

State of the District

Blooming Grove ISD

The state of the district report is designed to give an overview of Blooming Grove ISD. As superintendent I have chosen several topics that are priorities for all school districts. The basic idea is to recap what has occurred in our district over a one or two year period of time. The report also addresses other concerns that will need attention by the school board and superintendent in the near future.

Although not everyone will agree with my interpretation of the State of the District, I would welcome your comments and concerns. The mechanism for change is communication.

My phone number is 903-695-2541, extension 222 and my email is mbaldree@bgrove.org. I would welcome input from you as a patron of Blooming Grove ISD, whether positive or negative. We will work together to create a positive learning environment for all children of the Blooming Grove Independent School District.

Sincerely,

Mike Baldree

Superintendent of Schools

I. Facilities

A. Blooming Grove ISD consists of several buildings that vary in age from 7 to 30+ years old. The age of the buildings require a significant effort by our district in maintenance. In the last year our district retrofitted the elementary roof in order to stop leaking. Despite the age of our facilities these buildings are withstanding the test of time. This is a compliment to the boards and superintendents who built and designed these buildings as well as the maintenance personnel that have taken care of the facilities.

B. There are areas of concern for our facilities. 1. The competition gymnasium leaks. There are still issues with this roof that will have to be addressed in the near future. Last year leaks required the district to replace the existing gymnasium floor. 2. The age of our air conditioning units at the elementary and competition gym. These units are 15+ years old and are beginning to need replacement. The residential units that supply air conditioning to the classrooms are being replaced as they go out. Within the next five years BGISD will have to replace some of the large package units at the elementary school and competition gymnasium. 3. The age and condition of our athletic facilities. Our field house is undersized for the needs of our students. We have central air conditioned the facility over the last few years as well as made other improvements, but our facility is approximately 30 years old. In our current system, there is insufficient room to dress all students involved in fall athletics in the same facility. 4. Bus barn location; relocate the existing transportation facility from its current location to land currently owned by the district.

II. Accountability

A. The state accountability system continues to evolve over time. These changes have not always been smooth. It has become more difficult and complex for schools to show gains and achieve ratings that school districts and communities desire. Our district has become one of the best in the region at the high stakes testing our legislature has imposed on schools. We will continue to strive for exemplary ratings on all campuses. For the last two years our district was a recognized district by the Texas Education Agency. This year our district was rated as academically acceptable, barely missing the recognized status for the third year in a row

- . District Acceptable
- . The Junior High and High School were Acceptable.
- . The elementary was Recognized.

B. The District continues to perform at high levels. These achievements would not have been possible without an excellent teaching and administrative staff. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our staff during the TAKS era. As we move into a new testing cycle with TAKS being replaced by the new STAAR test, there will be new and exciting challenges for our staff.

C. The district's financial office continues to receive a rating of Superior Achievement in the FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). Our successful financial structure directly relates to our students success in the classroom by being able to meet the needs of our teachers and students.

III. Curriculum

A. The district has adopted and implemented the CSCOPE curriculum, and the district continues to implement its curriculum design into our daily instruction. CSCOPE was originally designed by the service centers and teachers from across the state of Texas. CSCOPE is a very detailed curriculum model, this detail also allows for teacher originality and design of their own lessons or they can follow the step by step curriculum provided by CSCOPE. The district's math, science, English, and social studies departments have been very fast to transition to CSCOPE. Teachers have found that in many cases the CSCOPE lessons mirror lessons that they were already teaching prior to having this tool.

B. The state is in the process of changing the state assessment from TAKS to STARR in grades 3 through 11. Once again there will be a change in emphasis and rigor on the assessment.

1. In grades 3 through 8 the emphasis will be on material learned that year. The depth and understanding of the material will be more rigorous and focused on college readiness.

2. In grades 9 through 12 there will be a series of End of Course exams (EOC). Students will have to pass two of three in each core area including English, social studies, math, and science. The depth and rigor will be significantly more difficult with a strong focus on college readiness.

C. The CSCOPE curriculum is preparing for the change in state assessment from TAKS to End of Course and STARR testing. This gives our teachers a resource that will guide us through a challenging time. As a district our students, teachers, administrators and parents have always risen to the challenge set for by state government. We will be successful again!

D. Dual Credit – Our district continues to lead the area with free dual credit offerings to our students. Qualified students are able to attain college hours with no cost to the parents their junior and senior year. The school board continues to keep this as a priority for the future of this district and its students. Since 2010-2011 with the addition of college biology, students will have the opportunity to receive 32 hours of college credit at no cost to the parent. Upon graduation, these students will enter college as a sophomore, saving our district parents thousands of dollars in college fees. The district plans on continuing our strong partnership with Navarro College in the future.

IV. Technology

A. The district is in good shape with the number of computers that students have access to in school. Over the last year the district has implemented a district wide wireless network to help facilitate internet access points in all classrooms.

B. The district has completed the purchase of smart board technology in all departments throughout the district. This is a change in the delivery method of instruction in many classrooms. Students don't learn the same as they did in the past; therefore, we don't teach the same. The district is committed to delivering instruction in varying methods and teachers have been trained in the use of smart board technology (mimeo boards and mimeo pads).

C. As the district moves forward in the use of technology, the district will continue to explore ways to fund the purchase of one to one computers for students on the various campuses.

V. Financial

A. Blooming Grove ISD's financial position is very strong: however, due to the loss of state funding there was some loss of revenue to the district. The district continues to be committed to maintain a healthy fund balance without losing programs and positive steps that we have made over the last several years. Because of the loss of significant state funding this year, the budget has been reduced significantly compared to recent years.

1. M&O (Maintenance and Operations) fund balances continue to remain at a healthy level for our district.

B. The accounting system in place is basically a perfect model for what the state would like school districts to model. The state rating system called FIRST gave the school a superior achievement rating again this year. The district has always received this rating since the inception of this rating system by the state. It is a tremendous source of pride in our business office that shows we are very careful with the money our taxpayers entrust to the district.

C. The audit report over the last nine years has been clean with no errors or reportable conditions to TEA.

1. If there are issues that arise, whether it is based on procedural or personnel, it is addressed legally and corrected.

VI. Transportation

A. The district continues to upgrade its transportation. Because of the funding crisis, a new bus will not be ordered this year. This can only be done for one or possibly two years because of the number of miles that our buses travel yearly, largely on unpaved, rural roads that are extremely hard on our fleet.