

# 2020-2021 GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT



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Grand  
Island  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS™

# MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

**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.





Our students thriving in school and in life is so important to us at Grand Island Public Schools.

That means focusing on education from cradle-to-career. Emphasizing the importance of early

childhood education; recognizing literacy as a form of liberation; and ensuring equitable opportunities for our students and staff.

**We believe every student matters and that every student should receive what they need, when they need it.**

We believe every student deserves an exceptional educational experience. That has always been our true north even as our world continues to change. It is our vision that our students will be prepared to make positive contributions to society and to thrive.

2021 was certainly a year of seizing opportunity. As you read through these following pages, I encourage you to explore the growth we are seeing in early literacy; to notice how our students engage in opportunities through their middle school

years; and highlight our increased access to learning endeavors we are providing through our Academies at Grand Island Senior High. The focus of our vision is becoming more illuminated as each student continues to discover, learn, and do. Read the stories from a few of our alumni and you will get a clearer picture why we at GIPS are excited about what we have accomplished and where we are going.

**Reaching our latest graduation rate of 87.27% — the highest we have seen in these last five years — is within striking distance of our increased goal of at least 90% in our new strategic plan.**

Moreover, we are proud of what that rate constitutes:

- Our Hispanic student graduation rate of 85.10% exceeded the state average by nearly 6%.
- Our English Learners graduation rate saw a 14.65% increase from the previous year.
- Students with an IEP saw an 8.77% increase as well.
- We maintained the state average of over 91% graduation rate for white students.

This shows that no matter your race, socioeconomic status, or background every student will know that they can graduate college and career ready. The picture of diversity and excellence within our schools is strong. This is what it looks like to thrive.

On behalf of the GIPS Board of Education and the entire staff, we look forward to working with you in continuing to increase the effectiveness of our invaluable influence, ensuring our students remain on track to thrive. As we aim future forward let us be bold and let us be better together.

Enjoy learning more about our district!

**#1GIPSForAll,**

**Dr. Tawana Grover**  
Superintendent,  
Grand Island Public Schools



# OUR STUDENTS

Numbers from 2020-21 fall snapshot data

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
Hispanic	5,208	53%
White	3,842	39%
Black/African American	439	4.4%
Asian	86	0.87%
Indigenous/Alaskan Native	72	0.73%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	8	0.08%
Two or more races	265	2.7%

GIPS vs. State Averages	GIPS	State
Free/Reduced Price Meals	67.18%	46.33%
Highly Mobile	7.40%	3.95%
English Language Learners	17.41%	7.25%
High Ability Learners	8.96%	13.10%
Special Education	16.82%	15.67%



# OUR STAFF

Numbers from 2020-21 fall snapshot data

Teacher Race/Ethnicity	Total	Perc.
Hispanic	34.53	4.83%
White	667.76	93.49%
Black/African American	2	0.28%
Asian	6	0.84%
Indigenous/Alaskan Native	1	0.14%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.14%
Two or more races	2	0.28%

GIPS vs. State Averages	GIPS	State
Staff with Master's Degree	59.28%	56.85%
Average years experience	12.76	13.95



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN UPDATE ON GIPS GRADUATES



**Abraham Lopez-Ramirez**  
GISH Class of 2021  
Dodge | Starr | Barr  
Student at the  
University of  
Nebraska at Kearney

Abraham Lopez-Ramirez is a freshman at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where he is majoring in Music Education PreK-12 and minoring in trumpet performance.

