
2012-2013
Annual Report

Seward Public Schools



Seward Public Schools

410 South Main--Seward, NE 68434-- www.sewardpublicschools.org #sewardjays

Message from Dr. Barnes...



Dear Community,

The 2012-2013 academic year is now well behind us, and once again it is time for us to provide the patrons of our school district an annual report.

We are very proud of the many accomplishments our students have achieved along with the help of teachers, staff members, parents, and patrons. Throughout the year we assess students to determine if we are fulfilling our district motto of Every Student, Every Day, a Success. This truly is the backbone of our school district which can only be realized with great effort. As we evaluate progress toward our mission we constantly look at data for all children. Studying the data shows areas in which we can focus our improvement efforts relative to student achievement. Much of the data that we use to measure progress is included in this Annual Report. You will find information on student achievement, demographics of the school district, along with financial information. I encourage you to review the report to become more familiar with our school district. With your help we will be able to achieve our mission. You may also review our state report card on the Nebraska Department of Education's website at http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Default_State.aspx once there click on school district, type in "Seward" and click on "Search".

School Finances

Tax dollars are a very important resource for school districts in their efforts to educate children. Nebraska schools receive taxes and other receipts from local, county, state, and federal sources. As you look at the information included in this report, you will notice that the great majority of the dollars used to fund education in our district are generated by local tax dollars. The other resources are necessary yet they are small by comparison. The school fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. School districts are required to have their budgets filed with the Auditor of Public Accounts and the Nebraska Department of Education prior to September 20. Preparing a budget is not always easy

because one of the largest factors in the school budget formula is the assessed valuation of property in the school district. School districts do not get certified valuation numbers from the County Assessor's Office until August 20. One month might seem like a long time, but unwanted surprises at this late time in the year can have a major impact on budgeting for the upcoming year. If you click on the following link, http://www.sewardpublicschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/5059b96cca998?in_archive=1 you will see a great deal of information relative to the 2012-2013 budget.

Thank you for your continued support of the School District of Seward!

District Strategic Plan

Including all stakeholders in the district strategic planning process is an essential component to a comprehensive strategic plan. This fall staff members, parents, administrators, and school board members came together to create the mission, beliefs, parameters, objectives, and strategies for Seward Public Schools for the next five years. This plan also serves as a road map for individual buildings within the district as they begin to develop their building school improvement plans in the second half of the 2013-2014 school year that are aligned to the district strategic plan.



Mission at Seward Public

Schools:

The school district of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.



Every Student * Every Day * A Success

🌀 245 square miles in the school district including the towns of Bee, Garland, Goehner, Ruby, Seward, Staplehurst, Tamora, Ulysses

🌀 208 employees

🌀 New Elementary addition to be completed in the spring of 2014

🌀 Special Education services for 251 students

🌀 Business, Education, Medical/Health academies, and in 2014-2015 Agriculture Academy

🌀 69% of the staff members have their masters degree

🌀 Buzzer safety system in each school building with the addition of crisis buckets in each classroom

🌀 Nearly 90% of our students attend a post secondary school

🌀 Those graduates attended 30 different four -year and two-year colleges

🌀 Recognized by the Governor as a top five in class B schools in the area of math according to our NeSA scores

🌀 ACT composite above the state and national average

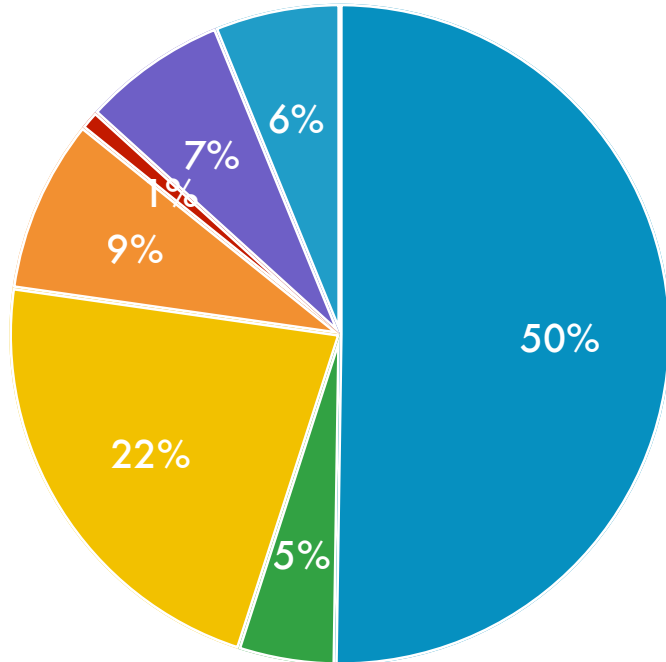
🌀 One of the largest FFA Chapters in the state of Nebraska



