



**FIRST CLASS. WORLD CLASS.**  
*The Spring Lake Park Way*

## **2010-2011 DISTRICT SNAPSHOT**

### ***A Snapshot:***

#### **The Students of the Spring Lake Park Schools**

- Today, there are over 5,100 students in the Spring Lake Park Schools. This is 1,000 more students than ten years ago.
- Half of our students come from Blaine, 30% are from Spring Lake Park, 20% are from Fridley.
- The most recent graduating class was 322. When today's kindergarten class graduates, the graduating class will be over 500.
- Our students bring an ever-widening spectrum of physical, mental, and emotional needs. An increasing percentage of our students are entering early childhood programming and kindergarten with special needs. There are 43 languages spoken by our students and their families. 15 years ago just 2% of our students spoke a home language other than English. Today, 13% speak a language other than English.
- 32% of our students are of color other than white. Ten years ago it was just 12%
- 35% of our students are on free or reduced lunch. Ten years ago 19% of our students received free or reduced lunch.

### ***A Snapshot:***

#### **Student Achievement Results in the Spring Lake Park Schools**

- The teachers and staff are focused on improving the learning of each of our students by providing a world-class learning experience. We share an awesome responsibility with our families and community members in partnering to help our young people experience success today, so they can realize their dreams and be valued contributors in our communities in the future.

Many people would expect that the changes we are seeing with our students would result in declining achievement. We are happy to see improving results throughout our school system.

- We have implemented a variety of initiatives to improve student learning, yet providing an ongoing focus with each of these so that change is implemented well and makes a difference for students.

These changes have included a primary focus on reading and early literacy, personalizing learning through differentiated instruction targeted at the unique needs of each student, providing small learning communities at our high school, implementing new curricular and instructional strategies in mathematics, and teaching essential life skills such as creativity, critical thinking, and self-direction.

- The school district uses a wide variety assessments to measure the learning of individual students as well as the effectiveness of our system.
- One of the tools used throughout the state, and that community members hear the most about, are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

The MCAs are state tests in mathematics and reading given every spring to measure student performance against the Minnesota Academic Standards.

In **reading** our district has moved from 69% of students being proficient to 75% in the past four years. This exceeds the statewide trend in growth, and puts us at the top of comparable districts statewide. In the elementary grades, we have increased from 75% proficiency to 83% in the past four years. At grade three we have seen an increase from 79% to 85%, and in grade five from 70% to 82%.

In **math** we have seen steady growth in overall scores in the district. In Spring 2011 the state introduced a new math assessment, so the results cannot be compared to previous years. We were pleased to see that our scores were near the top of comparable districts, and were similar or higher than those of neighboring districts.

The one grade that could be compared to past years was grade 11, which saw a 10% increase over 2010 and has seen a 15% increase in the past four years. Prior to this new test we had seen steady increase over the past six years with 2-3% growth in proficiency each year.

- We measure early literacy locally with an assessment called DIBELS. We have seen an ongoing upward trend in this area with 84% of our students in grades 1-2 exceeding the norm.
- As a district we have seen an increase in the number of students engaged in rigorous coursework, participating in honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the middle and high schools. In addition, there are an increasing number of students taking AP exams and scoring a 3 or better, which allows them to receive college credits for the course.
- We've significantly decreased the number of students at-risk and in need of basic skills support, and decreased the number of students referred as potentially needing special education by over 50% since 2009. This is not only beneficial for our students, but decreases long-term costs by preventing the number of students who need special education services.
- Well over 90 percent of our graduating seniors had plans in place for two- or four-year colleges or the military
- The staff is proud our progress and these results. It is essential to do our best in the early grades, identifying and addressing learning needs as soon as possible. It is easier to address the needs of students early in their academic career than it is later on. It is exciting to see that our results with those students who have had the opportunity to benefit from the initiatives mentioned above since they started school with us in kindergarten, such as early literacy and personalized instruction, are achieving results that exceed those of the state and comparable districts.

Yet, we want to see, and recognize the need, for further improvement in all areas of student learning. There is a real commitment to seeing this improvement becoming a reality.



