

Wahoo Public School District Earns an AQuESTT Classification of 'EXCELLENT'

December 31st, 2024

Wahoo Public School District has achieved a classification of 'EXCELLENT', during the 2023-2024 school year and will look to continue the positive momentum through the 2024-25 school year! **This is a reflection of the staff, students and families of our amazing school district!**

Each year, the [Nebraska Department of Education](#) classifies school districts and schools across the state as Excellent, Great, Good or Needs Support for Improvement. Classifications are based on the [Accountability for a Quality Education System \(AQuESTT\)](#) classification criteria. The AQuESTT system is designed to measure student performance in more ways than via student performance on statewide assessments. **For the 2023-24 school year, the Wahoo Public Schools District, as a whole, maintained its AQuESTT classification of "Excellent" while Wahoo Elementary, Wahoo Middle School, and Wahoo High School all received a classification of "Excellent."**

The final [AQuESTT](#) state classifications for the 2023-24 school year are as follows:

- 323 schools (29 percent) - Excellent
- 359 schools (40 percent) - Great
- 330 schools (30 percent) - Good
- 89 schools (8 percent) - Needs Support for Improvement

AQuESTT classifications are centered around six core tenets:

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| 1) Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success | 2) Transitions | 3) Educational Opportunities and Access |
| 4) Postsecondary, Career and Civic Ready | 5) Student Achievement and Growth | 6) Educator Effectiveness |

The Wahoo Public Schools emphasizes an environment for teaching and learning that is centered on growth and continuous improvement. We are committed to:

- Equipping our students for the 21st Century
- Providing opportunities for students to realize their full potential
- Creating engaged citizens
- Collaborating with the greater Wahoo community

Our Continuous Improvement efforts focus on five key action steps:

- 1) Providing high quality instruction that ensures academic growth for every student
- 2) Providing high quality curriculum that supports instructional goals
- 3) Utilizing high quality assessments and data collection tools to support student learning
- 4) Providing professional development and support which promote student learning
- 5) Providing an environment that promotes safety and a positive culture

“At Wahoo Public Schools, we strive to keep our focus on the most important aspects of learning. Staff have worked hard to focus on providing a quality instructional program that puts core educational programs and career education opportunities at the forefront. We hope to maintain a positive and impactful learning environment by not chasing every shiny thing that comes along. We place our energy and efforts into providing opportunities that will help our students achieve their goals and career aspirations,” said WPS Director of Learning Dr. Josh Snyder.

“As systems at the state and federal level continue to change, we will reflect upon local practices, analyze our current reality, and carry out decisions that will impact student performance and college/career readiness in positive and meaningful ways,” said WPS Director of Learning Dr. Josh Snyder. “While the statewide assessment results are an important indicator of student performance, they are one indicator. If parents are seeking specific information regarding their son or daughter’s progress toward grade-level standards, the classroom teacher continues to be the best source of information.”

NSCAS Growth (State Assessment) - past 6 years (% proficient)

Math	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
District (3rd-8th)	65%	70%	COVID	58%	65%	77%	79%
State (3rd-8th)	51%	52%		46%	46%	61%	59%
ELA	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
District (3rd-8th)	56%	56%	COVID	48%	56%	64%	72%
State (3rd-8th)	51%	52%		48%	47%	58%	59%
Science	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
District (5th & 8th)	76%	81%	COVID	NA	79%	74%	83%
State (5th & 8th)	68%	66%		NA	66%	70%	75%

These NSCAS Growth results show Wahoo Public Schools achievement scores over the past six years of testing. While there is always room for improvement, we remain pleased with our results and are focused on continued improvement.

NSCAS ACT (11th graders) - scale scores

These ACT scores include results for Wahoo Public Schools, Trailblazer Conference schools (bold) and other school districts from the nearby region over the past three years of testing. All 11th grade students in Nebraska complete the ACT to meet state testing requirements.

