

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Jackson School (PK-2)

223 North John St.
PO Box 67
Jackson, NE 68743
(402) 632-4276

Ponca School (3-12)

505 W. 3rd St.
PO Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770
(402) 755-5700

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

The Ponca Public Schools is an accredited PK-12 public school district located in Northeast Nebraska. With an enrollment of approximately 460 students, the district is large enough to offer outstanding educational opportunities and small enough to personalize education for each student. The district is comprised of 2 schools: Jackson School, serving students in grades PK-2 and Ponca School, serving students in grades 3-12. Competent and caring teachers provide outstanding learning opportunities and place high expectations on their classes. Curricular offerings include basic skills instruction for all students and specialized courses in high school. Teachers participate in Professional Learning Communities to focus on individual student outcomes and develop professionally. Technology plays an important part of each teacher's program with computer-assisted reading and math instruction, computer classes, and industrial technology offerings. The district operates a 1:1 initiative with Chromebooks for every student K-12. The majority of students from Ponca attend two or four-year colleges upon graduation. Extra-curricular activities begin in grade seven and include instrumental and vocal music, a wide variety of athletics, drama, speech, FBLA, and student government. The Ponca Public Schools enjoys positive working relationships with the City of Ponca, Village of Jackson, Village of Waterbury, Village of Martinsburg, Ponca Community Education Foundation, Better Ponca Community Foundation, Ponca State Park, Ponca Athletic Boosters, Ponca Music Boosters, Ponca Area Community Club, Ponca Ministerial Association, Youth Sports Organizations, Ponca Recreation, local businesses, and many individual patrons.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kenton Book, President

Monte Burki, Vice President

Richard Dohma

Shawn Fethkenher

John Gill

Phil Kramper

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report is published to inform the patrons of the Ponca Public Schools and fulfillment of accreditation guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education. The report will identify key components of the district's demographics, membership, finance, improvement goals, and performance. It is our hope that patrons become aware of the district's accomplishments and areas of improvement.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Ponca Public School District is committed to building a solid educational foundation for ALL individuals by providing a quality learning environment and promoting standards of excellence.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

The district has maintained steady enrollment over the last 10 years, ranging from 431-468 students (PK-12). Below is a breakdown of total enrollment, by grade, for the last 12 school years.

| | PK | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2008-09 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 40 | 34 | 26 | 35 | 26 | 40 | 29 | 35 | 27 | 31 | 440 |
| 2009-10 | 22 | 37 | 28 | 30 | 31 | 35 | 33 | 26 | 35 | 28 | 42 | 30 | 33 | 25 | 435 |
| 2010-11 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 27 | 31 | 32 | 36 | 32 | 27 | 33 | 27 | 40 | 28 | 35 | 438 |
| 2011-12 | 17 | 33 | 26 | 38 | 27 | 34 | 32 | 36 | 36 | 24 | 32 | 26 | 40 | 30 | 431 |
| 2012-13 | 31 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 39 | 29 | 35 | 37 | 41 | 36 | 26 | 34 | 29 | 38 | 459 |
| 2013-14 | 25 | 36 | 28 | 32 | 24 | 43 | 28 | 35 | 37 | 43 | 32 | 28 | 23 | 29 | 452 |
| 2014-15 | 26 | 39 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 25 | 43 | 28 | 37 | 39 | 44 | 35 | 26 | 31 | 467 |
| 2015-16 | 34 | 21 | 34 | 31 | 33 | 31 | 24 | 42 | 32 | 37 | 36 | 45 | 36 | 26 | 462 |
| 2016-17 | 30 | 37 | 20 | 32 | 31 | 34 | 35 | 23 | 40 | 30 | 39 | 34 | 41 | 32 | 458 |
| 2017-18 | 22 | 33 | 38 | 24 | 35 | 31 | 35 | 36 | 23 | 42 | 32 | 39 | 35 | 43 | 468 |
| 2018-19 | 27 | 26 | 31 | 38 | 26 | 38 | 31 | 38 | 40 | 24 | 42 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 466 |
| 2019-20 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 37 | 27 | 38 | 30 | 34 | 39 | 23 | 43 | 32 | 36 | 453 |

