

Superintendent's Report

August 22, 2011

The following was received from the state on August 9, 2011:

The Fiscal Year 2012 General State Aid (GSA) calculations have been finalized. The first FY 2012 GSA payment will be made on August 10. The \$6,119 GSA foundation level was utilized in the GSA calculation based on a total budgeted FY 2012 appropriation of \$4,448,104,514. The final GSA net entitlement based upon local tax revenue and average daily attendance information calculated to \$4,679,299,867, leaving a shortage of \$231,195,353. This shortage requires a proration of 95% which has been applied towards the gross entitlement for each school district and regional office. The 95% proration is not being proportionally applied over the entire year. Consistent with prior years, the entire reduction is instead being applied in full to the last scheduled payments in June. For most districts, it eliminates the June 20 payment entirely.

It is unclear if this includes the poverty grant funding. Last year, we received \$5.1 million, including the poverty grant. Assuming the poverty grant stays flat, this will result in an actual loss of \$377K as the state has reduced its calculations as to how much General State Aid we are due. You will see that this accounts for most of the actual deficit in the tentative 2012 Budget.

Community Service

A number of NBHS students participated in the installation of the Poplar Grove playground in early August. Dr. Olds commented about the student volunteers in the following manner:

I wanted to commend the following high school students for their service to the Poplar Grove School Community. They are excellent workers and were a great help to us in our playground project:

Areli Lopez, Cheyenne Williams, Nick Fioretto, Amanda Huffar, Emily Foster, Danielle Yattone, and Emily Osterberg all worked over the weekend for 10 hours assembling and installing playground equipment.

Dan and Tim Richert worked 3 hours shoveling and spreading 160 yards of mulch.

These students all demonstrated skills in working as a team, and I was very impressed.

Thanks also to all of the parents and community members who were involved in the installation of the new playground equipment.

