



Pelican Rapids

Independent School District 548

Annual Report on Curriculum and Instruction 2013

We Learn not for School, but for Life!

Superintendent Message

Welcome to the Pelican Rapids Public School. We are proud of the many learning opportunities we provide for our students such as: advance placement courses, college in the high school, after school enrichment activities and many extra curricular activities. Our school has a large course offering in a small school setting. We have adopted the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as the platform to identify, develop and expand the leadership skills in each student. I am sure you will agree, Pelican Rapids is a great place for your student to learn and grow.



Superintendent
Deb Wanek

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“LEADERSHIP IS COMMUNICATING TO PEOPLE THEIR WORTH AND POTENTIAL SO CLEARLY THAT THEY COME TO SEE IT IN THEMSELVES.”

-STEPHEN COVEY

The Mission

of the Pelican Rapids School District, in partnership with home and community, is to provide a safe learning environment that promotes educational excellence for all students challenging them to become:

- Lifelong Learners
- Independent Thinkers
- Respectful Individuals
- Responsible Citizens



Our District Goals

1. Increase Student Achievement
2. Maintain an Optimal Learning Environment-with the Whole Child in Mind-Safe, Secure, Positive
3. Maintain a Financially Stable District
4. Build Two Task Forces
 - Infuse the community, region and state with accurate messages outlining the many attributes of the Pelican Rapids School.
 - Study the facility and plan for the future.

School Board



From left to right:
Front row - Mike Forsgren, Charlie Blixt, and Mitch Monson
Back Row - Dena Johnson, Jon Karger, and Kathy Ouren

We Pursue Excellence, Embrace Diversity & Celebrate Community

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Celebration

Viking Elementary is Excited about Growth and Improvements

Viking Elementary no longer has the designation as a Focus School under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

This designation was based on student performance data from 2010 and 2011 that placed our school among the ten percent of schools making the largest contribution to the state's achievement gap.

Schools are expected to remain under this designation for three years. However, Viking Elementary was one of ten schools in the state to make substantial progress in raising achievement for all students and to be removed early!

We will continue implementing our current improvement plan as we strive towards high expectations of success for all students.



Celebrating Leadership at our School



Individualized Learning

Academic success is carefully monitored through teacher team meetings twice a month. Reading and math assessment data is regularly analyzed for each student. Enrichment periods are built into our daily schedule for small group teaching and individualized instruction.



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21st Century Grant

After School Enrichment Activities & Programs for Students in Grades K-12

Pelican Rapids School District is proud to be awarded the 21st Century Grant by the Federal government through No Child Left Behind. The Grant provides Extended Learning Opportunities: Monday-Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm • 51 weeks a year • Non-school days and after school programming • Last year 584 students were served

Mission Statement

Meeting the needs of "the whole child" by enhancing learning opportunities and life skills for our students and families.

Fun After School Enrichment Programs for Kids for Grades K-8

MONDAYS & NON-SCHOOL DAYS

Beyond the Bell provides academic and enrichment activities on days when there is no school (Mondays and some vacation days) from 8-3:00pm.

Club Vikes is our on-site school-age care program, open before and after school. Club Vikes provides children with a positive, stimulating and happy after school experience where they create wonderful memories and lasting friendships! We are focused on making after school a fun-filled experience for your child. The program is open to all students entering kindergarten to 6th grade.

We do fun stuff like: Take awesome field trips, have special themed weeks, make and eat fun snacks, make cool arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor fun, read and write stories.

