

LEARN.  
LEAD.  
EMPOWER.



# FREMONT Digest

SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

SPRING 2025



## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 LONG-RANGE FACILITY PLAN

### FACILITY PLAN APPROVED

Fremont's Board of Education approved a 20-year Educational Long-Range Facility Plan (ELFP) in December 2024 as the District prepares for the future of its facilities. More information can be found inside.



LEARN ABOUT  
THE FACILITY  
PLAN,

please visit: [bit.ly/FSD79ELFP](https://bit.ly/FSD79ELFP)

## LIVING OUR VISION

For Fremont School District 79, **“Learn. Lead. Empower.”** isn't just a phase, it's our vision that drives us each day. Highlights include...



### LEARN

- Our math pathways revisions have allowed us to raise the percentage of eighth-grade students taking the more rigorous Algebra I or Geometry courses from 46% to 58%.
- Investments in early literacy, such as Heggerty phonics instruction, resulted in high growth for our kindergartners, who attend full-day programming.



### LEAD

- 100% of students participate in service projects to benefit their school and greater communities, such as Bernie's Book Bank and Feed My Starving Children.
- Student ambassador programs promote leadership through peer recognition for positive and productive behavior.



### EMPOWER

- The recent Navig8 Lake County event hosted nearly 130 Fremont Middle School students, showcasing local industries, and helping students learn more about career pathways.
- Professional learning programs are co-designed with all employee groups so staff feel properly prepared and empowered to achieve their goals, resulting in high satisfaction and retention rates.

*Our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan guides our District's work as we continue our vision of empowering the next generation of resilient lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and courageous leaders.*

# LEARNING SNAPSHOTS



Students in Ms. Northup's Healthy Minds class participate in cardio drumming sessions. The activity helps to improve coordination, focus, and teamwork while boosting endurance and motor skills.



Ms. Buschick's second-graders participated in a service project decorating blankets for dogs participating in this winter's Iditarod race.



Students participated in the "Unpacking My Family" project, where they researched a country of origin and then presented what they learned to classmates and adults.



Fremont third-graders and multi-age classroom students were amazed by weather demonstrations by Storm Science, an assembly sponsored by Fremont PTO.

Fremont continued its annual tradition of welcoming active and retired members of the armed forces to the schools to honor them during Veterans Day assemblies.



Fremont's multilingual department is engaging in a year-long professional learning series to enhance our services for students.

Nearly 130 Fremont Middle School students were among over 4,000 who participated in the Navig8 Lake County event, where students visited with representatives from local companies to explore various careers.



# PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

In December 2024, Fremont’s Board of Education approved a 20-year Educational Long-Range Facility Plan (ELFP) that provides the District with a dynamic roadmap as we chart the course for the future of our facilities.

The plan was developed throughout the 2024 calendar year by our Steering Committee, comprised of parents, community members, teachers, board members, and administrators alongside our architectural partner, DLR Group. It is representative of the community’s priorities and feedback.

The plan accounts for each of the following items:

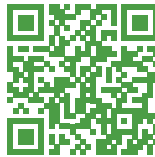
*Enrollment Growth*

*Educational Priorities*

*Facility Assessment*

The District will need to build an additional new school to account for the influx of approximately 1,000 new students over the next 20-25 years. **The total estimated cost of facility projects related to enrollment growth is \$150 million in FY24 dollars.** Among the District’s other needs would be the addition of a municipal water and sewer source to account for this enrollment growth.

**If impact fees from developers do not sufficiently cover these additional demands, the District may need to turn to our taxpayers for a referendum sooner than anticipated.**



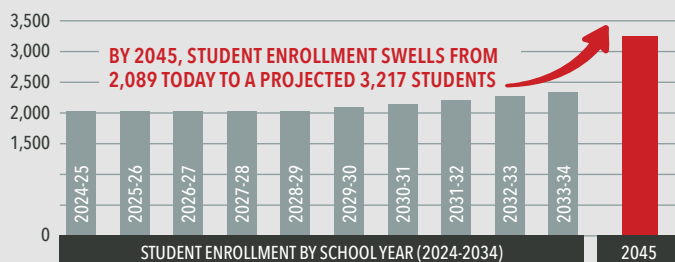
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
IVANHOE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT,  
please visit [bit.ly/IvanhoeVillage](https://bit.ly/IvanhoeVillage)

## PREPARING FOR ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Fremont School District is enrolling students from five new or currently under construction residential developments and is anticipating the impact of the forthcoming Ivanhoe Village megadevelopment (3,700 residential units, 7,100 new residents, including approximately 1,000 new students) in Mundelein.

**This transformational growth is expected to jump our enrollment by an estimated 50 percent.**

FSD79 TOTAL ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS (K-8TH GRADE)



District officials continue to advocate for fair and reasonable impact fees from the developers of Ivanhoe Village, as our community directed us to, so that the District can maintain its high educational standards without saddling current taxpayers.

