



MEMORANDUM

Academic Office

Date: October 27, 2022

TO: Tammy Prentiss, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Chris Covino, Assistant Superintendent for Academics

RE: D86 Academic Report for SY 21-22

Each fall, on or around the time that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) releases the annual Illinois School Report Card (ISRC), the D86 Board of Education receives a report about the Academic Health of the school district. This report has been delivered to the BOE in many ways over the last decade - ranging from a simple recap of the most significant academic factors on the ISRC to a more extensive analysis of specific trends in D86 academics to an informational report outlining changes to the ISRC.

In response to requests from the D86 Board of Education for more data and from the D86 community for more clarity about how the District plans to close achievement gaps, the Academic Department has taken steps to be both more inclusive of additional, more nuanced data sets as well as informative about what staff and administration are already doing with this data in order to meet the needs of all learners.

This report goes to great length to provide context for each data set, a summary of findings and associated action steps taken (or in progress) by D86 staff and administration.

As noted in the Executive Summary section of the report (p 7):

Thanks to strong academic programming, expert instructors, resilient students, robust and expanding support systems, and strong community support, the Academic Health of District 86 remains strong and continues to improve.

Despite the strength of Academic Programming in D86, challenges remain and improvements are necessary. In addition to demonstrating strong academic achievement, the data in this report indicates gaps and deficiencies in academic achievement as well as specific plans made by D86 academic leaders and teaching staff for addressing these challenges.

As an organization with a history of excellence, we have the dual challenge of not only continuing our tradition of excellence, but also ensuring that we meet the needs of all members of the D86 learning community. The data included in this report provide us with an opportunity to carefully reflect on the needs of each member of the school community as needs continue to change and evolve.

In other words, **there is no single story of student success or struggle, and no single pathway to academic excellence.** We have great schools, great students, a great staff and a highly supportive community. All four of these groups have experienced the last few years in unique ways, and as a result, D86 must continue its commitment to student-centered programming and its commitment to opportunities and support structures that make space for all students to *Learn, Grow and Lead*.