

CREATING DISTRICT FINANCIAL STABILITY THROUGH LEVERAGING OPTION ENROLLMENT

This document is an analysis of the option enrollment question and how it impacts the District's finances and student results.

Why did our school district aggressively pursue the Option Enrollment population?

- Declining resident student population
- To leverage the TEEOSA school funding bill to create additional revenue for district operations. Option students on average bring the district \$8,500 per student.
- To generate more dollars for building improvements
- Nebraska Senator Scheer introduced legislation in 2014 that would require schools to create an allied school system if their district enrollment was below 650 students.

School Year	Total Enrollment	Option In Students	Resident Students
1997 - 98	612	26	586
1998 - 99*	602	39	563
1999 - 2000	605	48	557
2000 - 2001	594	64	530
2001 - 2002	577	70	507
2002 -2003	578	79	499
2003 - 2004	596	98	498
2004 - 2005	581	96	485
2005 - 2006	580	105	475
2006 - 2007	572	110	462
2007 - 2008	564	116	448
2008 - 2009	556	110	446
2009 - 2010	586	111	475
2010 - 2011	562	133	429
2011 - 2012	562	139	423
2012 - 2013	562	155	407
2013 - 2014	580	165	415
2014 - 2015	583	164	419
2015 - 2016	622	188	434
2016 - 2017**	673	207	466
2017 - 2018	691	236	455

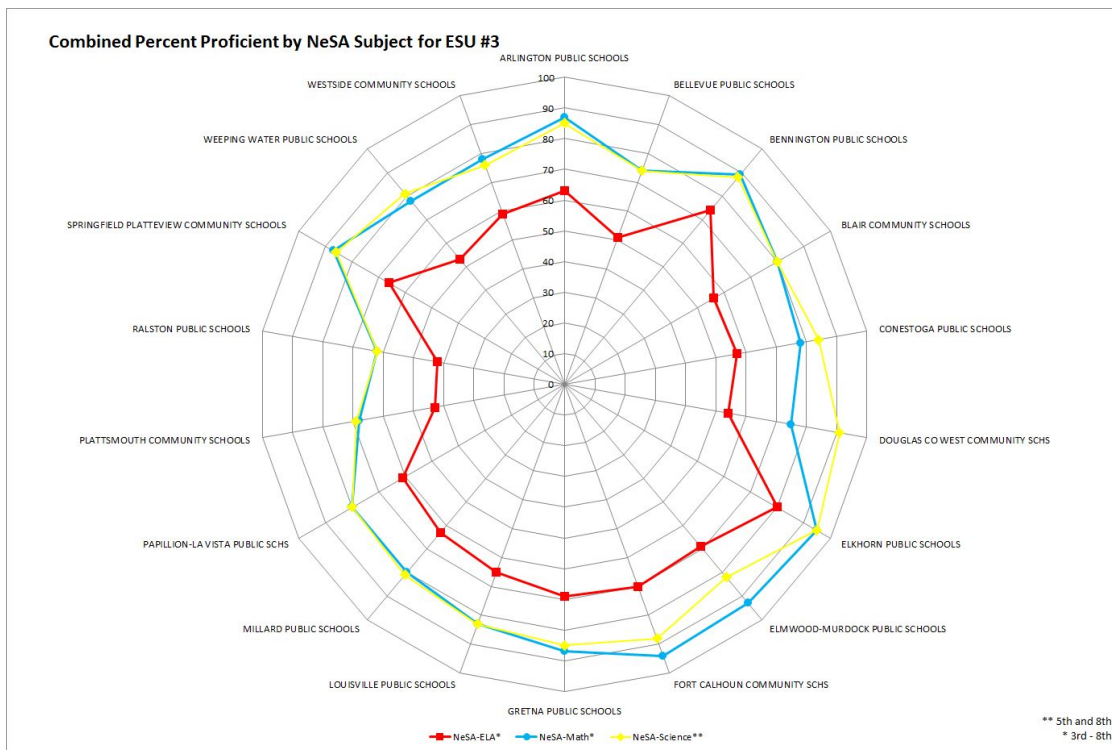
* OPS Participates fully in Option Enrollment

**Added 3rd Sixth Grade Section

All enrollment numbers are K - 12

We have some large classes in the elementary; has it effected student achievement?

- Our district test scores have not suffered because of larger classroom sizes. Our district NeSA scores within the ESU#3 remain higher than the surrounding area.
- The district has employed more Para-educators to help in the larger classrooms to ensure all needs are met.
- Through continuous improvement we monitor progress, and equip, and encourage each student to perform at their highest level. This encourages consistency but also strives for improvement in the annual test scores.