Dates and Times:

Days when school is in session
(including make-up days)

- Monday-Friday
- Before school 6:30-7:30am & after school 3:45-6pm

Days when school is not in session

- Mondays (& some vacation days) 6:30-8am & 3-6pm

TUESDAY-FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

INTRAMURAL FALL SPORTS 3:45-5:00pm-\$5 per child Gr 2-5 T-Th

INTRAMURAL BOYS BASKETBALL

3:45-5:00pm-\$15 per child Gr 3-4 W& F, Gr 5-6 T & Th

INTRAMURAL GIRLS BASKETBALL 3:45-5:00pm-\$15 per child

ART-TASTIC ZONE 3:45-5:00pm Gr K & 1 \$5 per child. If your child likes to spend time painting or coloring. T-Th

COOL CRAFT ZONE 3:45-5pm Gr 2-4 \$5 per child. Make a variety of fun crafts! Students who like hands-on projects and love to try new things from Pinterest will love this zone!

T-Th

CREATIVE ZONE

3:45-5pm Gr 5 & 6 \$5 per child. This program is all about creating together as a group-Be a Leader in creative Art! T-Th

ART ZONE 3:45-5pm

Gr K-6-\$5 per child

Students will help create a community mural together

and work on individual projects as well. T-Th

HOMEWORK HELP 3:45-4:30pm Gr K-6

Join us if you would like help on your homework or would like to use the computer for educational purposes like AR testing. T-Th

ENCORE! is the new collaboration between Targeted Services and the 21st Century Grant. Students will get the perfect mix of academics and enrichment, homework help and free choice time, reading and physical activities.



21st Century Community Learning Centers funding for this program is provided by the federal government through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.

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Leadership & Enrichment Opportunities for Grades 7-12

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LED (Leading Every Day)

LED is a student volunteer program that works on projects in Pelican Rapids and surrounding communities. Last year LED students volunteered in the community, helped fill sandbags for the Fargo community, and organized the Day of Caring with the United Way.

Rotary Interact Group

Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill.

Beyond the Bell Program

Mondays 8-3pm Viking Elementary High School Students will:

- Read with students
- Help with Homework
- Teach games and/or activities

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Open Gym & Strength Conditioning

Tuesday-Friday at 7:00am

The gym and weight room are open to students every day in the morning before school.

Viking News Network (VNN)

Tuesday-Friday at 7:30am

VNN is the Pelican Rapids High School news network. Students can be on-air or behind the scenes reporting the news to the PRHS community.

Stage Production & Acting for Everyone Classes

Mon 1-3:00pm & Wed 4-5:30pm

There will be a play in the Fall and the Spring that students can be involved in. The stage production classes teach behind the scene roles like makeup, hair, costumes & set building while in the acting for everyone students will learn the proper ways to speaking, acting skills.

Credit Recovery

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00-7:00pm in Rm #53.

Credit Recovery is available to students in grades 9-12 who have failed one or more classes.

Open Media Center

Tuesday-Friday 4:00-5:00pm

The Media Center will be open to all students to work on homework, use the computers, and read.

Homework Help

Tuesday-Thursday 4:00-5:00pm

Film Club

Tuesday-Friday 4:00-5:00pm

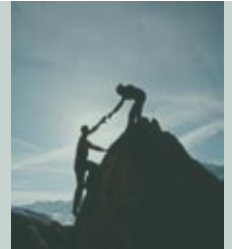
Students will write, direct and star in their own films, commercials or videos! Film Club is run by filmmaker Eric Dunn.

Chess Club

Thursdays 4-5:00pm

This is a student led activity in which students meet every Thursday to play

Everyone
needs at
Least one
friend.



- ♦ Some *one* to listen & care...
- ♦ Some *one* to just be there.
- ♦ Who was the *one* for you?
- ♦ The *one* who encouraged you & helped you find your way
- ♦ The *one* who shaped the *one* you are today.

-Be the *one*-

Your school needs you! More importantly, the students need you! Join our team of volunteer mentors. Make a difference in *one* life.

Contact Bob Kohler
218-863-5910 ext. 4065
bkohler@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Volunteer Mentor Coordinator
Pelican Rapids Schools

chess and learn more about the game.

Programs that meet after school will meet in the Media Center for snack and then go to their program.



21st Century Community Learning Centers funding for this program is provided by the federal government through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.

