

COMMUNITY PROFILE

GRETNA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Papio-Missouri River NRD

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

2021

Local Planning Team

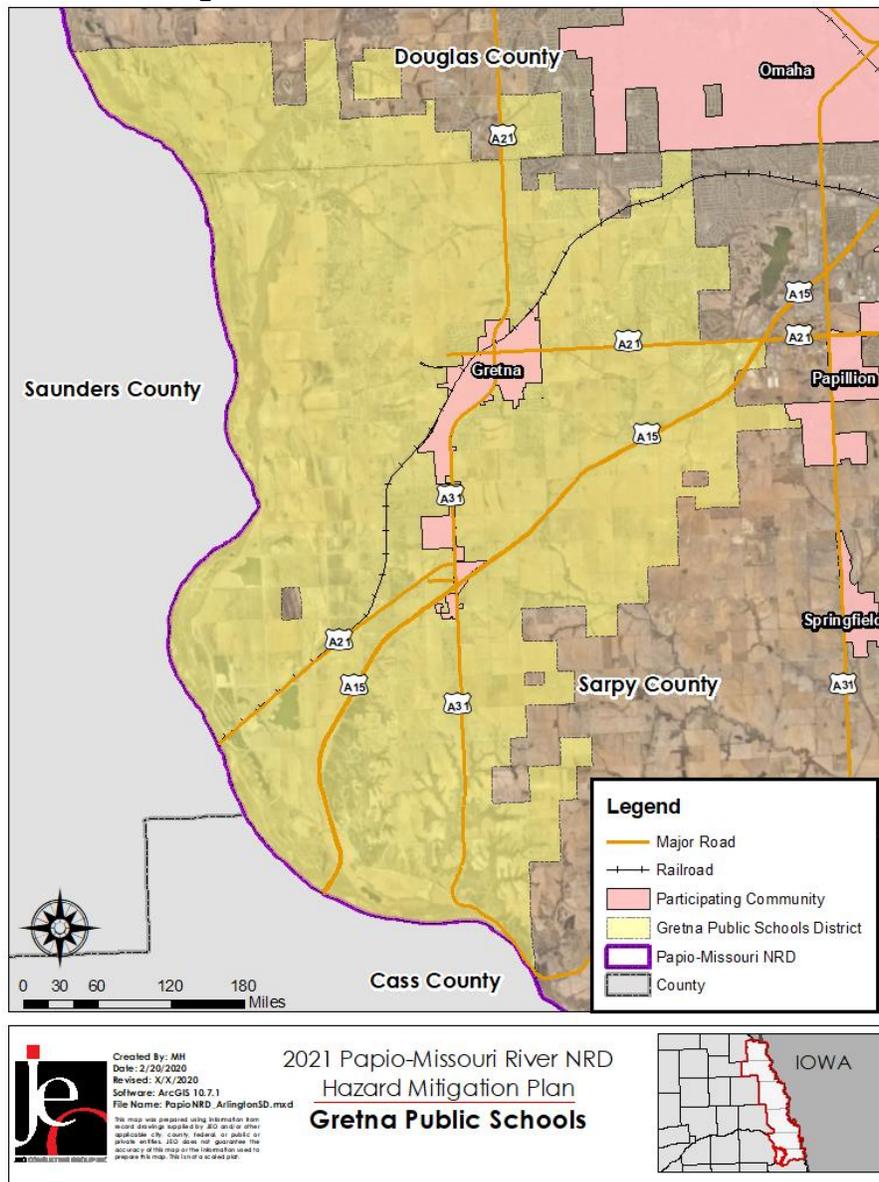
Table GPS.1: Gretna Public School District Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION
RICH BERAN	Superintendent	Gretna Public Schools
TRAVIS LIGHTLE	Assistant Superintendent	Gretna Public Schools

Location and Services

Gretna Public Schools is located in the City of Gretna in Sarpy County and serves eight schools in Gretna and one in Papillion. The school district provides services to students in Gretna, Papillion, Ashland and rural parts of Sarpy, Saunders, Douglas, and Cass Counties. The schools district primarily serves English speaking students, with a very small percentage of Spanish speaking.