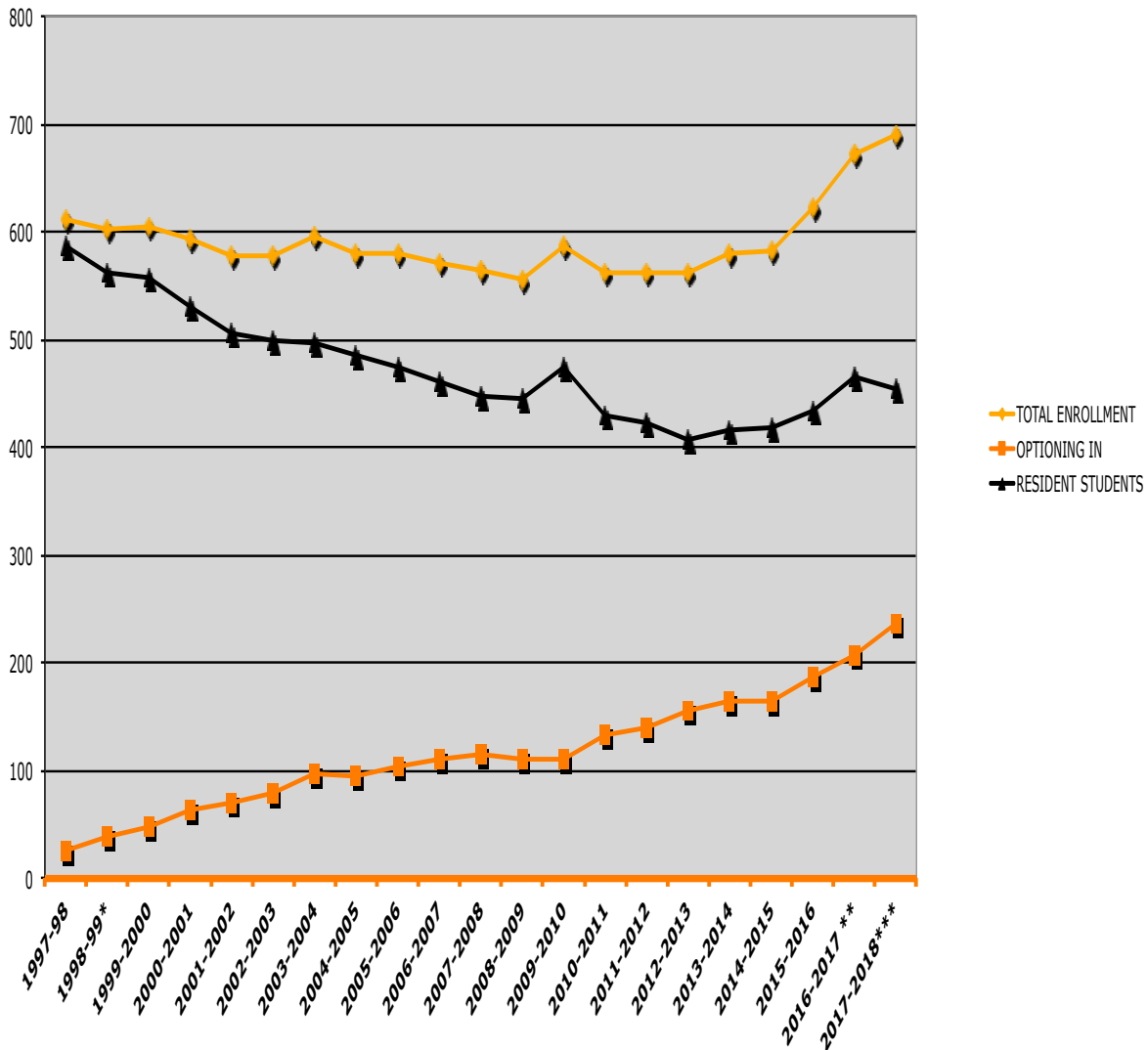
What has the district done to prevent families from abusing the residency policy to get their students into Fort Calhoun Schools?

- The district evaluated all pertinent residency policy and procedures. Through this process, we created stricter policies for proof of residency and created new forms. (Policy 5002.2 forms A&B)
- Within these policies the district added a penalty for violators of the residency policy which could include the possibility of disenrollment of the student.

Has the strategy to generate growth in resident student counts while maximizing the financial benefits of option enrollment students worked, through strict adherence to a maximum class size then filling open spots with option students?

- We have seen an increase in population over the past five years.
- We have also seen a decrease in the number of Option Enrollment openings due to classes being at capacity.

•Our plan is working as evidenced by a brisk real estate market in the District and local housing developments that are filling up, all of which generate additional property taxes which helps offset the loss of Option Enrollment dollars as those numbers decline.



Has option enrollment had a positive impact on the District and what has that done for the District?

- Net option funding for the 2017-18 school year generated \$1,816,104 for the School District
- Option funding dollars support the basic program offerings of the District. In addition they have allowed us to add teachers back that were cut before the Levy Override and add additional teachers to expand the High School class offerings which brings us more in line with similar sized districts in this area
- The additional dollars have allowed us to improve school facilities and add much needed classroom space

If our district was to lose the \$1,816,104 in Option Enrollment, what might that look like?

We would have to select from these categories and come up with the Option Enrollment amount:

Items to be Cut	Dollar Amount
All Para-Educators and Sports & Activities	\$954,488
12 Teachers	\$972,111.84
11 Teachers & 1 Administrator	\$1,022,109.45
7 Teachers & Half of the Para-Educators	\$958,667.24
Capital, Computers, Half of the Paras-Educators, 4 Teachers	\$1,033,957.28
Building Fund, Capital, Half of the Para-Educators, 1 Teacher	\$1,018,135.00