

FINANCE EDITION / 2025

# YOUR SCHOOLS

MARCH 2025



**FISCALLY  
RESPONSIBLE**

**DYNAMIC  
LEADERSHIP**

**COOPERATIVE  
GOVERNANCE**



**ENROLLED. ENLISTED. EMPLOYED.**



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
**DISTRICT  
205**  
HIGH SCHOOLS

PEACE



CENTER



Thornridge



Thornton



Thornwood

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 333  
HARVEY, IL





*Dear District 205 Community,*

Ensuring a strong financial future for our schools is one of our highest priorities. As stewards of public trust, we are committed to responsible budgeting, strategic investments, and financial transparency to support student success. Every dollar spent is an investment in quality education, safe learning environments, and essential student programs.

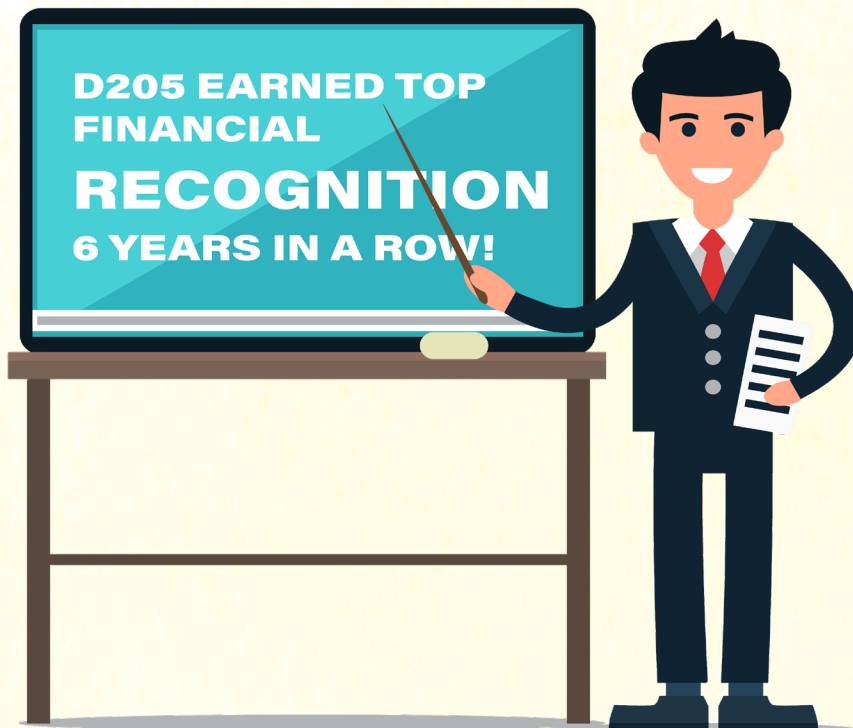
Through careful financial planning, we have maintained a balanced budget, reduced long-term debt, and increased funding for academic programs and facility improvements. These efforts ensure that our students have the resources, technology, and support they need to thrive

today and in the future. Our efforts have also resulted in a top financial rating for the last six year - **RECOGNITION!**

We appreciate the ongoing support of our parents, staff, and community members who help make these achievements possible. Together, we will continue to build a fiscally responsible, high-achieving school district that serves every student.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.

*Nina Graham*  
Ms. Nina Graham  
School Board President



**Mrs. Almetta  
Vasser-Moody**  
Board Vice President



**Dr. Kara  
Davis**  
Board Secretary



**Mr. Ray C.  
Banks**  
Board Member



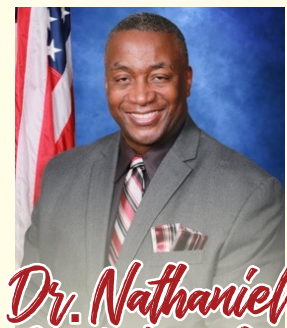
**Mr. Stanley H.  
Brown**  
Board Member