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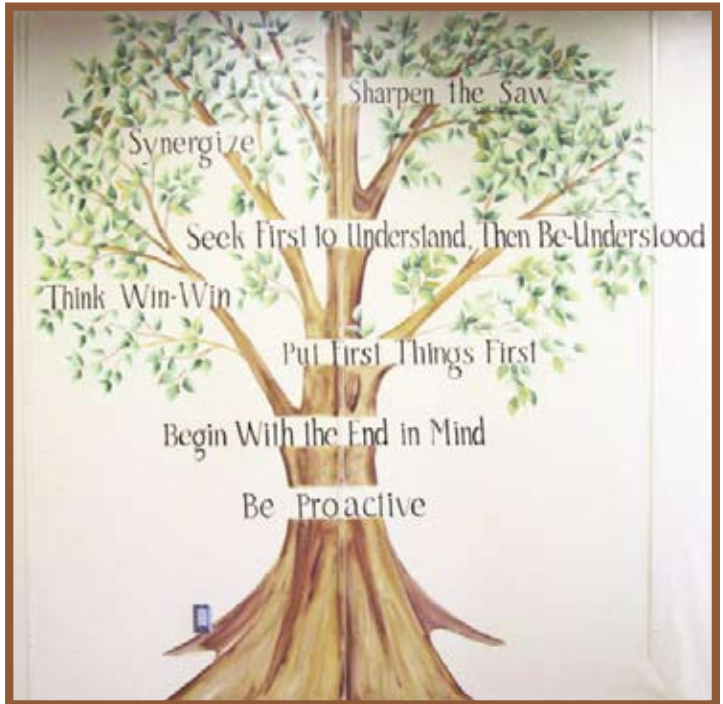
7 Habits of Highly Effective People

The Pelican Rapids School District adopted the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as the platform to identify, develop and expand the leadership skills in each student and staff person.



Becoming a Leadership School involves not only learning the 7 Habits but living them. One of the ways we have been doing this is that our staff has been sending notes home to parents and students when they notice leadership qualities.

This year we will be focusing on a leadership theme each month which will be incorporated in our lesson plans as well as being discussed.



Some of our students were written about in a blog post by Mike Lee who noticed moments of great leadership at a summer basketball camp.

Even the wording he uses re-emphasizes the terminology that we employ with the 7 Habits. His second point "Be Proactive not Reactive" is Habit #1 at work. One of the big things we are striving to do this year is to get our students to understand what each of the habits "looks" like in action and what a leader acts like and sounds like. This article will help these students and others get a feel for what we want them to see in themselves.

We have a mindset that we want more and more people to start noticing moments of great leadership in the students of Pelican Rapids Schools. We hope the skills they are being immersed into, with the Seven Habits training, starts to

Small town Minnesota. Big time intangibles, by Mike Lee

Posted by mika_lee - June 11, 2013 - Mike Lee



make a positive difference in school, at home and in their lives.

This article does a really good job of identifying the "intangibles" of leadership. This story can be found on the web at: <http://mikeleebasketball.net/small-town-minnesota-big-time-intangibles-by-mike-lee/#comments-wrap>.

Mike Lee Basketball Services trains thousands of middle school through NBA players each year in their skill development training, camps and coaches clinics. The owner, Mike Lee, is also a former Nike

Girls Skills Academy instructor and the former assistant director for the Stephen Curry Skills Academy. Recently the company has authored 7 skill development DVDs and created miSkillz Online Basketball training.

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Technology

iPad Initiative Continues

The iPad allows students to search the internet as well as write papers just like a regular computer but with its portability and numerous applications this device offers the students much more than just a regular laptop. The iPads have over 60,000 applications (often referred to as apps), some of them are free and many are specific to individual course work, and will be used to enhance student learning. These apps can work like flash cards, models, manipulatives, resource tools and games all packaged in a 1.5 pound device that the student can carry with them where ever they go.



