



## BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Demographics

Berlin Public Schools opened the 2013-2014 school year with an enrollment of 1279 students K-12 and closed the school year with an enrollment of 1233. Kindergarten was offered in six half-day sessions.

The district employed 252 employees. The district has 56% low socio-economically deprived; 25% of the students are identified as students with disabilities, state average is 16%.

### Instruction & Assessment

All students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 were administered the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program), the statewide testing, in October, in Reading and Math. Grade 5, Grade 8, and Grade 11 were also assessed in Writing. In May, grades 4, 8 and 11 were tested in Science.

The following grade levels showed the most gain either near, at or above state average.

Grade 3	66%	Proficiency in Reading
	46%	Proficiency in Math
Grade 5	71%	Proficiency in Reading
	72%	Proficiency in Math
Grade 7	67%	Proficiency in Reading
Grade 11	6.6	Grade Equiv. in Writing

Under the guidelines of a state Waiver to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) schools are given a designation of “priority school” and “focus school”. Based on N.H. assessment results, schools who do not have a testing grade are

designated as “priority schools”. Schools who do not make adequate yearly progress in each student subgroup: race, disabilities, low socio-economic and gender, are designated “focus schools”. Brown School is identified as a “priority” school and Hillside is identified as a “focus” school. These designations apply to Title I schools. Both schools were required to complete a restructuring plan for improvement.

The regional Career and Technical Education Center (CTE) offered the following programs: Accounting, Automotive, Technology, Building Trades, Drafting/CAD, Early Childhood Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Graphic Arts, Health Science Technology, Pre-engineering and Welding.

Industry certifications were earned by students in Automotive Technology, Health Science Technology and Welding. The Pre-engineering program was certified by Project Lead –The- Way for a period of 5 years. National Automotive Technology Education Foundation (NATEF) renewed the Automotive program’s certification for 5 years. The N.H. Board of Nursing renewed the 2-year certification of the Health Science Technology program.

### Staff Accomplishments

The Berlin District Leadership Team worked with specific K-12 goals.

- The use of best practices in instruction will improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap
- Advance the effectiveness of student/building/district data teams with the use of common assessments
- Improved communication with parents and the community will have a positive impact on student achievement

District-wide committees met to address: Professional Development, Wellness, District and School goals, Math curriculum review K-12 and Technology integration.

As a district, all buildings have revised emergency management plans. Additional surveillance systems have been installed both in and out of school buildings. All school busses are also equipped with video and audio surveillance systems.



Valentine's Day Surprise visit from Governor Maggie Hassan

The district technology committee works monthly to assess the needs of the staff and students, ensures 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, increases access to technology, provides trainings for more efficient paperless tasks, supports for student use and preparation for on-line electronic state testing with Smarter Balanced Assessment. The district has been proactive in increasing the use of technology for staff and students. Our inventory is currently 715 PCs, 350 Ipads, 105 Chrome notebooks and 40 KUNO tablets. We have increased our district-wide bandwidth from 13 Megabytes to 200 Megabytes for all

schools in preparation for our transition to a digital platform of one-to-one computing and state testing. In the upcoming 2014-15 school year all of our students in grades 5-8 will be assigned a school owned tablet. In preparation for this transition we have added an additional subcommittee to prepare for our new initiative, train students, educate parents and support staff.

### **Facilities Report**

Our buildings had a full assessment of roof conditions and developed a multi-year plan for maintenance and repair. Window replacements continue at the Hillside/Berlin Middle School complex.

Heating management has proven to be successful with our decrease of fuel consumption. Prior to the district actively applying a heating management program the lowest recorded year for oil consumption was 1997 with 120,258 gallons of heating oil consumed. The district has used less oil than our previous record set in 1997 for three consecutive years saving a total of 32,760 gallons, equal to a combined cost savings of \$101,208. Working with our plumber and a boiler maintenance company the custodians are managing their own boilers.

### **Parent/Community/Board Involvement**

A parent/teacher/student conference day was scheduled for Dec. 6, 2013 for all grades K-12. In grades K-6, teachers reviewed student progress with parents, in grades 6-8 students reviewed their portfolios with parents. In Grades 9-12 parents met individually with teachers. Parent participation rates were: Brown School 96%, Hillside School 95%, Berlin Middle School 94%. A student-led conference was scheduled at Berlin High School May 24, 2014, participation was 95%.

Family nights were held at Brown and Hillside schools based on a literacy theme.

Brown School participated in literacy events centered on a theme, "A Trip Down the Nile" and Hillside School with a theme "Reading Olympics". These events were sponsored by the local Title I Program.

Berlin Middle School students participated in a financial literacy fair assisted by Woodlands Credit Union and Guardian Angel Credit Union. Middle School students also participated in a Health-O-Rama sponsored by Androscoggin Valley Hospital.

Students at all grade levels visited local establishments for community service, learning about safety on the job, science education, fine arts performances, job shadows and internships.

The Drama Club had two performances; "The Uninvited" and "Honk, Jr."

Brown School continued a "Walking Wednesday School Bus".

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programming is evolving with a program for all students in grade 6, 7, and 8 at Berlin Middle School, then it transitions to Project-Lead-The-Way in grades 9-12. Project Lead The Way classes are pre-engineering courses offered at Berlin High School such as: Intro to Engineering Design, Civil Engineering, Bio-Technical Engineering, Digital Electronics, Technology and Robotics.

Students also have the opportunity to earn college credits by taking designated "Running Start" courses with White Mt. Community College while completing high school credits. APEX learning is an on-line program for students who need credit recovery.

Several high school student groups qualified and attended national conferences and

competitions: Destination Imagination, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), USA SKILLS for Welding, and FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America). The girls field hockey team won the N.H. state title, boys ice hockey, basketball and baseball teams all advanced to the semi-final round of state tournaments. Richard Dragon was the state champion for shot put in track and field events.

Berlin Board of Education members are: Nicole Plourde, Chair, Donald Labrecque, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Lynn Moore, Louise Valliere and Denise Valerino. The Berlin Board of Education was awarded the N.H. Excellence in Education Award for being the 2014 Best School Board of the State.

The Berlin Board members were successfully engaged in contract negotiations with the Berlin Education Support Staff to develop a new collective bargaining agreement for one year.

The city funded the school budget at \$17,685,049. The School Board members and district administrators carefully examined all its programs and operational expenses in the year-long process of developing the FY15 school department budget. The goal was to maintain N.H. Approved Schools, to maintain High School Accreditation, to pursue state and federal funding as supplements to the city's school budget appropriation and to increase technology in all aspects of teaching and learning

Respectfully Submitted,

Corinne E. Cascadden  
Superintendent of Schools