Demographics

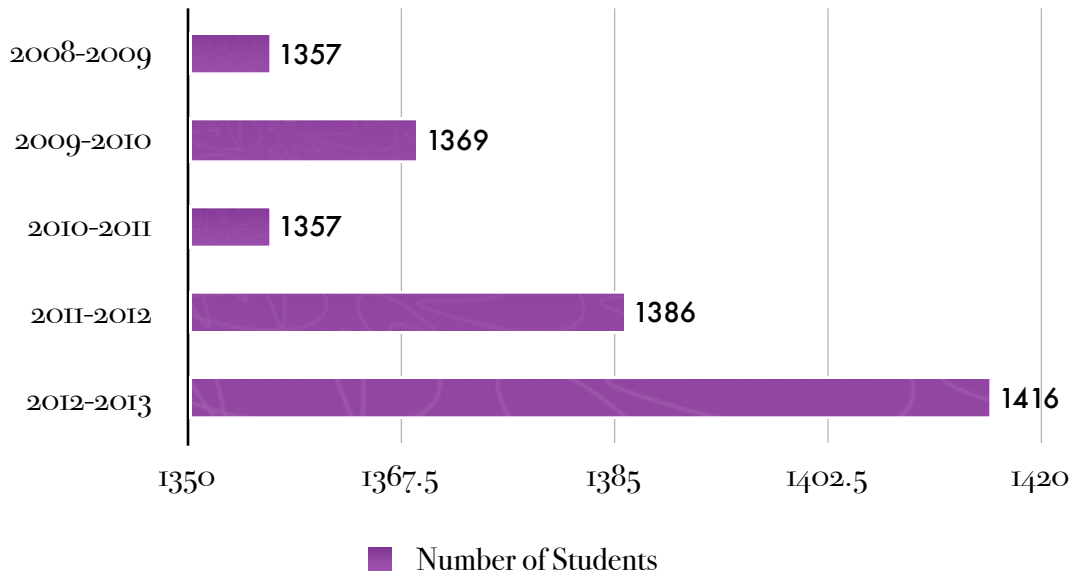
District Data	District %	State %
Students receiving free/ reduced lunch	23.31%	44.18%
Special Education	16.53%	14.66%
School Mobility Rate	11.41%	11.35%
Graduation Rate 4-year cohort	94.07%	88.47%
Attendance	95.41%	95.3%
Highly Mobile Students	4.89%	4.86%
High Ability Learners	6.43%	15%
Ethnicity	American Indian/Alaskan Native-0.50% Asian-0.21% Black or African American-0.21 % Hispanic-3.7% Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander-0.14 % White-94%	

Distribution of Staff



- Teachers
- Admin./middle mang
- Sec/Para/ProfTech
- Food
- Nurses
- Custodial
- Transportation

5 year enrollment numbers pk-12



Seward Utilizes NWEA MAP tests at grades 2-11

Each year, students in the Seward Public Schools are administered an achievement test in the subjects of math, reading, science, and language usage. Students take these computerized tests in the fall and spring. These tests help guide instruction, but also help to show academic growth as the test is tailored to how well the student performs on the test. Many adults may remember, as students, taking some sort of test where they filled in little test bubbles on an answer sheet. That was likely a standardized achievement test.

What are standardized achievement tests?

Standardized tests are designed to make certain every student is “on the same playing field” when assessing their achievement - meaning that all students take the tests during the same time period, with the same directions, questions, and procedures. Test conditions are the same for all.