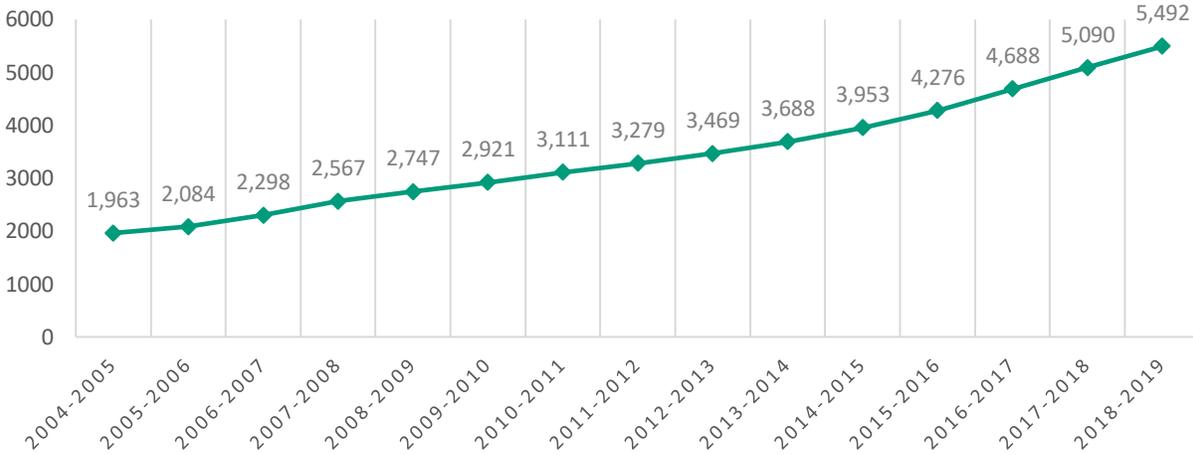
Figure GPS.1: Gretna Public School District



Demographics

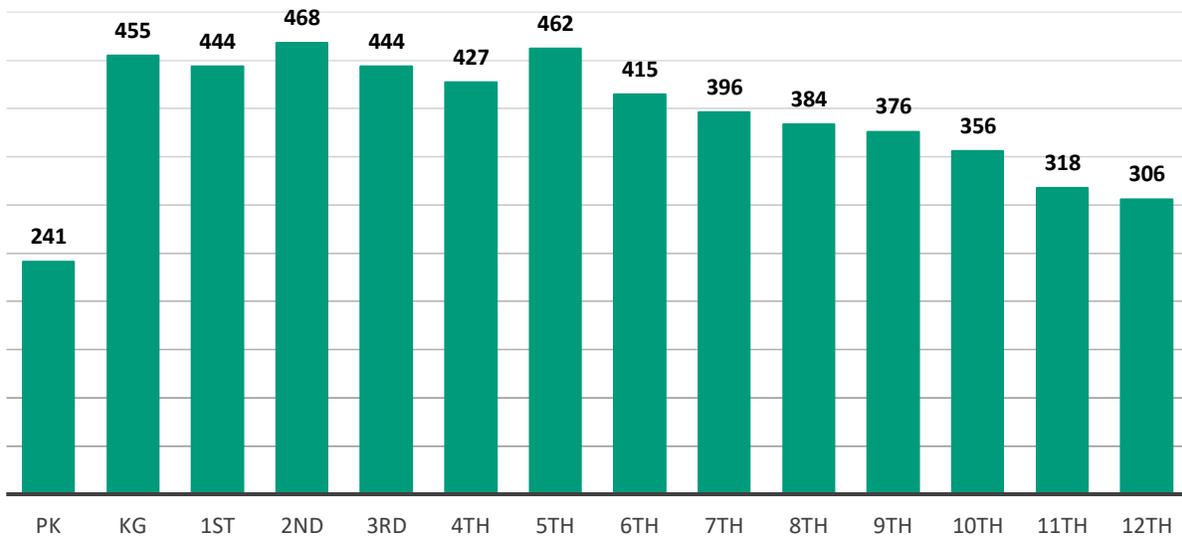
The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2004-05 school year and ending with the 2018-19 year. It indicates that the student population has grown steadily. The local planning team noted the school district is likely to continue growing to around 5,800 students. There are approximately 5,492 students enrolled in Gretna Public Schools.ⁱ

Figure GPS.2: Student Population, 2004-2019



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Figure GPS.3: Students by Grade, 2018-2019



