



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 END OF YEAR



# On behalf of Community Consolidated School District 62, we welcome you to our annual report.

The 2023–2024 school year marked a pivotal moment for our district as we embarked on a thoughtful, collaborative journey to develop a new strategic plan with the support of our staff, parents, community members and students from our district as well as Maine Township High School District 207. This comprehensive blueprint for the future of our district was formally adopted by the Board of Education in April 2024.

As we embrace the school year, we are working hard to address the five goals of the strategic plan that are outlined in this annual report. Included in this annual report is a look at our progress that includes our work toward bringing full day kindergarten to our district, prioritizing workplace culture and enhancing security infrastructure.

District 62 serves more than 4,500 students who reside primarily in Des Plaines and portions of Rosemont. We maintain 12 schools, which include two middle schools, eight elementary schools, one year-round community school and one early learning center.

Our school district is an integral part of the community and I continue to extend my sincere gratitude to our business partners and organizations that do so much for the children of Community Consolidated School District 62. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the members of our Board of Education. These seven individuals dedicate countless hours to ensure that our students receive the best possible education.

Please take a moment to review our 2024–2025 annual report that introduces our new strategic plan, highlights our student achievement as well as our financial outlook.

Thank you for your support of Community Consolidated School District 62.



Michael Amadei, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. MICHAEL AMADEI



2025-2026

# DISTRICT **62** BOARD OF EDUCATION



President  
Elizabeth Massa



Vice President  
Stephanie Duckmann



Ronald Burton



Katherine Delgado



Tina Garrett



Gene Haring



Beth Morley

## FAST FACTS ABOUT DISTRICT 62

### GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 8

- 8** K-5 elementary schools
- 2** 6-8 middle schools
- 1** K-8 year-round community school
- 1** Pre-K early learning center