**Mrs. Bernadette  
Lawrence**  
Board Member



**Mr. Stafford  
Owens**  
Board Member



*Dr. Nathaniel  
Cunningham, Jr.*  
**SUPERINTENDENT**

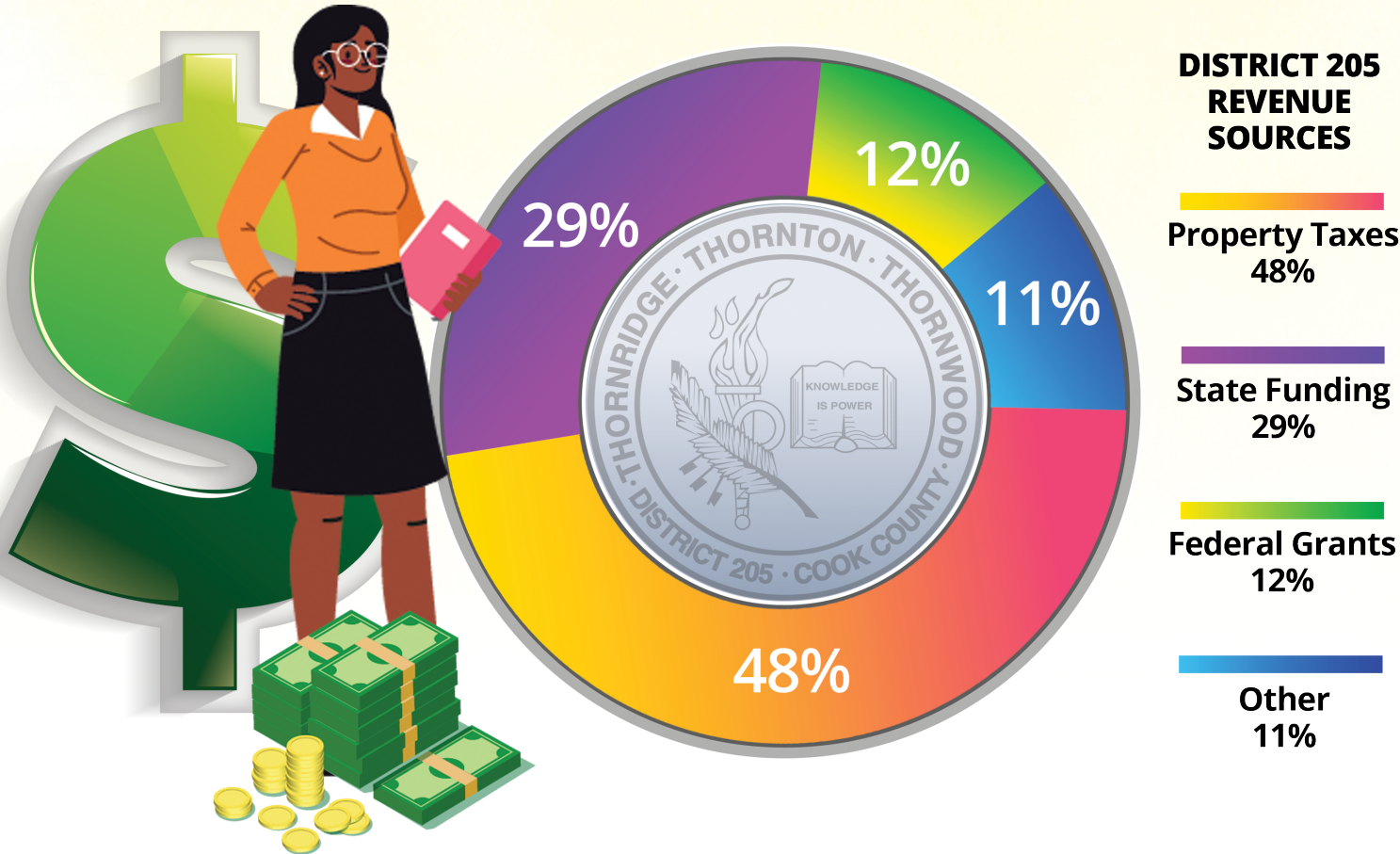


# Fiscal Stability Ensures Educational Excellence

Thornton Township High School District 205 has built a strong financial foundation, with \$160.8 million in net assets, demonstrating responsible fiscal management. The District 205 School Board of Education remains committed to fiscal responsibility, ensuring that financial decisions align with the district’s long-term goals and the best interests of students, staff, and the community. By carefully allocating resources, reducing unnecessary expenditures, and securing strategic funding, the district has continued to prioritize student success, maintain facilities, and enhance academic programs.

Despite economic challenges facing school districts nationwide, District 205 has remained financially stable, thanks to evidence-based budgeting and cost-efficient decision-making. The district continues to focus on providing the best educational experience while ensuring financial sustainability.

## Where Does Our Money Come From?



# Where Does Your Tax Dollar Go?

## A Transparent Look at How Your Contributions Support Schools

For taxpayers in District 205, property taxes make up nearly half of the district's total revenue, funding everything from teacher salaries and student programs to transportation and facility maintenance.

Here's how every \$1 is allocated:

- \$0.48 – Instruction (Teacher salaries, classroom resources, curriculum materials).
- \$0.42 – Support Services (Security, maintenance, student services, transportation).
- \$0.08 – Non-Programmed Charges (Debt repayment, pension contributions, financial obligations).
- \$0.01 – Community Services (After-school programs, outreach initiatives).

These investments ensure that students receive top-quality instruction, safe facilities, and strong support services while keeping finances transparent and accountable to the community.

