

FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Education

Anthony Meints, President
Shawn Mencl, Vice President
Marcella Rademacher, Secretary
Eldon Ideus, Treasurer
Tiffany Buhr, Member
Myron Schoen, Member

District Administration

Andrew Havelka, Superintendent
Erin Sieh, PK-6 Principal
Jeremy Schroeder, 7-12 Principal/AD

Mission

Freeman Public Schools strives to develop safe, respectful, and responsible citizens by forging healthy relationships, maximizing individual strengths, and promoting intellectual growth.

Vision

Preparing our students of today for their lives tomorrow.

District Continuous Improvement Goals

MATH: Freeman Public Schools will increase **math proficiency** in the areas of geometry, data, algebra, and number sense to prepare our students for the application of math skills throughout their lives.

READING: Freeman Public Schools will increase **reading proficiency** across the curriculum in the areas of comprehension and vocabulary while developing independent lifelong readers.

LEADERSHIP: Freeman Public Schools will increase **student engagement and leadership** by educating students with the skills necessary to lead healthy lifestyles and be positive leaders.

District Strategic Planning Long-range Goals

Freeman Public Schools staff will engage in continuous planning to increase curricular opportunities that ensure students graduate college and career ready, and ensure our guidance and scheduling procedures allow students access to the opportunities that will help meet their needs.

Freeman Public Schools will communicate successes by bolstering our website and social media content, and expand digital media curricular opportunities to ensure students have the skills to lead the promotion of student and staff success in our community.

The Freeman Public Schools Board of Education and community will engage in continuous planning to ensure district facilities and infrastructure meet the needs of Freeman students and will take the necessary steps to maintain, alter, and improve facilities as deemed necessary.

“Preparing our students of today for their lives tomorrow.”

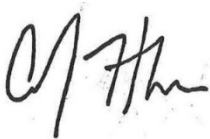
FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PATRONS, PARENTS, STAFF:

This report is submitted to the patrons, parents, and staff of Freeman Public Schools annually in accordance with accreditation rules of the Nebraska Department of Education. The intent of this annual report is to provide the Freeman Public School community with information on student achievement, school system performance, and district resource allocation and expenditures.

The Nebraska Department of Education recently released its 2021-22 Education Profile and Accountability classifications for every school district. The classification is based on several indicators, including academic proficiency, achievement growth, graduation rate, and absentee rates. **Freeman Public Schools was classified as an EXCELLENT school district, the highest possible classification!**

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments and achievements of our students, faculty, and staff. Freeman strives to continue their excellence as a premier school district in Nebraska. These accomplishments could not have happened without the hard work done each day by our students and staff and the amazing support by the Freeman community.

Freeman Public Schools is an amazing place to learn and grow for our students. It also serves as a great place to work for our faculty and staff. This annual report attempts to provide a variety of information about Freeman Public Schools. While this report has been prepared as a comprehensive picture, we realize that the total picture cannot be fully represented in this report. I encourage you to read the report and contact the superintendent’s office if you have any questions. On behalf of the Freeman staff and Board of Education, we will proudly continue to serve the students of this district and help prepare them today for their lives tomorrow.



Andrew Havelka
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

Freeman Public Schools is a rural PreK-12 district created by the consolidation of Adams and Filley Public Schools in 1998. The school attendance center, located in Adams, is approximately 25 miles southeast of Lincoln. Freeman Public Schools consists of a Pre-School Program for 4 year olds, a Kindergarten-6th Grade Elementary, a 7th and 8th Grade Junior High, and a 9th-12th Grade High School. Freeman Public Schools employs approximately 75 certificated and classified staff members to serve the children and families within the district. Freeman's PK-12 student population is approximately 450 students.

The district provides 1-to-1 technology for all students 7th through 12th Grade, with Chromebooks travelling between school and home daily. In Kindergarten through 6th grade, 1-to-1 technology is provided with devices housed at school.

Freeman's PK-6 elementary has two half-day preschool sessions and two classroom sections per grade. Freeman Elementary has implemented Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This program aids students in understanding the expectations for sharing space and learning as well as how their actions impact their personal outcomes.