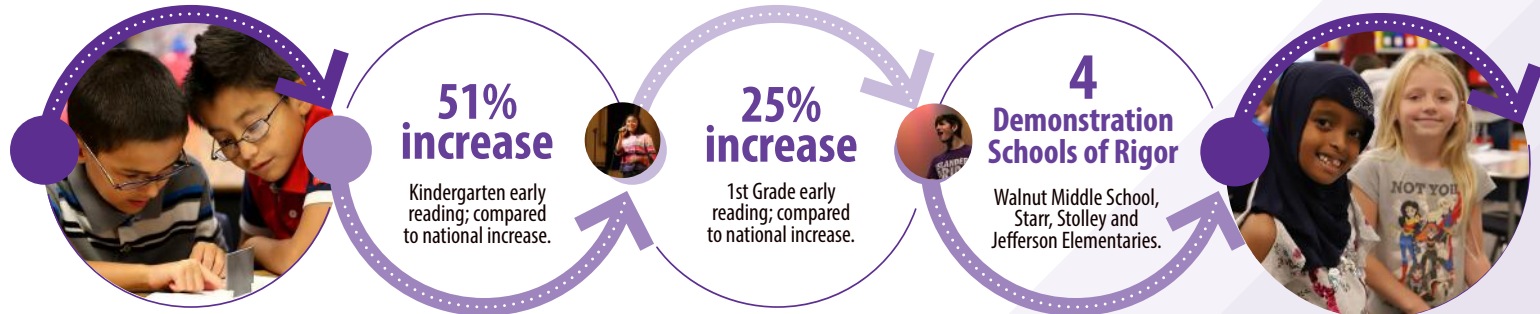
While at Grand Island Senior High he was involved in music, more specifically band. He received two local music scholarships: the Grand Island Senior High Band Scholarship and the Irma

Louise 'Pat' Nichols Memorial Grand Island Concert Association Scholarship.

Abraham's career goal is to be a band teacher and to inspire students through his passion for music.

He said he wants to help students experience the creativity, fun, and possibilities that music has to offer.

## EARLY READING DATA

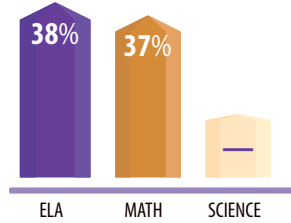




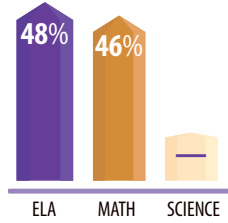
# STATE ASSESSMENT SCORES

Percent proficient (Level 2/Level 1 or Meets/Exceeds combined) for all grades:

**GIPS:**



**STATE:**



## Combined results by Grade vs. State, 2020-21

Grade	ELA		MATH		SCIENCE	
	GIPS	State	GIPS	State	GIPS	State
Grade 3*	37%	50%	32%	47%	--	--
Grade 4*	45%	54%	39%	46%	--	--
Grade 5*	39%	46%	36%	46%	--	--
Grade 6*	35%	45%	40%	47%	--	--
Grade 7*	36%	44%	38%	46%	--	--
Grade 8*	37%	50%	37%	45%	--	--
Grade 11*(ACT)	19%	46%	22%	44%	27%	50%

\*Per the Nebraska Department of Education: NSCAS Science was a field test for 2021 for which there is no reportable data. A field test is used to ensure test items are ready for an operational assessment that will be given in spring of 2022.

# COLLEGE & CAREER READY



**51**

Industry certifications available to high school students.

**431**

Earned professional certifications; a 214% two year increase.



**1,500**

Dual credit courses earned by students; a 50% two year increase.



**25**

Registered apprenticeship opportunities for high school students.



**750**

Students graduated with dual credit; a 23% two year increase.



**70**

College courses offered from three institutions.

**300+**

Community and business partners.

**489**

Professional certifications; a 203% two year increase.

# ENROLLMENT

Fall snapshot enrollment.....2020.....2021

## Elementary Schools (13).....4877.....4802

Dodge Elementary.....	409.....	400
Engleman Elementary.....	531.....	487
Gates Elementary.....	350.....	327
Howard Elementary.....	448.....	440
Jefferson Elementary.....	345.....	330
Knickrehm Elementary.....	225.....	212
Lincoln Elementary.....	335.....	315
Newell Elementary.....	381.....	356
Seedling Mile Elementary.....	118.....	96
Shoemaker Elementary.....	438.....	458
Starr Elementary.....	425.....	420