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH RATES

| | Free | Reduced | Total | Dist. % | State % |
|----------------|------|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| 2009-10 | 83 | 25 | 108 | 24.83% | 41.22% |
| 2010-11 | 70 | 47 | 117 | 26.71% | 42.58% |
| 2011-12 | 74 | 44 | 118 | 27.38% | 43.79% |
| 2012-13 | 75 | 38 | 113 | 24.62% | 44.18% |
| 2013-14 | 83 | 57 | 140 | 30.97% | 44.93% |
| 2014-15 | 80 | 57 | 137 | 29.34% | 44.23% |
| 2015-16 | 54 | 45 | 99 | 21.43% | 44.12% |
| 2016-17 | 64 | 35 | 99 | 21.62% | 44.65% |
| 2017-18 | 57 | 39 | 96 | 20.51% | 45.83% |
| 2018-19 | 75 | 41 | 116 | 24.89% | 45.21% |
| 2019-20 | 64 | 34 | 98 | 21.63% | 45.60% |

Option Enrollment

| | In | Out | Net Option |
|---------|-----|-----|------------|
| 2009-10 | 70 | 30 | +40 |
| 2010-11 | 73 | 25 | +48 |
| 2011-12 | 70 | 24 | +46 |
| 2012-13 | 86 | 18 | +68 |
| 2013-14 | 94 | 27 | +67 |
| 2014-15 | 123 | 25 | +98 |
| 2015-16 | 113 | 31 | +82 |
| 2016-17 | 105 | 26 | +79 |
| 2017-18 | 108 | 21 | +87 |
| 2018-19 | 110 | 17 | +93 |
| 2019-20 | 109 | 13 | +96 |

Special Education

| | Jackson | Ponca Elem. | Ponca High | Total |
|---------|---------|-------------|------------|-------|
| 2009-10 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 53 |
| 2010-11 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 63 |
| 2011-12 | 24 | 21 | 19 | 64 |
| 2012-13 | 20 | 26 | 22 | 68 |
| 2013-14 | 21 | 27 | 26 | 74 |
| 2014-15 | 20 | 27 | 27 | 74 |
| 2015-16 | 21 | 23 | 27 | 71 |
| 2016-17 | 17 | 25 | 30 | 72 |
| 2017-18 | 12 | 26 | 37 | 75 |
| 2018-19 | 10 | 24 | 33 | 67 |
| 2019-20 | 11 | 20 | 27 | 58 |

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION – 3.0 FTE
TEACHERS – 43.0 FTE
CLASSIFIED – 35 Staff Members
CONTRACTED – 2.0 FTE

TRANSPORTATION

The school district maintains a vehicle fleet consisting of small vehicles and buses, responsible for transporting students to and from school and school-related activities. Below is a breakdown of the vehicle fleet and miles accrued during the 2019-20 school year.

BUSES

4 Route Buses:

- 2003 – Northwest Route
- 2004 – Southwest Route
- 2004 B – Jackson Route & Shuttle Route
- 2010 – Waterbury/Martinsburg & Shuttle Route

3 Activity Buses:

- 2012
- 2012 B
- 2017

SMALL VEHICLES

- 2003 Chevy Venture – Sp.Ed.
- 2005 Chevy Venture – Sp.Ed.
- 2004 Suburban - Activities
- 2008 Ford Van - Activities
- 2012 Ford Van - Activities
- 2014 Ford Van - Activities
- 2006 Cargo Trailer - Activities

TOTAL ROUTE MILES = 45,051
TOTAL ACTIVITY MILES = 27,712

SCHOOL NUTRITION

The Ponca Public Schools operates 2 kitchens (Jackson and Ponca) for the purpose of preparing and serving School Lunch. The Jackson kitchen has 2 staff members and the Ponca kitchen is staffed with 4 employees. The district participated in the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council’s Food Cooperative, which provides for lower food and supply prices through the statewide competitive bidding process. The district averaged 335 meals per day with a total of 42,815 meals served for the 2019-20 school year.