# The Journey of a Tax Dollar in District 205

## How your tax contributions support students and schools

### 1. Taxpayer Contributions

Residents pay property taxes, which help fund public schools.



### 2. Collection by County & State

Taxes are collected by local and state agencies before being allocated to schools.



### 3. Allocation to District 205 Budget

District 205 receives a portion of tax revenue, which is incorporated into the school budget.



### 4. Distribution to Key Areas

Funds are divided across multiple categories to support school operations.

- A. Instruction (48%)**  
Teachers, curriculum, classroom supplies
- B. Support Services (42%)**  
Maintenance, security, transportation
- C. Non-Programmed Charges (8%)**  
Debt payments, pensions
- D. Community Services (1%)**  
Special initiatives and programs



### 5. Classroom Impact

Funds directly support students, teachers, and school operations, ensuring high-quality education.





# Smart Budgeting = More Funds for Students

## *How We Ended the Year with a Budget Surplus*

Fiscal responsibility and strong corporate governance by the School Board of Education and its administration has led District 205 to finish the year with a surplus, ensuring that more funds are available for students, classrooms, and school improvements.

This success comes from careful planning, cost-saving measures, and efficient spending, all guided by the Board's commitment to transparency, accountability, and strategic financial oversight—ensuring that every dollar is used to enhance educational quality without compromise.

### Key factors behind this financial achievement:

- Strategic cost management – Reducing expenses without cutting essential programs.
- Maximizing grants & funding – Securing additional state and federal funds.
- Long-term financial planning – Anticipating future needs and budgeting wisely.

This surplus allows the district to invest in educational enhancements, technology, and student programs, ensuring long-term stability and continuous academic growth.

## Key Factors Behind Our Financial Achievements

These are the primary drivers that have contributed to District 205's financial success.



### Strategic Cost Management

Reducing expenses without cutting essential programs



### Maximizing Grants & Funding

Securing additional state and federal funds



### Long-Term Financial Planning

Anticipating future needs and budgeting wisely





# Managing Debt Responsibly

## Lowering Debt While Maintaining School Investments

Thornton Township High School District 205 continues to set the standard in financial stewardship, with the dynamic leadership of the District 205 administration, the strong corporate governance of the School Board of Education, and the business operations team leading the way in fiscal responsibility. A strong financial future requires responsible debt management, and in 2023, District 205 took significant steps by reducing its long-term debt by \$7.3 million. This strategic move ensures that more funds are allocated directly to classrooms, student services, and educational programs, rather than being lost to interest payments.

### Why Debt Reduction Matters

- Lower financial risk – Ensures long-term financial stability.
- More funds for students – Directs more resources to academic success.
- Improved credit standing – Lowers borrowing costs for future projects.



*District 205's Business Operations team maintains a high standard in fiscal stewardship.*

Through prudent financial planning and strategic decision-making, the District 205 Administration, in partnership with the Board of Education and the Business Operations team, has reinforced the district's financial health while continuing to invest in facility improvements, technology advancements, and student-focused programs. Their collective leadership ensures that every financial decision aligns with the district's mission of providing high-quality education and maximizing resources for student success.

This commitment to sound financial management has earned District 205 the highest financial rating from the State of Illinois - **Recognition** - for the last six consecutive years. "We have a history of earning this financial designation," said Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr. "This is how we do things at District 205."

By maintaining a strong fiscal foundation, District 205 not only secures its financial future but also ensures that students receive the highest quality education and resources needed for success.

# Transportation Excellence

## Efficient School Transportation Gets Our Students to School Safely

District 205's \$9.3 million investment in student transportation ensures that thousands of students travel to and from school safely and efficiently every day. With a fleet of well-maintained buses and optimized routes, the district continues to prioritize safe, timely, and cost-effective student transit.

### Key Facts About Our Transportation System:

Miles driven per year:  
**500,000+**  
Number of students transported daily:  
**3,500+**

Fleet efficiency improvements:  
**New eco-friendly buses added in 2023.**

With state aid covering a significant portion of transportation costs, District 205 continues to provide cost-effective, high-quality transit services.

### Key Facts About Our Transportation System:

- Miles driven per year: 500,000+
- Number of students transported daily: 3,500+
- Fleet efficiency improvements: New eco-friendly buses added in 2023.

