

FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Education

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District Administration

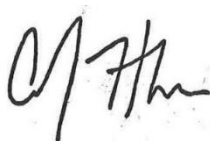
Andrew Havelka, Superintendent
Erin Sieh, PK-6 Principal
Steve Adkisson, 7-12 Principal

FREEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS PATRONS, PARENTS, STAFF:

This report is submitted to the patrons, parents, and staff of Freeman Public Schools annually in accordance with the accreditation rules of the Nebraska Department of Education. This annual report intends 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 2022-23 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 a GREAT school district. 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 of 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.



Dr. Andrew Havelka
Superintendent

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.”

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 30 miles southeast of Lincoln. Freeman Public Schools consists of a preschool 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 480 students.

The district provides 1-to-1 technology for all students in 7th through 12th Grade, with Chromebooks traveling 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 and 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 for 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 for Career and Technical Education opportunities. As a result, a facility study was completed during the 2022-23 school year outlining potential growth areas.

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 one of Freeman's greatest strengths.

AQuESTT CLASSIFICATION

The Nebraska Department of Education uses the Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) system to annually recognize and classify schools and districts as Excellent, Great, Good, and Needs Support for Improvement based on identified statutory criteria, and other evidence of activities of schools and districts to improve student achievement. AQuESTT serves as a framework for approval, accreditation, and accountability. The tenets of AQuESTT fall within three broad domains: Leadership; Success, Access, and Support; and Teaching, Learning, and Serving.

District Classification ⓘ			
EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPROVE
Elementary School Classification ⓘ			
EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPROVE
Middle School Classification ⓘ			
EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPROVE
High School Classification ⓘ			
EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS SUPPORT TO IMPROVE

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Student Enrollment Comparison

2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
K	27	K	32	K	34	K	39	K	34
1	34	1	28	1	31	1	36	1	42
2	29	2	33	2	28	2	33	2	38
3	31	3	31	3	34	3	28	3	34
4	33	4	32	4	31	4	36	4	28
5	36	5	33	5	32	5	33	5	41
6	37	6	33	6	35	6	33	6	35
K-6	227	K-6	222	K-6	225	K-6	238	K-6	252
7	22	7	35	7	32	7	36	7	33
8	34	8	24	8	38	8	37	8	39
9	28	9	35	9	23	9	33	9	38
10	39	10	26	10	36	10	24	10	31
11	28	11	36	11	24	11	36	11	24
12	37	12	26	12	38	12	24	12	34
7-12	188	7-12	182	7-12	191	7-12	190	7-12	199
TOTAL	415		404		416		428		451

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	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
PK Enrollment	28	31	32	23	26

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 who do not live in the district and two resident students who 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	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Net Option	83	57	71	83	94

2022-23 Student Data Comparison

Freeman Public Schools has shown growth and stability over the past ten years. K-12 enrollment has increased by 71 students over that span, an increase of 18.7%. 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	18.24%	49.69%
Special Education	12.64%	16.45%
High Ability Learners	15.74%	12.75%
Attendance	95.28%	92.50%
Dropout Rate	0%	1.40%
Mobility Rate	2.22%	5.50%
Graduation Rate	100%	87.25%

2022-23 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 who graduated with a diploma.

Public School	Private School	2-Year College	4-Year College	TOTAL RATE
78%	19%	78%	28%	78%

FREEMAN STAFF INFORMATION

The Freeman Public Schools faculty and staff are 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 dedicated to professional development during the 2022-23 school year. Freeman currently has nearly 57% of its teachers obtaining an advanced degree. There are currently 29 teachers with ten or more years of experience at Freeman. Of those 21, five teachers have worked at Freeman for twenty or more years. Of those five, we have two faculty members who have been at Freeman for over 30 years. Freeman's average years of teaching experience is 16.13 years. In addition to our certified faculty, Freeman employs approximately 35 classified employees who fulfill a wide range of responsibilities. Classified employees include bus drivers, paraprofessionals, custodial/maintenance staff, nutrition staff, business manager, and office staff.

Teachers	Freeman	State
Total FTE	36.03	23,758
Advanced Degrees	56.98%	58.25%
Average Experience	16.13	13.86
Average Salary	\$59,527	\$58,923

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Certified Faculty	43	43	43	43	44
Non-Certified FTE	18.95	20.35	19.50	22.34	23.81
Community Coaches/Sponsors	8	10	9	10	9
Total	69.95	73.35	71.5	75.34	76.81

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Freeman's transportation fleet consists of ten buses (6 routes, 3 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 2022-23 transportation:

Route Miles: 88,088
Special Education Miles: 0

Activity Trip Miles: 39,349
Estimated Repair Costs: \$49,209

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial information prepared for this portion of the report contains data from the previous ten school years. Included are a levy and valuation history that shows the tax levy by fund and the valuation over the past 10 years. In the past ten years, land valuations have increased by nearly \$224M; an increase of 61.8%. During that period, the total levy has decreased by more than 23 cents.

