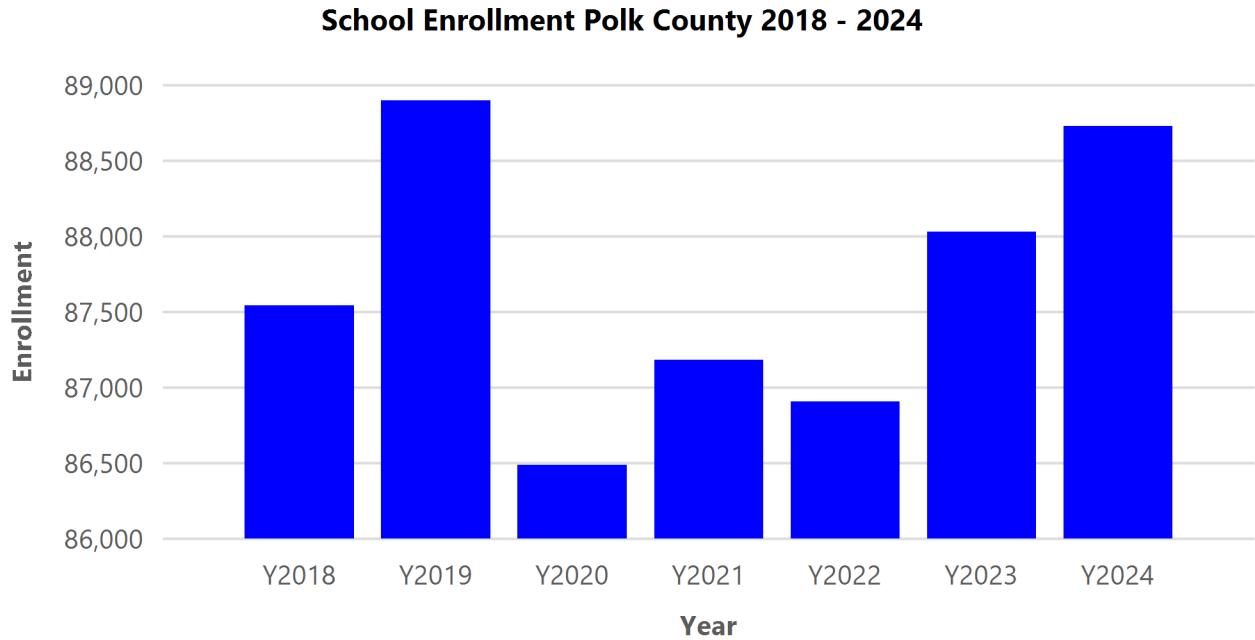


2024 SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION AUDIT - SCHOOLS IN POLK COUNTY

STUDENT ENROLLMENT-The number of students enrolled in the district is based on data reported by school employees at the time of the audit each fall.

