



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

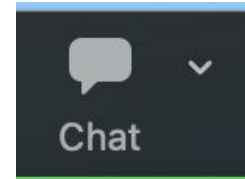
D65 Climate Action Community Meeting

September 19, 2023

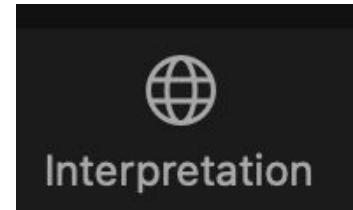
Do you need Spanish Translation?/ ¿Necesita interpretación al español?

Let us know by writing “Yes” or “Si.” in the ‘Chat’ section (see icon on the right)/

Déjenos saber escribiendo “Sí” en la sección de “Chat” (vea el icono/dibujo de la derecha)



If yes, click on Interpretation in Zoom and select Spanish. / Si necesita la interpretación en español, presione el icono que dice “Interpretation” (en la parte baja de su pantalla) y luego, elija la opción “Español”



Agenda



- ❏ Land Acknowledgement
- ❏ Welcome
- ❏ Summer Highlights
- ❏ Sustainability Focus Areas for this School Year
- ❏ Back to School Updates
- ❏ Save the Date for future meetings

Land Acknowledgement

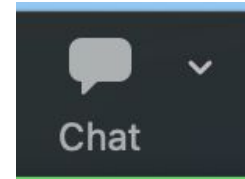
We now invite everyone to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. Recognizing that we are on stolen land is important because it acknowledges that the present United States is a collection of territories and land purchases accumulated by genocide. We are thankful to be able to be here and have this event. We ask that everyone be conscious of their place on the native lands of North America and our role in colonialism. Remembering the history, and honoring the contributions and traditions of indigenous peoples is one step towards fighting their erasure. We pay respect to the Elders past and present and extend our recognition to their descendants.



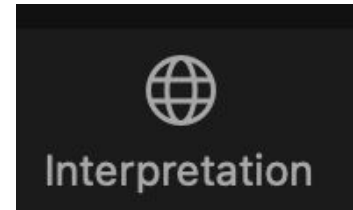
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Welcome!

Introduce yourself in the chat:

- your school(s)
- your connection to D65



D65 Sustainability Coordinator Approach



Started in May 2022, brand new position for D65.

My approach is centered on:

- ★ Building relationships
- ★ Inviting in and elevating diversity of voices
- ★ Collaboration
- ★ Grounded in Optimism
- ★ Solutions Oriented

Karen Bireta (she/her), biretak@district65.net



**Small steps can lead to
big changes**



**Strength in making connections and
inviting in diverse voices to our
community.**

We're stronger together!



Highlights
SUMMER 2023



D65 END OF SCHOOL CLASSROOM & LOCKER CLEAN OUT 2023 POSITIVE IMPACT

12

**Participating
Buildings**

203

**Donation
Boxes**

62

**Volunteers &
Staff Helping**

**BESSIE RHODES, DAWES, DEWEY, HAVEN, JEH EARLY CHILDHOOD, KINGSLEY,
NICHOLS, OAKTON, ORRINGTON, WALKER, WASHINGTON, AND WILLARD**

**We encouraged sharing and reuse within our schools and D65 Families!
Created 3 School Supply Swap Closets at Haven, Dawes & Lincolnwood.**

**Remaining items were donated to Art Makers Outpost, SCARCE,
Books4Cause, Better World Books and Goodwill.**



LIMPIEZA DE SALONES Y CASILLEROS DE FIN DE CLASES DEL DISTRITO 65 IMPACTO POSITIVO 2023

12

**Edificios
Participantes**

203

**Cajas de
Donación**

62

**Voluntarios y
Personal Ayudando**

**BESSIE RHODES, DAWES, DEWEY, HAVEN, JEH EARLY CHILDHOOD, KINGSLEY,
NICHOLS, OAKTON, ORRINGTON, WALKER, WASHINGTON Y WILLARD**

**Fomentamos el intercambio y la reutilización en nuestras escuelas y familias de
D65. Creamos 3 armarios de intercambio de material escolar en Haven, Dawes y
Lincolnwood.**

**Los artículos restantes se donaron a Art Makers Outpost, SCARCE,
Books4Cause, Libros de Un Mundo Mejor y Goodwill.**

Learning in Places: Science Curriculum



Learning in Places [learninginplaces.org], is a collaborative effort designed to expand our understanding of the relationships between human worlds and the rest of the natural worlds – towards just, sustainable, and culturally thriving forms of life by cultivating ethical decision-making, communal adaptations, and leadership.