**70+** languages spoken

**870+** employees

**500+** teachers

**4,700+** students

**11.2%** Newcomers  
(Students new to the United States)

**52%** Low income students

**41.1%** Multilingual learner students

**17%** Special Education students

Staff Education  
**80%** with Master's Degree or higher

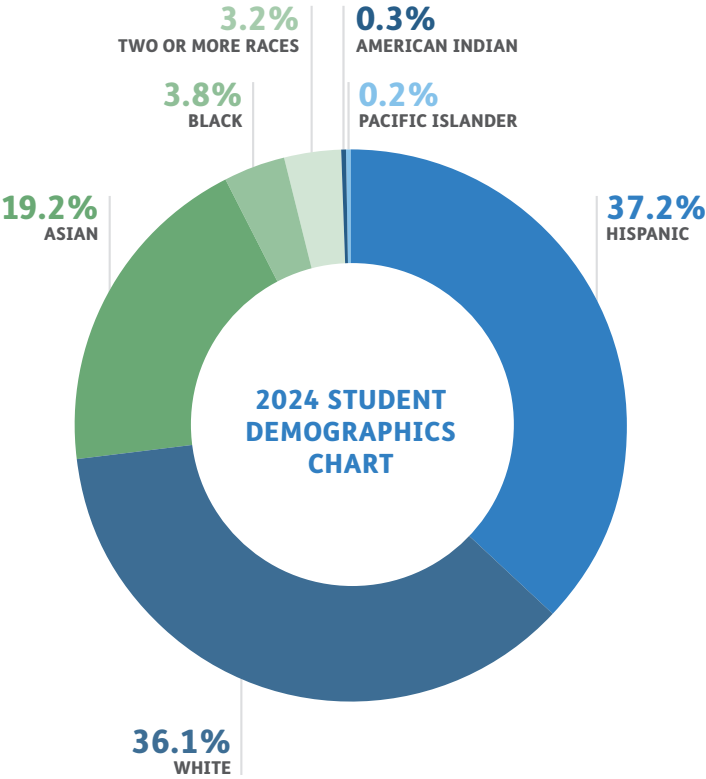
**96%** Teacher retention

**31%** Staff that live in district

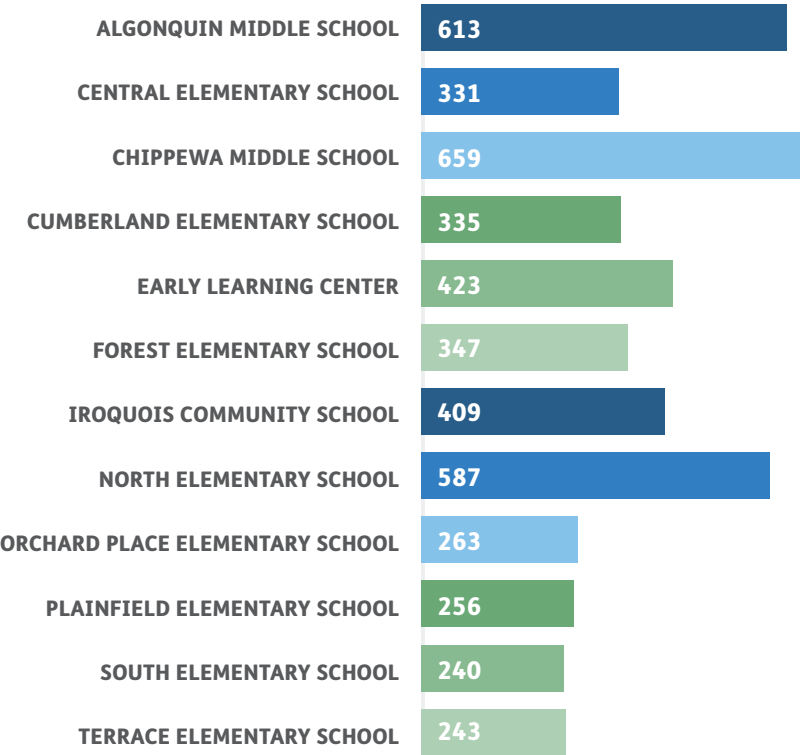
**\$123+** million budget  
19 consecutive years of financial recognition by Illinois State Board of Education; maintained a Bond Rating of AA+ with Standard & Poor's since 2009.