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## COMPARISON DATA WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

One of our measures of how we are doing as a district is to compare our Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment results to our neighbor and districts that are like us in demographics. The following tables show how Spring Lake Park is doing compared to neighboring districts.

Reading Results - Neighboring Districts	Overall	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
Statewide Public	74.6%	78.5%	75.1%	80.2%	75.1%	69.6%	68.1%	75.3%
SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	75.2%	85.2%	76.5%	83.0%	76.4%	70.1%	64.6%	68.2%
ANOKA-HENNEPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	78.3%	79.6%	79.6%	84.9%	77.0%	75.8%	72.2%	79.4%
CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	83.2%	88.2%	85.1%	93.1%	83.4%	77.8%	74.6%	82.7%
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	57.4%	69.5%	61.7%	66.5%	52.4%	51.3%	48.0%	51.2%
FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	67.1%	62.3%	74.1%	70.5%	68.4%	69.6%	56.5%	68.8%
MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	82.1%	84.0%	81.2%	85.0%	79.5%	79.7%	77.7%	87.2%

Math Results - Neighboring Districts	Overall	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Statewide Public	56.4%	70.2%	67.2%	53.6%	50.3%	51.7%	53.3%	48.6%
SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	55.2%	76.4%	61.7%	52.3%	52.6%	52.1%	43.9%	45.2%
ANOKA-HENNEPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	59.3%	72.5%	71.8%	59.1%	54.7%	56.5%	54.9%	47.6%
CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	73.6%	83.8%	85.5%	79.6%	67.9%	67.1%	59.8%	74.6%
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	38.8%	64.5%	66.1%	35.1%	19.3%	25.8%	22.9%	30.6%
FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	50.7%	57.1%	71.6%	41.9%	49.5%	56.0%	44.2%	34.8%
MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	68.1%	77.4%	76.0%	63.3%	62.3%	60.4%	63.9%	73.1%



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## COMPARISON DATA WITH COMPARABLE DISTRICTS

One of our measures of how we are doing as a district is to compare our Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment results to our neighbor and districts that are like us in demographics. The following tables show Spring Lake Park is doing compared to comparable metropolitan school districts.

Reading – Comparable Districts	Overall	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
Statewide Public	74.6%	78.5%	75.1%	80.3%	75.1%	69.6%	68.1%	75.3%
SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	75.2%	85.2%	76.5%	83.0%	76.4%	70.1%	64.6%	68.2%
WEST ST. PAUL-MENDOTA HTS.-EAGAN	71.9%	77.7%	75.8%	71.9%	71.3%	65.7%	66.4%	73.5%
NORTH ST PAUL-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DIST	70.9%	76.3%	72.3%	80.9%	68.9%	68.9%	59.1%	71.7%
OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	74.0%	77.4%	71.0%	80.5%	75.2%	70.6%	68.5%	75.2%
ST. LOUIS PARK	79.0%	84.6%	77.2%	88.8%	81.0%	72.1%	70.3%	79.4%
HOPKINS	77.9%	73.5%	76.4%	85.0%	79.4%	73.9%	75.3%	81.7%
ROSEVILLE	75.3%	77.1%	71.8%	81.7%	77.7%	69.0%	67.3%	82.0%

Math Results - Comparable Districts	Overall	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Statewide Public	56.4%	70.2%	67.2%	53.6%	50.3%	51.7%	53.3%	48.6%
SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	55.2%	76.4%	61.7%	52.3%	52.6%	52.1%	43.9%	45.2%
WEST ST. PAUL-MENDOTA HTS.-EAGAN	52.4%	71.2%	70.2%	39.3%	44.1%	44.2%	45.8%	49.2%
NORTH ST PAUL-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DIST	54.5%	73.8%	73.4%	60.8%	42.0%	47.1%	47.1%	43.8%
OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	59.3%	70.5%	66.4%	53.2%	54.3%	52.9%	60.8%	58.6%
ST. LOUIS PARK	59.2%	78.8%	73.0%	58.9%	47.2%	53.8%	48.2%	52.9%
HOPKINS	55.1%	61.6%	62.9%	54.0%	59.5%	43.1%	55.1%	50.5%
ROSEVILLE	56.1%	61.7%	64.8%	57.9%	57.3%	51.2%	46.3%	53.1%