

Nebraska's graduation rates on the rise, W-P shines in state report

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Tuesday, 26 November 2013 18:02 -

Wauneta-Palisade boasts 100

percent 4-year graduation rate

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The Nebraska Department of Education released data earlier this month showing the graduation rates of Nebraska's schools. The report showed that nearly nine in 10 students at public high schools in the state graduated on time last year—an improvement over recent years.

Wauneta-Palisade's results were quite a bit brighter. Last year Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools graduated 100 percent of its students.

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W-P Superintendent Randy Geier said, "The graduation rates are a direct reflection upon the commitment that our students and our teachers make."

The overall state rate for 2013 was 88.5 percent, up from 87.6 percent in 2012 and 86.1 percent in 2011.

"While we still have more work to do, Nebraska teachers and administrators should be pleased that they continued to increase the percentage of students graduating," Nebraska Deputy Education Commissioner Scott Swisher said in a written statement.

Wauneta-Palisade's graduation rate showed a big improvement over recent years. The school had an 80 percent 4-year graduation rate in 2012 and a 95.5 percent graduation rate in 2011.

The report shows that only 70 of the 249 school districts graduated 98 percent or more of their high school seniors.

The Nebraska Department of Education posts graduation rates and other school data to their website at www.education.ne.gov, though school-specific data is not always available

The Nebraska Department of Education masks data in their online report if fewer than 10 students are reported in a group or if all students are reported in a single group or performance category. The website cites protection of students' identities as the rationale for masking data.

In W-P's case, the 2013 4-year graduation rate was masked because all 15 students were in the same category—all students graduated in 2013. Wauneta-Palisade administration provided Breeze staff with a printed report with the school's 2013 graduation rates.

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Other schools

Chase County Schools, located in Imperial, had a 2013 rate of 87.9 percent. Their 2012 rate was masked and the 2011 rate was 95.5 percent.

Hitchcock County Schools had a 93.8 percent 4-year graduation rate in 2013, masked data in 2012 and a 94.4 percent rate in 2011.

Dundy County-Stratton Public Schools' 2013 rate was masked. Their 2012 4-year graduation rate was 92.3 percent and the 2011 rate was 96.6 percent.

Omaha Public Schools, the state's largest with more than 46,000 students, ranks at the bottom of the state in students graduating, with a rate in 2013 of 77.8 percent. That was up from 75.5 percent in 2012.

Editor's Note: Staff and Associated Press reports used to compile this story.