Data as of January 2025

# FACTS ABOUT DISTRICT 62

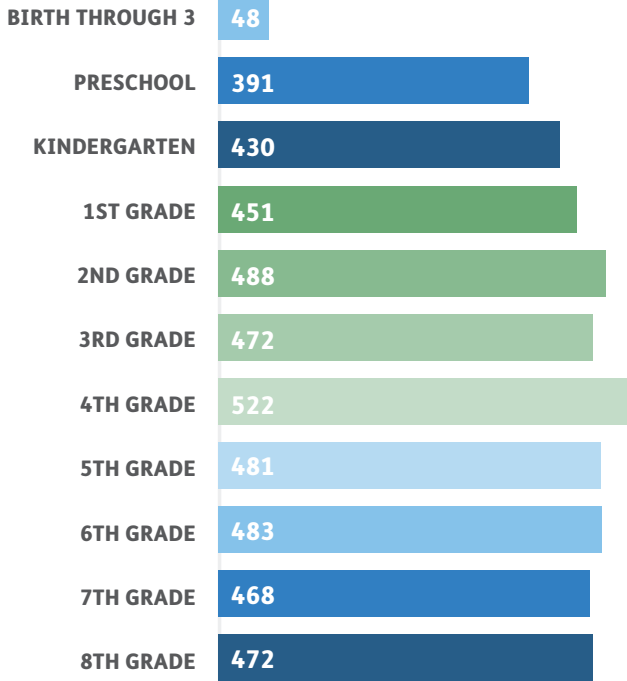


## ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL

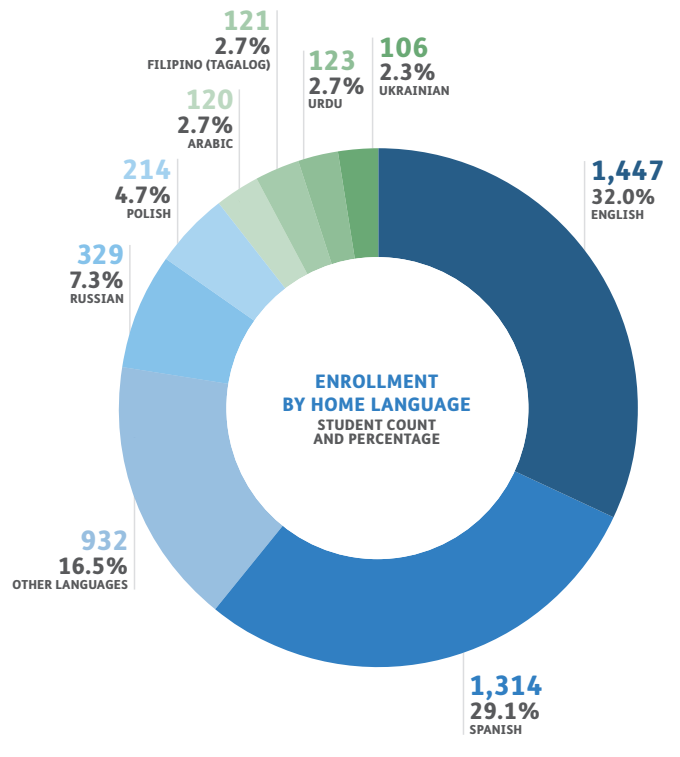
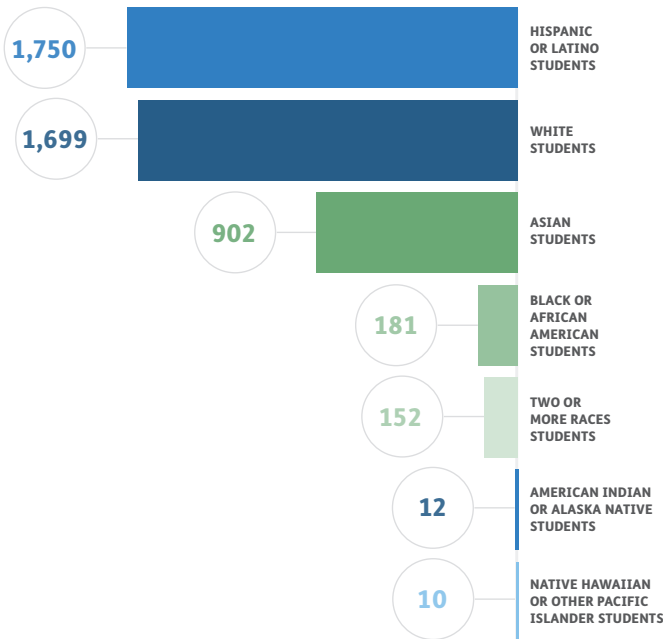


Data as of January 2025

## ENROLLMENT BY GRADE



## ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Data as of January 2025

# SCHOOLS 2025-2026

## **ALGONQUIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Principal: Julie Goolish  
Assistant Principal: Patty Tzortzis  
767 East Algonquin Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1205

## **CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Principal: Juliana Vissering  
Assistant Principal: Lorence Reid  
123 North 8th Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1503

## **CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Dr. Erica Cupuro  
1526 East Thacker Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1575

## **CUMBERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Marc Infante  
Assistant Principal: Costantina Mazzone  
700 East Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1451

## **FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Amber Soike  
Assistant Principal: Traci Reiner  
1375 South 5th Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1380

## **IROQUOIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Principal: Kelly Krueger  
Assistant Principal: John Rey  
1836 East Touhy Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1308

## **NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Carolyn Allar  
Assistant Principal: Ashley Patterson  
1789 Rand Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1399

## **ORCHARD PLACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Jennifer Suárez Bautista  
2727 Maple Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1255

## **PLAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Alexandra Jonynas  
1850 Plainfield Drive  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1301

## **SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Kristin Jares  
1535 Everett Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1566

## **TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Principal: Dr. Bradley Stein  
735 South Westgate Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
(847) 824-1501

## **JANE L. WESTERHOLD EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

Principal: Xrisovalantou "Valia" Garbis  
Assistant Principal: Taylor Ivan  
1375 South 5th Avenue  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-1065



CURIOSITY • COMPASSION • COURAGE

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## MISSION

Cultivate an inclusive, innovative learning environment that inspires students to explore robust academics, advance their potential and to be compassionate lifelong learners.

## VISION

Educate resilient, lifelong learners who think critically and solve problems collaboratively as they prepare for their future.

## MOTTO

CURIOSITY • COMPASSION • COURAGE

## CORE VALUES

- Safety and Well-being
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Curiosity and Innovation
- Collaboration and Communication
- Empathy and Trusting Relationships
- Continuous Improvement and Accountability

## LEARNER PORTRAIT

Learners possess the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and mindsets to thrive in high school and beyond.

- Creative, Curious and Critical Scholar
- Collaborative Communicator
- Problem-Solver and Innovator
- Dependable and Reliable Friend

- Flexible and Agile Thinker
- Well-Being Advocate
- Social Skilled, Responsible and Accountable Citizen

## EDUCATOR PORTRAIT

Educators continuously develop these attributes to assist learners to grow and be successful.

