



Palos School District 118

2019 **STAKEHOLDER REPORT**

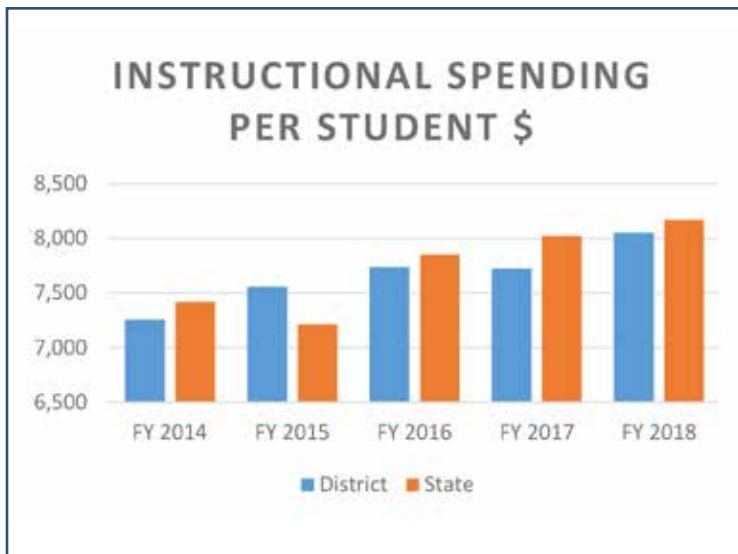
Palos East | Palos West | Palos South



Over 60 servicemen and women were honored November 8 at Palos South Middle School's annual Veterans Day Assembly. The service paid tribute to the parents, grandparents, and other family members and friends of the students and staff of Palos School District 118 who have served our country.

High Performing SCHOOLS

In October, Palos 118 was recognized as one of the top performing elementary school districts in Illinois. Awarded Exemplary and Commendable ratings from the state, our schools earned high marks for academic growth, grade level proficiency, student attendance and school climate. In November, Palos 118 received the first ever perfect score of any South Cook school district during a state compliance visit. To cap off a successful 2019, annual Health/Life Safety Inspections completed at all three schools resulted in “no findings” for a second year in a row. We are so proud of these accomplishments! To learn more about our schools, visit www.illinoisreportcard.com to view our 2019 School Report Card.



Low-Spending PER-STUDENT

Palos 118 provides students an engaging, rigorous, and well-rounded educational experience at a reasonable cost compared to school districts statewide. In fact, we spend less than the state average when it comes to educating children and our students on average outperform their peers statewide. According to our 2019 Illinois Report Card, Palos 118’s instructional cost per pupil was \$8,051 compared to the state average of \$8,172. Our total operational cost per student was below the state average in Fiscal Year 2019.

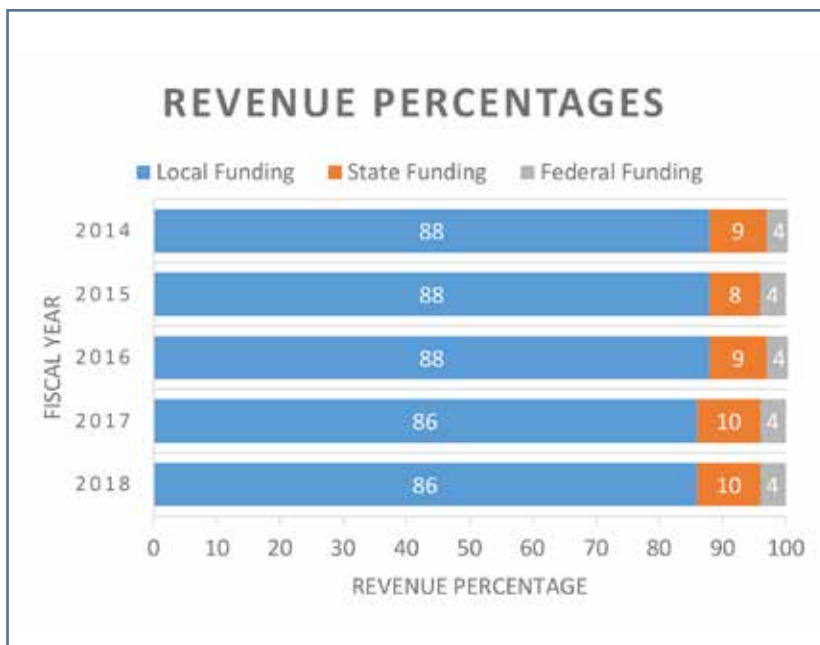
Great Investment

Top rated school districts attract young families to local communities and Palos 118 is no exception. Not only is our school district attractive to parents, so is our tax rate for homeowners. Palos 118’s tax rate is the lowest of the six elementary school districts that feed into Consolidated High School District 230. Our AA+ bond rating and the ability to retire debt quickly allows us to provide students outstanding facilities and services at the lowest possible cost to residents.



Challenges AHEAD

Two years ago, the General Assembly passed a new school funding formula that severely limits the increase in state support for school districts like 118. In a nut shell, Springfield has frozen state support for our school district making us even more reliant on local funding to operate. Coupled with property tax caps that limit the annual increase in local taxes devoted to education, paying for our current programs and services while maintaining a balanced budget will be increasingly difficult in the years ahead.



SCHOOL BUS Awareness

Palos 118 operates 26 school buses daily throughout the 19 square miles of our school district. Our transportation department has an impeccable safety record but we need your help to maintain it. As winter approaches, please be mindful of students waiting on snowy roads for pick up. When you see a school bus at full stop with signs out and flashing lights, you must stop. Do not attempt to pass the bus as students may be crossing the street. Thank you to our local police departments for raising bus safety awareness and enforcing bus traffic laws.

SENIOR Support

Our students are fortunate to have the support of the many senior citizens living in the communities we serve. At Palos 118, we value and honor that support. As a token of our appreciation, we hold an annual senior breakfast at Palos South Middle School. Please consider joining us next year as we demonstrate our gratitude to our seniors with breakfast and performances from our middle school jazz band and performing arts ensemble. This year's festive event was attended by more than 100 local senior citizens.





Palos School District 118
8800 W. 119th St.
Palos Park, IL 60464

Non-Profit Organization

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Stay connected
www.palos118.org

Thank You for Your Support

At Palos 118, we work hard to earn the support of the communities we proudly serve. With just over 2,000 students from Palos Park, Palos Heights, Palos Hills, Orland Park, Worth, and areas of unincorporated Cook County, Palos 118 provides a top-notch school experience for our diverse learners attending Palos East Elementary in Palos Heights, and Palos West Elementary and Palos South Middle School in unincorporated Cook County. In this stakeholders report, we are proud to share some of our many successes and update you on some of the challenges we face in the years ahead.

In October, the Illinois State Board of Education recognized all three Palos 118 schools as top performers in the state. According to the recently released 2019 School Report Cards, two of our schools performed in the top 10% of all schools in Illinois and another school landed in the top 25%. The ratings are based on a

number of academic and school quality indicators, including performance on state assessments and the climate within our school buildings.

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Scarsella attributes the outstanding performance of the schools to engaged families, talented teachers and staff, and a supportive school board. "These ratings would not be possible without the support of our entire school community" said Scarsella.

"This is an outstanding achievement our entire community can celebrate," added Board President Nadine Scodro. "The Board of Education is so proud of our students, staff, and parents. We're grateful to our entire school community for their continued support."