

# Annual Report



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FEBRUARY 2026

Chris Lecher-Superintendent  
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**“Preparing the students of today for the world of tomorrow!”**

It is with great pride and appreciation that I present the Annual Report for Banner County Schools. This report reflects a year of meaningful progress, strong collaboration, and a shared commitment to doing what is best for our students, families, and the Banner County community.

As this marks my first year serving as Superintendent of Banner County Schools, I want to begin by thanking our Board of Education, staff, students, families, and community members for their support and partnership. From the moment I arrived, it was clear that Banner County Schools is a district grounded in strong relationships, high expectations, and a deep sense of pride in our school and community. That foundation has made it possible to continue moving the district forward while honoring the values that have long defined Banner County Schools.

Over the past year, our district has celebrated a number of notable accomplishments. Students have continued to demonstrate academic growth, engage in meaningful learning opportunities, and represent Banner County Schools with pride in extracurricular activities. Our staff has remained focused on providing high-quality instruction and support for all learners, while also working collaboratively to refine curriculum, analyze data, and strengthen instructional practices. These efforts reflect the professionalism and dedication of our educators and support staff, who consistently go above and beyond for our students.

The district has also made important strides in operational effectiveness and long-term planning. Careful stewardship of resources, attention to facilities and transportation needs, and a focus on maintaining a safe and welcoming learning environment have remained priorities. Through thoughtful decision-making and teamwork, Banner County Schools continues to position itself for long-term success while remaining fiscally responsible.

Perhaps most importantly, this year reaffirmed the strength of the Banner County community. Whether through attendance at school events, support of students and staff, or open communication with district leadership, our community’s involvement plays a vital role in our success. The partnership between the school and community is a cornerstone of Banner County Schools, and it is one we will continue to nurture and strengthen.

This Annual Report highlights the accomplishments, growth, and collective efforts of the Banner County Schools family over the past year. I am honored to serve this district and look forward to building on our successes as we continue to support student achievement and prepare our learners for the future.

Respectfully,

Chris Lecher  
Superintendent  
Banner County Schools

**BANNER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



District Classification

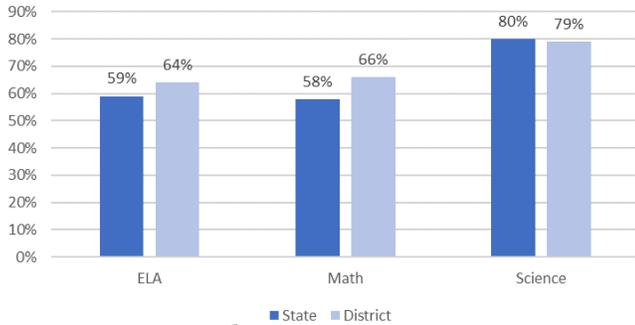
EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPROVE
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# Student Assessments-- K-8

Nebraska Department of Education uses NSCAS Growth, and adaptive assessment of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8 and Science in grade 5 & 8. NSCAS Growth assess the progression and growth of students based on the year end standards for their grade level, reported as Developing, On Track, and Advanced.

Assessment data inform our decision-making process when making adjustments to instruction, program materials and allocation of teaching and support staff. Out data indicate BCS students are heading in the right direction!

24-25 NSCAS Proficiency



# Our Students 2024-2025

Class	Size
PK	8
K	7
1	10
2	10
3	15
4	8
5	7
6	6
7	9
8	9
9	16
10	5
11	6
12	8
Alternative Placement	2

Resident Students 91  
 Option Students 35  
**TOTAL: 126**

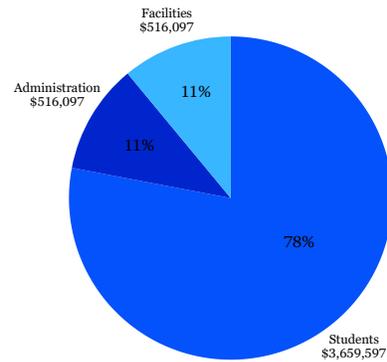
Attendance Rate	92 %
Chronically Absent	24 %
Special Education	17 %
English Learners (ELLs)	1.5 %
Student Mobility	0 %
Graduation Rate	100 %
Hispanic/Latino	20 %
African Am./Am. Indian	12 %
High Ability Learners	14%
Per Pupil Cost	\$33,348

# School Finance

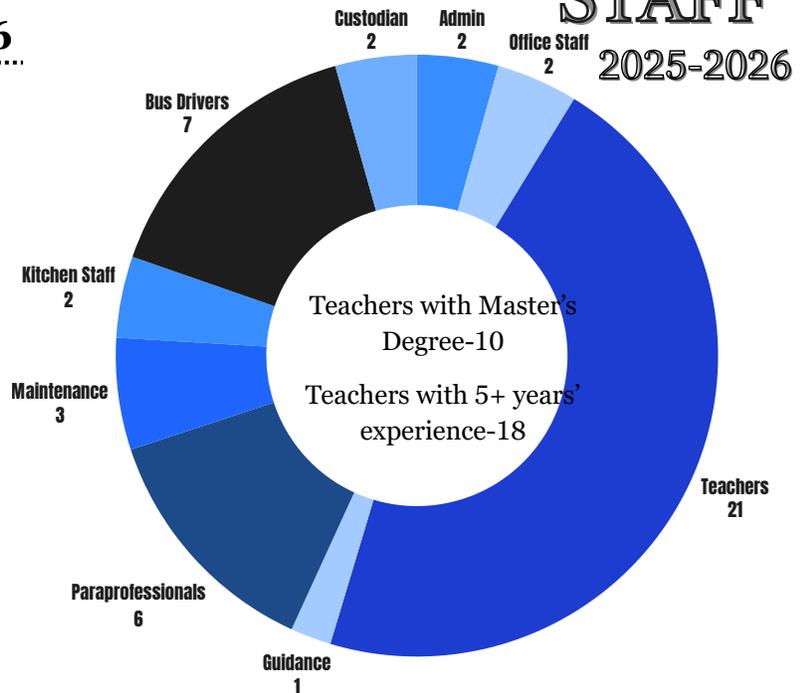
- The GF budget is Underspent by 15%-20% each year
- 1% of the Property Tax Request goes to the County Treasurer
- 48% of the budget comes directly from Property Taxes
- The USDA funds 65% of the Nutrition Services budget

	2024-2025	2023-2024
General Fund Budget	\$4,792,791	\$5,050,684
Property Valuation	\$352,273,014	\$330,772,063
Property Tax (GF)	\$2,571,540	\$2,614,736
Building Fund Tax	\$246,044	\$143,182
Total Tax Levy (per \$100)	0.7998	0.8339

Distribution of GF Expenditure



# STAFF



Student-Teacher Ratio- 6:1

State Ave-14:1

# Transportation

BCS operates 7 bus routes with door-to school services in the country and stops in Gering and Kimball. The annual pupil transportation budget of \$245,781 supports both route and activity trips for students. The district is an approved FMSCA training site and Tod Wenger, our Drivers Education Instructor, can test drivers for the ELDT Behind the Wheel certification.