Prep for World's Best Work Force

- AP Calculus
- AP English
- Statistics
- Spanish
- College in the high school



Cultural Collaborative

PRHS Multi-Cultural Headquarters for Ten District Collaborative

As the multi-cultural headquarters for a ten school district collaborative, Pelican Rapids is defined as a "racially isolated" district. About 37 percent of the Pelican Rapids enrollment is ethnically diverse. This compares to as low as 1 percent in Barnesville and 2 percent in Frazee-Vergas. Other schools in the collaborative are Battle Lake, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Lake Park, Perham and Underwood.

Activities include:

- Mentors for students in other districts, with high school students connecting with elementary kids.
- Students from other districts will be invited to Pelican, to tour the community—including the Mexican and African stores, an event that has become a Pelican tradition.
- Participation in the Perham World Culture Day which includes opportunities for students to sample ethnic food and Somali tea... and the Somali students will talk about their experiences as Somalian in a



white, Judeo-Christian society.

Important components of the Cultural Collaborative will continue

to be "The Leader in Me" and the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People". In addition the students in our schools attend the Youth Frontiers' Retreats which address the topics of: Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, and Courage.



A Pelican Rapids student wrote a letter to school administration last year, explaining the benefits of multi-cultural programming. The name of the writer has not been identified publicly, but the letter is excerpted here:

"Culture Collaborative Group has benefited me in so many ways as far as getting more opportunities to be able to speak to other students about where I'm from and more about my culture and life style that others may not realize. This school year is the first year that I have been in groups and it has been one of the best school years for me, not only am I in extracurricular activities that I had never been in before, I'm getting better grades also.

Last year I almost went to court because I had such

bad attendance; also, I flunked many classes and considered dropping out of school. This year I have had a reason to work on my grades and be in school regularly, because in order to be part of CCG's you have to have a C or higher. A lot of my friends are in these groups also and most of them have never been in groups like these throughout their school years.

The Culture Collaborative Groups has helped not only me but others...I didn't have hope to do anything with my life and I wasn't going to continue school after high school, but working so much with this group has actually given me the idea to go to college to be a MDCC Coordinator so I can give other people the same types of opportunities that lets them know they should be proud of their culture and ethnicity."

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Annual Testing-Reading, Mathematics, and Writing

The State of Minnesota requires that several grades be assessed in reading, mathematics and writing. The scores students receive are to be used to measure the progress of the school district and help revise curriculum to meet the needs of the students in this district. Test results are used to determine the needs of both the students and curriculum. AIMSWEB and MCA IIs will be used to determine specific classroom strengths and weaknesses in the goal areas for math and reading. Teachers in teams or PLCs will review data to design instruction for students. Small group re-teaching and enrichment can be offered within the classroom to meet the needs of individual students and through times set aside during the day for RTI.

In our efforts to continue to decrease the achievement gaps we have developed the following action plan beginning in the 2013-14 school year:

Viking Elementary

- Continue to access support through our regional Center of Excellence
- Implement student data notebooks as part of our The Leader in Me (7 Habits) district-wide focus to increase student ownership and motivation
- Continue to use the recently developed common formative assessments to inform instruction (all grade level teachers received instructional coaching in 2012-13 and grew in their knowledge of breaking the Essential Learning Outcomes into specific learning targets that could be more easily assessed)
- Use the same academic language as used in the standards

Staff Development and Instructional Design

Classroom teachers at each grade level synergized to identify the most

New Standards

Minnesota adopted the National Common Core standards in Language arts, a much more rigorous standard than what was previously in place. This year was the first year these new standards were tested and the state, on average went down by 18%. Pelican Rapids also went down and after this initial test the District will implement various changes to address this need meet this new level of rigor.

