

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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 451 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 PK-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
Shawn Fethkenher, Vice President
Monte Burki
Richard Dohma
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
2020-21	31	36	30	25	29	39	28	38	31	33	37	23	42	29	453
2021-22	23	41	34	26	26	28	41	29	40	28	31	37	26	39	451

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%
2020-21	61	48	109	24.06%	46.33%
2021-22	43	19	62		

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
2020-21	109	13	+96
2021-22	103	17	+86

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
2020-21	14	16	21	51
2021-22	18	10	23	51

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION – 3.0 FTE
TEACHERS – 43.3 FTE
CLASSIFIED – 36 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 2020-21 school year.

BUSES

4 Route Buses:

- 2010 B – Northwest Route
- 2012 – Southwest Route
- 2004 B – Jackson Route & Shuttle Route
- 2010 – Waterbury/Martinsburg & Shuttle Route

3 Activity Buses:

- 2012 B
- 2017
- 2017 B

SMALL VEHICLES

- 2004 Chevy Suburban – Sp.Ed.
- 2014 Ford Taurus - Activities
- 2019 Chevy Suburban - Activities
- 2008 Ford Van - Activities
- 2012 Ford Van - Activities
- 2014 Ford Van - Activities
- 2006 Cargo Trailer - Activities

TOTAL ROUTE MILES = 57,698
TOTAL ACTIVITY MILES = 23,192

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 323 meals per day with a total of 56,459 meals served for the 2020-21 school year.

2020-2021

Month	Days Meals Served	Reimbursement	Ave. Attendance PK-2nd	Ave. Attendance 3rd-12th	Total Average Attendance	Paid Meals	Free Meals	Reduced	Total Meals	Total Enrollment
August	13	\$17,212.11	105	318	422		4145		4145	437
Sept	21	\$27,622.43	106	317	423		6652		6652	437
October	20	\$27,348.37	107	321	428		6586		6586	438
November	18	\$23,685.86	106	317	423		5704		5704	437
December	16	\$21,883.68	107	319	426		5270		5270	437
January	16	\$23,500.15	106	320	426		5443		5443	437
February	18	\$26,971.42	107	317	424		6247		6247	436
March	20	\$28,698.42	102	313	415		6647		6647	434
April	20	\$29,181.98	104	314	418		6759		6759	436
May	13	\$17,162.06	102	299	401		3006		3006	410
TOTAL	175	\$243,266.48	105.20	315.50	420.70	0	56459	0	56459	433.90

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%
2020-21	\$394,853,916	+0.63%
2021-22	\$430,916,504	+9.13%

Historical Total Tax Levy

Year	Levy	Year	Levy
2001-02	\$1.0739	2012-13	\$1.2922
2002-03	\$1.0813	2013-14	\$1.2279
2003-04	\$1.115	2014-15	\$1.2194
2004-05	\$1.0997	2015-16	\$1.1526
2005-06	\$1.1024	2016-17	\$1.0715
2006-07	\$1.134	2017-18	\$1.1256
2007-08	\$1.1614	2018-19	\$1.1874
2008-09	\$1.1495	2019-20	\$1.1914
2009-10	\$1.3393	2020-21	\$1.1805
2010-11	\$1.3361	2021-22	\$1.1419
2011-12	\$1.3352		

2020-21 Financial Summary

2020-21 Valuation = \$394,853,916

2020-21 Levies

- General = \$1.049998
- Special Building = \$0
- Bond = \$0.130466
- Total = \$1.180465

RECEIPTS (General Fund)

Taxes Levied by the District - \$3,921,380
Motor Vehicle Taxes - \$229,814
Public Power Dist. Sales Tax - \$30,257
Interest on Investments - \$3,096
Donations from private sources - \$33,170
Other Local Resources - \$31,905
County/ESU Sources - \$16,804
State Sources - \$2,662,119
Federal Sources - \$206,774
Other Sources - \$4,064
Total Receipts - \$7,139,383

EXPENDITURES (General Fund)

Instruction - \$3,852,321
Support Services - \$794,883
Administration - \$617,621
Central Services - \$138,291
Operations & Maintenance - \$529,386
Transportation - \$193,867
State Categorical Programs - \$2,025
Facilities Acquisition - \$22,474
Debt Services - \$7,464
Federal - \$297,476
Transfers - \$50,000
Total Expenditures - \$6,505,808

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 2021-2022 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, adapt, and implement an instructional model appropriate to our district
- Improve transparency and communication with stakeholders

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The 2020-2021 classification and designation of schools and districts are based on 2019-2020 school year data (due to COVID-19 NDE canceled the 2019-2020 NSCAS assessment)

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.