Each core area in the 7-12 school has at least two teachers due to Freeman's consistently growing enrollment. Freeman implements a junior high school model with 7th and 8th grades and a high school model for 9th - 12th grades. New 7th and 8th grade Explore opportunities were added in 2020-2021 in the area of Career and Technical Education. Seventh grade students take an introduction to Woods and 8th graders take an introduction to small engines. In 2021-22, high school pathways in several areas were introduced with each beginning with a foundational course and ending with the potential for a work-based learning experience. Additionally, new high school courses were added in the areas of Construction and Trades and Student Leadership.

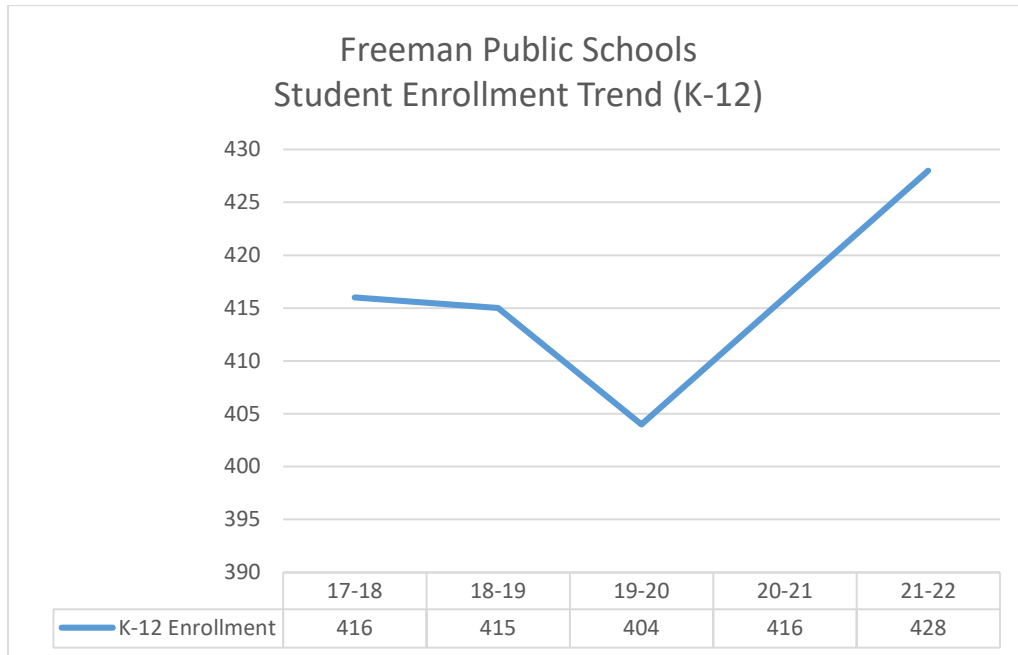
As the district student population grows, so do the facilities. In May, 2012, a bond issue was passed to address facility needs both inside and outside. Construction of a new competition gym, locker rooms, offices, a classroom, commons area, and a satellite kitchen/concessions area was completed in November, 2013. Outside of the bond issue, a new football/track stadium was completed in the fall of 2014. In 2021-22, Freeman Public Schools staff and school board began exploring options to expand facilities to for Career and Technical Education courses.

Freeman continues to be an outstanding school with many opportunities for students. In addition to being a high academically achieving school, students get a balanced education with the opportunities to be involved in numerous activities and athletics. Community and patron support continues to be a one of Freeman's greatest strengths.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Student Enrollment Comparison

2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
K	36	K	27	K	32	K	34	K	39
1	29	1	34	1	28	1	31	1	36
2	30	2	29	2	33	2	28	2	33
3	35	3	31	3	31	3	34	3	28
4	36	4	33	4	32	4	31	4	36
5	35	5	36	5	33	5	32	5	33
6	23	6	37	6	33	6	35	6	33
K-6	224	K-6	227	K-6	222	K-6	225	K-6	238
7	34	7	22	7	35	7	32	7	36
8	26	8	34	8	24	8	38	8	37
9	35	9	28	9	35	9	23	9	33
10	29	10	39	10	26	10	36	10	24
11	38	11	28	11	36	11	24	11	36
12	30	12	37	12	26	12	38	12	24
7-12	192	7-12	188	7-12	182	7-12	191	7-12	190
TOTAL	416	415	404	416	428				



