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LEAD.  
EMPOWER.



# FREMONT Digest

SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 FALL 2024



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.fsd79.org](http://www.fsd79.org)

Members of the Fremont Elementary "PAW Patrol" reward their classmates when they witness them displaying positive behavior.



## FREMONT LEADS

Throughout the 2024-25 school year, we are empowering our students to follow our vision of being resilient lifelong learners, responsible citizens and courageous leaders.



Members of the Fremont National Junior Honor Society Executive Board lead a Board of Education meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## EDUCATIONAL LONG-RANGE FACILITY PLAN

Dear Fremont Community,

As part of Fremont School District 79's Strategic Plan, we are preparing for the future of our District's campus and facilities. Since January, a community-based Steering Committee has regularly met with architects to chart short-term and long-term District needs. This Educational Long-Range Facility Planning (ELFP) Steering Committee evaluated existing facilities in relation to the District's:

*Educational goals;*

*Forecasted enrollment growth (an additional 1,000 students over 20 years);*

*Capital maintenance and improvement needs; and*

*Financial considerations.*

This plan incorporates our community's priorities collected in the April 2024 online survey with 570 responses and verified at the October 2024 community and staff feedback forums.

The Board of Education, at its November 18 meeting, will consider the Steering Committee's recommendation for the ELFP. This plan will serve as a roadmap for our community as we experience 50% enrollment growth over the next two decades.

To learn more about the process, please visit: <https://bit.ly/FSD79ELFP>

Sincerely,  
Gabriela Whipple  
Board President

Trisha Kocanda, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# PLANNING FOR ENROLLMENT GROWTH

With four new residential developments and 3,700+ residential units expected from the proposed Ivanhoe Village development in Mundelein, **FSD79 is planning for an enrollment growth of 1,000 students over the next two decades, a 50% increase.** According to Village of Mundelein officials, the Ivanhoe Village development is slated to be the largest in Lake County in terms of acreage. The District is taking a number of proactive steps in anticipation of this substantial increase. We will continue to keep our community apprised of future developments.



## EDUCATIONAL LONG-RANGE FACILITY PLAN

- Conducted an enrollment forecasting study to determine facility needs aligned with enrollment and capacity
- Aligned facility planning with community priorities expressed in the April 2024 survey with 570 responses
- Hosted a Community Feedback Forum on October 17, 2024, for the ELFP Steering Committee to share the recommended campus plan for the next 20 years
- Investing in maintenance and repairs to protect current facilities



## FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Advocating for fair and reasonable financial contributions from developers, as property taxes generated by new developments do not account for costs associated with facility expansion
- Building community partnerships for shared facility use
- Implementing a fund balance strategy that responsibly utilizes District surplus funds for facility and staffing costs due to increased enrollment, while maintaining appropriate reserve levels



## LONG-TERM RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Utilizing grant funds to build educator pipelines
- Developing partnerships with universities
- Enhancing partnerships with aspiring educators by continuing relationships with Fremont graduates who plan on entering the education field
- Maintaining market-competitive salaries and benefits



## MAINTAIN EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Expanding Career Technical Education (CTE) and STEM programming
- Integrating authentic, real-world learning experiences
- Fostering innovation for all learners in environments that promote creativity, collaboration, and inclusive services



# LINCOLN EARLY LEARNING CENTER



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Lincoln offers preschool and early childhood classrooms, and speech services for children living within Districts 79, 73, and 75.
- The early childhood and speech services are specifically designed for students who need support through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Lincoln also offers tuition-based preschool programming. These students participate in a blended preschool program alongside children who qualify for the program through the preschool screening process.
- Fremont offers preschool screenings to help determine if a preschooler may benefit from additional assistance prior to enrollment in kindergarten. Screenings are offered five times a year for students 3-5 years of age.

## UPCOMING SCREENING DATES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Friday, December 13, 2024

Friday, March 14, 2025

Friday, April 11, 2025

Please contact Deb Steagall  
([dsteagall@fsd79.org](mailto:dsteagall@fsd79.org)) to set up  
a screening appointment.



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

FSD79 is focused on creating an inclusive community based on excellence, innovation, and responsible stewardship through a strong commitment to social-emotional learning (SEL). The District's SEL Committee is dedicated to embedding evidence-based practices and developing a Portrait of a Graduate, emphasizing lifelong learning, resilience, and responsible citizenship.