- Students will be going outside regularly (wondering walks and investigations)
- Families and caregivers will be invited to take part in related family activities at home, and your child will be invited to share with the class.

Learning in Places is a research project committed to transforming education and helping to prepare young people and communities to adapt to the challenges of this century in generative and healthy ways. It's currently a 4-state collaboration between educators in Washington, Michigan, Louisiana, and Illinois, researchers at Northwestern University and University of Washington Bothell, and education and community leaders.



Piloting a yearlong learning cohort with 8 D65 Educators at Dawes, Lincoln and Bessie Rhodes.

Inquiry to Informed Action: Science Curriculum



Science Curriculum Summer Project with 9 D65 Educators, piloting this school year at King Arts, Dawes, Oakton, Chute, Haven and Nichols.

Overarching Vision for D65 Inquiry to Informed Action Unit Science Supplements

For particular units in our [K-5](#) and [Middle School](#) Scope and Sequence, we create an authentically integrated experience for students to apply and deepen their standards-aligned learning by researching and taking action on a meaningful issue:

- ★ Justice related
- ★ Sustainability related

(grounded in [optimism](#), [joy](#), and [community](#) and [cultural assets](#))

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



6,540	222,735 lbs.	363,086
Students at	Composted	Trays
17 Schools	Waste	Composted

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



6,540	222,735	363,086
estudiantes	residuos	bandejas
en 17 escuelas	compostados	compostadas

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



222,735 lbs.
Composted
Waste
(111 tons)

~ 1.1 Blue
Whales
(105 tons)

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



222,735
residuos
compostados
(110 tons)

~ 1.1
ballena azul
(105 tons)

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



363,086
Trays Stacked,
Composted

~ 3.9 Sears Towers,
total height of
trays stacked

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



363,086
bandejas
compostadas

~ 3.9 Torres Sears,
altura total de las
bandejas apiladas

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



97.8 Metric Tons of
Carbon Emissions
Avoided by
Composting instead
of Landfilling

~1617 Tree
Seedlings
growing for 10
Years

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



97.8 toneladas
métricas de emisiones
de carbono evitadas
por el compostaje en
lugar del vertido

~1617 Plántulas
de árboles que
crecen durante
10 años

5th Ward School Site Dedication



June 20, 2023

- ★ Recycling & Composting
- ★ Compostable Water Cups
- ★ Oak Tree Planting

Thanks to Chris Fedak, Coleen Martin and Casey, Kate Mason-Schultz for helping at the event!



Additional Summer Highlights



- ★ Old Curriculum Book Clean Out: new reading curriculum approved last Spring. Donations to SCARCE and Books4Cause.
- ★ LED Lighting Upgrades: remaining schools completed this summer, stay tuned for positive impact.
- ★ Launched a New Offering: [D65 Process - School Garden Mulch or Wood Chip Delivery, Compost Delivery or Yard Waste Pick-Up \(pilot for 23-24 School Year\)](#)

Upon request a D65 School Garden can receive the following this school year:

- 3 cubic yards of mulch or wood chips (school garden to spread)
- 3 cubic yards of compost (school garden to spread)
- Yard waste pick-up



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

Sustainability Focus Areas

23-24 School Year

D65 Sustainability Focus: 23-24 School Year



Curriculum & Student Action

1. Science Inquiry-to-Informed-Action Framework & Unit Supplements ([CPS example](#)) - pilot for 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th grades. Launched this project in summer 2023 and ongoing project with 9 educators. ***Partnership with Science Curriculum.***
2. Participating in yearlong [Learning in Places](#) leadership cohort with 8 D65 Teachers, lead by Northwestern. ***Partnership with Science Curriculum.***
3. Hosting D65 Parent University Sustainability Series (Fall 2023). ***Partnership with Family and Community Partnerships.***
4. Promote [Evanston Public Library Blueberry Award](#) book list curated for young readers boosting love of nature and climate action.
5. Explore ways to deepen opportunities for students to engage in D65 school gardens.
6. Host Earth Month activities at our schools.