- Knowledgeable, Innovative and Skillful Instructor
- Student-Centered Lifelong Learner
- Collaborative Communicator
- Trusting and Respectful Colleague/Team Member
- Continuous Improvement Champion
- Decision Maker and Problem Solver
- Empathetic and Perseverant Advocate

## SYSTEM PORTRAIT

District 62 supports all employees as members of its school community.

- Clear Purpose and Direction
- Sense of Belonging and Community
- High Expectations and Standards
- Trusting and Respectful Relationships with Students, Families and Staff
- Consistent Communication and Collaboration
- Health, Safety, and Well-being of Students, Families and Staff
- Consistent Practices, Policies and Procedures

## GOAL 1

ENGAGE ALL STUDENTS IN LEARNING THAT LEADS TO ACADEMIC GROWTH, ACHIEVEMENT, AND READINESS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND.

### ALIGNED STRATEGIES

- Provide a standards-based educational program at all grade levels to ensure individual student performance and growth.
- Expand and enrich student learning experiences and opportunities Preschool through 8th grade.
- Enhance instructional best practices to improve student learning.

### ALIGNED INDICATORS

- Academic readiness for transition to grade levels
- Enrollment in honors courses at the middle school
- Illinois Assessment of Readiness Performance
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Student Growth and Proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics

## GOAL 2

CULTIVATE A SAFE, INCLUSIVE, AND ENGAGING CULTURE OF LEARNING THAT SUPPORTS THE ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH OF EACH STUDENT.

### ALIGNED STRATEGIES

- Provide a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students ensuring a continuum of programs and services for academics and social emotional development to close achievement gaps and guide each student to grow and achieve their full potential.
- Ensure the inclusive learning and teaching environment accommodates the diverse needs of all students.
- Enhance opportunities for student voice, choice, interests, satisfaction, and leadership.

## ALIGNED INDICATORS

- Chronic absenteeism
- Program and intervention success
- Student attendance
- Student behavior
- Student participation in after school clubs
- Student satisfaction assessment (5Essentials Survey)

## GOAL 3

INVEST IN OUR DIVERSE WORKFORCE TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

### ALIGNED STRATEGIES

- Foster an engaged and productive workforce by proactively addressing staff satisfaction and cultivating a strong positive climate and culture that provides equitable opportunities for engagement and growth for all employees.
- In recruitment and hiring decisions, engage in strategic workforce planning that includes addressing staffing shortages, state certification barriers, and staffing that is reflective of our community.

### ALIGNED INDICATORS

- Salaries and benefits
- Staff attendance
- Staff certification
- Staff demographics
- Staff education
- Staff retention
- Staff satisfaction
- Team effectiveness





## GOAL 4

**CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT AND EXPAND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH STUDENT.**

### ALIGNED STRATEGIES

- Provide tools and strategies that support family belonging, communication, collaboration, satisfaction, and education.
- Advance a collaborative partnership with Maine Township High School District 207 that supports open communication and is mutually beneficial.
- Partner with the community to include learning experiences and career opportunities for students.

### ALIGNED INDICATORS

- Newsletter analytics
- 5Essentials Survey
  - Parent/community
  - Students
- Participation in parent teacher conferences
- Website analytics
- Social media analytics
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - YouTube
- ThoughtExchange participation
- Attendance
  - Bilingual Parent Advisory Council
  - Special Education Parent Advisory Council

## GOAL 5

**MAKE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES TO MAXIMIZE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS FOR EACH STUDENT, EVERY SCHOOL, AND THE DISTRICT**

### ALIGNED STRATEGIES

- Address space and class size inconsistencies across the district, while ensuring facilities are safe, clean, well-maintained, and optimal for effective teaching and learning.
- Equitably allocate resources to meet the needs of all students, families, and staff while maintaining a history of prudent financial management.
- Advance the use of technology as a tool to enhance teaching and learning.

### ALIGNED INDICATORS

- Audit findings
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Device to student teacher ratio
- Life safety
- Per Pupil Costs
- Short and long-term debt
- State Financial Profile Rating
- Space utilization
- Technology resources for students and staff to enhance learning



# STRATEGIC PLAN END OF YEAR UPDATE

## PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MAY 2025

At the May Board of Education meeting, administration provided an update regarding progress to date as it related to the five goals of the newly adopted strategic plan. Below is a summary of the year-end update.