Elementary	2011	2012	2013	Goal 2014
•Reading:	64.5%	71.0%	48.1 %	54.5%
•Math:	55.9%	72.6%	60.1%	65%
High School	2011	2012	2013	Goal 2014
•Reading:	60.0%	62.4%	43.4%	46.4%
•Math:	43.6%	44.6%	48.0%	51%
District	2011	2012	2013	Goal 2014
•Reading:	62.4%	65.3%	44.1%	50%
•Math:	50.2%	57.1%	52.2%	56%

essential reading and math standards. Once identified, they developed an assessment that they all use to determine whether each student has learned it. After they give the assessment, they meet to review results and seek solutions for next steps to help every student be successful. This collaborative work has resulted in rich conversations about student learning and deepened teacher understanding of student's individual needs. Truly, together is better!

We studied the most recent research and developed a comprehensive PreK- Grade 6 Balanced Literacy Plan that focuses on the following commitment:

Every day, every child...

- Reads something they choose.
- Reads something accurately.
- Reads something they understand.
- Writes about something that is meaningful to them.
- Talks to peers about their reading and writing.
- Listens to a fluent adult read aloud.

(Copyright: Richard L. Allington, University of Tennessee)

Pelican Rapids High School

- Review reading standards to ensure all standards are covered before state tests
- All 7th and 8th grade students will complete one quarter of Reading
- Additional reading support will be offered on Mondays through our 21st Century Grant with an emphasis on vocabulary and comprehension
- Identify personal MCA achievement goals

Pelican Rapids Public Schools

- Use the same academic language as used in the standards



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Present District Testing Includes:

- Grade 1-6 AIMSWEB assessments to set goals for Reading
- Grade 1-6 STAR Math and Every Day Learning Composite test for Math
- Grades K-2 Word Sampling/ teacher judgment
- Grades 3-8 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments III for Reading and Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment III for Math
- Grade 8 EXPLORE preparatory test for the ACT
- Grade 9 Minnesota Career Information System Interest Test
- Grade 10 PLAN-preparatory test for the ACT Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment III in Reading
- Grade 11 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment II in Math ASVAB (Armed Services Vocation Aptitude Battery) and PSAT is offered to all juniors as a college entrance exam and qualifier for National Merit Scholarship Program
- Grade 11 and 12 ACT and SAT (Recommended but not given locally)



Parent Liaison

Parent Involvement is Key in Student Success

To have success in life we need someone to hold us accountable for our goals; we need that extra push and support in times of conflict. Our students are the same way. When parents help and support their children, students are more successful in and out of the classroom. Here are some research findings on parent involvement in education:

- The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to: 1) create a home environment that encourages learning; 2) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers; 3) become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.
- Student behaviors such as alcohol use, violence, and anti-social behavior decrease as parent involvement increases.
- Students are more likely to fall behind in academic performance if their parents do not participate in school events, develop a working relationship with their child's educators, or keep up with what is happening in their child's school.
- The benefits of involving parents are not confined to the early years; there are significant gains at all ages and grade levels.

•Middle and senior high school students whose parents remain involved make better transitions, maintain the quality of their work, and develop realistic plans for their future. Students whose parents are not involved, on the other hand, are more likely to drop out of school.

•When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level.

•When parents are involved in their student's education, those students have higher grades and test scores,

better attendance, and complete homework more consistently.

•When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior, increased motivation and better self-esteem.

•Students whose parents are involved in their lives have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.

It is the responsibility of educators to educate children in the classroom, but it is the responsibility of every parent to help teachers educate their children outside of the classroom whether it's with homework or life situations. When people synergize, great things occur. If parents put their effort and strengths together and work with educators towards student's education it is more likely that those students will succeed.