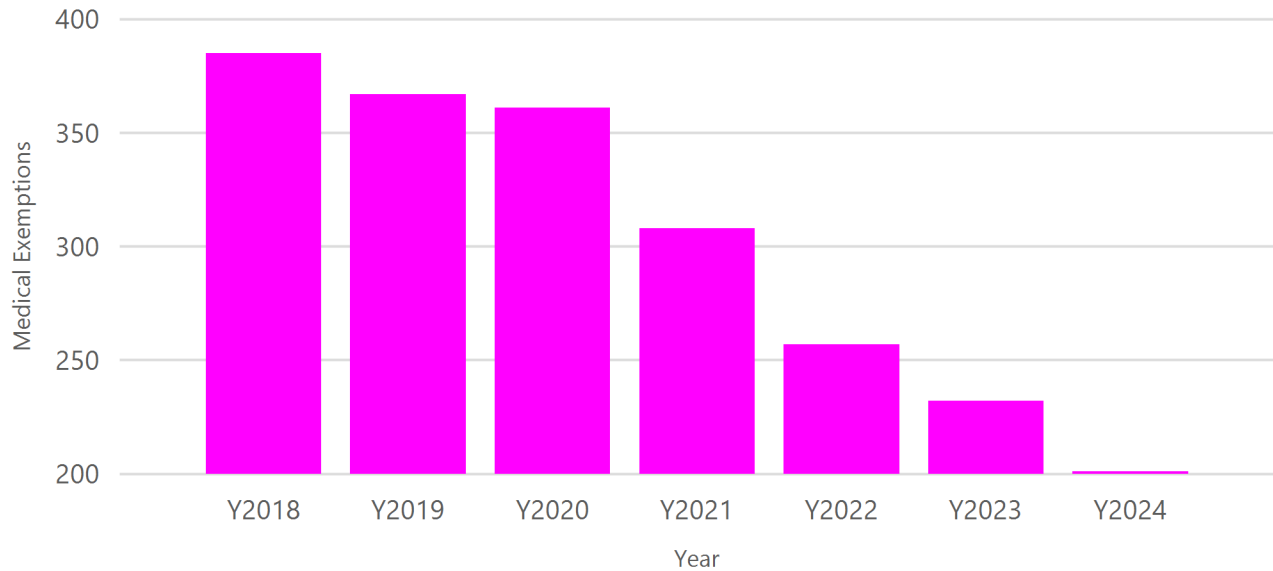


Number of enrolled students in the **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year:

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Enrollment	87542	88901	86488	87180	86906	88031	88728
%Change	0.0	1.6	-2.7	0.8	-0.3	1.3	0.8

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS- *Medical exemptions are issued if a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant deems the administration of the vaccine injurious to the health of the student or a member of the student’s family or household, or if minimum spacing requirements for the vaccine have not been met. In the latter case, the student may receive the vaccine after minimum spacing requirements have been met.*

