



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report
Board of Education Meeting – July 16, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Ambitious Instruction – *Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.*

- Virtual Summer Enrichment classes began on June 17th and will continue through Aug. 16th
- Gower West's Step-Up Summer School Program begins on Aug. 5th and will continue through Aug. 23rd
- The Gower Summer Band program included 62 of our students and was held from June 3-20
- New middle school text resources for Spanish and Math have been ordered for the 2013-14 school year
- Plans for ongoing Common Core State Standard (CCSS) implementation at both campuses continue for the 2013-2014 school year through curriculum mapping and alignment
- 8th grade EXPLORE data from 2012-2013 indicates a higher level of student performance compared to local and national norms (See Appendix A)

Supportive Environment – *The school environment is safe, clean and conducive to student learning. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students have the support of their teachers as well as their peers.*

- CPR training is being planned for select District Staff, including teachers and support personnel
- Capturing Kids' Hearts training is scheduled for Aug. 26-28 and is focused on developing professional practices that build effective teacher-student and student-student relationships
- Annual Review of District Emergency & Crisis Plan is underway
- Construction Project Updates (See Appendix B)

Involved Families – *The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.*

- Admin. Team to review Crisis Plan with parent committee members and local fire and police officials
- District Registration Day is scheduled on August 8, 2013 from 3-8 p.m. in response to the request for a schedule to better accommodate working parents and family members
- The Annual Parent and Community Breakfast tradition will continue and plans are currently underway
- Admin. Team is working to build a formal partnership with Brookfield Zoo, the Museum of Science and Industry to continue to strengthen our Science Curriculum, and the University of Chicago to explore a "5-Essentials" pilot survey of 4th and 5th grade students (See Appendix C for "5 Essentials" information)

Collaborative Teachers and Staff – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.*

- Gower Spanish Teachers completed a professional development training to facilitate the implementation of our new curricular materials
- Gower Teachers are continuing Summer Curriculum Projects including, but not limited to, District Technology, Common Core State Standards, and Curriculum Mapping Software (*Atlas Rubicon*)
- District Office Staff are scheduled to attend summer-training (ROE) to review policy and practice

Effective Leaders – *School leaders work with staff to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.*

- Admin. Team Leadership Retreat is scheduled for July 23-25 at our partner law offices in Oak Brook, IL
- District Administrators continue to meet with external partners including, but not limited to, LADSE (LaGrange Area Department of Special Education), DuPage ROE (Regional Office of Education), and Local District Superintendents in an effort to expand existing partnerships and explore new ones
- Opening Professional Development sessions continue to be planned at the Burr Ridge Park District facility to launch the 2013-2014 school year with the implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts

**Gower District #62
Superintendent's Report
Appendix A**

Date: July 16, 2013

Title: EXPLORE Assessment and Data Overview and Presentation

Initial

Contact: Rebecca Laratta

Background

Each year, Hinsdale 86 invites all feeder 8th grade students to take the EXPLORE test at either Hinsdale South or Hinsdale Central. Students are directed to take the test at the high school on a specific Saturday morning in the fall. Historically, the EXPLORE testing was held in November, however in recent years the testing has occurred in October and even late September.

The EXPLORE test results are used by Hinsdale 86 for placement of incoming freshman in specific courses. After Hinsdale 86 receives the EXPLORE results, eighth grade teachers are given the opportunity to review each student's individual EXPLORE scores and review course recommendations for the high school. In early February of the 8th grade year, counselors from Hinsdale South High School will meet with individual students and their parents at Gower Middle to discuss the student's course schedule for his/her freshman year.

EXPLORE includes four multiple-choice tests:

Subject	Number of Questions	Length of Test	Score Range	College Readiness Benchmarks
English	40	30 minutes	1 - 25	13
Math	30	30 minutes	1 - 25	17
Reading	30	30 minutes	1 - 25	15
Science	28	30 minutes	1 - 25	20

Additionally, EXPLORE can provide information about student strengths and interests that are helpful in planning for high school coursework, college coursework, and a career path.

