



on,” he said.

Dr. Schoeppey said CCS may think the state has different standards than the community thinks is important.

“Whether we like it or not, we’ll be compared to other districts based on this test,” he said.

CCS showed an 0.87 percent increase in reading improvement. CCS ranked 169th out of those 185 improved districts in reading.

CCS scored a -0.25 in math improvement, ranking 185th out of the 185 improved districts statewide.

In reading growth, CCS showed a 2.46 percent increase, and ranked 161 out of the 198 districts that improved the past year.

In math growth, CCS decreased -0.76 percent, ranking 192 out of the 248 districts, so was not one of the 181 improving districts.

A new math program has been implemented this year, and Dr. Schoeppey said, “We hope that makes an improvement, but a math program itself doesn’t improve scores.”

He said, “We have to take a look and make sure how well (the new program) covers the standards the state expects us to teach. If not, we’ll have to find supplemental materials.”

Under the state accountability system, school districts are also ranked by graduation rates. This year, 180 of 249 Nebraska public school districts graduated 90 percent or more of their high school seniors. More than 50 school districts had a 100 percent graduation rate.

Statewide, 88 percent of the seniors graduated from high school, an increase from 86 percent last year.

CCS posted a 90 percent graduation rate in both 2007-08 and 2008-09, but dropped to an 82.14 graduation rate in 2009-10.

Dr. Schoeppey said that when a school district such as CCS has small graduating classes—there were 45 in last year’s class—“If one student doesn’t graduate on time, it makes a huge difference.”

Dr. Schoeppey pointed out that NePAS bases its graduation statistics on a four-year graduation schedule.

“Some kids don’t graduate in four years. Some go into an alternative (Wellington School) program. The point is to get the kids to graduate,” he stated.

After Nebraska moved from its previous assessment system to single statewide tests in reading, writing, mathematics and science, the state had no accountability system. The State Board of Education developed NePAS as the new accountability system.