Freeman Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment

Freeman Public Schools provides a morning and afternoon 3.25-hour preschool program for 4-year olds, where all children learn and build confidence through play. Since the 2016-17 school year, Freeman’s preschool program transitioned away from serving both three- and four-year olds and now only serves four-year olds. Our half-day program provides opportunities to socialize and develop many pre-kindergarten skills such as positive social-emotional skills, letter recognition, beginning number sense, and development of fine motor skills for handwriting.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
PK Enrollment	29	28	31	32	23

Net Option Enrollment

Net option is calculated on October 1st of each year and compares the difference between the number of students enrolled at Freeman but not residing in our district and the number of resident students enrolled in another school district. For example, if Freeman has ten students enrolled that do not live in the district and two resident students that attend another school, the net option calculation is $10 - 2 = 8$. Net option funding is calculated based on this number and part of the state aid given to public school districts. Students in Preschool are not included in net option totals.

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Net Option	82	83	58	70	85

2021-22 Student Data Comparison

Freeman Public Schools has shown growth and stability over the past ten years. K-12 enrollment has increased by 57 students over that span, an increase of 15%. Over this time, Freeman students have maintained an attendance rate near 96% and a graduation rate at or near 100%. Free and reduced lunch, special education, dropout, and mobility rates all fall below the state average.

Students	Freeman	State
Free/Reduced Lunch	14.86%	41.31%
Special Education	12.62%	15.92%
High Ability Learners	9.35%	12.89%
Attendance	95.39%	92.28%
Dropout Rate	0%	1.60%
Mobility Rate	0%	5.51%
Graduation Rate	100%	86.86%

2021-22 College-Going Rate

The college-going rate is determined by the number of students who enrolled at a postsecondary education institution before October 15 of the year following graduation divided by the number of students that graduated with a diploma.

Public School	Private School	2-Year College	4-Year College	TOTAL RATE
76%	12%	68%	28%	80%

FREEMAN STAFF INFORMATION

The Freeman Public Schools faculty and staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality education to our students. Certificated staff take part in multiple staff development opportunities throughout the year. This included seven days during the 2021-22 school year dedicated to professional development. Freeman currently has over 55% of its teachers obtaining an advanced degree and has an average experience of 15.38 years. There are currently 21 teachers with ten or more years of experience at Freeman. Of those 21, six teachers have worked at Freeman for twenty or more years. Of those six, we have one faculty member that has been at Freeman over 30 years. Freeman's average years of teaching experience is 15.38 years.

Teachers	Freeman	State
Total FTE	35.65	23,962.20
Advanced Degrees	55.12%	57.85%
Average Experience	15.38	13.94
Average Salary	\$57,540	\$57,536

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Certified Faculty	42	43	43	43	43
Non-Certified Faculty	17.71	18.95	20.35	19.50	22.34
Community Coaches/Sponsors	4	8	10	9	10
Total	63.71	69.95	73.35	71.5	75.34

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Freeman's transportation fleet consists of nine buses (6 route, 2 spare, and 1 activity), four vans, two cars, one 4-wheel drive SUV, and one pick-up truck used for maintenance. In 2021-22, federal funding was used to purchase a 4-wheel drive SUV for student transportation. Below is a summary for 2021-22 transportation:

Route Miles: 94,757
Special Education Miles: 0

Activity Trip Miles: 23,421
Estimated Repair Costs: \$54,834

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial information prepared for this portion of the report contains data from the previous ten school years. Included is a levy and valuation history that shows the tax levy by fund and the valuation over the past 10 years. Over the past ten school years, land valuations have increased from \$279,689,825 to \$528,880,868; an increase of over 77%. The total levy has decreased by more than 16 cents over the past 10 school years.