Medical Exemptions Polk County 2018 - 2024

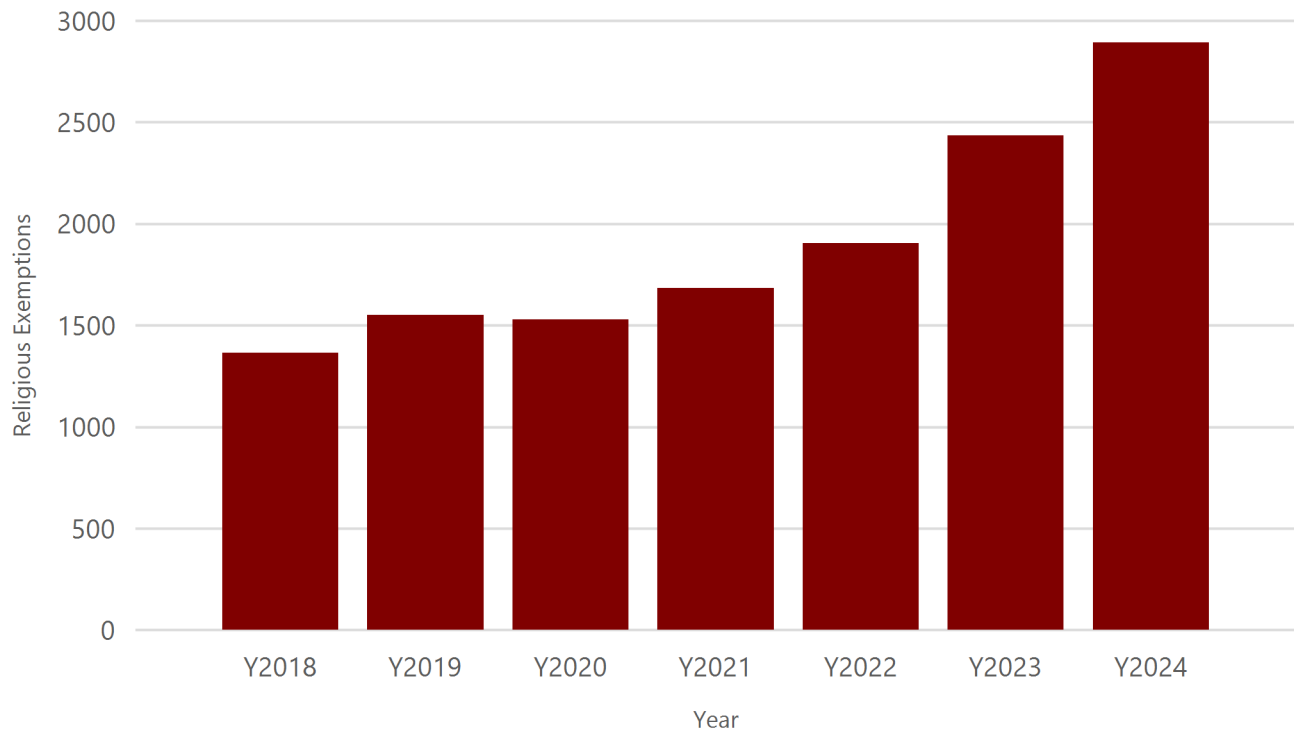


Number of students with medical exemptions in **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year:

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Medical Exemptions	385	367	361	308	257	232	201
%Change	0.0	-4.7	-1.6	-14.7	-16.6	-9.7	-13.4

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS- *Religious exemptions are granted to students for whom vaccination conflicts with a religious belief. To be granted a religious exemption, parents or legal guardians must sign a waiver certifying that immunization would violate a religious belief and not simply a philosophical, moral, personal, or scientific viewpoint.*

Religious Exemptions Polk County 2018 - 2024

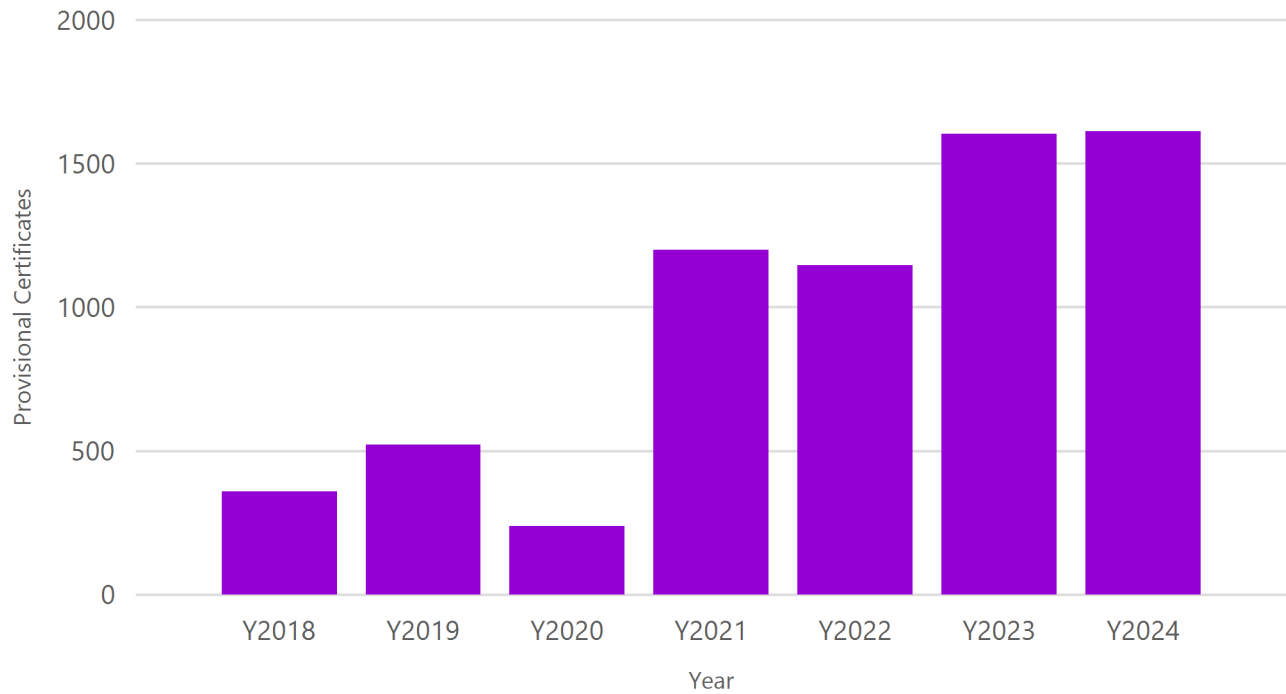


Number of students with religious exemptions in **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Religious Exemptions	1366	1551	1528	1684	1903	2434	2893
%Change	0.0	13.5	-1.5	10.2	13.0	27.9	18.9

PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATES- *Provisional certificates are issued to students for two reasons: if the student is a transfer student, or if the student has received at least one dose of each required vaccine but has not completed all of the required immunization series. Students under provisional enrollment are given up to 60 days to show proof of vaccination or to proceed with the next vaccines in the required series. Note: Since provisional certificates are issued temporarily, the number of students in this category is always in flux; a portion of students issued provisional certificates become fully immunized, while others do not receive further vaccines and are later issued medical or religious exemptions or are excluded from school until they present a valid certificate or exemption. Therefore, the risk posed by unvaccinated students under provisional certificates most accurately captures short-term risk to the school and may lead to an overestimation of students who are not fully vaccinated during the entire school year.*

Provisional Certificates Polk County 2018 - 2024

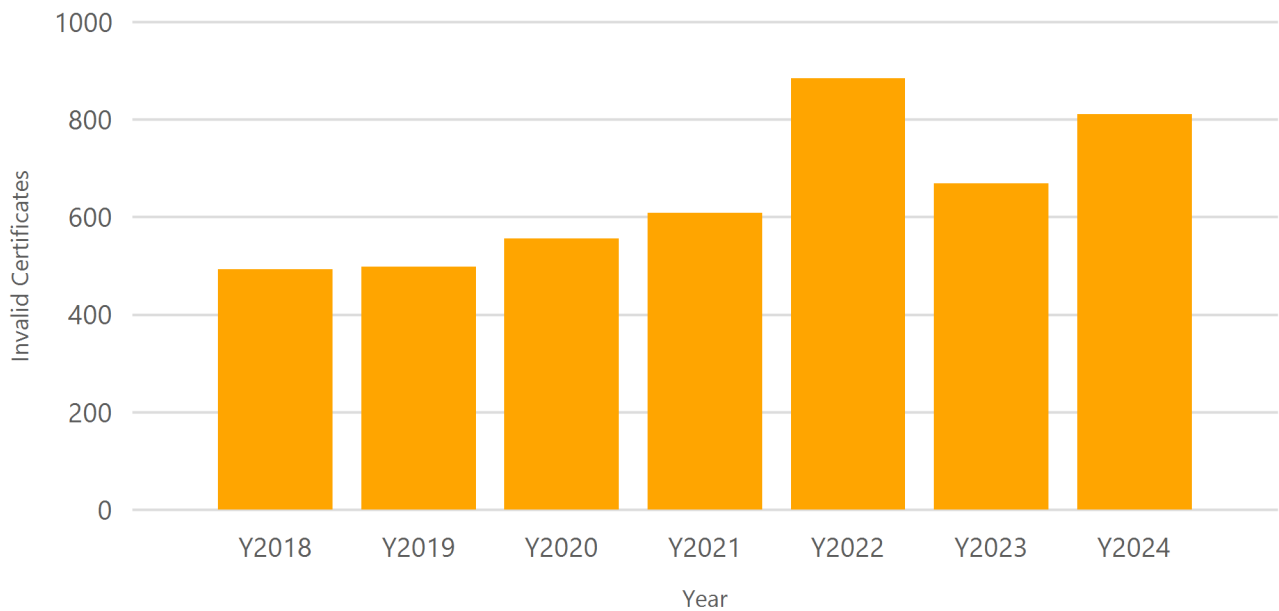


Number of students with provisional certificates in **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year:

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Provisional Certificates	358	521	237	1199	1146	1603	1611
%Change	0.0	45.5	-54.5	405.9	-4.4	39.9	0.5