Ongoing: Support Climate Clubs at our schools.

D65 Sustainability Focus: 23-24 School Year



Waste & Circularity

1. Lunchroom Composting and Recycling at all schools, with focus on improving student sorting and reducing contamination.
2. Reducing single use packaging for student lunches. *Partnership with ETHS and D65 Nutrition Services.*
3. Recycling Truck Art Competition with the City of Evanston and D65 Middle Schools for America Recycles Day. *Partnership with City of Evanston and D65 Middle School Arts.*
4. Improve and increase school recycling. *Partnership with City of Evanston.*
5. Host end of school classroom and locker clean out.
6. Host trick or trash candy wrapper recycling.

D65 Sustainability Focus: 23-24 School Year



Energy & Transportation

- Join the [Efficient and Healthy Schools](#) Campaign.

Ongoing:

- Solar Panels at our Schools.
- Exploration of purchasing renewable electricity.
- Applying for grants, including US EPA Clean School Bus Grant.
- Adding new bike racks upon School Principal request.



Buildings & Grounds

- Exploration and interest level of creating / improving outdoor learning spaces, grounded in [Learning in Places “Designing Places for Outdoor Learning”](#).

Ongoing:

- [5th Ward School](#) and sustainability features.
- Applying for grants for building improvements, including Renew America's School Grant.
- Planting new trees and natives on school grounds.

D65 Sustainability Focus: 23-24 School Year



Water

- Develop best practices for watering at school gardens and grounds (new trees and native plants).

Ongoing:

- Monitor water usage at schools and identify water leaks, partnership and collaboration with D65 Maintenance.



WELCOME
BACK
TO
School



US EPA Clean School Bus Grant



D65 partnered with STA on a proposal that includes several other regional school districts in the region that work with STA and STA subsidiary companies to apply for an **US EPA Clean School Bus Grant**.

- ★ If fully funded, this would include funding for up to five electric school buses for D65 and would require D65 to provide matching funds to support infrastructure for charging stations in coordination with ComEd.
- ★ D65 was not listed as a priority district by the EPA, however the proposal includes the Milwaukee School District which the EPA has listed as a high priority district, which will hopefully increase our chances in this competitive grant process.



**The EPA anticipates
announcing the winners
of the grant in January
of 2024.**

D65 Parent University

Partnership with D65 Family and Community Relations

3-Part Fall Series

RSVP



— EVANSTON/SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65 —
PARENT UNIVERSITY

Get Ready for the Sustainability Series!

Learn more about District 65's sustainability efforts

Socialize and light dinner 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Program begins at 6:00pm

Attend one or all sessions, light Dinner and Childcare available

Sign up [here](#)

Date	Topic	Location	Guest Speakers
September 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lunchroom Composting & RecyclingWhat caregivers can do at home	JEH Administrative Building Boardroom 1500 McDaniel Ave	Brian Zimmerman, City of Evanston Solid Waste Coordinator
October 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Gardening and Native PlantsTour of Butterfly and School Garden	Chute Middle School Cafeteria 1400 Oakton Street	Wendy Mohrenweiser, Chute Green STEAM Club Educator
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoor Place Based Family Learning	Dawes Elementary School Library 440 Dodge Ave	D65 Educators and Students Dr. Shirin Vossoughi and Dr. Megan Bang, Learning in Places

For more information please contact Mireya Dominguez Dominguezm@district65.net

Recycling Truck Art Competition



Recycling Truck Design Competition

America Recycles Day is November 15. The City of Evanston and District 65 are asking middle school students to help get the message out about a frequent contaminant found in recycling carts — **plastic film** — and why it's important to keep it out.

Students are encouraged to submit an original design with the following message:

**No Plastic
film in cart!**



Designs Due: Friday, October 20

Public Vote: October 23 - 27

Winner: The winning design will adorn an Evanston recycling truck.

Design Requirements:

- Designs should be original and have a 2.34:1 aspect ratio.
- Submissions should be in PDF format.
- Competition details and submit designs at Cityofevanston.org/D65recycles



2022 Contest Winner Zeynep Bilgic!



Learn why plastic film is
bad for our recycling process

Learn More and Submit Designs: Cityofevanston.org/D65recycles

Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign



D65 joined in September 2023!