Stolley Park Elementary.....	216.....	307
Wasmer Elementary.....	359.....	350
West Lawn Elementary.....	297.....	304
Skills Academy.....	12.....	11

## Middle Schools (3).....2213.....2220

Barr Middle School.....	795.....	789
Walnut Middle School.....	849.....	872
Westridge Middle School.....	569.....	559
Skills Academy.....	9.....	10
Success Academy.....	15.....	14
Ombudsman.....	3.....	2

## High School (1).....2567.....2534

Grand Island Senior High.....	2567.....	2534
Skills Academy.....	15.....	9
Success Academy.....	88.....	110
Ombudsman.....	54.....	42

## Preschools (4).....453.....455

Early Learning Center.....	263.....	273
Lincoln Elementary.....	67.....	62
Starr Elementary.....	109.....	101
Howard Elementary.....	14.....	19

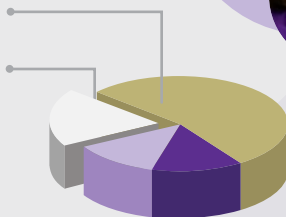
## District Total.....9920.....9829

# GRADUATION RATES

By expected graduation cohort, vs. state

Cohort	Years	GIPS	State
2018.....	4.....	84.02%	89.03%
2018.....	5.....	85.45%	91.26%
2018.....	6.....	86.80%	92.09%
2018.....	7.....	87.41%	92.59%
2019.....	4.....	82.91%	88.42%

Cohort	Years	GIPS	State
2019.....	5.....	84.58%	90.49%
2019.....	6.....	85.69%	91.09%
2020.....	4.....	82.69%	87.51%
2020.....	5.....	85.29%	89.69%
2021.....	4.....	87.27%	87.56%



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN UPDATE ON GIPS GRADUATES



**Bailey Aupperlee**  
GISH Class of 2010  
Seedling Mile | Barr  
Second Grade  
Teacher at  
Shoemaker  
Elementary

Bailey Aupperlee graduated from Grand Island Senior High in 2010. She attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

She has been teaching second grade at Shoemaker Elementary since 2014. In 2017, Bailey earned her Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction through

Doane University. Bailey said GISH helped prepare her for college, as she went into UNK as a sophomore due to the amount of AP classes she had the opportunity to take.

She said being involved in sports at GISH also taught her many life lessons. Bailey said she is thankful to work in the same district that helped shape her into the person she is today.

## DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



23

Schools in the district.



6

High school academies.



1

New strategic plan  
On Track to Thrive 2025  
began in 2021.



570

Classrooms.







# OUR BUDGET

## Cost per pupil, GIPS vs. State

Figures based on average daily enrollment

Fiscal year	GIPS	State
2020-2021	\$13,696	\$13,643
2019-2020	\$12,988	\$12,886
2018-2019	\$12,427	\$12,657
2017-2018	\$11,222	\$12,614

## Revenue - General Fund

Total for fiscal year 2020-21:	<b>\$117,208,111</b>
State aid	59.95%
Local Taxes	34.05%
Federal	5.29%
County	0.59%
Other	0.12%

## Expenses - General Fund

Total for fiscal year 2020-21:	<b>\$118,406,357</b>
Instruction	63.07%
Federal/State/Other	10.04%
Business	2.38%
Administration	5.79%
Buildings & Grounds	9.33%
Support Services	9%
Pupil Transportation	0.39%

## Property taxes levied

Per \$100 of assessed valuation

Fund	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
General	\$1.040000	\$1.040000	\$1.040000	\$1.040000	\$1.040000
Bond	\$0.212480	\$0.195490	\$0.191195	\$0.177807	\$0.167105
Building	\$0.010000	\$0.010000	\$0.010000	\$0.010000	\$0.010000
Qualified	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	\$0.030000
<b>Tot. Levy</b>	<b>\$1.292480</b>	<b>\$1.275490</b>	<b>\$1.271195</b>	<b>\$1.27807</b>	<b>\$1.247105</b>



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN UPDATE ON GIPS GRADUATES



**Katelyn Hill**  
GISH Class of 2018  
Newell | Walnut  
Student at the  
University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln

Katelyn Hill will graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with Honors in May 2022.