INVALID CERTIFICATES- A certificate is considered invalid and does by law require exclusion of the student from school if any Certificate or Exemption has expired with no updated immunization records, or if the student is missing an immunization that is a state-required immunization to enter school. The absent of a certificate on file is considered invalid. Excluded students may re-enter school once they provide an up-to-date certificate or exemption. A certificate is considered invalid, but does not require exclusion of the student from school, if it has been filled out improperly, if the student is missing a required immunization that is not the first in the series of state-required immunizations to enter school (in other words, the student has one of each required vaccine series), or if the immunizations have not been recorded on an Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization. Note: Most issues that make a certificate invalid are addressed quickly. The corrections are made or the proper certificate is issued. Therefore, the risk posed by unvaccinated students with invalid certificates captures a short-term risk to the school and may lead to an overestimation of students who are not fully vaccinated during the entire school year.

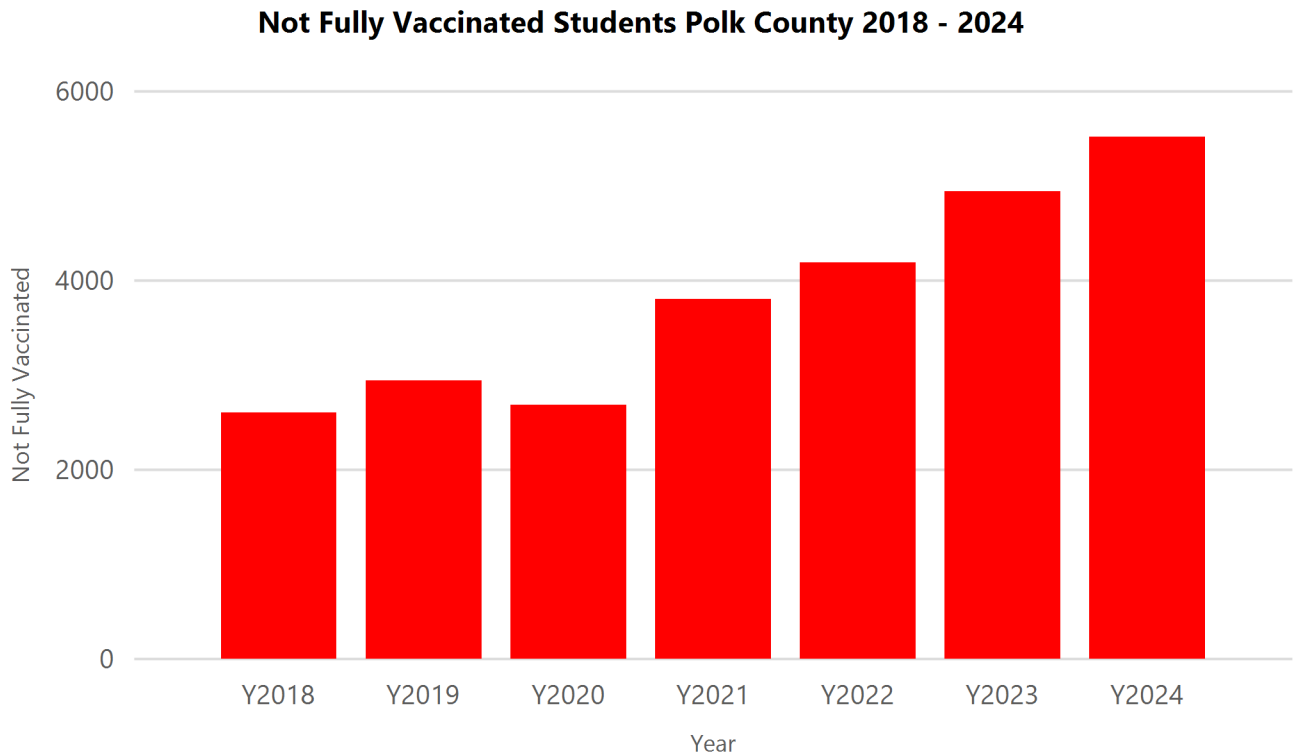
Invalid Certificates Polk County 2018 - 2024



Number of students with invalid certificates in **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year:

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Invalid Certificates	493	498	556	608	884	669	811
%Change	0.0	1.0	11.6	9.4	45.4	-24.3	21.2