The District PAWS program promotes positive behavior and a safe learning environment, and restorative practices enhance relationships and community connections. Initiatives such as Elyssa's Mission and Hope Squad teach students about mental health awareness and empower peers to support classmates in need.

## GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Our students continue to show tremendous growth and achievement trends across the District. The Department of Learning regularly reviews student performance data to monitor our progress. Recent highlights include the following:

- On the latest State assessment, student performance exceeded our pre-pandemic benchmark in English Language Arts (ELA) and performance is approaching our pre-pandemic benchmark for Math.
- Most recently, 8th graders performed at the 87th percentile nationally for Math and 82nd percentile nationally for Reading on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

## PARENT UNIVERSITY

The *Parent University* engagement series, a collaborative effort between Fremont PTO and staff, returns for a second year in 2024-25.

Programming is presented via various methods including in-person speakers, virtual presentations, a parent book club, and more.

For more information, including presentation dates and resources, please visit our Parent University webpage at: [fsd79.org/families/parent-university](https://fsd79.org/families/parent-university)



**SIGN UP** to receive our District e-newsletter: <https://bit.ly/3KimhHf>





## SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

The District remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety and security for our students and staff. Recent improvements include:

- Installed upgraded school bus security cameras;
- Enhanced hand-held radio systems on all school buses;
- Joined the Lake County School Mutual Aid Response Team (LCSMART), a collaborative network of Lake County school districts designed to support one another during crises; and
- Updated Standard Response Protocols in the event of an emergency in coordination with first responders.



## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

The FSD79 Board of Education approved the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget at its September meeting. The approved budget includes \$38,330,108 in projected revenues and \$37,972,160 in budgeted expenditures. Additionally, the budget allocates \$355,970 for a tax abatement, providing relief to local property owners.



## BOARD GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

Fremont School District 79's Board of Education has been recognized for its exceptional governance practices by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). FSD79 was one of 46 Illinois school districts to earn the School Board Governance Recognition honor for their effective governance behaviors and commitment to obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to lead the district effectively.



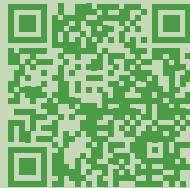


# 2023-24 STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Fremont School District 79 launched a four-year strategic plan in time for the start of the 2023-24 school year.

The plan focuses around the following four goal areas: **Safe, Healthy & Connected Culture, Growth & Achievement for All, Talent Recruitment & Development, and Financial & Facility Stewardship.**

Please visit our Strategic Plan webpage for more information, including our 2024-25 Annual Goals.



**SCAN TO VIEW**  
Fremont Strategic  
Plan and Annual Goals  
[www.fsd79.org/about-fsd79/strategic-plan](http://www.fsd79.org/about-fsd79/strategic-plan)



Implemented kindergarten Heggerty phonics program, resulting in improved early literacy outcomes



Reached 100% student participation in service projects

Rebranded District logos and website



Reported over 93% employee satisfaction or high satisfaction with the District



Increased opportunities for students to access more challenging math



Adopted a professional learning communities (PLC) model for staff to regularly collaborate on planning and professional development







## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

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[Lincoln Early Learning Center](#) • [Fremont Elementary School](#)  
[Fremont Intermediate School](#) • [Fremont Middle School](#)



## GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Fremont students and staff take pride in their community. Last school year, we were proud that 100% of students participated in a service project. Additionally, FSD79 bus driver Wendy Obenauf and several students who rode her bus teamed up for a pet supply drive to support a local pet shelter.



### JOIN OUR TEAM

FSD79 has immediate openings for bus drivers, substitute teachers, and lunchroom supervisors. To learn more or to view all current job opportunities, please visit <http://www.fsd79.org/jobs> or scan the QR code.

## FOLLOW FREMONT ONLINE



Fremont School District 79



@FSD79



## NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AWARDS

FSD79's communication efforts have received national recognition from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). Fremont was recently recognized with the top honor—Award of Excellence—in three categories at this year's national conference: website, newsletter, and photo.

**FREMONT LEADS** 79  
PODCAST

## LISTEN TO OUR DISTRICT PODCAST

We're starting a podcast! Listen in as we share the stories of our Fremont students discussing their leadership experiences.

Please subscribe to the podcast by searching "Fremont Leads" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube Music, and Amazon Music. New episodes debut in our *Fremont Focus* e-newsletter.