ACT Scores (Change from 2021-22 to 2023-24)									
School District	English Language Arts			Math			Science		
	21-22	22-23	23-24	21-22	22-23	23-24	21-22	22-23	23-24
Elkhorn	22.4	22.0	21.9	22.9	22.8	23.3	22.6	22.9	23.2
Bennington	20.8	20.6	20.9	21.5	20.7	21	21.4	21.4	21.8
Malcolm	20.2	20.1	19.6	20.2	19.8	19.5	20.7	21.3	19.9
WAHOO	18.7	19.0	19.5	20.5	21.2	21.5	20.8	21.6	21.3
Millard	19.4	19.5	19	20.0	20.2	20.2	20.7	21.0	20.7
Westside	17.5	17.7	18.8	18.9	19.0	19.6	19.0	19.3	19.8
Papillion La Vista	18.9	18.6	18.3	19.7	19.8	20	19.8	19.6	20.1
Springfield Platteview	17.3	19.2	18.2	18.7	20.6	19.4	18.6	19.9	19.6
Douglas County West	18.5	18.6	18.1	19.9	20.9	19.5	19.7	20.3	19.7
Ashland Greenwood	17.7	18.9	17.6	18.6	19.7	18.3	20.4	21.0	19.2
Gretna	19.3	18.0	17.2	20.8	20.2	19.9	22.0	21.3	21.1
Lincoln	16.3	16.3	16.7	17.6	17.6	18.2	17.5	17.8	18.2
Bellevue	16.6	16.0	16.5	17.9	17.4	17.6	18.3	17.9	18.1
Nebraska City	16.2	15.0	16.4	16.1	16.2	17.4	17.4	16.7	17.8
Plattsmouth	15.7	15.6	15.8	17.2	17.4	17.6	17.0	18.2	17.6
Ralston	13.9	14.0	15.7	14.8	14.9	15.9	14.9	15.4	17.1
Beatrice	17.4	18.0	15.7	17.8	17.9	16.3	18.8	19.5	17.5
Omaha	12.6	12.9	12.7	13.9	14.2	14.5	14.0	14.6	14.8
STATE (NE)	16.7	16.7	16.7	17.7	17.9	18	18.1	18.3	18.4

GREEN shading indicates an increase in average test score from the previous year;

YELLOW shading indicates a decrease in average test score from the previous year and no color indicates the score remained the same.

DISTRICT RANKINGS (2023-24)			
District	ELA '23-'24	Math '23-'24	Science '23-'24
Omaha	18	18	18
Ralston	16	17	17
Beatrice	16	16	16
Plattsmouth	15	13	15
Nebraska City	14	15	14
Bellevue	13	13	13
Lincoln	12	12	12
Ashland Greenwood	10	11	11
Springfield Platteview	8	10	10
Douglas County West	9	8	9
Westside	6	7	8
Malcolm	3	8	7
Papillion La Vista	7	5	6
Millard	5	4	5
Gretna	11	6	4
WAHOO	4	2	3
Bennington	2	3	2
Elkhorn	1	1	1

These ACT scores include scores for Wahoo Public Schools, Trailblazer Conference schools (bold) and other schools from the region. All 11th grade students in Nebraska complete the ACT to meet state testing requirements.

Areas of Continuous Improvement

“The district remains committed to developing our MTSS process. An [MTSS \(Multi-Tiered System of Supports\)](#) is the foundation for all work that is done within WPS. It is a way for us to connect all of the district practices together. Our MTSS leadership team continues the essential work of reviewing all of the systems and programs currently in place at Wahoo Public, and ensuring all systems and programs support one another in accomplishing our vision,” Dr. Snyder said. “The primary focus remains on providing high quality core classroom practices and ensuring these practices are highly effective.” More information regarding our MTSS system can be found [HERE](#).

[Wahoo Elementary School:](#) Continuous Improvement Initiatives at Wahoo Elementary are focused on personalized learning opportunities, and building on the strength of the Wahoo Educational Behavioral Support System (WEBSS) as we align all of our systems with the MTSS framework, referenced in [Every Student Succeeds Act](#). During the current continuous improvement cycle, we have specified our focus on improving reading into 1) Word Recognition at the Kindergarten-2nd Grade and 2) Language Comprehension at 3rd-5th Grades. - Ben Kreifels, Elementary Principal

[Wahoo Middle School:](#) Wahoo Middle School continually reviews instructional strategies and ways to develop a positive learning environment for students. Ensuring that every student learns and is held to a high expectation is the number one goal. “At Wahoo Middle School, our staff fosters a culture of excellence by encouraging students to take pride in their academic efforts and performance. We continually emphasize the importance of embracing challenges that build crucial skills for future success.” - Marc Kaminski, Middle School Principal

[Wahoo High School:](#) Areas of continuous improvement at the high school are focused on ensuring that our students are college and career ready when they graduate from Wahoo High School. We rely on our MTSS framework as a guide for continuous student monitoring. Wahoo High School offers a combination of CTE, dual credit, SENCAP Classes, and our CEOs Program to help ensure our students leave with the skills they need to succeed post secondary. “The faculty at Wahoo High School takes pride in continuously working to improve the educational opportunities for our students through their shared vision. We focus continually on reviewing and improving our curriculum through rigor and opportunity.” - Vernon Golladay, High School Principal

Overall Summary

The focus of improving our core instructional routines remains an ongoing process that requires a commitment from ALL STAFF within ALL content areas. Each building is consistently reviewing their specific systems of practice and adjusting them to best meet the needs of our school community. From academics and systems of support, to activities and facilities, we are continuously working to improve opportunities for student success and growth.

In summary, Dr. Snyder shared, “The staff members at WPS are fully committed to our vision of ‘Inspiring Our Students to Thrive!’”