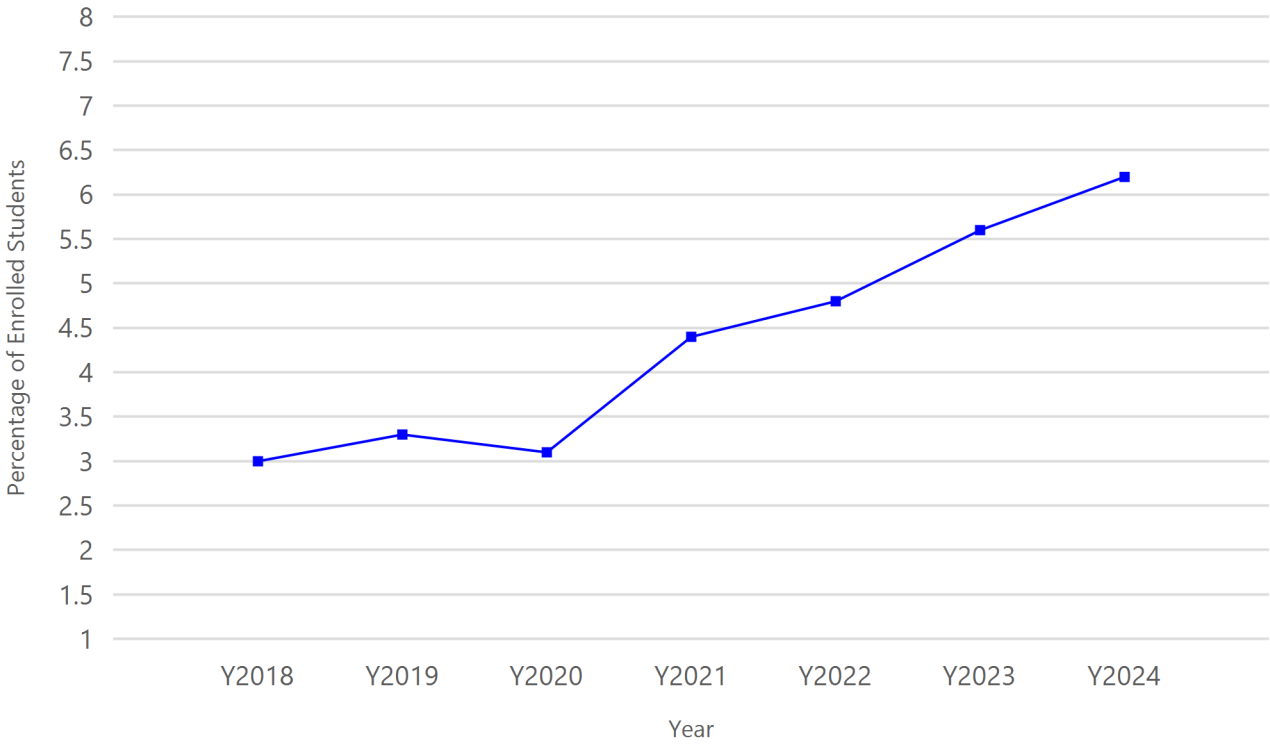
NOT FULLY VACCINATED-This category represents the summary of all type of exemptions (medical and religious) and certificates (provisional and invalid) at the time of the school audit in Polk County schools.



Number of students who were not fully vaccinated in **Polk County schools** and percentage difference in comparison with previous school year:

Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Not Fully Vaccinated	2602	2937	2682	3799	4190	4938	5516
%Change	0.0	12.9	-8.7	41.6	10.3	17.9	11.7

Percentage Not Fully Vaccinated of Enrolled Students 2018 - 2024



Year	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
%Not Fully Vaccinated	3.0	3.3	3.1	4.4	4.8	5.6	6.2

PERCENTAGE NOT FULLY VACCINATED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Districts that reported a percentage increase of not fully vaccinated students in comparison with previous school audit are highlighted in **red**.

