



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – October 15, 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 1-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student IAR (Spring 2025) and 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> NWEA/MAP (Fall 2025) scores were posted on 9/26 in the PowerSchool Parent Portal with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students also receiving 2025 IL Science Assessment reports
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on [Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>](#) which will include 2025 IAR student performance data as well as an updated [Equity Journey Continuum](#) data set
- ECE through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students received instruction in late Sept./early Oct. to meet the requirements of [Erin's Law](#) - child sexual abuse prevention - through classroom presentations led by Gower staff
- As part of the Preschool For All grant with LADSE, [music therapy](#) has been added to the Early Childhood student learning experience and carried out by [Dynamic Lynks](#) to benefit all students in our Pre-K program

**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: 96.0% (93.0%) for GW (K-4; K-95% [88%]; 1<sup>st</sup>-95% [91%]); 96.2% (96.2%) for GM; 95.7% (96.3%) - Teaching Staff and 97.8% (97.5%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- October 20-24 is [National Bus Safety Week](#) - Be mindful of all traffic laws to help keep our students safe
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/21 for GW & 10/7 for GM) by staff on Mental Illness, Trauma, and Suicide
- Special Education Teams and various staff received training on Sept. 15 or 22 for Nonviolent Crisis Prevention and behavior and trauma informed practices led by Gower's new Director of Special Education
- Student medical compliance is 94.9% (GW) & 93.0% (GM) prior to the 10/15 deadline (93.9%/93.0% in 2024)

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

- GM Invite Only Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:45-6:45 pm; GW and GM have Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 8 pm - More details to follow from school principals
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night will be held on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle School. Please join us for food, displays and performances to celebrate Gower's diversity!
- Save the date for the [Gower PTO](#) Halloween Palooza at Gower West from 5:00-7:00 pm on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>
- Save the date for the [Gower Foundation's](#) Reading Enrichment parent presentation, 'Innovative Reading Strategies' being held at Gower West on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 p.m. ([childcare options](#) available)
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress

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

- Our 10/10 Professional Learning is district-based and focused on Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) Part 2 for all certified staff - PLCs are designed around the principles of continuous improvement
- Our 10/31 afternoon Professional Learning session is school-based and focused on Responsive Teaching: Using Data to Guide Instruction.
- Our District New Teacher Mentors continue their work with one of our largest hiring cohorts in recent years with a focus on school and district culture, CKH implementation, eLearning, and parent engagement
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Accelerated Track, Special Education Teams, K-8 Art, ELL, and K-8 ELA
- Nov. 25: [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in session. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"vailable for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

- Gower received an overall 100% Performance Rating/Meets All Requirements on the most recent [Special Education Monitoring System Accountability Report](#) for the 2024-2025 school year (3 yr. Avg. of 98.8%)
- Gower West's administrator [presentation](#) to the Board of Ed. (10/15) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2025-26 school year (GM will present on Nov. 19)
- The final 2025-26 District Budget was adopted by the Board of Ed. on 9/24 and posted on our website [here](#)
- Gower schools will receive a final '[Summative Designation](#)' on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> based on a number of [Individual Indicators](#) as part of the 2024 ISBE Report Card and the state's [Support and Accountability \(ESSA\) Plan](#)
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2025-2026 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth - Parent feedback will be utilized this year with surveys forthcoming ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower will receive a total of \$121,113 for 2025-2026 in the [ESEA as Amended Grant](#) distributed as follows: Title I (\$96,211), Title II (\$14,902), and Title IV (\$10,000)