

School District Demographics

District OR-1 Public Schools is a Class III school district that is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and Cognia (formerly North Central and AdvancED). District OR-1 contains the communities of Bennet, Douglas, and Palmyra.

District OR-1 Public Schools is served by an administrative team, including the Superintendent of Schools, a Secondary Principal, an Elementary Principal, and an Activities and Transportation Director. A Technology Coordinator, Two Guidance Counselors, School Psychologist, Special Education Staff, Title I Staff, and Media Specialist complement a full instructional staff. Together, we are dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities for all of our students.

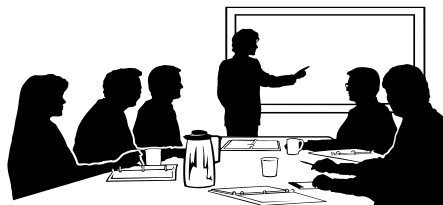
Our teaching staff is comprised of over 60 certificated staff members and a large portion of our teaching staff hold a Master's Degree or higher.

Our support staff consists of over 35 full and part-time employees. Included are bookkeeping and clerical staff, food service personnel, transportation personnel, para-professionals and custodians.

The District operates a Pre-school in compliance with Nebraska Department of Education **Rule 11**.

Board of Education Members

- ◆ Brandon Desh
- ◆ Dean Busch
- ◆ Dee Moore
- ◆ Jaimi Calfee
- ◆ Tim Cheney
- ◆ Josh Penterman



District OR-1: Hallmarks of Success

- Diverse Class Offerings and Extracurricular Programming (Dual Credit, Unified Bowling, etc.)
- 1:1 Technology (Chromebooks) for students in grades K-12
- Strong community support
- CTE Programming Enhancements
- Outstanding educators dedicated to maximizing the unique gifts and talents of all students.
- Enhanced activity facilities and school buildings
- Character Education: Second Step and 8 to Great
- Business and Higher Education Partnerships (SCC)



General Fund Levy and Valuation Data

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>District Valuation</u>
2025-2026	\$0.6453	\$950,795,812
2024-2025	\$0.5859	\$825,532,455
2023-2024	\$0.7568	\$781,532,706
2022-2023	\$0.8679	\$664,899,720
2021-2022	\$0.8200	\$651,257,260
2020-2021	\$0.8400	\$601,882,493
2019-2020	\$0.7961	\$585,294,493
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Total Levy</u>	<u>General Fund Operating Expenses</u>
2025-2026	\$0.9490	End of FY 2025
2024-2025	\$0.9226	\$10,613,726
2023-2024	\$1.126	\$8,769,599
2022-2023	\$1.250	\$7,928,777
2021-2022	\$1.003	\$7,354,746
2020-2021	\$1.005	\$6,967,899
2019-2020	\$1.002	\$6,580,522

District OR-1 Public Schools

2024-2025:

Rule 10: Annual District Report

*Updated January 2026

District Vision Statement

“Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future.”

District OR-1 will:

- Model and reinforce self-respect and respect for others.
- Provide equal opportunity for each student to develop his/her potential.
- Seek to develop a sense of individual responsibility and integrity.
- Seek and integrate educationally sound innovations into the curriculum.
- Provide a safe learning environment.



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Superintendent of Schools:
Mr. Michael T. Hart

Recent PK-12 Student Enrollment Totals

2025-2026	718
2024-2025	725
2023--2024	740
2022--2023	725
2021-2022	662



NSCAS English	NSCAS Math	NSCAS Science	ACT Composite (E, M, S)
71%	64%	78%	E: 63% (20% above the state average of 43%)
12% above the state average of 59%	6% above the state average of 58%	4% above the state average of 74%	M: 56% (15% above the state average of 41%)
			S: 63% (15% above the state average of 48%)

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), is a statewide assessment system administered to students in grades 3-8.

The ACT test is administered to all public school third-year cohort students, except those identified as needing alternate assessment. Students will participate in ACT Reading, English, Math, Science and Writing each spring.

School General Obligation Bond Information

In **August of 2022**, District OR-1 completed a special election and successfully passed a bond to expand the size of our high school in Palmyra and our elementary school in Bennet. This 22 million dollar general obligation bond is being utilized to proactively address the increased student growth in our community and the enhanced diversity of student needs in our district.

These building expansion projects began in the spring of **2023**. Construction is expected to be completed by the fall of **2024**.