% NotFully Vaccinated	Y2018	Y2019	Y2020	Y2021	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
Ankeny	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.7	4.5	5.3	5.2
Bondurant-Farrar	2.5	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.9	4.0	4.5
Dallas Center-Grimes	4.1	3.7	2.9	4.1	4.9	4.1	5.0
Des Moines Independent	2.2	2.8	2.3	3.9	4.4	5.3	5.9
Johnston	3.5	3.7	4.6	4.8	6.0	4.0	5.3
Non-Public	6.2	5.6	5.8	7.7	8.5	10.1	12.0
North Polk	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.4	4.2	4.4	4.7
Saydel	3.0	3.5	3.4	5.6	6.9	4.5	5.6
South East Polk	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.5	3.8	4.0
Urbandale	3.0	2.7	2.5	4.6	3.6	3.8	4.7
West Des Moines	3.3	3.6	3.3	5.0	4.6	7.5	6.7

COMMUNITY IMMUNITY AND IMMUNIZATION RATES-*The higher the vaccination rate, the lower the risk of a disease outbreak. To assess the risk of an outbreak for each of the vaccine-preventable diseases, the concept of “community immunity” must be invoked. Community immunity refers to the number of individuals in a community who must be vaccinated in order for that community to be better protected from a disease outbreak. When this is attained, the disease cannot easily spread through the community, and the entire population is safer. The vaccination rate at which community immunity is achieved varies by disease and by community, but according to the CDC, community immunity is generally attained with a vaccination rate of 95%. Calculations of community immunity have not been performed in the school setting, and since diseases can spread more easily in schools than in other areas of society (due to close contact of individuals and sharing of supplies), this threshold may be even higher in schools. State-level data indicates that a vaccination rate of 98% or higher is a “good” vaccination rate.*

Percent Fully Vaccinated Students by School District

School District	Y2023	Y2024
Ankeny	94.5	94.7
Bondurant-Farrar	96.0	95.5
Dallas Center-Grimes	95.9	95.0
Des Moines Independent	94.7	94.1
Johnston	96.0	94.7
Non-Public	89.8	87.4
North Polk	95.6	95.3
Saydel	95.5	94.4
South East Polk	96.2	96.0
Urbandale	96.2	95.3
West Des Moines	92.5	93.3

PREVENTING DISEASE OUTBREAKS- *These are some recommendations that schools in the district could follow to increase their efforts toward prevention of disease outbreaks.*

Promote vaccination among employees. Similarly, to students, employees are at risk for contracting vaccine-preventable diseases. and they could contribute to the school's community immunity, either protectively by being vaccinated or harmfully by lacking vaccination. Also, if employees contract diseases and are absent from school, students' learning process could be disrupted.

Encourage families to get their children fully vaccinated. Information that encourages families to see their family doctor for vaccinations could be disseminated among parents/guardians using school newsletters, communications from school nurses, websites, letters and registration packets, and at orientation meetings. A special focus should be placed on the meningitis vaccine, which became mandatory for 7th and 12th graders with a new regulation in 2017.

Promote methods to decrease disease transmission. Use of intercom announcements, newsletters, and posters to remind students and staff about the importance of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Provide adequate tissue paper, hand sanitizer and soap in classrooms and restrooms and ensure frequent and thorough cleaning and disinfecting of classroom and common areas in the school.

Reduce number of provisional certificates. Schools can contribute to students' well-being and increase their level of protection against disease outbreaks by ensuring that students get their required vaccines on time. School administration and nursing staff should communicate to parents/guardians about missing vaccines, the importance of completing the vaccination process in a specified time frame and potential consequences to students. Students that do not submit an up to date certificate by the expiration date should be excluded from school and any school related activities until they can provide proper documentation. This is a state mandated rule and can be found at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/chapter/641.7.pdf> For additional questions regarding this type of certificate, contact our Childhood Immunization Program at (515) 286-3798.

Promote monitoring for disease outbreaks. When students or employees call in sick, school staff should record diagnosis and symptoms to track illnesses. Also, school nursing staff can enter information about students and employees' absences into the Polk County Health Reporting System in order to contribute to disease prevention monitoring efforts. For more information about this system, contact the Polk County Health Department at (515) 286-3798.