Structural Deficit Reduction Plan - Phase 3
Partnership with Evanston / Skokie School District 65

Empowering education leaders to thrive through collaborative partnerships.

4/7/2025

Introductions

Dr. Susan Harkin, Student-Centered Services
Overview: 30+ years of experience in diverse school districts
Serving as the CSBO and Superintendent in 6th largest Illinois School District

Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Student-Centered Services
Overview: 40+ years experience in education, 28 years as a Superintendent
Superintendent for two school districts who addressed their structural deficits

Current Realities

Challenges



Every Child,
Every Day,
Whatever It Takes

3-years of deficit spending

Declining enrollment

Significant facility needs

Increasing costs

Growing student needs

Loss of ESSER/CPPRT revenue

Community trust

Evolution/Phases of Structural Deficit Reduction Plan

FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27 and Beyond
Identification	**Phase 1: Immediate Cuts**	**Phase 2: Stabilize**	**Phase 3: Sustainability**
Began in February 2024 Immediately, identified $7.4M in reductions for FY25	**Hiring Freeze** Eliminated vacant positions Purchased Services reductions Developed SDRP Framework (includes stakeholder	**$13.2M in Reductions** Stakeholder Engagement & Decision-making: December 2024 January 2025 Goes into effect: July 1, 2025	**$15M in Reductions (est.)** Stakeholder Engagement & Decision-making: May-Dec 2025 Goes into effect: July 1, 2026

SDRP Phase 3: Purpose

Financial Sustainability

- Balance the current budget to achieve financial sustainability
- Address the aging facilities
- Evaluate the effects of declining enrollment
- Alignment work to provide optimal programming for students



Every Child, Every Day, Whatever It Takes

SDRP Phase 3: Timeline

1

February to March 2025

- Revisit/confirm initial facility assessment & feasibility study
- Use datapoints to develop baseline model for school consolidation proposals

2

April 2025

- Develop draft criteria
- Develop a tool to incorporate criteria into modeling
- Hold stakeholder engagement on initial criteria

3

May to June 2025

- Finalize proposed criteria
- Develop school based data sheets using established criteria for scenario modeling

4

July to August 2025

- Revise school based sheets
- Draft school consolidation proposals, inclusive of revised attendance boundaries, as appropriate

5

September to December 2025

- Present proposals to the Board
- Engage stakeholders about proposals
- Hold potential school closing hearings
- Approve proposals

6

January to June 2026

- Plan for implementation of school consolidation
- Execute school consolidation plan

*This timeline may be adjusted as part of the District's FY26 enrollment and staffing analysis.

SDRP 3– Oversight/Engagement

Board of Education: Approves the final SDRP Phase III Plan

Internal Steering Committee: Refines and presents 3-5 scenarios from the Community Steering Committee and Stakeholder Engagement for recommendation to the Board of Education

Community Steering Committee: Compiles and summarizes the subcommittee information

- ***Facilities Committee:*** Evaluates school capacity, optimal program locations, potential school consolidations and facility improvement prioritization
- ***Finance Committee:*** Develops the financial feasibility of proposed recommendations
- ***Programs Committee:*** Assesses and recommends educational programming services based on input from the Student Assignment Planning (SAP) work

Other Input: SAP, SPAC, Stakeholder Feedback Surveys and Engagement

SDRP Phase 3: Timeline

Part 1

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SDRP Phase 3: Part 1 Goals

April 9 through June 30, 2025, we will facilitate SDRP Phase 3- Part 1 as follows:

Community Steering Committee: Develop a high level understanding of the intersection of the Facilities, Finance and Programs Subcommittees

- *Facilities Committee:* Signs off of on spring facilities subcommittee report including categories/criteria as well as a draft school data sheet
- *Finance Committee:* Develops a comprehensive list of options to address the structural deficit and facility improvement needs
- *Programs Committee:* Compile and validate committee discussions to provide programmatic insights to support informed facilities planning

Other Input: SAP, SPAC, Stakeholder Feedback Surveys and Engagement

Goal: Facilitate various community engagement avenues to garner input and feedback regarding the D65 structural deficit and return to financial sustainability

SDRP Phase 3: Timeline

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

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Future Focused, Student-Centered

EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

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