Clark & Enersen was the architectural firm selected for the projects. BIC construction is the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the projects.

Specific elements of the bond for each building include increasing the total number of available classrooms, maximizing multi-purpose program spaces, and expanding student programs and enhancing educational learning spaces to effectively meet the academic and socio-economic diversity of our current (and future) student and community needs.

District OR-1 Mission Statement

District OR-1 commits to a course of action providing continued academic growth through a curriculum that recognizes limitless potential and inspires faith in a positive future for every student. With a sense of community ownership and responsibility, we will remain fiscally accountable and attentive to current and future high-tech facility and staffing needs.

District OR-1 Strategic Goals

Goal # 1: District OR-1 Public Schools will provide the facilities needed to be competitive with other area schools in athletics and fine arts programs.

Goal # 2: District OR-1 Public Schools will foster a unified community.

Goal # 3: The District OR-1 Schools District will continuously implement (academic) programs and the curriculum needed to remain competitive with other area schools.

School Improvement

District OR-1 first committed to the School Improvement Process (SIP) in the fall of 1993. Since that time the district has been accredited through Cognia (formerly AdvancED) and currently through the Continuous Improvement Accreditation Process provided and facilitated by the Nebraska Department of Education. Recognizing the continual improvement process necessary to meet the highest standards of school excellence. Upon completion of the 2023 external team review process and review, the district was accredited for the next five years and received the following commendations and required actions:

The external team identified powerful practices in place within District OR-1:

- Formalized Curriculum Alignment
- Resources Committed to District Level Organization
- The District Strategic Plan will be updated in the spring of **2026**.
- Individual Needs of Students are Identified and Met
- The external team also provided two required actions for the next cycle:
- Develop a Process to Continually Assess and Improve Programs
- Implement the District model of teacher evaluation into classroom practice to improve student learning.

Our next School Accreditation Cycle is 2027-2028.

We are committed to continuous improvement to consistently provide the best educational experience for our students!

Special thanks to our students, our staff, families, business leaders, and local community patrons for their support and commitment to our school district!

Go Panthers!

ACT Student Data: 2024-2025

	Comp	Science	Math	Reading	English
District	22.1	22.3	20.6	22.8	22.2
State	18.3	18.7	18.3	18.4	17.2
*National	19.4	19.6	19.0	20.1	18.5

Nebraska started offering the ACT for free to all juniors in **2017**. Currently, nearly 100 percent of Nebraska High School graduates take the ACT test as part of the Nebraska NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System). The highest possible score on the test is a 36. *Nationwide, only about 49% of graduates take the ACT. Nebraska students rank third nationally among states where 100 % of graduates take the test. *The national results are from spring 2025. Reference is from: ontocollege.com

“Dual Credit” Course Offerings and Affiliations

- College Algebra through SCC..... 3 hours
- Comp 1010 /1020 through SCC 6 hours
- SENCAP Available Academies 16 academies

Our students also continue take a wide variety of online college credit courses. More information about these courses are listed on our website under the high school guidance office tab at www.districtor1.org

SENCAP (Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Partnership) is the Career Academy Pathway opportunity for high school juniors and seniors in Southeast Community College's 15-county service area. Classes are dual-credit, earning both high school and college credit at the same time.

SENCAP Academies Include: Agriculture /Business /Construction/Criminal Justice/Culinary/Early Childhood Education /Education/ Energy/Geographic Information Systems/ Health / Pre-Nursing/Horticulture / Human Services/Information Technology/ Livestock /and Welding

Panther Extracurricular Activities /Academic Programs

Extracurricular activities provide incredible opportunities for our students to further develop positive connections and life skills. District OR-1 provides a wide variety of activities at the high school level and a smaller, but still vital menu of activities at the elementary school. Some of the high school activities are listed below. Boys Baseball will be added in 2026. Girls softball is expected to begin in the fall of 2026.

Beginning with the **2023-2024** school year, our **Aspire Academy** was also introduced to successfully meets the needs of our 18-21 year old special education students. This program collaborates with community leaders and businesses

Football	Basketball	Wrestling (B/G)	Track	Cross-Country
Volleyball	Golf	Vocal Music	Band	Cheerleading
Debate	Speech	One-Act	Student Council	Quiz Bowl
FFCLA	FFA	Weightlifting	Honor Society	Leadership Academy
Un. Bowling	Un. Track	Baseball	Courage Retreat	College Visits