Though she will graduate with an Actuarial Science degree, in fall 2022 she plans to attend graduate school at UNL in hopes of becoming a high school teacher.

Katelyn said her Grand Island Public Schools experience helped her the most with the wide array of opportunities available to her.

She said her growth through the positive experiences at Grand Island Senior High and GIPS wouldn't have been possible without the staff.

Read more about these grads and other great GIPS news at [WWW.GIPS.ORG](http://WWW.GIPS.ORG)

## GRADUATION RATES



**2,800+**  
**students**

Have graduated over the last five years.

**87.27%**  
**rate**

The highest graduation rate in five years.



**85.10%**  
**rate**

Exceeded state average rate by nearly 6% for graduating Hispanic students.

**14.65%**  
**increase**

Graduation rate of English Learners from last year.



**8.77%**  
**increase**

Graduation rate of students with an IEP between this year and last year.

**91%**  
**rate**

The state average was maintained for white students.

# CURRENT PROJECT UPDATE



Grand Island Public Schools, Central Community College and CHI Health St. Francis are partnering on a project to provide students with specific hands-on learning experiences and to support the need for local healthcare and emergency services workers. The unoccupied space of the 8th floor at CHI Health St. Francis will be transformed into a “school within a hospital” as the Academy of Medical Sciences plans to relocate to the renovated space. The space will include classrooms and simulator labs.

The project will be funded with community donors and partners to leverage collaboration without burdening taxpayers. GIPS has also budgeted \$1 million in the special building fund to go toward the project.



“Today’s students are tomorrow’s workers. When educators and employers team up to address workforce challenges, everyone benefits – students, families, employers, and the community.”

**Dr. Tawana Grover**  
Superintendent,  
Grand Island Public Schools



**\$4.4**  
Million raised so far.

**\$7.2**  
Million total project cost.

**\$2.7**  
Million total funds needed.

**300+**  
Students will train here annually.

**4**  
Pathways in the Academy of Medical Sciences (healthcare, emergency services, sports medicine/therapy, and biomedical sciences).

**125**  
Students in the Academy of Medical Sciences earned their CNA in 2020-21.



**Grand Island Public Schools**  
PO Box 4904  
Grand Island, NE 68802



## *Every Student, Every Day, A Success!*

### **Board Members**

*Ward: Board Member (term expires)*

A: **Terry Brown** (2022)

A: **Dr. Dan Brosz** (2022)

A: **Lindsey Jurgens** (2024)

B: **Bonnie Hinkle** (2022)

B: **Dave Hulinsky** (2024)

B: **Lisa Albers, president** (2024)

C: **Erika Wolfe** (2022)

C: **Carlos Barcenas, vice president** (2022)

C: **Joshua Hawley** (2024)

### **Administration**

**Dr. Tawana Grover**, Superintendent, [tgrover@gips.org](mailto:tgrover@gips.org)

**Dr. Robin Dexter**, Associate Superintendent, [rdexter@gips.org](mailto:rdexter@gips.org)

**Dr. Toni Palmer**, Chief of Leadership and Learning, [tpalmer@gips.org](mailto:tpalmer@gips.org)

**Dr. Ken Schroeder**, Chief Financial Officer, [kschroeder@gips.org](mailto:kschroeder@gips.org)

**Kristen Irely**, Chief of Human Capital Management, [kirey@gips.org](mailto:kirey@gips.org)

**Jennifer Worthington**, Chief of Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, [jworthington@gips.org](mailto:jworthington@gips.org)

**Dr. Jonathan Doll**, Chief Data Analyst and Organizational Strategist, [jdoll@gips.org](mailto:jdoll@gips.org)

**Cory Gearhart**, Chief Information Officer, [cgearhart@gips.org](mailto:cgearhart@gips.org)

\*\*\*\*\*ERCWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Online registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open now until May 15, 2022. Visit [gips.org/registration](https://gips.org/registration) to get started today!