Current State

At the Board meeting, Gower's EXPLORE data will be presented for the past two years. The presentation will include how Gower 8th grade students perform relative to all other feeder schools (with Gower taken out) and to the national norms.

As you will see through the data, Gower students generally performed better than other 8th grade students that feed into Hinsdale 86 in both years. Nationally, Gower students scored significantly higher than their 8th grade peers in all subject areas tested.

Future State

The Gower 62 administrative team will include the EXPLORE data as part of the leadership retreat on July 23 and 24, as well as bring it to the School Leadership Teams in the fall. The administrators will discuss the collection and use of EXPLORE data and bring a recommendation to the Board to take action.

The Gower 62 administration and the Hinsdale 86 administration are working together to ensure that EXPLORE data is shared on an annual basis, so that we can continue to see trend data and monitor student performance.

**Gower District #62
Superintendent's Report
Appendix B**

Date: July 16, 2013

Title: Construction Updates

Initial

Contact: Victor Simon

Background: Construction Project beginning FY 13 and scheduled for completion in FY 14 continues at both Gower West and Gower Middle School campuses. Coordination meetings are held weekly and include members of Gower Administration, Frederick Quinn Corporation (FQC) Construction Management and Green Associates Architectural Construction Services to ensure progress and overall project management effectiveness.

Current State:

At Gower West, low voltage work is near completion for network infrastructure and progress has been made on parking lot area as well as ceiling repair. The project is currently on schedule for completion and particular areas of the campus needed for summer school work are being cleaned and prepared for safe usage.

At Gower Middle, the new gym has taken final shape with face brick complete and roofing started. The new classrooms and expanded classroom areas have a new floor slab and are being prepared for final enclosure and finish work. Low voltage work has been modified to include upgrades to security camera equipment and additional wireless access points for future expansion and flexibility.

Future State:

At Gower West, Green Associates are working on a modified fence design (aluminum design in place of coated chain link) as well as a modified finished ceiling in the east hallway.

At Gower Middle, FQC is exploring a modification to the original design to include a new baseboard in classrooms as well as a safety harness system for the roof to allow for HVAC rooftop unit repair.

Ongoing coordination and planning is needed in the area of the final networking infrastructure as well as in the new exercise facility and will continue with appropriate staff and external partners as needed. Board of Education input and discussion is welcome and appreciated.

**Gower District #62
Superintendent's Report
Appendix C**

Date: July 16, 2013

Title: 5 Essentials Overview
(Source material downloaded from www.Illinois.5-essentials.org/2013)

Initial

Contact: Victor Simon

Background:

The 5 Essentials work is based on more than 20 years of research by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research on schools and what makes them successful. Specifically, researchers determined five essential components for school success:

- Ambitious Instruction
- Supportive Environment
- Involved Families
- Collaborative Teachers and Staff
- Effective Leaders

Test scores alone do not provide a full picture of teaching and learning in any one school. Under recent legislation (Senate Bill 7, PERA), the State Board is now mandated on a biennial basis to implement a learning conditions survey that will finally help paint that fuller picture. While this survey may help inform state policy and improvement initiatives, it is primarily intended to help local administrators identify strengths and weaknesses at the district and school level and target the necessary resources and interventions. Aggregated data from this anonymous survey will also be shared with parents and the general public on school report cards.

Students in grades 6-8, teachers, and parents can participate in the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey. A particular response rate is required per participant group to generate a report. All survey questions offer multiple choice responses. There are no open ended questions. The survey takes about 20 minutes for participants to complete and is administered online.

- The student survey asks questions about students' experiences, attitudes, and activities in school.
- The teacher survey asks questions about a variety of topics, including instruction, professional development, and the school as a workplace.
- The parent survey asks questions about the parent's overall relationship with the school.