| 2019-2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| Month | Days Meals Served | Reimbursed | Ave. Attendance PK-2nd | Ave. Attendance 3rd-12th | Total Average Attendance | Paid Meals | Free Meals | Reduced | Total Meals | Total Enrollment |
| August | 12 | \$4,715.48 | 98 | 335 | 433 | 2972 | 729 | 331 | 4032 | 441 |
| Sept | 20 | \$7,990.40 | 94 | 330 | 424 | 4832 | 1143 | 691 | 6666 | 439 |
| October | 21 | \$8,071.58 | 92 | 326 | 418 | 5210 | 1116 | 700 | 7026 | 435 |
| November | 17 | \$6,571.45 | 94 | 325 | 419 | 4095 | 886 | 614 | 5595 | 435 |
| December | 15 | \$5,839.81 | 94 | 326 | 420 | 3679 | 810 | 515 | 5004 | 439 |
| January | 18 | \$6,996.84 | 94 | 326 | 420 | 4544 | 965 | 606 | 6115 | 437 |
| February | 18 | \$6,916.84 | 93 | 320 | 413 | 4540 | 946 | 602 | 6088 | 436 |
| March | 7 | \$2,555.94 | 94 | 324 | 418 | 1722 | 345 | 222 | 2289 | 437 |
| April | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| May | | | | | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 128 | \$49,658.34 | 94.13 | 326.50 | 420.63 | 31594 | 6940 | 4281 | 42815 | 437.38 |

FINANCE

Historical Total Assessed Property Valuation

| Year | Valuation | Increase/Decrease |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2002-03 | \$118,068,718 | ----- |
| 2003-04 | \$128,371,706 | +8.73% |
| 2004-05 | \$130,302,484 | +9.53% |
| 2005-06 | \$139,256,642 | +6.87% |
| 2006-07 | \$152,045,383 | +9.18% |
| 2007-08 | \$151,991,579 | -0.04% |
| 2008-09 | \$198,235,250 | +30.43% |
| 2009-10 | \$211,307,874 | +6.59% |
| 2010-11 | \$217,994,332 | +3.16% |
| 2011-12 | \$222,992,075 | +2.29% |
| 2012-13 | \$260,540,833 | +16.84% |
| 2013-14 | \$301,875,293 | +15.86% |
| 2014-15 | \$361,676,261 | +19.81% |
| 2015-16 | \$411,143,777 | +13.68% |
| 2016-17 | \$419,557,157 | +2.05% |
| 2017-18 | \$411,647,037 | -1.89% |
| 2018-19 | \$396,930,241 | -3.58% |
| 2019-20 | \$392,379,891 | -1.15% |

Historical Total Tax Levy

| Year | Levy | Year | Levy |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| 2001-02 | \$1.0739 | 2010-11 | \$1.3361 |
| 2002-03 | \$1.0813 | 2011-12 | \$1.3352 |
| 2003-04 | \$1.115 | 2012-13 | \$1.2922 |
| 2004-05 | \$1.0997 | 2013-14 | \$1.2279 |
| 2005-06 | \$1.1024 | 2014-15 | \$1.2194 |
| 2006-07 | \$1.134 | 2015-16 | \$1.1526 |
| 2007-08 | \$1.1614 | 2016-17 | \$1.0715 |
| 2008-09 | \$1.1495 | 2017-18 | \$1.1256 |
| 2009-10 | \$1.3393 | 2018-19 | \$1.1874 |
| | | 2019-20 | \$1.1914 |

2019-20 Financial Summary

2019-20 Valuation = \$392,379,891

2019-20 Levies

- General = \$1.05
- Special Building = \$0
- Bond = \$.140699
- Total = \$1.191586

RECEIPTS (General Fund)

Local Resources - \$3,881,529
Motor Vehicle Taxes - \$219,167
Public Power Dist. Sales Tax - \$30,721
Interest - \$3,479
Other Local Resources - \$15,635
County/ESU Sources - \$30,461
State Sources - \$2,459,065
Federal Sources - \$175,978
Other Sources - \$2,787
Total Receipts - \$6,818,822

EXPENDITURES (General Fund)

Instruction - \$3,664,523
Support Services - \$768,208
Administration - \$627,121
Central Services - \$164,089
Operations & Maintenance - \$502,155
Transportation - \$288,829
 State Categorical Programs - \$8,806
Facilities Acquisition - \$37,560.00
Debt Services - \$7,464
 Federal - \$140,965
Transfers - \$15,000
Total Expenditures - \$6,224,720

IMPROVEMENT GOALS

The Ponca Public School District utilizes the Frameworks model for school improvement. A School Improvement Team meets regularly and facilitates the direction of teaching and learning in the district. The team meets on a regular basis to review data, explore professional development opportunities, establish goals, and share progress. The School Improvement Team, through a collaborative process established the following goal for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Increase literacy across the curriculum
 - Students will improve reading skills in grades K-12
 - Students will improve writing skills in grades K-12