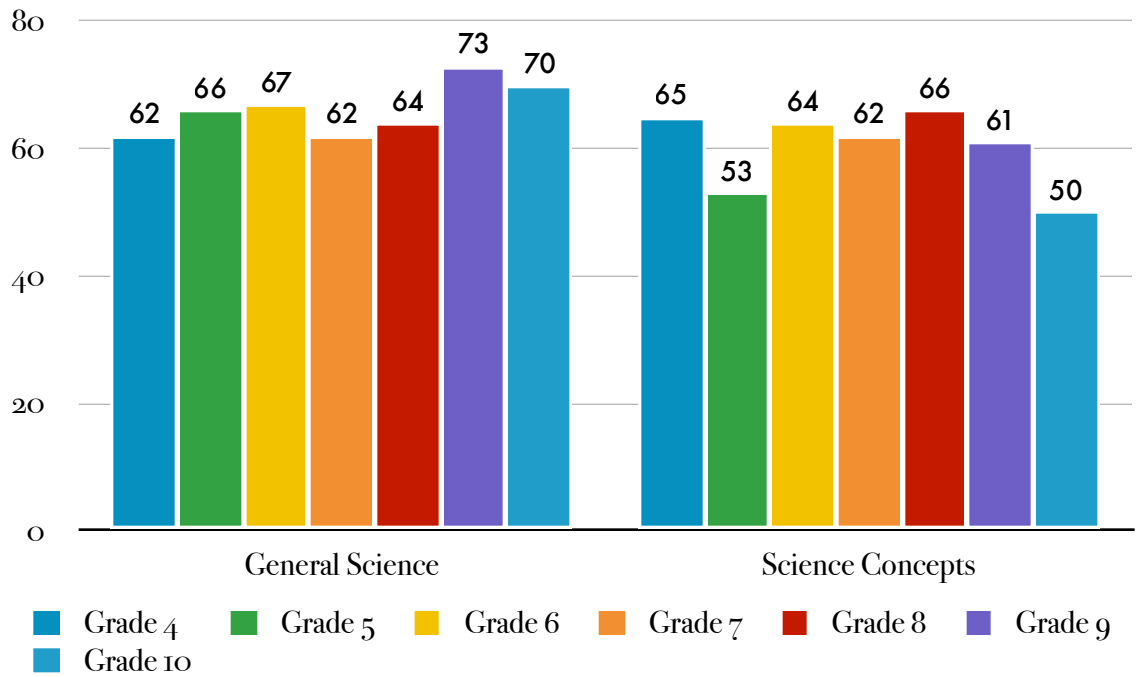
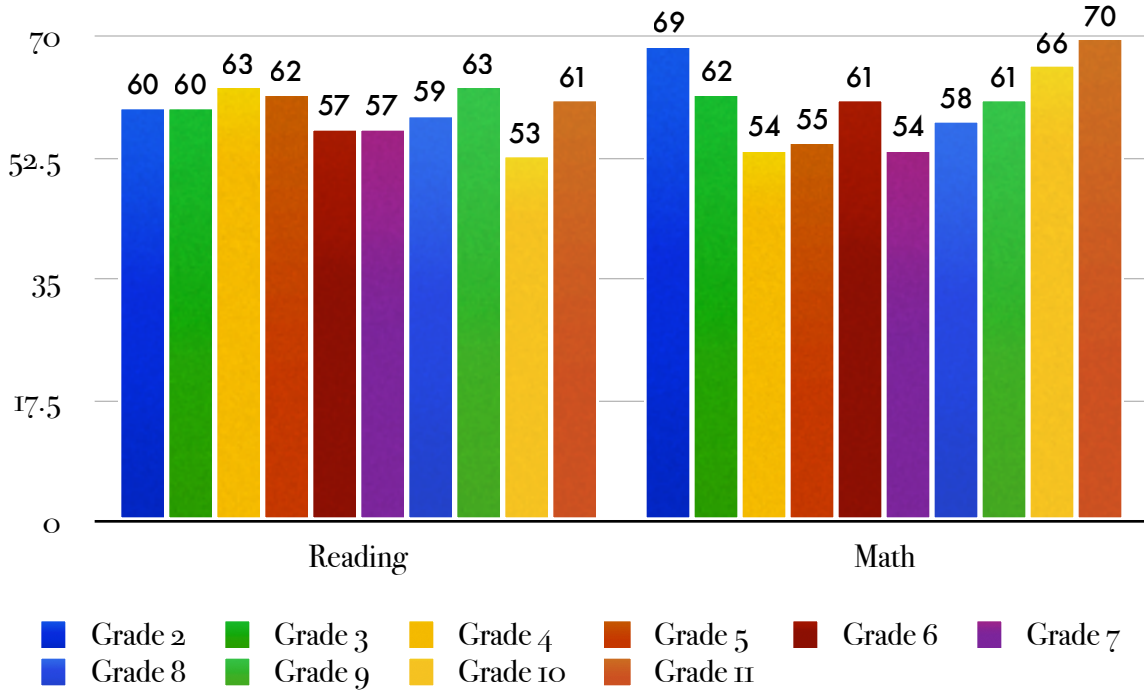
Standardized tests are developed so that schools can compare themselves and get a view of how their students are achieving compared with other students in the nation. Since it would not be possible to test and compare all the students in the nation at this time, a smaller sample of students is selected to base comparisons on. This group is called a norm group.

