

Ankeny Schools Snapshot

A monthly district newsletter

December 2021

Advancing the Vision

with Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Erick Pruitt

I'm sure many of you will join me in the sentiment that the last few weeks were not how we wanted nor envisioned closing out 2021.

As we reflect on this past year, I believe there is one topic that we need to address as a community. That topic is mental health and safety in our schools.

Many parents have asked in the past week, "what is being done to keep our children safe in schools?" Some of our safety measures include:

- We are in compliance with Iowa Law with regards to required drills such as fire, tornado, school bus evacuations, and lockdowns.
- Four years ago our staff began training in the ALICE Active Shooter Response annually. We will continue to enhance the training staff and students receive for these events.
- We have many safety measures in place including both infrastructure and through addressing student behaviors.

And while that is often what I believe people are seeking in an answer, I believe student and staff safety is much more complex than that. **Safety is a collective responsibility.** One area our students, staff, and community need to come together to address is the use of social media responsibly. I'm not suggesting it is just our students who need this learning. Let me be clear on one main point we've learned over the past week: Suspicious or concerning posts on social media should not be re-shared, by students, parents, or staff. Instead, if you see something resembling a threat, the most impactful step to take is to report it to the school and/or police immediately, so the situation can be investigated as soon as possible.

One way I believe we can make progress on these issues as a community is through conversation. As a result, I am inviting the community to come together this January at a Community Conversation on Safety & Mental Health. Safety and mental health go hand-in-hand, and my vision for this event is to ensure our school community has an understanding of our existing safety measures, a shared commitment for our collective responsibility in this work, and an awareness of the resources available to us in Ankeny. We will share the details of this event following Winter Break.

I truly hope everyone in the Ankeny Schools community has a safe, relaxing winter break. May we ring in 2022 with a vision for the type of community we want to be for our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erick Pruitt

Calendar Follow-Up Survey

The district Calendar Committee determined that additional input is needed based on the results of last month's district survey. Please take 5 minutes to provide your feedback regarding some innovative ideas being considered using the survey at the [this link](#). The survey will close at 11:59 PM on Sunday, January 2nd.



JagHawk Talk: Exploring Orbis-Ep.1





Iowa School Performance Profiles

The state has released their annual online reporting tool called the Iowa School Performance Profiles, as required by a federal education law called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These profiles reflect how public schools performed on a set of accountability measures, such as results on the statewide assessment, graduation rates, and academic growth.

The tool displays a school's score based on overall performance, as well as scores based on the performance of subgroups of students. Based on these scores, schools can be identified for additional funding, support, and improvement.

In order to put the information into perspective, below you will find links to the following charts.

1. Comparisons between each of Ankeny's schools to the state average
2. [Comparison of Ankeny's high schools to other area high schools](#)

[Ankeny High School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Ankeny Centennial High School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Southview Middle School Data](#) (High Performing)

[Northview Middle School Data](#) (High Performing)

[Parkview Middle School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Prairie Ridge Middle School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Ashland Ridge Elementary School Data](#) (Exceptional)

[Crocker Elementary School Data](#) (High Performing)

[East Elementary School Data](#) (Acceptable)

[Heritage Elementary School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Northeast Elementary School Data](#) (High Performing)

[Northwest Elementary School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Prairie Trail Elementary School Data](#) (Exceptional)

[Rock Creek Elementary School Data](#) (High Performing)

[Southeast Elementary School Data](#) (Commendable)

[Westwood Elementary School Data](#) (High Performing)

To locate our school's results, as well as more information about the Iowa School Performance Profiles and ESSA, visit the following website: www.iaschoolperformance.gov

Since the beginning of the pandemic, many things have moved online, including the school district's board meetings. The positive result of this has been many more parents engaged in the full education process. It has also led to some confusion over the role of the school board and how board meetings are structured. We would like to address these two topics to help the public understand this portion of the process as they engage with it.

The role of the Ankeny Board of Education is to provide governance over the public funds of the school district and to improve student outcomes and academic achievement. They do this through the creation of rules that govern the operation of the district.

