

School Department

Demographics

Berlin Public Schools opened the 2017-2018 school year with an enrollment of 1158, grades K-12. Kindergarten is a full day program.

Grade levels K-2 are at Brown School, Grades 3-5 at Hillside School, Grades 6-8 at Berlin Middle School, and Grades 9-12 at Berlin High School. Special Education Pupil Services and Office of Student Wellness are at the Marston School building. The district's central office is in the Hillside School building. The district's bus fleet of 10 plus 2 minivans is at a leased garage on Hutchins St. Total miles travelled during 2016-17: 115,465 miles.

The After-School Program, in partnership with the Family Resource Center, saw growth in participation for students in grades K-8. Academic and enrichment support was provided daily in after-school programming, community involvement, and evening meals Monday-Thursday. The program staff collaborated with classroom teachers to ensure students increased academic achievement in the regular classroom. The number of K-8 students enrolled was 118 during the school year and 80 enrolled summer program, 2018. The district employed 245 employees. The district has 56% low socio-economically deprived; 24% of the students are identified as students with disabilities. The state average is 14%.

Instruction & Assessment

In the spring of 2017, all N.H. schools administered a statewide assessment called NH Statewide Assessment System (SAS).

Number of Students Tested and Percent of Students at Level 3 proficiency or above:

English Language Arts/Literacy		
Grade	#of Students Tested	% at Level 3 or Above
Grade 3	67	39.4%
Grade 4	91	32.5%
Grade 5	68	45.4%
Grade 6	83	36.1%
Grade 7	99	49.0%
Grade 8	104	40.0%

Mathematics		
Grade	#of Students Tested	% at Level 3 or Above
Grade 3	67	32.4%
Grade 4	91	59.2%
Grade 5	68	41.5%
Grade 6	83	33.4%
Grade 7	99	50.0%
Grade 8	104	34.0%

Berlin Middle School students increased reading proficiency using a web-based reading program. Reading Plus was a whole-school reading support program sponsored by Local Granite United Way. Student progress was noted from 45% to 57% reading at or above grade level.

The state adopted the use of SAT College Board tests for all grade 11 students as the State Assessment System. It is anticipated that SATs will raise awareness of the importance for all students to be focused on college and career readiness. The mean score for reading and writing was 476, state mean score was 521. The mean score for math was 466, state mean score was 512.

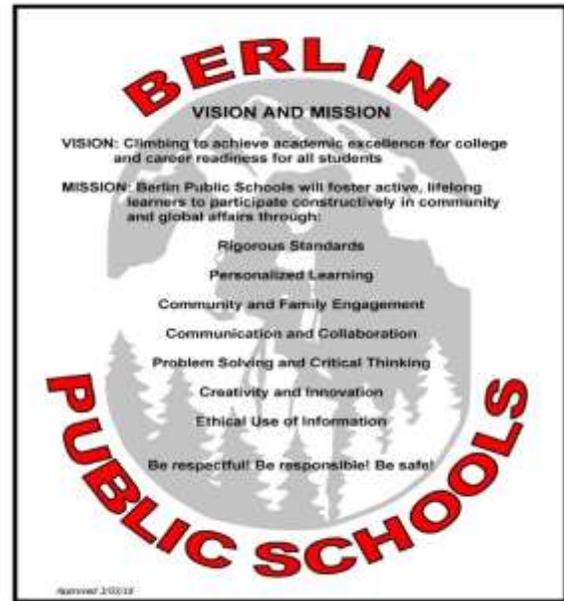
Professional development was provided for all staff focusing on district and school goals. Trainings and professional development activities included an emergency management framework known as A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate)

and a police notification system called CopSync. All teachers used half-day in-service days to develop student competencies for math and English language arts. School-based roll out activities were initiated for culture and climate framework known as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and evidenced-based process to increase consistent expectations of student behavior. The staff received trainings in Youth Mental Health First Aid, CPR/AED. Building level professional development was conducted for integrated use of technology for instructional practices, strategies for math and reading instruction. Teachers participated in trainings in Competency-Based Learning, Powerschool a new student management system, science coding, STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Math) in partnership with White Mt. Science Institute, CPI (nonviolent crisis intervention), and Mindful Practices.

New courses offered at Berlin High School were Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Publications, and Digital Media Literacy. An academic partnership with White Mt. Community College was established for dual enrollment, running start classes, and early college.

The Berlin Regional Career & 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 (HST), Pre-engineering and Welding. Industry certifications were earned by students in Automotive Technology, Health Science Technology, and Welding.

All district goals and objectives are driven by a vision and mission developed by stakeholders. The district was in implementation phase of the reauthorized federal law Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which replaces the tenets of No Child Left Behind.



The Office of Student Wellness implemented two additional grant funded projects: Systems of Care and Restorative Justice. Systems of Care is a wraparound model creating a team of community members to support youth and families. Team members include school staff, school counselors, church members, case managers, therapists, neighbors, babysitters and friends. Some benefits include crisis and safety plans for families to use at home, connecting youth with mentors, services, activities, jobs, and positive support systems. This program is led by a school social worker, Alana Scannell. Restorative Justice is a process for youth offenders (ages 12-17) to be held accountable, develop empathy for victims, and to make amends. Restorative programming is characterized by three key values: 1) Encounter, to create opportunities for victims, offenders, and community members who meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath; 2) Amends to expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm or damaged caused; and 3) Inclusion to provide opportunities for parties at stake to participate in its resolution. The program coordinator is Officer Adam Marsh, Berlin Police Department.

