



DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

400 9th Avenue West • P.O. Box 586 • Benkelman, NE 69021-0586

"Every Day...Every Child...A Success!"

Tigers

Superintendent Report

November 2025

'25-26 State Aid Recalculation:

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) ran the state aid formula utilizing the current valuations that were provided to districts in August 2025. The change will appear on the 2026-2027 State Aid Report for the district as a "Prior Year Correction". Through that process, the district had the following change.

Original State Aid Amount =	\$430,206
Recalculated State Aid Amount -	<u>442,722</u>
Prior Year Correction ('26-27) =	\$ 12,516

Tiger Tots Childcare Project:

The Childcare/Pre-Kindergarten Project continues to move to progress toward. Fundraising continues to be a goal as the construction phase heads toward completion and sustainability becomes the focus. The Open House was held on Sunday, 10/26/2025 and was largely viewed as a success with 100+ people in attendance. The Childcare/Pre-Kindergarten facility, Dundy County Stratton district along with the community of Benkelman and surrounding area and will be featured on the CBS Evening News for the innovation and initiative shown in addressing the childcare shortage. There is work being done that is being pushed to be completed prior to the arrival of winter weather. The replacement windows were installed last week (Tuesday, 11/04/2025) and there is a crew arriving Thursday-Friday, 11/13-14/2025 to seal all of the new cement. This will mean we will be having alternative drop-off/pick-up for Tiger Tots on Thursday/Friday and then both Tiger Tots and the Elementary will have alternative drop-off/pick-up on Friday.

ESU #15/16 Board Member Workshop:

The annual ESU #15 & 16 Board Member Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, 01/13/2026 in North Platte, NE (N.P. High School) at 5:00 p.m. (CST)/4:00 p.m. (MST). An agenda has not been released at this point in time. Please check your calendar to see if that date would be available for you to attend the workshop. I will need to send the registration in to ESU #16 after the December board meeting.

Mr. Alan D. Garey
Superintendent
308.423.2738
alan.garey@dcstigers.org

Mrs. Sandy O'Neil
Jr. High/ High School
Principal
308.423.2738
soneil@dcstigers.org

Mr. Kris Freeland
Elementary Principal
308.423.2216
kfreeland@dcstigers.org



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ALICAP Report:

The Loss Control Consultant (Dan Keyser) from ALICAP insurance has been on campus as has Mike Williams (Nebraska Department of Education) for their annual visit(s). These visits fulfill the property insurance visitation and the NDE requirement of "The school district shall bring in an outside person to conduct an annual safety review and submit a written report to the superintendent. There were a couple of recommendations made that will be addressed moving forward. Both reports were very positive.

Bus Accident:

On Tuesday, 11/04/2025, a Dundy County Stratton route bus was in a traffic accident on the east edge of Max, NE. No injuries were immediately identified at the scene but there has been an injury diagnosed since. That student is being seen by a physician at the current time. The vehicle (1999 Mid-Bus) is a total loss. The situation is now between the two insurance carriers (ALICAP for the district—Progressive for the other party). The situation could have been much worse than what it turned out to be so hopefully we move forward with no further issues. As I said in the release of information, The Dundy County Sheriffs Office, Benkelman Ambulance, Benkelman Fire Department and Sinners Towing all assisted with the accident scene. Robert Castillo also played a large role in the aftermath of the accident.

NSAA Honors:

The Nebraska School Activity Association (NSAA) named the annual Believers & Achievers program students earlier this month. Dundy County Stratton senior Emma Baldeah was named as one of the 48 honorees for this group. This is a prestigious award that encompasses all schools in all classes and is corporately sponsored by Currency. Additionally, Alyssa Stamm was selected to perform the National Anthem for the first round of the State Volleyball Tournament on Thursday, 11/06/2025 at Pinnacle Bank Arena (PBA) in Lincoln, NE. In moving throughout the facility on Thursday, I was stopped by several individuals that complimented Alyssa and her rendition of the anthem.

The district was also honored by the Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA), Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NSIAAA) and Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for the 2025 State Volleyball Championship Sportsmanship Award. This award is also corporately sponsored by Currency.

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Lightning Claim:

The lightning strike insurance claim continues to be dealt with. Nebraska Safety and Fire has installed the replacement fire system panel at the Jr./Sr. High School. Prairie States Communication is working on the licensing of the new equipment with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This process has been slowed with the government shutdown so hopefully progress can be made with the opening of the government in the near future. The new point-to-point system has arrived and has been configured so it is ready for installation. The kitchen refrigerator is back to fully operational. Hopefully we can have all components in service soon.

Business Teacher:

Ms. Kweeny Samson is now residing in Benkelman, NE and possesses a Nebraska Initial Teaching Certificate. By holding the Nebraska certificate, she is now instructing classes on her own. The district is very pleased to have Ms. Samson as part of the district staff moving forward.

Negotiations:

Attached to this report is the initial information that I have put together to begin the negotiations process. The Dundy County Stratton Education Association (DCSEA) has reached out that they are prepared to meet so a date in the near future will have to be looked at in order to begin.

Superintendent Leave (2025-2026):

Working Days: 91 days available
Sick Leave: 01.5 day used/07.0 days remaining
Vacation Leave: 01.0 day used/16.0 days remaining

**current as of 11/10/2025*

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