The Efficient and Healthy Schools Program aims to engage K-12 schools to improve energy performance and indoor air quality, with a focus on practical solutions involving HVAC and other technologies to reduce energy use and carbon emissions. This program is led by the U.S. Department of Energy with technical support from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and New Buildings Institute.



Improve and Increase School Recycling



Collaboration with D65 and City of Evanston.

Initial planning is underway, stay tuned for opportunities to support!

- ★ City of Evanston Solid Waste Coordinator
- ★ D65 Custodial Manager
- ★ D65 Schools Team
- ★ D65 Sustainability Coordinator



Tree & Native Planting Reminders



- ★ Natural Habitat Evanston (NHE) is generously offering free trees this fall from Morton Arboretum, request deadline was August 29th. [Learn More](#). Questions? Contact Leslie Shad leslieashad@gmail.com.
- ★ Follow the [D65 process](#) including requesting approval from your School Leaders to plant new trees & native plants on school grounds. get approval for new tree & native plantings on school grounds.
- ★ Reminder to add fencing and/or signage to designate any protected native plantings. We have an agreement with the D65 interim landscaper to leave alone any plantings that are behind fencing and/or have signage.



Students in D65 School Gardens



School Garden teams: Help us by completing a community survey to share how students are currently engaging in our D65 school gardens.

- ★ [Community Survey \(click here\)](#)
- ★ Survey will close on Friday, October 6

Will use this as a starting point to “explore ways to deepen opportunities for students to engage in D65 school gardens.”



Wondering if you have climate action or
garden updates to share?

Share in the chat!

D65 Sustainability Resources



Check out the following resources!

- ★ [D65 Sustainability Focus: 23-24 School Year](#)
- ★ [D65 Guidance for Climate Action and Gardens at Schools: 23-24 School Year](#)
- ★ Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator biretak@district65.net

Growing our D65 Climate Action Community at every D65 school!

Please update or add contacts to this school year's [contact list!](#)

- ★ Climate Action Team chairs / committee members
- ★ Garden Team leads
- ★ Climate Clubs
- ★ Educators / Staff passionate about sustainability
- ★ PTA emails
- ★ School PTA emails to Families

D65 Sustainability Resources



- [D65 Lunchroom Composting & Recycling Resources \(1-pager\)](#)
- [D65 Tree and Native Planting / School Food Garden Process at our Schools](#)
- [D65 Process - School Garden Mulch or Wood Chip Delivery, Compost Delivery or Yard Waste Pick-Up \(pilot for 23-24 School Year\)](#)
- [D65 Climate Action & Garden Community Contact List](#)
- [Trick or Trash Candy Wrapper Recycling: D65 How to Guide](#) October - November
- [Books4Cause](#) (D65 Guidance): Free children's books for school libraries plus book donation
- [D65 Sustainability Website](#)
- [D65 Sustainability Positive Impact: 22-23 School Year](#)
- [2023 Earth Month Activities at our D65 Schools](#)
- [D65 End of School Clean Out: 2023 Timeline and Process](#)

Growing our Community: Stay in Touch!



Let Karen Bireta know if you'd like to join one (or more) of our google groups to stay in touch and receive periodic updates.

D65 Climate Action Google Group

Open to all caregivers,
community members

[d65climateactionteams@
googlegroups.com](mailto:d65climateactionteams@googlegroups.com)

D65 Staff Climate Action Google Group

Open to all D65 Staff

[climate-action-d65-staff-us
er-created@district65.net](mailto:climate-action-d65-staff-user-created@district65.net)

D65 School Garden Google Group

Open to all D65 Staff,
caregivers, community
members involved in our D65
school gardens

[d65-school-garden-community
-user-created@district65.net](mailto:d65-school-garden-community-user-created@district65.net)

Meeting slides will be shared with these 3 google groups and posted on [D65 Sustainability website](#).

D65 Climate Action Community Meetings



SAVE THE DATE

September 19 at 4-5pm, zoom

January 23 at 4-5pm, zoom

April 16 at 4-5pm, zoom

23-24
School
Year



D65 Reunión de la comunidad de acción por el clima



RESERVA LA FECHA

19 de septiembre a las 4-5pm, zoom

23 de enero a las 4-5pm, zoom

16 de abril a las 4-5pm, zoom

23-24
curso
escolar





Thank You!
Gracias!