Staff Accomplishments

District-wide committees met to address: Leadership, Professional Development, Wellness, Technology Integration, School Climate and Culture, Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Emergency Management, and Project A.W.A.R.E. (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education).

The School Resource Officer (SRO), funded primarily through Project AWARE, responded to more than 1,134 calls for service within the schools, including home visits, school visits, counseled students, classroom presentations, field trips, incident reports, school meetings, and school patrols.

Targeted interventions for students needing extra behavioral supports in order to be successful in the natural school setting were driven largely by the Behavioral Health Intervention Teams in each school. These teams identified students for both specialized social emotional learning groups and provided individualized supports for students identified at being high risk. Students actively engaged in community based mental health treatment increased by more than 50% since the beginning of the grant project in 2015.

Brown School 2nd grade Teacher, Susan Griffin was awarded the Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship award, selected by the N.H. Charitable Foundation. Berlin High School Health Teacher Patricia Hood was awarded the Sylvia Evans Award.

Facilities Report

The Hillside/Berlin Middle School cafeteria flooring was replaced with asbestos abatement. Berlin Middle School boys and girls locker rooms were completely renovated, the Pine St. courtyard was paved, and the intercom system at Berlin High School was upgraded. Each building was visited by a representative from Homeland Security Emergency Management to conduct a physical building assessment for

safety and security recommendations. The district was successfully awarded 2 NH Public Infrastructure Fund grants, 1) Increase surveillance with securing the front and rear entrances of Berlin High School, creating a locked vestibule to limit building access and 2) Increase security by upgrading the entire district surveillance/camera system to digital with a higher resolution and adding cameras to 20 additional locations.

Parent/Community/Board Involvement

Parent and community engagement events were held at all schools with opportunities to meet teachers and learn about expectations for the students.

Events held at Brown School and Hillside School included: Parent/Teacher Organization meetings, Book Fairs, and open houses. Brown School held a Title I Family Literacy Night themed “TechSploration” with 75 families participating. Hillside School held a Title I Family Literacy Night themed, “Superheroes”, an estimated 40 families participated. Classes visited local sites: Tin Mt., Great Glen Trails, AMC trails, Moose Brook State Park, and Horne Field. Hillside student council members participated in the Berlin Main Street Day of Caring. A FIRST Robotics Club with 15 members from Hillside School participated in regional competition. Hillside students Isabelle Leite, Megan Knall, and Leo Zheng won the state essay contest on the NH Bicentennial of the State House. Coos County Family Health Services continued to provide a dental hygienist to promote healthy oral health. Lessons were provided in oral hygiene, weekly fluoride rinses, free cleanings and check-ups for qualifying students on school sites. Berlin Middle School 7th grade students participated in a financial literacy fair sponsored by Northeast Credit Union and Service Credit Union. Middle School 8th grade students participated in a Health-O-Rama sponsored by Androscoggin Valley Hospital and North Country Health Consortium. Students

participated in North Country Youth Leadership and Kids in Prevention Youth Leadership (YLTA). Berlin Middle School grade 7 and 8 students were selected for GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) programming. GEAR UP is federally funded to promote activities that encourage postsecondary education. Berlin is one of 7 state cohort groups. Upon graduation from high school each student from the cohort group will be awarded a scholarship equal to Pell Grants if they attend a 2 or 4 year NH college. Parents of all incoming freshman at Berlin High School were invited to orientation, with 98% participation. Parents had opportunities to participate in information sessions on: college financial aid, college/understanding a financial aid award, overview of the college process, assistance with FAFSA, and Cyber Safety Presentation.

In athletics, Berlin was runner-up in NH unified basketball. Individually, Joey Fodor was the NH Division III and state champion in javelin. He set the state Division III record. Evan Arsenault joined the 1,000 point club for BHS Basketball and recognized as a WMUR-TV Hometown Hero. Noah Cornish was the state champion at the NH Skills USA welding competition and represented Berlin High School at the National championships. Berlin High School student Sarah Clark was a recipient of the Sylvia Evans Award for her volunteerism and contributions to women and families.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Class of	2018	2017	2016	2015
4-year college	25%	34%	35%	35%
2-year college	30%	38%	35%	28%
Military	<1%	1%	2%	4%

The high school and middle Youth Leadership Through Adventure (YLTA) groups empower students to promote chem-free, pro-social,

experiential education, service learning, and life style. Berlin High School students facilitated a schoolwide climate project focused on improving kindness.

Berlin Board of Education members are: Chairperson, Nicole Plourde, Vice-Chair, Lynn Moore, Secretary, Denise Valerino, Louise Valliere, and Scott Losier. The School Board held an annual joint meeting in October with Milan and Dummer school boards. The Berlin Board of Education also initiated conversations with SAU#20 on the exploration of regionalization and collaboration.

The city funded the FY18 operating school budget at \$18,190,437. The School Board members and district administrators carefully examined all its programs and operational expenses in the year-long process of developing the school department budget. With an annual 4% decrease in state aid, the district will need to adapt staffing and operations accordingly. Staffing reductions are being made through attrition when feasible. A five-year capital improvement plan was submitted to the city with continued growth in maintaining the City’s school properties. The goal is 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 implement technology in all aspects of teaching and learning, with the end result of all students to be college and career ready.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Corinne E. Cascadden
Superintendent of Schools