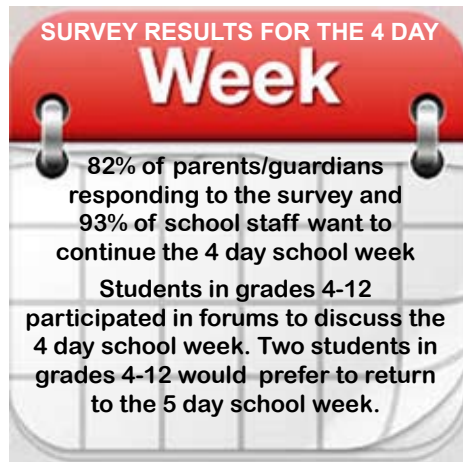


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4 Day School Week

Tuesday-Friday 7:55am-3:55pm

Satisfaction Survey-majority of students, parents and staff have adjusted to the 4 day school week and would like it to continue



Discipline-there were less discipline referrals in both schools

Attendance-improved at both the elementary and the high school

Financial-Exceeded financial savings the first two years but savings could not be determined in the third year due to Mechanical and Contract Changes which made it impossible to make an accurate comparison from 2010 to 2013.

Academics-Elementary

- Reading-the 4 day week did not have a negative impact on the percent of students above target in the reading curriculum based measurement
- Math-2012 MCA Math Results in 3-6 grades reveal a 6-23% INCREASE in proficiency per grade level in comparison to 2011 results. 2013 data was not yet available at the 4 day evaluation.

High School

•The 4 day week did not negatively affect the number of students on the honor roll (A & B together).

Conclusion-Overall the Pelican Rapids School District has successfully implemented the 4 day school week.

District Facility Needs

A Community Task Force Completes part 2 of Goal 4

A special Community Task Force, spent two years conducting an in-depth study of the district's facilities needs. The proposed building bond is the third phase of a three-tiered plan aimed at ensuring the district can continue to meet students' educational needs long into the future.

The Long-Range, 3-Tiered Plan

After significant study and discussion, the Community Task Force reviewed and approved three phases to address the district's long-range needs:

Phase 1: Improve infrastructure and HVAC at Pelican Rapids High School (PRHS) using Health & Safety funds (completed 2011-2012).

Phase 2: Seek approval of a \$600 per student operating levy (completed November 2011).

Phase 3: Seek approval of a bond to reinvest in the long-term future of PRHS.

Task Force Findings on High School Facilities

The disconnected layout of the High School has resulted in no primary secure entrance and no common gathering space for students or during community events. The Community Task Force noted additional needs including inadequate physical education spaces, a fine arts performance area that has extensive deferred maintenance, code and accessibility issues, and classroom space in need of updating. A number of classrooms in the fine arts center are closed due to safety issues.

Completion of this project will not only improve the learning environment and safety of our community's children, but will also allow increased use of the renovated and expanded school for events and activities.

Additionally our district's buildings serve double duty as a much-needed community center for the entire Pelican Rapids community.

Repair. Renovate. Renew.

Pelican Rapids, like all other school districts in the state, relies on federal, state, and local funds to operate and maintain our schools.

The Ballot Question is a \$21.9 million bond to fund repair, renovation, renewal, and deferred maintenance of district buildings.

- Repair:** It addresses deferred maintenance needs for roofs, exteriors, windows, carpeting, mechanical/electrical systems, and parking lots.
- Renovation:** It funds renovations for our 26-85-year-old facilities including improving building safety, security, accessibility,* and flow. (*American Disabilities Act regulations)
- Renewal:** It includes construction to update classrooms and facilities that will safely and effectively meet the 21st Century learning needs of our community's students. This includes expanding the commons and cafeteria, replacing the fine arts auditorium (built in 1928), and adding gym and locker rooms.



