2018-19 enrollment) =	\$7,570,000

How does GIPS spend more than \$13M below statewide average?

- ➔ Economy of scale
- ➔ Lack of funding from the State of Nebraska

LEVY HISTORY

Peak 1990 at \$2.15 per \$100 assessed valuation. \$1.05 maximum was first enforced with FY 2001-2002. Grand Island Public Schools has been at the \$1.05 maximum ever since.

HOW DOES GIPS USE EACH DOLLAR?

A look at expenses for GIPS FY 2019-2020



General/Special Education 65%	Operations/Maintenance/Transportation 10.98%	Support Services 8.42%	Administration 7.91%	Federal/State Programs 7.69%
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HALL COUNTY FY 2018-19 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

District	Valuation	PK-12 Pupils	Valuation (per pupil)
Grand Island	\$3,243,539,584	9,883	\$328,194
Northwest	\$1,003,503,567	1,546	\$649,097
Wood River	\$836,192,785	527	\$1,586,704
Doniphan	\$747,450,614	473	\$1,580,234

Source: NDF website

FACILITIES SPOTLIGHT

SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

CHI ST. FRANCIS, ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP



MEMORIAL STADIUM RENOVATIONS



EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ward: Board member (term expires)

A: Terry Brown (2020) boe_tbrown@gips.org

A: Dr. Dan Brosz (2022) boe_dbrosz@gips.org

A: Kelly Enck (2022) boe_kenck@gips.org

B: Bonnie Hinkle (2022) boe_bhinkle@gips.org

B: Heidi Schutz (2020) boe_hschutz@gips.org

B: Lisa Albers (2020) boe_lalbers@gips.org

C: Erika Wolfe (2022) boe_ewolfe@gips.org

C: Carlos Barcenas (2022) boe_cbarcenas@gips.org

C: Julie Gortemaker (2020) boe_jgortemaker@gips.org

Lea este informe en español

Vea toda la información en esta publicación en español mediante el visitando www.gips.org

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

Virgil Harden, Chief Financial Officer, vharden@gips.org

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

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

Wayne Stelk, Chief of Human Capital Management, wstelk@gips.org



Grand Island Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, marital/parental/pregnancy status, genetic information, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under law in its educational programs and activities or in admission or access to, or treatment in, hiring and employment. Retaliation for reporting discrimination or harassment or participating in an investigation is also prohibited. For questions or concerns including, but not limited to, reporting discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of any protected class listed above, email rdexter@gips.org. For questions/concerns about sex discrimination or sexual harassment under Title IX, visit the district's Title IX Compliance page at gips.org.

The 2020 Annual Report is produced for Grand Island Public Schools residents as required by the Nebraska Department of Education: Rule 10, Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools. Questions or comments may be directed to: The Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing, Kneale Administration Building, 123 South Webb Road, Grand Island, NE 68802. You may reach Grand Island Public Schools for inquiries about this report or any other matter at communications@gips.org.

More data can be found at the Nebraska Department of Education website, nep.education.ne.gov.

STAY CONNECTED WITH GIPS

Families, please ensure that you stay connected with the district. In addition to the GIPS social media accounts that you can see below, each school has its own respective social media accounts which are designed to provide up-to-date information for all.

Your input in the direction of GIPS is critical. Please reach out to us via "Let's Talk" on GIPS.org with feedback. Results will help shape the path that the district takes moving forward.

Please ensure your phone number and email address are current with your child's school to receive important updates about school and district happenings. Grand Island Public Schools is only as strong as its community. Please stay connected with the district to ensure that you're receiving the latest updates.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@GIPublicSchools

#WeAreGIPS #GIPSReimagined #BetterTogether



Every Student, Every Day, A Success!

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

GIPS NEWS
gips.org/news

GIPS JOBS
gips.org/employment

GIPS CALENDARS
gips.org/calendar

CALL US

308-385-5900

REIMAGINE POSSIBILITIES

This annual report is provided as a quick snapshot of 2019-20. It has been produced by the Communications Department. For more detailed information or a print copy, check out the district website www.gips.org or contact the central office at 308-385-5900.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@GIPublicSchools



12,201 combined years of teaching experience. **10,070** students. **711** teachers.
570 classrooms. **113** clubs and activities. **53** sports.

1 GIPS!



 **Grand Island Public Schools**
123 South Webb Road
Grand Island, NE 68802
Every Student, Every Day, A Success!