Levy and Valuation History

	General Fund	Bond Fund	Building Fund	Total Levy	Valuation
2022-23	\$0.807	\$0.099	\$0.033	\$0.939	\$586,402,600
2021-22	\$0.838	\$0.106	\$0.033	\$0.978	\$544,326,950
2020-21	\$0.838	\$0.109	\$0.034	\$0.981	\$528,880,868
2019-20	\$0.778	\$0.113	\$0.034	\$0.924	\$533,374,473
2018-19	\$0.744	\$0.111	\$0.044	\$0.899	\$541,515,855
2017-18	\$0.747	\$0.112	\$0.045	\$0.904	\$538,359,630
2016-17	\$0.761	\$0.115	\$0.046	\$0.922	\$526,990,786
2015-16	\$0.825	\$0.109	\$0.049	\$0.983	\$492,311,666
2014-15	\$0.950	\$0.145	\$0.011	\$1.106	\$417,389,831
2013-14	\$0.958	\$0.167	\$0.047	\$1.173	\$362,402,918

State Aid and Tax Asking

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. Since 2019-20, Freeman's net option enrollment number has increased by 37 students, resulting in substantial increases in state aid.

Year	State Aid
2022-23	\$951,892
2021-22	\$782,173
2020-21	\$609,683
2019-20	\$870,271
2018-19	\$774,129

Year	Total Tax Asking
2022-23	\$5,507,551
2021-22	\$5,321,820
2020-21	\$5,189,087
2019-20	\$4,930,470
2018-19	\$4,871,883

2022-23 General Fund Receipts vs. Expenditures

The following will show you a breakdown of general fund expenses by category and revenue by source. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, Freeman's revenue was \$18,089 greater than expenditures. In August 2023, a transfer of \$20,000 was made from the General Fund to the Activity Fund.

Receipts	Amount	Expenditures	Amount
Local Property Taxes	\$4,380,030	Instruction	\$4,186,585
Carline Tax	\$2,623	Support Services - Students	\$259,695
Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$268,930	Support Services - Instruction	\$157,296
Interest	\$13,290	General Administration	\$212,193
Preschool tuition	\$8,026	School Administration	\$407,560
Community Services	\$29,759	Fiscal Services	\$131,811
Other Local	\$28,035	Maintenance and Operation	\$603,673
County Fees and ESU Receipts	\$25,318	Student Transportation	\$388,407
State	\$1,606,219	Community Services	\$45,531
Federal	\$250,601	State programs	\$9,383
Non-revenue	\$6,076	Federal Programs	\$198,684
Total RECEIPTS	\$6,618,907	Total EXPENDITURES	\$6,600,818

2022-23 Ending Cash in Bank: \$1,326,640

2022-23 Bond Fund Report

Freeman Public Schools currently pays on two 20-year bonds resulting from the 2006 and 2012 construction projects. The scheduled payoffs of these bonds will occur in the 2032-33 school year. In 2022-23, two bond payments were made by the district totaling \$574,011. In addition, an inter-fund loan was made for \$200,000 from the Bond Fund to the Special Building Fund to purchase land.

2022-23 Building Fund Report

The Special Building Fund is used to acquire or improve sites and/or to erect, alter, or improve buildings. In 2022-23, Freeman levied 3.3 cents to the Special Building Fund which equated to a tax asking of approximately \$193,000. Several projects were completed in 2022-23. The final portion of a multi-year roof replacement project was finished along with masonry work to the West side of the building, additional lockers, a South gym audio upgrade, and LED lights. In August 2022, Freeman Public Schools hired Clark & Enersen to conduct a facility study which was completed in June 2023. Lastly, two parcels of land were purchased in 2022-23. This land will be used to increase athletic green space and parking.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

NWEA MAP Assessment

The NWEA MAP Assessment is a norm-referenced test that is given during the school year to Kindergarten through 11th graders in the areas of Math and Reading. The MAP assessment is dynamic and adaptive and adjusts the difficulty of the questions to match the student's current level and success. This assessment also gives our faculty immediate access to student progress and allows our teachers to fully understand what skills each of our students excels at and in what areas further assistance is needed. The MAP Assessment given in the Winter also gives students, teachers, and parents a projection on how the Spring NSCAS assessment should go based on their score.

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 2022-23 NSCAS assessments were given in the spring and English Language Arts and Mathematics results were returned in November 2023.

Percent Proficient: Advanced/On Track or Combined

NSCAS	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
2022-23	70%	76%	85%
2021-22	61%	54%	80%
2022-23 State	58%	61%	70%

Grade	Math % Proficient	Language Arts % Proficient	Science % Proficient
3	61%	55%	
4	64%	54%	
5	80%	63%	85%
6	74%	79%	
7	91%	73%	
8	82%	90%	85%

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 2022-23 average scale scores between Freeman 11th graders and the rest of the state.

Level	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
School	16.5	18.0	18.0
State	16.7	17.9	18.3

The following table shows the percentage of Freeman 11th graders meeting ACT expectations:

Test Subject	% Proficient
English Language Arts	40%
Mathematics	40%
Science	44%