In addition to the above-mentioned goals, the School Improvement Team, in coordination with the Frameworks model reviewed and developed the following Action Items:


- Develop a plan for technology equipment implementation and rotation in order to improve our practices
- Research, adopt, and implement an instructional model appropriate to our district
- Improve transparency and communication with stakeholders

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The 2019-2020 classification and designation of schools and districts are based on 2018-2019 school year data (COVID)

Nebraska statute requires the State Board of Education to create a system of accountability combining multiple indicators of school performance. As such, in 2014, the Nebraska Department of Education, after significant input from stakeholders, developed the **Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow, or AQuESTT**. AQuESTT represents both an accountability system and a system of support built around six tenets. The six tenets are: (1) Assessment, (2) College, Career, and Civic Ready (3) Educator Effectiveness, (4) Educational Opportunities, and Access, (5) Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success, (6) Transitions. The Nebraska Department of Education is maintaining the structure and functionality of AQuESTT for classifying schools and districts. All schools and districts are classified as Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Improvement. While additional indicators may be added at a later time, the metrics used for classification are (1) Status, (2) Growth, Improvement, Non-Proficiency, (3) Progress Towards English Language Proficiency, (4) 4- and 7-Year Cohort Graduation Rate, and (5) Chronic Absenteeism, Science, Evidence-based Analysis. Below are the 2018-19 classifications for the Ponca Public Schools, and each individual school.



| 2019-2020 | | District Snapshot |
|--|---------|--|
| Performance | | |
|  <p>NSCAS English Language Arts Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NSCAS assessments were cancelled</p> | Peers * |  <p>NSCAS Mathematics Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NSCAS assessments were cancelled</p> |
|  <p>NSCAS Science Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NSCAS assessments were cancelled</p> | Peers * | |

**Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)
Summary (Percent Proficient)
Grades 3-8 and 11th Grade Alternate Assessment**

| Academic Year | English/Language Arts | Math | Science |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| 2013-14 | ----- | 84% | 82% |
| 2014-15 | ----- | 86% | 83% |
| 2015-16 | ----- | 83% | 85% |
| 2016-17 | 54% | 88% | 94% |
| 2017-18 | 64% | 70% | 86% |
| 2018-19 | 68% | 73% | 85% |
| 2019-20 | COVID | COVID | COVID |

***Note:** The NSCAS assessment began the 2017-18 school year. Prior to 2017-18, the above scores are reflective of the Nebraska State Assessments (NeSA). Because the 2 assessments differ in format, structure, mode of delivery, and rigor, proficiency levels may not be comparable (i.e. 80% proficient in 2016-17 may not be the same as 80% in 2017-18).

Graduation Rates (4 yr. Cohort)

| Year | State Average | District Average |
|------|---------------|------------------|
| 2014 | 89.66% | 90% |
| 2015 | 88.89% | 96.67% |
| 2016 | 89.27% | 96.3% |
| 2017 | 89.11% | 96.97% |
| 2018 | 88.66% | 95.56% |
| 2019 | 88.42% | 100% |
| 2020 | 87.51% | 94.29% |

**ACT
Composite Scores
(11th Grade – State and District Average Scores)**

| Year | State | District |
|---------|-------|----------|
| 2016-17 | 19.3 | 21.1 |
| 2017-18 | 19.4 | 22.2 |
| 2018-19 | 19.3 | 22.4 |
| 2019-20 | 19.4 | 20.1 |

**ACT
(11th Grade - % of Students Meeting Expectations)**

| School Year | English/Language Arts | Math | Science |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| 2016-17 | 73% | 80% | 76% |
| 2017-18 | 83% | 83% | 83% |
| 2018-19 | 86% | 86% | 83% |
| 2019-20 | COVID | COVID | COVID |

**ACT
(11th GRADE SCALE SCORES)**

| | English | Reading | Math | Science |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| Ponca (2016-17) | 19.5 | 20.6 | 22.3 | 21.5 |
| Ponca (2017-18) | 22.1 | 21.9 | 22.3 | 21.7 |
| Ponca (2018-19) | 22.5 | 22.7 | 21.8 | 22.0 |
| State (2018-19) | 18.4 | 19.5 | 18.9 | 19.0 |
| Ponca (2019-20) | 19.0 | 21.0 | 19.5 | 20.6 |
| State (2019-20) | COVID | COVID | COVID | COVID |

2019-2020 Year In Review

The 2019-20 school year was another fantastic year in the Ponca Public Schools! Once again, the district operated two school buildings, Jackson School (PreK-2) and Ponca School, 3-12. The district enrollment for the year was 453. Jackson School's enrollment was 114 students, Ponca Elementary School grades 3-6, was 132, and the Junior/Senior High School was 207 students.