Scores on norm-referenced tests are often reported as percentiles. This is not the percentage of correct responses on the test. Instead, all the scores are ranked from first to last. The percentile score tells how the student scores rank as compared to that smaller norm group, based upon a standardized test. It tells only how children compare, not what they know or what they can do.

Criterion Referenced Test assess students on a specific set of standards and is reported out as proficient levels as below, barely, proficient, and advanced. These tests include the State Reading, Writing, Math, and Science. The test and the number of tests taken depend upon the grade level. The state tests is what you will see reported in the newspaper each fall.



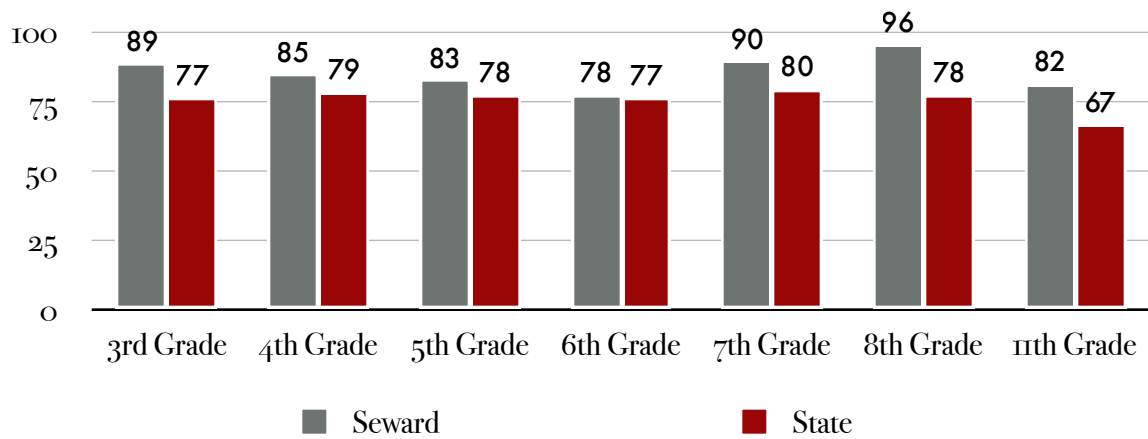
Spring 2012 NWEA Assessment Percentage (National average is 50 percent)