According to the Iowa Association of School Boards, below are the six standards for successful school boards:

1. Visionary Team: Operate as a visionary governance team in partnership with the superintendent.
2. Student Learning: Provide effective leadership for quality instruction and high, equitable student learning.
3. District Culture: Foster a culture that enables excellence and innovation.
4. Policy & Legal: Lead through sound policy, ensuring transparent, ethical, legal operations.
5. Fiscal Responsibility: Sustain and enhance district resources through planning and fiduciary oversight.
6. Advocacy: Advocate for public education and the needs of Iowa students.

The Board gives direction to the district regarding priorities and goals, while the administration then develops the best procedures and practices to fulfill those goals. Involvement from the Ankeny community is a valued part of the Board's role. In order to keep Board meetings organized and impactful, listed below are some helpful reminders about participation from the community at board meetings:

- Community members are observers, not active participants, in the board's meeting. A board meeting is a meeting in the public view; it is not a public meeting in which the public can participate whenever and however they choose.
- There are two avenues available to you to communicate with the Board at meetings, as outlined in board policy 213.00, Public Participation in Board Meetings. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Board members are not permitted to respond or take action to a speaker's content, due to the Iowa Open Meetings Law. However, administration may choose to follow up with the speaker's concerns after the meeting
- In keeping with law and policy, any communication directed to the Board of Education will be answered by the board president. Individual board members may also forward any messages related to their work as part of the Board of Education to the board president for action.

It is also useful to understand how board meeting agendas are developed. Meeting agendas are posted to our website at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The agenda can be amended within 24 hours of the meeting only if good cause exists requiring action on an issue, which is determined on a case-by-case basis. The Iowa Attorney General states that

the desire of board members and/or community members to address a matter at the last minute is not sufficient.

If oral or written communications received during the meeting require deliberation or action, the board president should refer them to the administration or legal counsel, or both, for recommendation and ask that the item be placed on a future meeting agenda. Meeting agendas can be found [here](#) and a complete list of board policies is listed [here](#).

2021-2022 Certified Enrollment

Ankeny Schools' certified enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is 12,512.26, up 364.9 students from last year. We are now the seventh largest school district in Iowa.



To help provide context for the impact of this year's enrollment and provide projections for the future, the district's demographer provided an annual update to the Ankeny Board of Education in November.

They project the district will grow by another 1,317 students in the next five years. Of the 1,317 increase, 60% is anticipated to be a growth in elementary students. These numbers will put Ankeny's north-feeder elementary system over capacity in the near future.

We anticipate the next elementary in the north-feeder to open in time for the 2024-2025 school year.

[View the full past, current, and future enrollment growth predicted by the district's demographer here.](#)



Ankeny Schools

2021 GROWTH
BY-THE-NUMBERS

12,512

Certified Enrollment

Ankeny Schools' certified enrollment for 2021-22 school year



364/7

On-The-Move

Increase of 364 students from 2020 and the seventh largest school district in Iowa



1,317

Projected Growth

Ankeny's projected to add 1,317 students by 2026-27



60%

It's Elementary

Sixty percent of Ankeny Schools' projected five-year growth will be in the K-5 grade levels



Credit: RSP & Associates

Save the Date: Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year



2022-2023
SCHOOL YEAR

REGISTRATION

Friday, February 4
8:00am

**New students and
existing students**

ankenyschools.org/registrar/



December Virtual Backpack

Find this month's vBackpack [here!](#)



- [Arts and Entertainment](#)
- [Sports and Activities](#)



Ankeny Community School District

 Facebook  @AnkenySchools

It is the policy of the Ankeny Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Ken Morris, Jr., Equity Director at 306 SW School Street, Ankeny, IA 50023, 515/965-9600 or kenneth.morris@ankenyschools.org. The grievance will then be directed to the appropriate administrator charged with managing the program or department specified in the grievance.

 306 SW School St, Ankeny, IA, ...  515-965-9600

 ankenyschools.org