

*Leading minds to learning,
hearts to compassion,
and lives to community service.*

White Bear Lake Area Schools



ANNUAL REPORT PREVIEW 2010-11

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

This is a preview of our Annual Report to you, our school community, with appreciation for your ongoing support and commitment to our children and youth.



The full 2010-11 Annual Report will be mailed to you later this fall.

Because of the state shutdown this summer, test results we normally receive during the summer were delayed until late September. To meet state reporting requirements, we wanted you to have this preview of student achievement results. For more detailed information that has already been presented publicly, please go to our District website.

Thank you to parents, grandparents and all community members for supporting our students!

Michael Lovett
Superintendent of Schools



WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOL (ISD#624)
DR. MICHAEL LOVETT, SUPERINTENDENT
4855 BLOOM AVENUE,
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110
www.whitebear.k12.mn.us

Did you know?

You can sign up to receive the District's Community e-Newsletter, sent to more than 7000 community members who have requested the bi-weekly mailing. Sign up today at www.whitebear.k12.mn.us

Accountability

Results include nationally normed tests of student progress, comparing how our students do nationally, and Minnesota state proficiency tests, comparing how our students do on a state level.

The results on state proficiency tests in reading and math are used to determine whether schools and the District meet Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) thresholds under the No Child Left Behind law. **For 2010-11, the White Bear Lake Area School District again made AYP**, one of only three school districts in the East Metro area to do so.

Academic growth

The District measures the academic growth of each student in grades one through ten with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test, a nationally normed assessment based on national and state standards. Compared to the national average of one year of growth, for 2010-11 our **student gains were highly competitive nationally.**

- Average math gains in grades 1-10 were **one year, seven months.**
- Average reading gains in grades 1-10 were **one year, five months.**

Proficiency results

Student proficiency is measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests, Minnesota's state requirement for testing under the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.

WBLAS COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES

	State	WBLAS	WBLAS % above state
Writing	89	96	+7
Reading	74	78	+4
Mathematics	56	64	+8
Science	49	57	+8

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Preparation for College

- Percentage of **middle school students** taking accelerated and enriched courses was up 6% for 2010-11. More than 30% of sixth graders took accelerated math.
- Last year, **56% of the Class of 2011** took college credit courses, up from 52% for 2010 grads.
- Students chose from 27 **college credit classes** last year. (The number increased to 30 during the 2011-12 academic year.)
- The District added **rigorous STEM classes** for grades 7-12 through the Project Lead the Way program. The high school courses offer college credit through the University of Minnesota.

PROFICIENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Writing scores rise

96% of WBLAS 9th Graders met the proficiency standards on the GRAD Written Composition Test, demonstrating the highest level of proficiency in the East Metro Area.

Math scores rise

The increase in high school math was 9% for 2011, up 16% from 2009 to 2011.

Reading scores rise

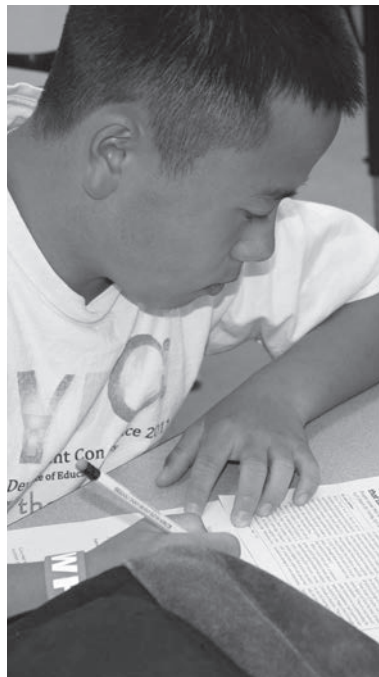
Reading results were up 2% District-wide and 5% at the elementary level.

Science scores rise

Elementary science results were up 9% in 2011, up 17% from 2009 to 2011.

District makes AYP

White Bear was one of only three school districts in the East Metro area to meet the Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) threshold in 2011.



Finance

For 2010-11, the White Bear Lake Area Schools continued to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities.

- We were **recognized for excellence in financial reporting** by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for the eleventh consecutive year.
- Our **AA bond rating** from Standard & Poor's was affirmed in October, 2011. Only 12 districts in the state have a rating of AA or higher, which puts us in the top 3%.
- Faced with delays in funding from the state as a result of state budget solutions, the District **reduced spending** outside the classroom by \$1.75 million for 2010-12 by eliminating administrative and support positions.
- We **reduced energy costs** through a partnership with Hallberg Engineering.

District partnerships

White Bear Lake Area School District's partnerships with community organizations were enhanced in the 2010-11 school year. Examples of the District's partnerships, which will be covered in more detail in the full 2010-11 Annual Report that will be sent later this fall, include:

FACILITIES PARTNERSHIPS

- YMCA - with City of White Bear Lake and White Bear Township
- Vadnais Sports Complex - with City of Vadnais Heights

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

- White Bear Center for the Arts
- Tamarack Nature Center
- MacPhail Center for Music
- University of Minnesota

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Hangzhou Foreign Languages School
- German and French student exchange programs

Stay tuned... The full 2010-11 Annual Report that will be sent out to District residents later this fall will cover: additional student achievement data, school climate initiatives, updates on the District's Strategic Plan, financial data, District profile information, and partnerships highlights.