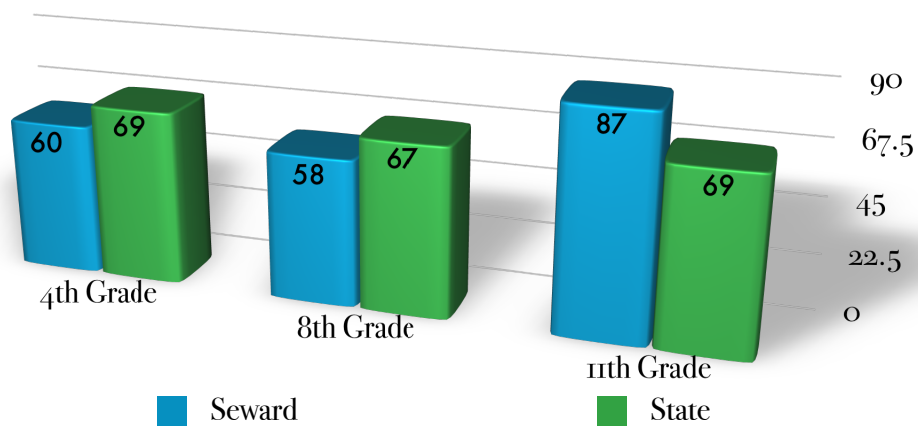
This is the fourth year for the state reading test, third year for the state math test, and the second year for the state science test in grades 5th, 8th, and 11th. This is the first year for 4th grade state writing test utilizing the new rubric and the second year for the state writing test at grades 8 and 11 with the new rubric. Seward Public Schools continue to score above the state average in almost all subjects and grades.