New faculty members for the 2019-2020 school year were Tamra Schram at Jackson Elementary. Tamra taught Music part-time.

Some of the experiences of the 2019-2020 school year included the crowning of Homecoming King Paul Masin and Queen Maggie McGill on Saturday, September 28, 2019, with the dance following the coronation. The Snowball dance was held on Saturday, January 24, 2020, with Carter Kingsbury being crowned King and Olivia Hrouda crowned Queen.

2019-2020 school year came to an abrupt halt on March 17th! Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic students finished the school year at home. Teachers held zoom sessions and packets were sent home weekly to PK-6th grade students. 7th - 12th grade students met with their teachers online through zoom and submitted daily assignments through canvas, email and google classroom.

The students of the Ponca Public School District continued the tradition of excellence in the areas of academics, fine arts, and athletics. In the Lewis and Clark One-Act competition, Kaden Fields, Olivia Hrouda, and Mia Stroud earned Outstanding Performance Award. At districts, Kaden Fields, Olivia Hrouda, Mia Stroud, Brynn Chicoine, and Brandon Mellick received an Outstanding Performance Award.

Brady Carnell was named to the Wayne State Honor Band. Evan Watchorn, Meg Keller, Nate Ruhler, Sarah Beach, Thomas Chase, Brandon Mellick, and Cole Monteith qualified for the 11th and 12th grade Lewis and Clark Honor Band. Grace Rooney, Lucas Hoelsing, Matthew Hayes, Matthew Lentz, Austen Janssen, Chase Kastning, and Brennan Beach qualified for the 9th and 10th Grade Lewis and Clark Honor Band. The Class C All-State Honor Band was cancelled due to COVID-19. Olivia Hrouda, qualified as an alternate for the All-State Chorus. The following students were named to the Lewis and Clark Honor Choir: Sarah Beach, Olivia Hrouda, Evelyn Krusemark, Madison Riley, Matthew Hayes, Nathan Bauman and Ethan Goodier. The District Vocal Music contest was not held due to COVID-19.

The Ponca High School Volleyball team was the Lewis & Clark Conference and district runner-up. Wrestler, Dalton Anderson placed 6th at state. Dalton Anderson and Hunter Bennett were both Lewis & Clark Conference wrestling champions and Matt Logue was runner-up. Girls and boys basketball teams both had a successful season with both finishing their seasons with a 23-5 record. Girls basketball team earned first place in the Lewis & Clark Conference regular season, Champions of the Shootout on the Elkhorn, Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament Runner-up, District Champion and State Runner-Up. The boys basketball team earned 2nd place overall in the Lewis & Clark Conference regular season. They were the District Champions and Qualified for the state tournament. Track and golf seasons were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The art department celebrated many awards and recognitions, Breanna Gill earned "Best of Category Oil Painting", Alyssa Swick earned the "Best of Category Graphite" in the Lewis and Clark Art Show. First place winners in the Lewis and Clark Conference Art Show included: Alivia Deroine, Grace Dorcey, Katie Janssen, Jordan Lamprecht, Kaden Fields, Lauryn Gill, Hannah Wahls, and Alyssa Swick.

The Ponca Spelling Bee took place February 4, 2020. Cora Jackson, 6th grade student, earned first place! Five students traveled to Allen, February 12th to participate in the Dixon County Spelling Bee. Students were: Cora Jackson, Addie Reilly, Lily Korth, Brooklyn Lowe, Mia Krusemark and Bella Brummond.

COVID-19 prevented an in person graduation ceremony to be held in May as originally scheduled for our 36 seniors! A virtual graduation video was created by Wedding Storytellers out of West Point, Nebraska. The Ponca High School In-person graduation was held on Saturday, July 25th, at 10:30 a.m. The virtual video was released on that morning of graduation at 10:30 a.m. so people unable to attend could watch the virtual ceremony. The seating capacity for graduation was limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing was required and masks recommended.