



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – September 24, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning
- Individual student performance data in reading and math (NWEA/MAP, Fastbridge) and SEL data collected (SAEBRS) are being utilized as part of our school-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Gower's Preschool for All program received the Gold Circle of Quality; the highest award from [ExceleRate Illinois](#), the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning & development programs
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM with monthly spirit day announcements focused on different career pathways of some of our very own Gower Graduates
- Our 8th grade students participated in [Teen Sexual Health](#) on 9/19 and our 5th grade students and parents will be participating in our annual [Understanding Changes](#) on 10/8 led by Candor Health Education
- The [Illinois Learning Standards](#) illustrate what students should know and be able to do by subject and grade

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.*

- Year to date attendance: 94.2% (94.0%) for GW (K-4; K-95% [88%]; 1st-94% [91%]); 96.0% (96.2%) for GM; 97.0% (97.4%) - Teaching Staff and 98.9% (98.4%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- CPR/AED Training was held on 8/21 and 9/24 for support staff, admin, coaches, teachers, and bus drivers.
- GM is in Year 4 of their 'Gower Houses' approach. Visit the [GM Student Resources tab](#) to learn more. GW is heading into Year 3 of a similar 'Gower Families' approach to promote team building and school spirit
- Required staff trainings in Sept. were completed (9/9 and 9/16) by school nurses on: cardiac response plans, asthma, diabetes, food allergy, anaphylactic shock guidelines, and seizure protocols
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (0 reports in 2024-25 or 2023-24; 2 reports in 2022-23; 0 reports in 2021-22)

Involved Families and Community – *Strong relationships are built across the community to support learning.*

- Our 2025-26 Curriculum Nights on Sept. 4th at GW and Sept. 11th at GM were both well attended and provided useful information for parents to gain a clear understanding of the student experience
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - Sept 15 - Oct 15 - Let's recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of both Hispanic & Latinx American communities
- GW hosted their Annual Grandparent Bingo Night on Sept. 18th - Another well-attended community event!
- Gower will host a *Health & Wellness Expo for Children at their Best* with a parent presentation by Compass Health on September 25th from 6-7:30 pm at Gower Middle - We are excited for you to join us!
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities
- Save the date for Gower's Multicultural Extravaganza 2025 on October 23rd at GM; sign ups are being sent home through the Friday principal newsletters

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

- Newly adopted 5-8 Math curriculum, *Math & You*, and 5-8 Social Studies curriculum, *Voices and Perspectives* are being implemented with new curricular materials for students to use
- Gower staff submitted the FY26 [Illinois State Library Grant](#) for and additional \$850 in funding to add to the Gower Middle Library collection (\$850 was directed to the GW Library last year)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our District ELL Team, Special Education Teams, and District Mentoring
- Our 9/19 Professional Learning is district-based and focused on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for all certified staff - PLCs are designed around the principles of continuous improvement

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

- The Consolidated District Plan and the IDEA Grant (\$200,866) have been approved for the 2025-26 school year; Title II and Title III Grants previously delayed by federal action level have been submitted
- The final 2025-2026 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix A](#))
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 116% for FY26 and resulted in \$602,638.01; FY25 = 117%/\$601,778.46; FY24 = 117%/\$600,976.75
- The [Board Charter and Social Contract](#) is an example of how the BOE approaches their collective leadership role and is organized to support the Gower Community and School District