Individual participation is completely voluntary and participants may skip a question if they do not wish to answer. UChicago Impact, a division of the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago is conducting the survey on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Schools and districts will begin receiving their 2012-13 Illinois 5 Essentials Report in June 2013. The results of these surveys will also be included in the State report card that is scheduled to be released in October 2013. All survey responses are strictly confidential. No unique identifiers will be connected with individual responses or used in any report.

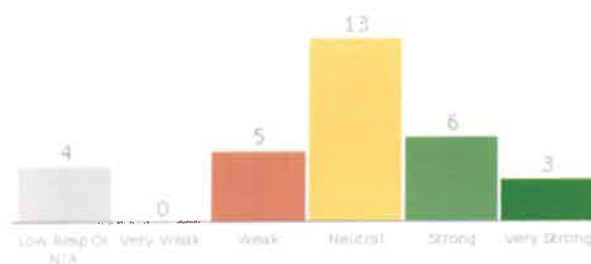
The following data tables and images provide additional context for the 5 Essentials and demonstrate the professional capacity of the Superintendent as related to this measurement of organizational performance and future analysis of Gower School District 62.



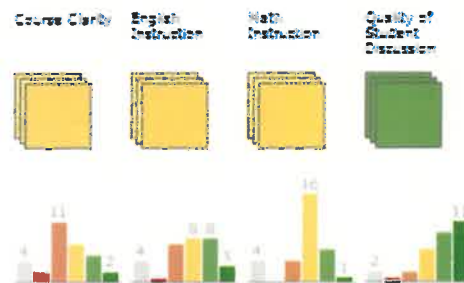
<https://cps.5-essentials.org>

Essential: **Ambitious Instruction** – NEUTRAL

Number of schools at each performance level

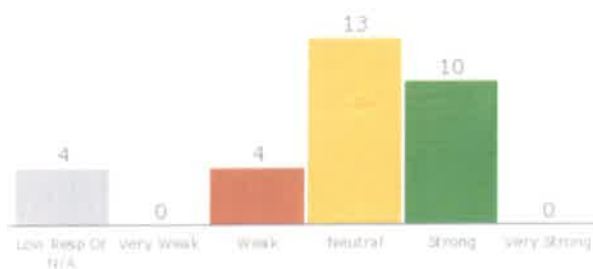


Pershing Elementary Network's Ambitious Instruction performance is based on its strength in each individual measure:

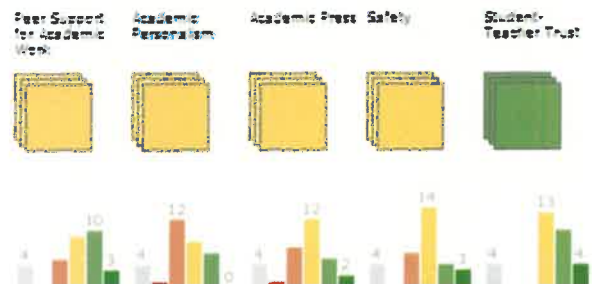


Essential: **Supportive Environment** – NEUTRAL

Number of schools at each performance level

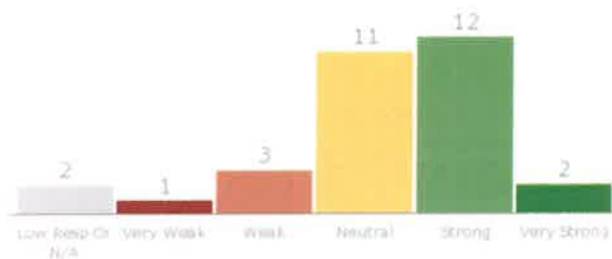


Pershing Elementary Network's Supportive Environment performance is based on its strength in each individual measure:



Essential: Involved Families – NEUTRAL

Number of schools at each performance level

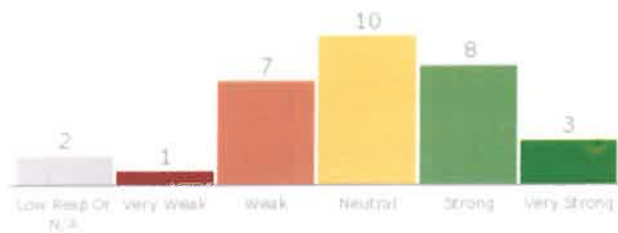


Pershing Elementary Network's Involved Families performance is based on its strength in each individual measure:



Essential: Collaborative Teachers – NEUTRAL

Number of schools at each performance level

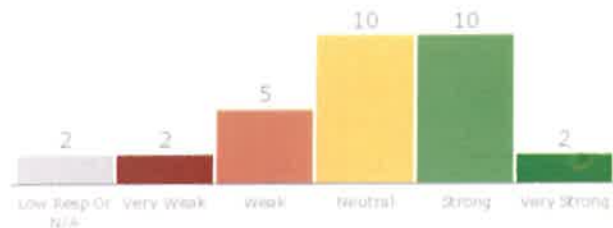


Pershing Elementary Network's Collaborative Teachers performance is based on its strength in each individual measure:

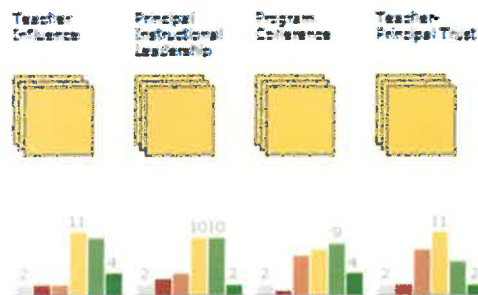


Essential: Effective Leaders – NEUTRAL

Number of schools at each performance level

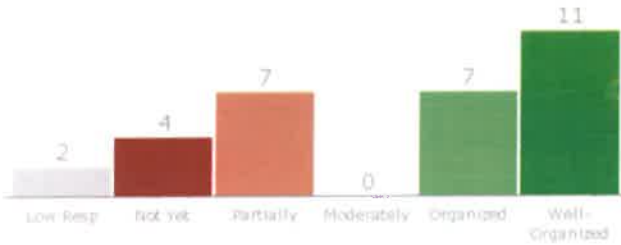


Pershing Elementary Network's Effective Leaders performance is based on its strength in each individual measure:

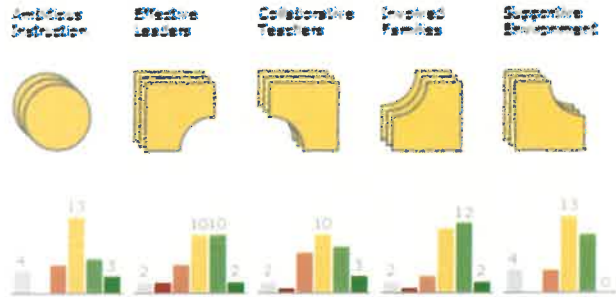


5Essentials Overall

Number of schools at each performance level

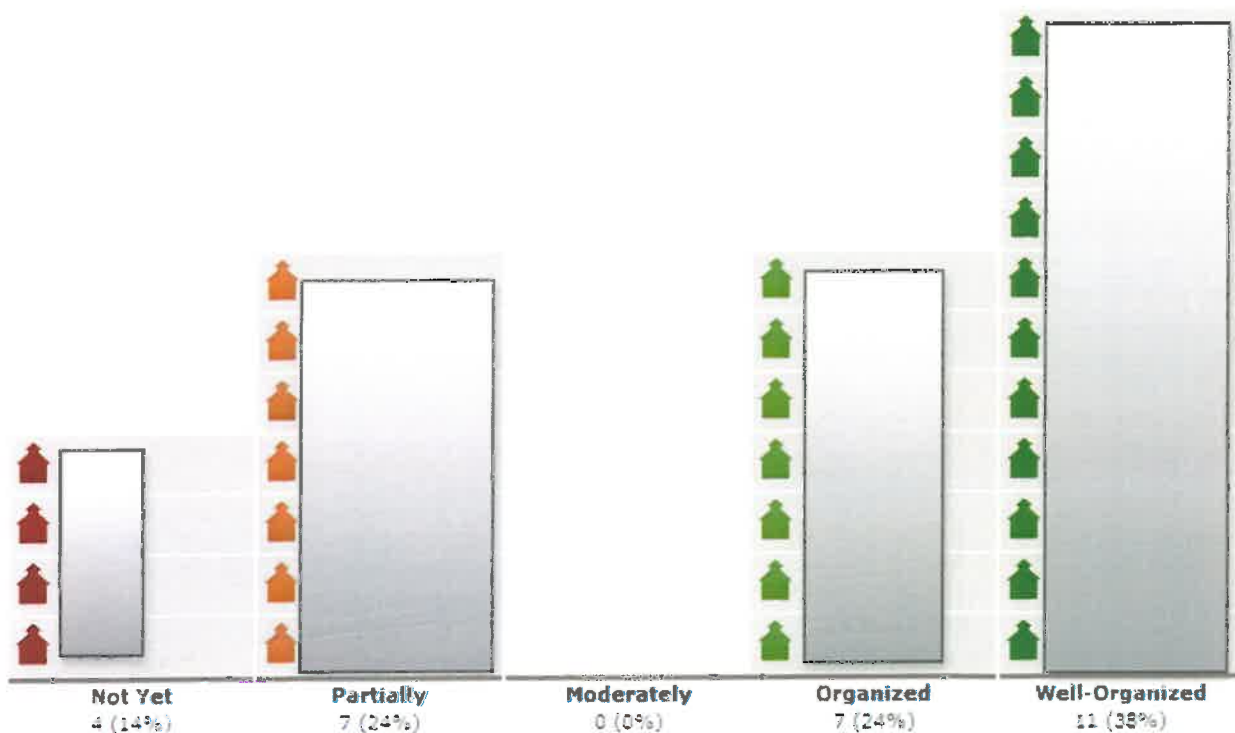


Pershing Elementary Network's overall performance is based on its strength in each individual essential:



Scoring: Each “Essential” carries equal weight and will be scored as follows. Well-Organized (Dark Green) and Organized (Light Green) categories are scored as +1; Moderately Organized (Yellow) is scored as 0; Partially Organized (Light Red) and Not Yet Organized (Red) are scored as -1.

The Overall 5 Essential Score for an organization is simply the sum of each of the 5 Essential scores. A “Well Organized” organization carries an overall 5E score of +3, +4, or +5. An “Organized” organization has an Overall 5E score of +1 or +2. “Moderately Organized” organizations have an Overall 5E score of 0. “Partially Organized” organizations have Overall 5E scores of -1 or -2 and organizations that are “Not Yet Organized” have an Overall 5E score of -3, -4, or -5.



2 schools with no data for 5Essentials.









Pershing Elementary Network Performance on 5Essentials Overall Over Time

29 schools included in this report; 2 schools have no or low data

What are these results based on?

Overall performance is based on the following essentials.

Trend Legend

-  Positive
-  Negative
-  Very Positive
-  Very Negative
-  No Change
-  No Data

SE Overall	School	Ambitious Instruction	Effective Leaders	Collaborative Teachers	Involved Families	Supportive Environment	
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							
							

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Current State: District and School Administrators have accessed The 5 Essentials reports of Gower West and Gower Middle School in their original format. There is a need for additional professional development and discussion related to the 5 Essentials for School and District Leadership in preparation for the 2013-2014 school year.

Future State: The “5 Essentials” is planned to be a topic for discussion and administrative training during our Administrative Team Retreat (July 23-25). The survey items, approach to scoring, and overall impact of the 5 Essentials performance categories will be discussed in preparation for a full Board Report, further Board discussion, and the strategic use of this data to support continuous improvement efforts.