2020-2021		District Snapshot	
Performance			
	NSCAS English Language Arts <small>Click View Data for more information on NSCAS Assessments for 2020-2021</small>	Peers *	
	NSCAS Science <small>Click View Data for more information on NSCAS Assessments for 2020-2021</small>	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
2020-21	ISR-COVID	ISR-COVID	ISR-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%
2021	TBD	TBD

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
2020-21	TBD	20.9

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

School Year	English/Language Arts	Math	<u>Science</u>
2016-17	73%	80%	76%
2017-18	83%	83%	83%
2018-19	86%	86%	83%
2019-20	COVID	COVID	COVID
2020-21	TBD	TBD	TBD

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
Ponca (2020-21)	20.7	20.3	21.4	21.0
State (2020-21)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

2020-2021 School Year In Review

The 2020-2021 school year will be remembered as the year the students, staff, and parents supported each other through COVID19. The school district continues to operate out of two school buildings. The Jackson School, PreK-2, had an enrollment of 125. Ponca Elementary, grades 3-6th had 134 students. The Junior/Senior High School enrolled 193 students, bringing the district total to 452 students.

New faculty members for the 2020-2021 school year included Mrs. Beth Burke, special education teacher for Jackson Elementary. Ms. Hope Knedler joined the staff in Jackson as the music teacher. Mrs. Sadie Voss completed the math department in high school.

The students continued the traditional experiences of Homecoming. This year's King was Kaden Fields and our Queen was Hannah Wahls. The Homecoming dance was a little different as masks were required and only Ponca students were allowed to attend. Later in the year, we held the Snowball dance with the crowning of Thomas Chase as King and Alyssa Crosgrove crowned Queen.

At the completion of our Fall sports season, Ponca was the Conference Champions in volleyball. Brody Taylor competed in the state competition for cross country.

Ponca Public Schools has a long tradition of excellence in sports and academics. This year the following students were Academic All-State Award recipients for 2020-2021: Caiden Bellows in Track and Field, Hunter Bennett in Football and Wrestling, Julien Buckles in Softball, Nayeli Cabrales in Speech, Thomas Chase in Cross Country, Aidan Cook in Football and Wrestling, Abbie Hrouda in Volleyball and Play Production, Cole Jackson in Basketball, Austen Janssen in Cross Country and Music, Dalton Lamprecht in Basketball, Tailynn Lawyer in Basketball and Track & Field, Addison McGill in Basketball and Track & Field, Josie Reid in Volleyball, Grace Rooney in Softball and Speech, Grant Sprakel in Golf, Jacob Statema in Music and Golf, Alyssa Swick in Unified Bowling, Brody Taylor in Track & Field, and Hannah Wahls in Play Production and Unified Bowling.

Coach Bob Hayes was selected to be the head coach of the Nebraska Coaches Association 2021 All-Star Girls Basketball Blue Team. The NCA All-Star Girls' Basketball Game was played, Monday, July 26th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln North Star High School.

Congratulations to the following students on being selected to the 2021 Nebraska Class C All-State Honor Band!
Wind Ensemble: Sarah Beach - 1st chair clarinet; Claire Burrell - clarinet, Grace Rooney - clarinet, Brady Carnell - 2nd chair trumpet; Matthew Lentz - 1st chair trombone; Austen Janssen - baritone
Symphonic Band: Abbie Hrouda - flute; Grace Hansen - flute; Karen Alvarado-Mendez - clarinet; Jocelynn Graves - clarinet; Abby Fernau - 1st chair bass clarinet; Kaden Fields - alto saxophone; Jacob Statema - alto saxophone; Lucas Hoelsing - 1st chair tenor saxophone; Miguel Balvantin - 1st chair bari saxophone; Matthew Hayes - 1st chair trumpet; Cole Monteith - trumpet; Brandon Mellick - trumpet; Tommy Chase - 1st chair trombone; Chase Kastning - tuba; Brennan Beach - batter percussion
Junior High: Emma Uthof - flute; Ava Voss - clarinet; Cora Jackson - alto saxophone; Cade Statema - 1st chair trumpet; Bradley Lentz - trumpet; William Stroud - trumpet; Mia Krusemark - trumpet; Ellesyn Hrouda - trumpet; Addison Stewart - batter percussion

Our Speech team sent the following students to the state competition and earned 2 superior ratings along with a 10th place finish in class C1 OID: Sarah Beach, Nayeli Cabrales, Kennedy Harding, Kaden Fields, and Brennan Beach. In girls basketball, they ended the season with the regular conference Championship and the District Championship. The Winter season was highlighted by the Girls Basketball team competing in the state basketball tournament and

winning the Runner-Up Trophy. Dalton Anderson and Hunter Bennett earned a trip to the state wrestling tournament.

In the Spring, the following athletes earned a spot at the State Track and Field competition: Brook Langis in shotput and discus, Evy Krusemark in 100 hurdles, Gracen Evans in the high jump, Addie McGill in the pole vault, Matt Logue in shotput and discus, and Brody Taylor in 1600 & 3200-meter run. The girl's track team ended with the conference track Runner-Up.

On May 8, 2021, Ponca High School graduated 29 seniors at the commencement exercises. Jackson Elementary graduated 32 Pre-School students and they also had 35 graduates from Kindergarten.

The only retirement of the certified staff at the end of the 2020-2021 school year was Mrs. Pat Anderson, Title I teacher. From the classified staff, Ponca has Mr. Caleb Foulks retire in December as our Head of Maintenance. We also had Mr. Grant Jager, bus driver, and Mrs. Karen MacLaren, kitchen help and driver, retire.