IN OUR APRIL 2024 COMMUNITY SURVEY REGARDING PLANNING FOR ENROLLMENT GROWTH (WITH 570 RESPONSES):

- 86% opposed increased class sizes and decreased programming
- 68% opposed the use of mobile classrooms to educate students
- 91% supported developers paying sufficient impact fees
- 80% supported limits on tax breaks and incentives for developers

**The Village of Mundelein is planning to approve a development plan for Ivanhoe Village this spring.** We are advocating for this process to slow down, allowing taxpayers to weigh in on the approval of the largest residential development in Lake County history and provide ample time for the school districts and developer to negotiate fair and reasonable impact fees.

ASK YOURSELF, AND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, THESE QUESTIONS:

- *Why is the Village of Mundelein rushing to approve the Ivanhoe Development this spring?*
- *Has there been thorough research on the impact on our communities?*
- *We are focusing on the impact on our K-12 public school districts. What about traffic, roads, stormwater, and other public services?*

**Please join us in our request for the Village of Mundelein to slow down the process and require the Wirtz Family to negotiate a fair impact fee agreement that our students, community, and taxpayers deserve—we should not be pressured by an arbitrary deadline.**

**FACT #1 | The net impact to District 79 from the Ivanhoe Village development is estimated at negative \$1.56 million per year** (increased revenue minus increased costs), due to the predominantly residential nature of the development.

(SOURCE: JOHNSON RESEARCH GROUP IMPACT STUDY—MAY 2024)

**FACT #2 | FSD79 schools are near capacity right now.**

Our elementary school is at capacity this spring and our intermediate school is expected to reach capacity by 2030.

(SOURCE: CROPPER GIS ENROLLMENT FORECAST—MARCH 2024)

**FACT #3 | FSD79 officials have requested multiple meetings with the Ivanhoe Village developers since June 2023** to negotiate a fair and reasonable impact agreement, providing multiple reports and studies. **As of early March, the Wirtz Family has not provided a single, written report directly to the school districts.**

(TIMELINE IV—FEB. 2025)



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

# FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

## TAX ABATEMENT

Fremont is committed to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Debt Service Fund has acquired surplus funds over time. In 2022, the Board of Education approved a tax abatement plan over the course of three years. In the past two years, the District has abated approximately \$340,000 to local taxpayers. For the 2024 tax year, the Board of Education has approved a tax abatement of \$355,940, providing direct savings to our residents. This equates to a \$41.50 reduction for the average homeowner with a \$350,000 home.

## FUND BALANCE PLAN

In fall 2024, the Board of Education approved a Fund Balance Plan to ensure financial stability as the district implements the Educational Long-Range Facility Plan. This plan helps maintain a healthy cash flow while preparing for future enrollment growth. Under the plan, a minimum of 40% of reserve funds will be maintained for cash flow and emergencies. This allows for funds above this threshold to be allocated for facility and capital equipment needs and for operational expenses related to enrollment growth.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- FSD79 maximizes grant opportunities to support teacher recruitment, facility maintenance, and specialized student programming.
- FSD79 has one of the lowest cost-per-pupil rates in the region.
- FSD79 regularly earns recognition for excellence in budgeting presentation, earning the Meritorious Budget Award for 14 straight years.

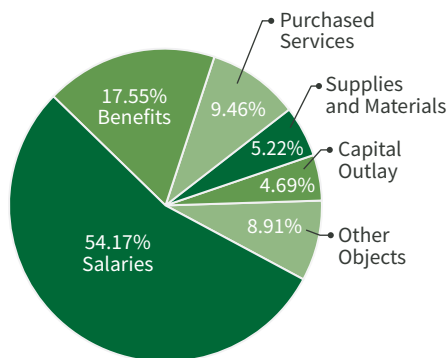
## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TAX RATE COMPARISON (2023)

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Big Hollow District 38    | 2.7191%   |
| ★ Fremont District 79     | 3.0359% ★ |
| Libertyville District 70  | 3.1139%   |
| Lincolnshire District 103 | 3.3885%   |
| Hawthorn District 73      | 3.9762%   |
| Kildeer District 96       | 4.0916%   |
| Aptakisic District 102    | 4.2154%   |
| Mundelein District 75     | 4.5542%   |
| Diamond Lake District 76  | 4.7118%   |
| Grayslake District 46     | 4.9271%   |

## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 BUDGET ALLOCATION (FY2025)