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 2nd or 5th grade, followed closely by Kindergarten. The lowest population of students are in Pre-kindergarten and 12th grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 9.47% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2017-18 year. This is significantly lower than the state average of 45.21%. Additionally, 12% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Table GPS.2: Student Statistics, 2018-2019

	DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	9.47%	45.21%
School Mobility Rate	2.66%	4.61%
English Language Learners	0.36%	7.16%
Special Education Students	11.92%	15.48%

Future Development Trends

The surrounding areas and communities Gretna Public Schools serves have seen population increases due to additional subdivisions and the school rating. To accommodate this growth, the school district has constructed an additional elementary and middle school in the past five years. All school facilities are built with storm and tornado sheltering locations in them. Additionally, the district continually adds busses, vans, mowing equipment, or necessary infrastructure on an as needed basis. In the coming years, two additional elementary schools will be added to the district. A bond issue may be added in fall 2020 for a new high school, middle school, and one to two additional elementary schools.

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources

Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are 17 chemical storage sites that houses hazardous materials in Gretna. These facilities may be located near school facilities.¹ No chemical spills have occurred which have directly impacted school facilities, but concerns exist for the safety of students and staff.

Critical Facilities

The school district operates nine schools in two communities. School facilities are listed below. Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as a part of this plan update.

The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction. The local planning team noted all facilities have weather radios. Some facilities may be used as community shelters or storm shelters during hazard events.

Table GPS.4: Critical Facilities

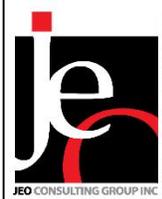
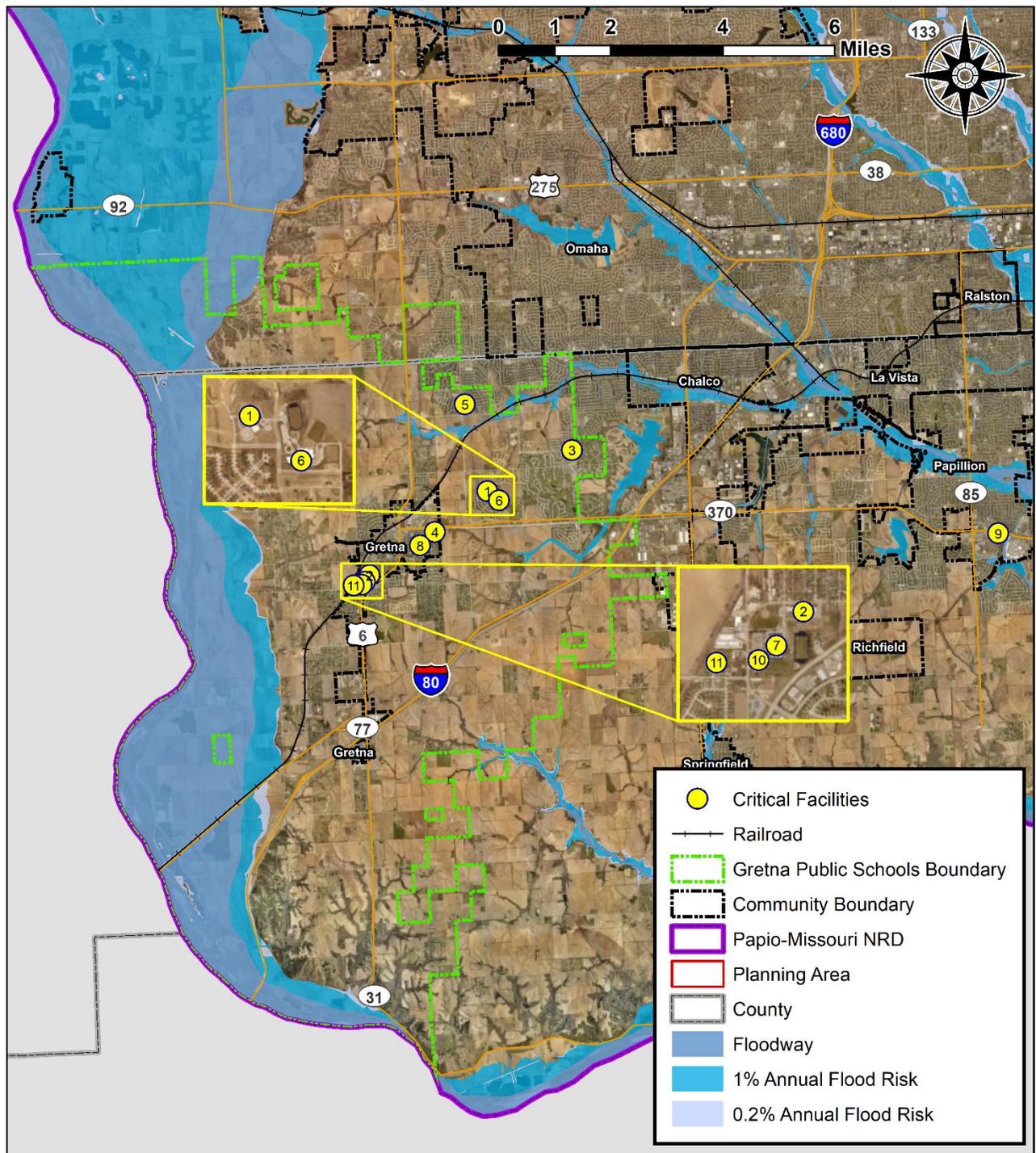
CF #	NAME	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	SHORT-TERM SHELTER (Y/N)	GENERATOR (Y/N)	FLOODPLAIN (Y/N)
1	Aspen Creek Elementary School	564	60	Y	Y	N
2	Gretna Elementary School	446	50	Y	N	N
3	Palisades Elementary School	645	65	Y	N	N