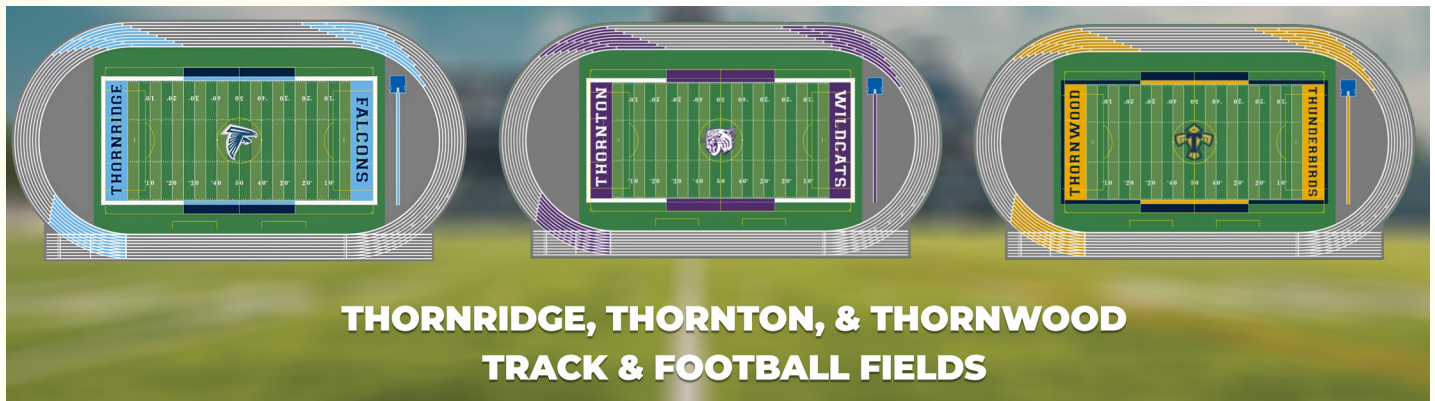


Investing in student transportation means reducing commuting barriers, improving attendance, and ensuring that every student arrives at school safely and ready to learn.



# Investing in Our Schools

*\$57 Million in Facility Improvements Underway*



Thornton Township High School District 205 continues to invest significantly in school infrastructure, ensuring modern, efficient, and high-quality learning environments for students and staff. With a total of \$57 million in facility improvements, including \$20 million in federal reimbursements, the district is making strides in creating state-of-the-art spaces that support both academic and extracurricular excellence.

At the forefront of these efforts is the district's School Board of Education, whose leadership, support, and commitment have been instrumental in driving these improvements forward. Their strategic vision and dedication to student success ensure that resources are thoughtfully allocated to maximize impact while maintaining fiscal responsibility. The board's proactive approach to facility enhancements demonstrates their unwavering investment in the future of District 205.

## Major Facility Updates

Several critical infrastructure projects have already been completed or are currently in progress, enhancing the district's schools:

- Thornwood Roofing Projects at Thornridge, Thornton, and Thornwood High Schools.
- HVAC upgrades at the schools (including new cooling systems and classroom ventilators).
- Interior renovations and new furnishings for the Boudreau Room at Thornton.

## Athletic Field Renovations Have Begun

One of the most anticipated projects—the district-wide track and football field renovations—is now underway at Thornridge, Thornton, and Thornwood. These improvements will provide student-athletes and the community with top-tier athletic facilities, including:

- New field turf installations.
- Drainage system improvements.

- Fencing upgrades.
- IHSA-compliant track resurfacing and striping.
- Installation of new scoreboards and speakers.

## Moving Forward

Additional improvements remain in progress, with construction signage posted at various sites to maintain safety. The district appreciates the patience and flexibility of students, staff, and the community as these transformative projects continue. The collaboration of the School Board of Education, district administration, and construction partners is setting a new standard for excellence in District 205. The board's leadership remains steadfast in ensuring that these initiatives not only enhance facilities but also foster an environment where students can thrive academically, athletically, and socially.

Stay tuned for more updates as we work toward a stronger, more innovative learning environment for all!



# \$28 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

## A WIN FOR DISTRICT 205 FAMILIES

Over the past six years, District 205 has delivered an incredible \$28 million tax relief to local taxpayers. This financial achievement reflects the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility and community support. By strategically managing its finances, reducing debt, and leveraging available funding sources, the district has lightened the tax burden on families while continuing to invest in quality education.



For homeowners and families in the district, this tax relief means more money in their pockets for daily essentials, college savings, and household expenses. Lower tax bills ease financial pressures, ensuring parents can focus on their children's education rather than rising costs. Despite these tax reductions, District 205 remains in a strong financial position, maintaining top-tier academic programs, facility improvements, and student services. Through careful budgeting and thoughtful financial planning, the district has avoided cuts to essential programs while still providing tax relief.



The School Board of Education members affirms the district's strategy:

**"OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE EVERY STUDENT RECEIVES A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION WITHOUT BURDENING TAXPAYERS. THROUGH SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, WE HAVE ACHIEVED BOTH."**



As District 205 continues its fiscally responsible approach, it remains committed to keeping taxes manageable for residents while investing in the future of education. This long-term financial stability benefits students, families, and the entire community, creating a win-win for all.