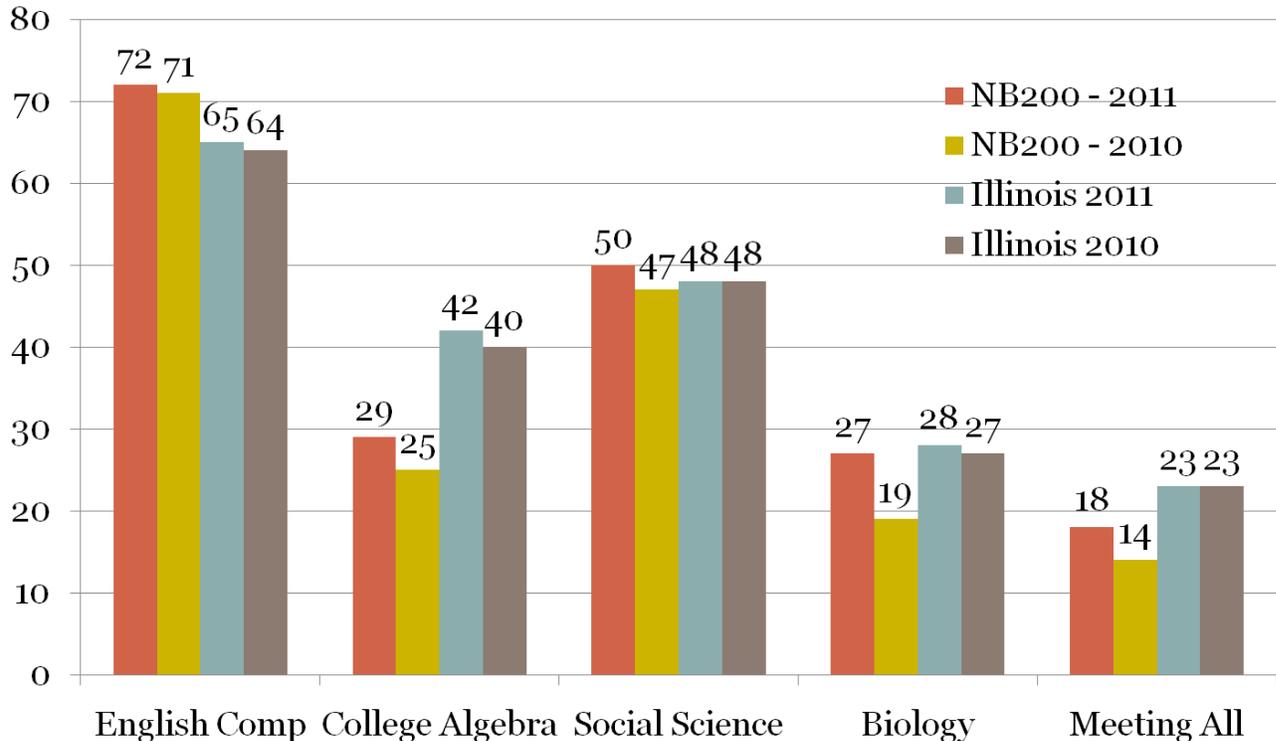
Boone County Fair

As a way to get our new administrators' faces out among the public, the administrators took tickets at Business Day at the Fair at Gate 5 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. They worked in pairs and were also able to walk through and visit the exhibits and meet a number of our students and parents. I have gotten some positive comments about the administrators' presence at the Fair. The NBHS Band competed in Wednesday's Battle of the Bands, which according to a member of the Fair Board was the most well attended Wednesday evening event in many years. They are hoping to revisit the event next year.

Class of 2011 ACT Scores

Attached are the ACT score results for the Class of 2011. We saw some improvement over the Class of 2010. A total of 119 students took the exam and the overall composite score average was 20.7, which is up from 20.2 in 2010. The standard deviation for the ACT score is 0.3, so we are doing about as well as the state average, which was 20.9 for the Class of 2011.

The chart below shows we are making some progress in college readiness at NBHS. We have made significant increases in science and math last year and slight increases in English composition and social studies. The complete ACT summary report is attached.



Enrollment

This year's enrollment is similar to last year's with a few shifts. Capron has fewer children in the primary grades and Manchester picked up enough additional kindergarteners to necessitate a second section. We also had to add an additional Pre-K assistant for the Early Childhood program.

We were not able to accommodate all of the voluntary enrollment transfers this year. A couple of requests for 3rd grade at Poplar Grove couldn't be accommodated. To do so would have put the class sizes over the current policy guidelines for those sections. One of those requestors ended up requesting to go to Capron instead (home school Manchester). The other two appear to be choosing to go to a private school.

Paid Busing Information

Currently, we have ten students taking advantage of paid participation in busing. We were able to accommodate all of the requests we received at this point. We do anticipate the potential of a few more requests in the next month or so.

August 16, 2011 Institute Day

The first day went fairly well. I sent the Board a copy of the presentation I used for my opening day comments last week. The principals spent most of the day reviewing the year and preparing for some of the challenges ahead. Kim Moore spent some time in the afternoon reviewing procedures with the special education assistants and provided them each with a manual with forms and other materials to support both RTI and IEPs. The day's agenda is attached. Also included is the agenda from August 15's new staff orientation.

First Day of School

The first day of school went very well. The principals at Capron and Poplar Grove dealt well with the changes in transportation, and the movement of children, cars and buses went well at both schools from my vantage point.

We did have some problems getting transportation information out in a timely manner to all of the principals, but that has been rectified at this point. Our current transportation system is simply inadequate for what we would like to see.

I was able to see two of the opening day presentations at NBHS and NBUE that the administrators and staff gave for the students. They seem to have gone well. The kindergarten teachers worked particularly hard engaging their new students, many of whom are entirely new to our school system having not been to pre-school or an early childhood program.

We do have a number of families that we have to follow up with that appear to have moved out of the district without giving us any notice.

Chamber of Commerce Information

The Growth Dimensions staff was at the Chamber meeting last Thursday. They spoke about their work on a new strategic plan and making some changes based upon the changes in the economy. They are expecting an unemployment rate of up to 13% in Boone County in the fall, but it could be higher. They have also noticed an increase in homelessness in Boone County. We are also seeing more of an increase in displaced children and families.

Board Packet Information

It was suggested that the Board packet be provided to the Board at least seven days prior to the meeting. Previously, we have moved the posting of the packet from Friday (although I understand Dr. Brodnax tried to move the date to Wednesday as well) to the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the Board meeting. I discussed this with several staff members who see this as a significant additional burden in trying to provide accurate and up-to-date information to the Board. We can move the date, if that is what the Board wishes, but it will have an impact on the backward planning process for a wide range of items. With the fairly thin staffing levels that we have, a range of things can interrupt staff members' abilities to get reports or information completed and I would rather give them an extra day or two and make sure their focus is on student needs.

For a single simple example, the ACT information being provided at this meeting would need to be provided at the September meeting, as it was embargoed until 8/17/2011, so it couldn't have been posted with part of the Board packet on 8/15/2011, which would have been seven days prior to this meeting.

My College Options Report

Included in my Opening Day presentation to the staff, I mentioned a number of items for the My College Options Report. Attached is the complete report.

Job Descriptions

Attached are the two job descriptions that were modified based on the changes I recommended in July to the administrative structure and reporting relationships.

Alliance Legislative Report

Attached is the most recent Alliance Legislative Report which I received on 8/18/2011.