

Falls City Writing Scores on Par with State Averages

The Nebraska Department of Education released results of the new statewide writing assessment last month. Falls City students' test results were on par with their peers from across the state. North School Principal Ernie Valentine outlined the results during Monday's School Board meeting.

Fourth, eighth, and 11th grade students took the new standardized writing test. (play audio :33 "exceeding the standard.")

In addition to receiving the percentage of students who met the state standard, Valentine says the district also received what's called a "scale score" for 8th and 11th grade results. (play audio :20 "explain it.")

Essentially, Valentine says, Falls City 8th and 11th graders tested right at the state average, while 4th graders were five-percent above the state average. In addition to the district scale score, students were also given an individual scale score. (play audio :27 "individual basis.")

This was the first year for the NeSA (nee-sah) writing test, and Valentine says the Falls City School District is in the same boat as other districts in the state, trying to figure out ways to improve scores in future years.

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