Levy and Valuation History

	General Fund	Bond Fund	Building Fund	Total Levy	Valuation
2021-22	0.838	0.106	0.033	\$0.9777	\$544,326,950
2020-21	0.838	0.109	0.034	\$0.9811	\$528,880,868
2019-20	0.778	0.113	0.034	\$0.9244	\$533,374,473
2018-19	0.744	0.111	0.044	\$0.8997	\$541,515,855
2017-18	0.747	0.112	0.045	\$0.9042	\$538,359,630
2016-17	0.761	0.115	0.046	\$0.9222	\$526,990,786
2015-16	0.825	0.109	0.049	\$0.9831	\$492,311,666
2014-15	0.950	0.145	0.011	\$1.1063	\$417,389,831
2013-14	0.958	0.167	0.047	\$1.1726	\$362,402,918
2012-13	0.972	0.189	0.049	\$1.2102	\$312,437,949

State aid and Freeman’s total tax asking over the past five years can be tracked below. Nearly all of the state aid that Freeman Public Schools receives is net option funding. As a result, state aid amounts are difficult to estimate and can fluctuate by large amounts from year-to-year.

State Aid History

Year	State Aid
2021-22	\$782,173
2020-21	\$609,683
2019-20	\$870,271
2018-19	\$774,129
2017-18	\$674,989

Total Tax Asking

Year	Total Tax Asking
2021-22	\$5,321,820
2020-21	\$5,189,087
2019-20	\$4,930,470
2018-19	\$4,871,883
2017-18	\$4,867,842

2021-22 General Fund Receipts vs. Expenditures

The following will show you a breakdown of general fund expenses by category and revenue by source. For the 2021-22 fiscal year, Freeman’s revenue was \$274,491 greater than expenditures, resulting in an increase of our cash reserve.

Receipts		Expenditures	
	Amount		Amount
Local Property Taxes	\$4,191,208	Instruction	\$3,896,927
Carline Tax	\$2,719	Support Services - Students	\$208,065
Public Power District Sales Tax	\$108,690	Support Services - Instruction	\$140,584
Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$257,257	General Administration	\$204,395
Interest	\$13,352	School Administration	\$382,086
Preschool tuition	\$7,275	Fiscal Services	\$138,094
Community Services	\$29,537	Maintenance and Operation	\$574,690
Other Local	\$7,950	Student Transportation	\$251,102
County Fees and ESU Receipts	\$24,440	Community Services	\$45,400
State	\$1,418,140	State programs	\$11,200
Federal	\$340,311	Federal Programs	\$429,841
Non-revenue	\$11,033		
Total RECEIPTS	\$6,411,912	Total EXPENDITURES	\$6,282,384

2021-22 Beginning Balance: \$1,208,665

Receipts over Expenditures: \$129,528

STUDENT ACHEIVEMENT

NWEA MAP Assessment

The NWEA MAP Assessment is a norm-referenced test that is given three times throughout the year to Kindergarten through 11th graders in the areas of Math, Reading, and Language Usage (Grades 3-11). The MAP assessment is dynamic and adaptive and adjusts the difficulty of the questions to match the students' current level and success. This assessment also gives our faculty immediate access to student progress and allows for our teachers to fully understand what skills each of our students excel at and in what areas further assistance is needed. The table below shows the percentage of Freeman students who Met or Exceeded their projected growth mark from the spring 2021 to spring 2022.

MAP Growth Spring '21 to Spring '22

Grade	Math	Reading	Language Usage (Grades 3-11)
Elementary	48%	59%	63%
Secondary	49%	42%	55%
Total	48.5%	50.5%	59%

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

Beginning in 2017-18, the state of Nebraska implemented the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). Students in Grades 3-8 complete assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Science assessment is given in Grades 5 and 8. Freeman's 2021-22 NSCAS assessments were given in the spring and English Language Arts and Mathematics results were returned in November, 2022.

NSCAS	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
Freeman	61%	54%	80%
State	47%	46%	66%

Grade	Math % Proficient	Language Arts % Proficient	Science % Proficient
3	68%	54%	
4	42%	56%	
5	52%	76%	91%
6	64%	52%	
7	63%	66%	
8	39%	64%	69%

NSCAS ACT

Beginning in the spring of 2017, every 11th grade student in the district completed the American College Test (ACT). Below is a comparison of the average scale scores between Freeman 11th graders and the rest of the state. Freeman 11th graders are well-above the state average in all three sub-score areas.

Level	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
School	20.9	19.4	23.1
State	16.7	17.7	19

The following table shows ACT proficiency rates for Freeman 11th graders:

Test Subject	% Proficient
English Language Arts	78.26%
Mathematics	56.52%
Science	78.26%