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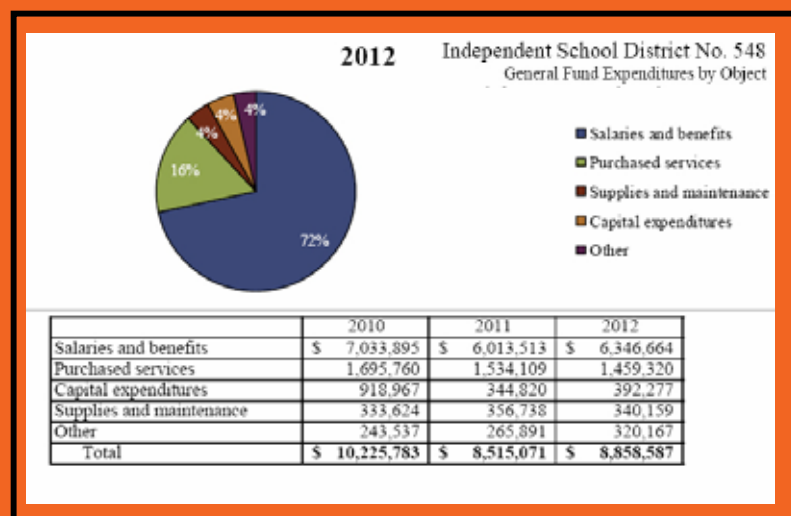
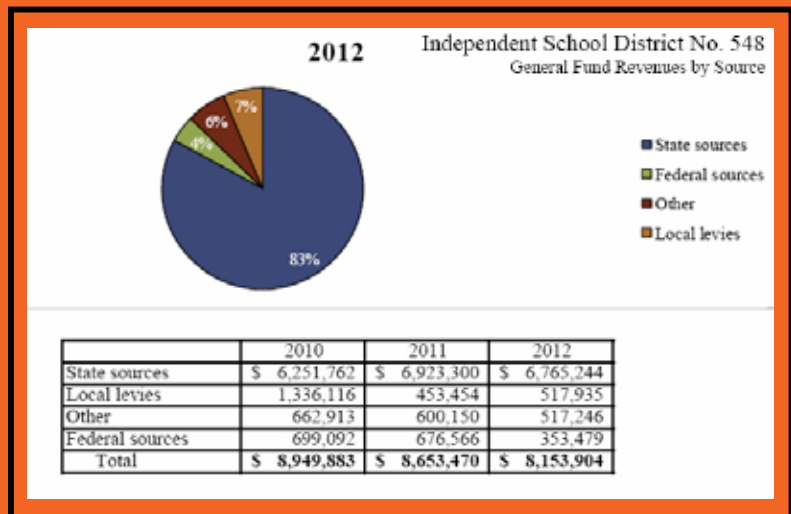
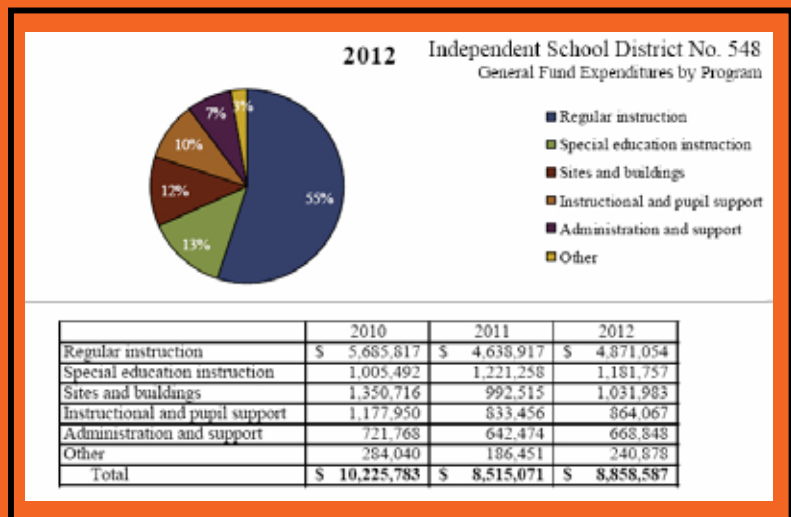
School District Accounting System Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards

The legislature requires school districts to adopt and use a uniform system of records and accounting for public schools.

The adopted system, a modified accrual accounting system, is known as Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS). UFARS

is important because it provides a uniform basis for comparing and evaluating school district revenue and expenditures. Under UFARS, every district must maintain the following funds.

The Pelican Rapids School Board monitors the budget throughout the year.



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Visit our website for more information about our schools: www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

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