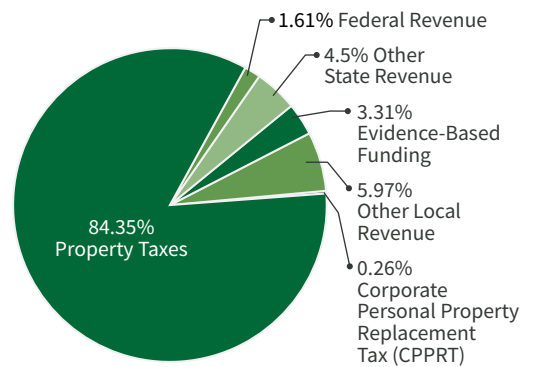
FISCAL YEAR 2025 EXPENDITURES: \$37,972,522

*Budgeted Expenditure Allocation by Source*



FISCAL YEAR 2025 REVENUES: \$38,646,558

*Proposed Revenue Allocation by Object*



## SAFETY AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

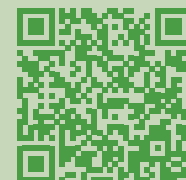
FSD79 continues to make the safety and security of our community a top priority. Recent enhancements include:

- Annual cybersecurity audit to safeguard data and systems
- Additional AED units, security cameras, key card access points, and enhanced parking lot lighting
- Revised crisis management and reunification plans
- Upgraded fire alarm system, concrete repair, fireproofing, and glass replacement as part of state-required Health Life Safety projects



## 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION OPEN

**Registration is now open** for all grade levels at Fremont School District 79 for the 2025-2026 school year.



**REGISTER TODAY**  
Visit: [www.fsd79.org/families/registration](http://www.fsd79.org/families/registration)

# FREMONT AT THE FOREFRONT



## NEW STAFF INSIGHTS

Allyce Beattie joined FSD79 for the 2024-2025 school year as the District's Behavioral Coach, collaborating alongside three Instructional Coaches to help assist Fremont teachers and staff. Here's what Allyce had to say about her Fremont experience to date:

*"The culture and climate here at Fremont makes it a place where you want to be and you want to stay.*

*I love this district and I love our students. Fremont is just a special place."*



## SEEKING CAREER PRESENTERS

Each year, Fremont Middle School hosts a Career Day for our seventh-grade students as a way to introduce them to a variety of potential careers. We are seeking professionals to join us on May 29 to serve as guest speakers to inform our students about various career opportunities.

**If you have an interesting job that you would be willing to inform our students about, please contact Katie Wight at [kwight@fsd79.org](mailto:kwight@fsd79.org) to express your interest. Thank you for your help in empowering our future.**



## SHARPENING STEM SKILLS

Fremont Intermediate School students in Ms. Lesser's Technology class have been taking part in a wide variety of engaging activities this year. The students have been involved in projects such as coding, video production, and website design. They also have been learning about proper use of Artificial Intelligence, including researching their dream careers and designing flyers with inspirational messages for their peers to help create a positive culture within the school community.



FREMONT'S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS HAVE AMASSED SIX CONFERENCE TITLES THIS SCHOOL YEAR.





## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

28855 North Fremont Center Road  
Mundelein, IL 60060  
[www.fsd79.org](http://www.fsd79.org) | (847) 566-0169

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173  
PERMIT NUMBER 583

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

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

Residential Customer



### DEVELOPING OUR OWN TALENT

Anusha Ramani joined the Fremont staff as a middle school paraprofessional with dreams of one day becoming a licensed teacher. **Thanks to Fremont receiving the Illinois Teacher Vacancy Grant, she was able to take the necessary coursework at no cost** to earn her teaching license through a partnership with BloomBoard.

We are thrilled to share that she will be joining the Fremont staff full-time for the 2025-2026 school year as a middle school science teacher!

### JOIN OUR TEAM

In an effort to access the best possible teaching and staff talent pool, Fremont has aggressively moved up its timeline for posting its known vacancies for the ensuing school year. We are pleased to share that all known vacancies for the 2025-2026 school year are currently posted.



JOIN THE  
FSD79 TEAM

Please visit [www.fsd79.org/jobs](http://www.fsd79.org/jobs)  
or scan the QR code.



### UPCOMING KEY DATES AND EVENTS

- APRIL 11** FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL (MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM)
- APRIL 11** PRESCHOOL SCREENING (LINCOLN EARLY LEARNING CENTER)
- MAY 28** EIGHTH-GRADE GRADUATION CEREMONY (COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY)
- MAY 30** LAST DAY OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE (WITHOUT EMERGENCY DAYS)

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LISTING OF  
KEY DATES AND EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.FSD79.ORG/FAMILIES/DISTRICT-CALENDAR](http://WWW.FSD79.ORG/FAMILIES/DISTRICT-CALENDAR)



SUBSCRIBE  
TO OUR  
DISTRICT  
PODCAST

We're sharing stories of our Fremont students discussing their leadership experiences. 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.

### FOLLOW FREMONT ONLINE



Fremont School District 79



@FSD79