¹ Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed November 2018. <https://deq-iis.ne.gov/tier2/search.faces>.

SECTION SEVEN: GRETNA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROFILE

CF #	NAME	# OF STUDENTS	# OF STAFF	SHORT-TERM SHELTER (Y/N)	GENERATOR (Y/N)	FLOODPLAIN (Y/N)
4	Squire John Thomas Elementary	596	60	Y	N	N
5	Whitetail Creek Elementary	564	60	Y	N	N
6	Aspen Creek Middle School	653	65	Y	Y	N
7	Gretna Middle School	674	65	Y	N	N
8	Gretna High School	1,422	110	Y	N	N
9	Sarpy Co COOP Head Start-Gretna	N/A	N/A	N	N	N
10	Administration Building	N/A	N/A	N	N	N
11	Bus Barn	N/A	N/A	N	N	N

Figure GPS.3: Critical Facilities



Created By: MB, MW
 Date: 8/20/2020
 Revised: 11/17/2020
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 File Name: ...
 PapioNRD_GretnaSchoolCF.mxd
 This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

2021 Papio-Missouri River NRD
 Hazard Mitigation Plan
**Gretna Public Schools
 Critical Facilities**



School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts the following drills with their staff and students:

- Fire – monthly
- Bus Evacuation – twice annually
- Tornado – annually
- Active Shooter – annually

The school district conducts regular emergency drills and staff training throughout the year. Students participate in all drills and take additional materials home to share with parents. In the case of school closures or hazard events, parents are notified via text message, emails, and phone calls.

Historical Occurrences

See the Sarpy County or City of Gretna community profile for historical hazard events.

Hazard Prioritization

For an in-depth discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see Section Four: Risk Assessment. The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were added by the local planning team based on the identification of hazards of greatest concern, hazard history, and the jurisdiction's capabilities.

High Winds and Tornadoes

Tornadoes and high winds were identified as top hazards of concern for the school district. Tornadoes are common within the planning area and have the potential to cause significant loss of property and life. There have been two tornadoes reported in Gretna. One F0 tornado in 2006 and an EF2 tornado in 2008. Neither tornado event produced damages to school facilities, however the school has sustained damages from high winds in the past. The school building does not have a designated safe room in the event of a tornado. The school district is concerned about damage to facilities, power outages, lack of adequate response resources, and the safety of staff and students. All school facilities have been designated as mass care facilities in the case of significant events in the community.

Public Health Emergency

Public health emergency is a new hazard of top concern for this plan update. Concerns for public health emergencies stemmed from the development and spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), beginning in 2020. Douglas and Sarpy Counties, in which the district serves, have seen numerous confirmed cases of the virus. Concerns for the district pertain to the health and safety of staff, students, and student families. The district lacks adequate protective equipment to protect all students and staff from outbreaks; however, the district has purchased temperature scanners, requires all staff, students, and visitors to wear masks, social distance when possible, and sanitize frequently. When positive cases of COVID-19 occur, the district works with Sarpy and Cass County Health Department to trace contact and quarantine appropriate persons.

Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms occur annually in the planning area and include impacts from hail, heavy rain, strong winds, and lightning strikes. The district experiences thunderstorms annually and has sustained significant hail damage in the past. The school district is concerned about damage to facilities, power outages, lack of adequate response resources, and the safety of staff and students. Past major events have caused significant damage to school buildings. The gym roof was damaged at Thomas Elementary and hail has caused roof damage to other schools as well.

During heavy rain events areas around the Elkhorn River become impassible and can cause problems when picking up or dropping off students. The March 2019 flood event washed many bridges in the area out and damaged roads, requiring alternate routes for buses. All schools have lightning rods.

Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms include impacts from blizzards, extreme cold, ice accumulation, heavy snow, and winter storms. The largest concerns for the school district for severe winter storms pertain to the safety of staff and students, power outages, and damages to facilities. Only two school facilities have backup generators. Past severe winter storms have closed school for several days and blocked transportation routes. Major winter storms in 2007 and 2010 with heavy snow accumulation closed most highways and roads throughout the district. The school district has plans in place in case of school closings in inclement weather. The districts current insurance helps cover damage to buildings from events. All school facilities have weather radios.

Terrorism

The local planning team noted terrorism is of concern for the district and primary concerns exist for the safety of staff and students. Other possible impacts may include damages to facilities or loss of power. While no incidents have occurred at Gretna School facilities, events across the country have increased in recent years. The district has added cameras and access control systems to all school facilities. Middle and high school buildings also have a school resource officer on staff. The district meets annually to update safety protocols and procedures and the county sheriff's department assists with walk throughs.

Administration/Capability Assessment

The school district has a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, eight principals, and supportive staff. The school board is made up of a six-member panel.ⁱⁱ The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives.

- Bookkeeper/District Treasurer
- Student Services Coordinator
- Technology
- Custodians
- Nurse
- Maintenance
- Buildings and Grounds
- Communications
- Finance Department
- Human Resources
- Library/Media Services
- PARA Education
- Transportation

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
FINANCIAL RESOURCES NEED TO IMPLEMENT MITIGATION PROJECTS	Limited
STAFF/EXPERTISE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS	Moderate
COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS	Limited
TIME TO DEVOTE TO HAZARD MITIGATION	Limited

Plan Integration

The Gretna Public School District has a Crisis and Safety Plan that is updated annually. The plan discusses natural hazards, weather related plans, and response guidance including: media procedures; first aid; scenarios requiring evacuation and evacuation sites; man-made hazard events including bomb threats, intruder, hostage, and death of student or staff; natural hazard events including earthquake, fire, or tornado; and chemical or natural gas leaks. The plan assigns clear responsibilities during crisis events. The district emphasizes ongoing planning efforts to prepare for hazard events.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are responsible for reviewing and updating the profile annually at a minimum or as hazard events occur.

Mitigation Strategy

New Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	BACK-UP POWER GENERATORS
DESCRIPTION	Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to schools, administration centers, supply centers, safe rooms, etc.
HAZARD(S)	All hazards
ESTIMATED COST	\$50,000+/generator
FUNDING	General budget, HMA
TIMELINE	2-5 years
PRIORITY	Medium
LEAD AGENCY	Superintendent
STATUS	This project has not yet been started. The high school, several elementary schools, and Gretna Middle School do not have backup generators.

SECTION SEVEN: GRETNA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROFILE

MITIGATION ACTION		PPE SUPPLIES
DESCRIPTION	Purchase, inventory, and store personal protective equipment for future public health emergencies.	
HAZARD(S)	Public Health Emergency	
ESTIMATED COST	Varies by need	
FUNDING	Local budget, DHHS	
TIMELINE	5+ years	
PRIORITY	Medium	
LEAD AGENCY	Superintendent	
STATUS	This is a new mitigation action.	

ⁱ Nebraska Department of Education. December 2020. "2018-2019 Education Profile for District: Gretna Public Schools." <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/86-0001-000?DataYears=20172018>.

ⁱⁱ Gretna Public Schools. Accessed January 2020. <https://www.apseagles.org/>.