NeSA Reading and Writing

NeSA- Reading Percent Proficient

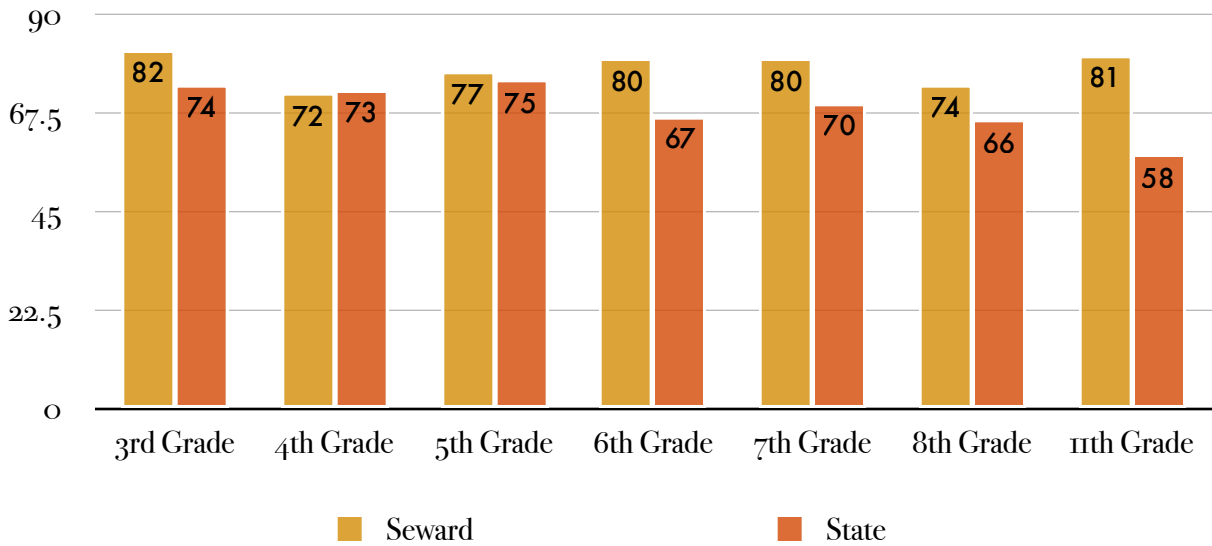


NeSA- Writing Percent Proficient

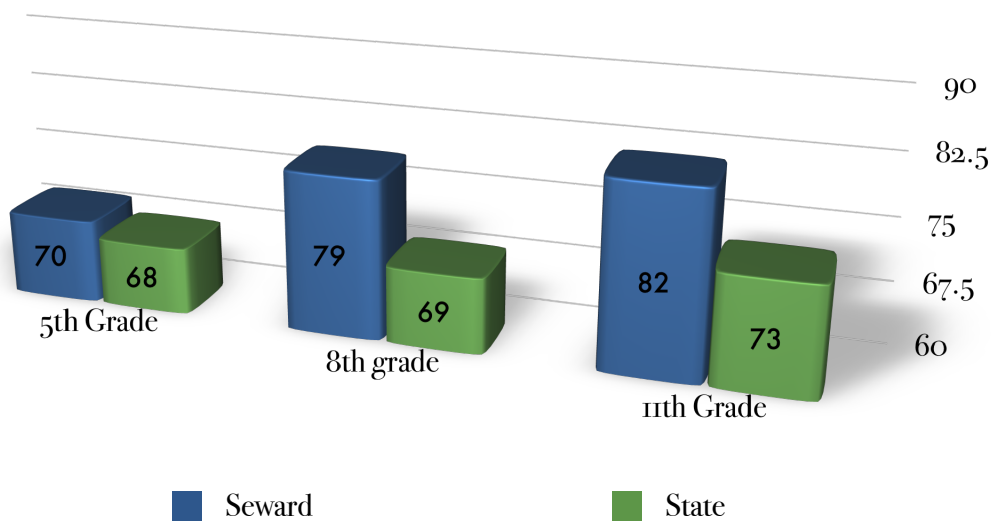


NeSA Math and Science Scores

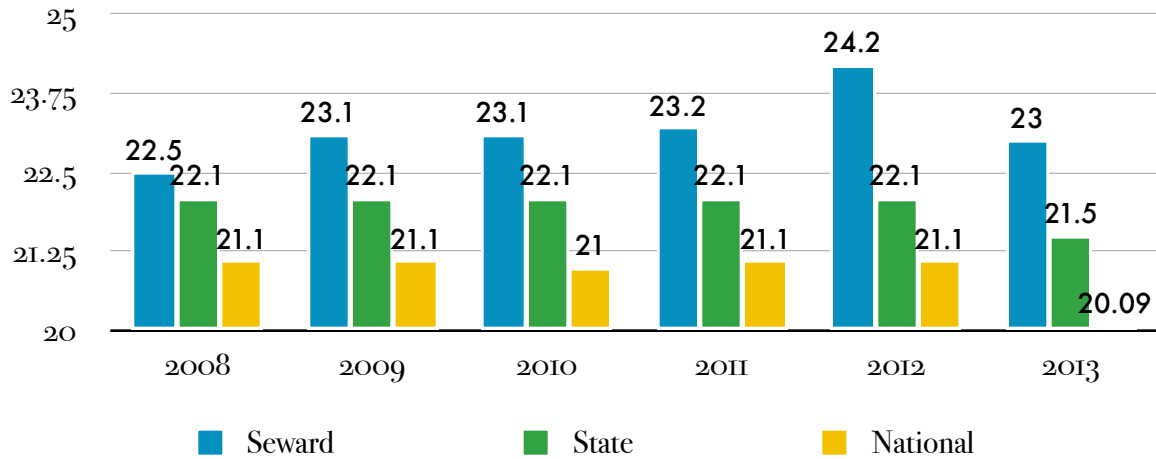
NeSA Math-Percent Proficient



NeSA Science-Percent Proficient



ACT Composite



NCLBA

The Federal No Child Left Behind Act, requires that every child by the year 2013-2014 school year test proficient according to the NeSA tests in reading, math, and science. Schools must also report results by six subgroups: race/ethnicity, gender, ELL, students receiving special education services, students in poverty, and student in migrant programs. AYP (adequate yearly progress) is also determined at each individual school to see if all students within the school have made AYP along with the subgroups within each school. The district as a whole is also deemed making or not making AYP. The Nebraska State of the Schools report includes the list of districts and individual schools that did not make AYP for two or more consecutive years and has been identified as being in need of improvement. For more information, see the full 2012-2013 State of the Schools Report at <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Default.aspx?AgencyID=80-0009-000>.





Check Us Out On The Web

For more information related to the school's annual report, please visit the state's website at:

<http://reportcard.education.ne.gov/Default.aspx?AgencyID=80-0009-000>

From current news to archived stories and from lunch menus to the latest in instructional programs, it is all on our school district website at:

www.sewardpublicschools.org

And on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sewardpublicschools

And on Twitter:

#sewardjays

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Greg Barnes, in writing at 410 South Street, Seward Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.