### GOAL 1

This school year, we've been focused on three key areas in our pursuit of Goal 1: Student growth and achievement. These areas are: preparing for the implementation of full-day kindergarten, enhancing opportunities in middle school Encore classes, and advancing research-based literacy practices.

We've made significant progress in planning for full-day kindergarten, ensuring our teachers are receiving training in developmentally appropriate practices in order to give our youngest learners a solid foundation for continued success.

We've also formed a committee of teachers to begin to explore scheduling options, instructional materials, and classroom set up and furniture to create the best learning environments for our youngest learners.

In middle school, we're focused on increasing student choice and engagement in Encore classes. As we shared previously, 6th grade students already choose between Spanish and WIN (What I Need) and Music and Drama for their 7th grade Encore courses. Our team has already surveyed Encore teachers and will be seeking input from 6th grade students about the courses they would like to see offered. Based on this feedback, teachers will develop course options for 8th graders starting in the 2026–2027 school year. This shift will give our students more agency over their learning, encouraging them to explore their interests and talents.

And in literacy, we're focused on learning from and responding to current research. For one, our administrators, coaches, and reading specialists have been engaging in an extensive professional development program, called LETRS, to increase their understanding of the science behind reading development. We've also formed a Literacy Leadership Committee to ensure teacher voice is central to this process, guiding our efforts to align practices with the latest evidence and support all students' literacy growth. Our next step is to bring this new learning to all teachers, helping them implement these strategies in their classrooms to further enhance student success.



## GOAL 2

In District 62, our commitment to student success goes beyond academics. Goal 2 focuses on fostering a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment—one where every student thrives academically, socially and emotionally.

Recently, the Multilingual and Student Services departments received key findings from their program reviews, reinforcing the importance of inclusive practices for all students. In alignment with these insights, the Goal 2 action team has prioritized Strategy 4: strengthening our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).

To enhance clarity and effectiveness, the district is refining its MTSS guidelines—ensuring well-defined tiers, clear criteria, and actionable guidance for schools. At the school level, teams are reinforcing Tier 1 social-emotional learning (SEL) structures and refining behavior matrices to establish consistent, positive expectations for all students.

This year, we utilized a new social emotional screening tool called SAEBRS, providing valuable data to better understand and address students' social-emotional needs. Looking ahead, the district Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) committee is actively refining Tier 2 SEL plans, setting the stage for enhanced implementation in the upcoming school year.

Beyond the classroom, extracurricular opportunities play a vital role in supporting students' social-emotional growth and fostering a strong sense of belonging within the school community. This year marks an exciting milestone as District 62 launches its first-ever Special Olympics team—an initiative that exemplifies our commitment to inclusion and providing

meaningful opportunities for all students to connect, grow, and celebrate their achievements together.

By prioritizing inclusive practices, strengthening supports, and using data-driven decisions, we are building a district where every student feels safe, supported, and empowered to succeed.



## GOAL 3

In District 62, our people are our strength.

The Goal 3 Action Team met throughout the year, working on laying a foundation for our goal that prioritizes staff satisfaction and a positive culture that fosters growth for every employee.

The work of Goal 3 has centered on listening and growth as we plan for the future. This includes launching regular feedback mechanisms, including stay interviews and district-wide check-ins, to directly gauge and respond to staff needs.

This fall, a new Superintendent Council was formed. Made up of 14 new staff members from all buildings in the district, the Council meets quarterly with Superintendent Amadei. The purpose of the Superintendent Council is to promote transparency within the district, foster relationships with staff, and establish trust.

We also proudly celebrated the remarkable achievements of staff members recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education for their outstanding contributions in May.

We gathered our entire district staff together several times this year for connection and learning. Our district-wide keynote addresses provided inspiring perspectives on culture and belonging.

Looking ahead, we're strategically planning for our

workforce, addressing staffing needs for Full Day Kindergarten and actively recruiting talent to ensure our team reflects the vibrant community we serve.



## GOAL 4

In late March, work began on the installation of accessible playgrounds at Cumberland and Forest Elementary Schools.

A portion of these playgrounds is being funded through a grant donation by Rivers Casino, to which we extend our sincere thanks on behalf of the District 62 community. We are excited about these playgrounds that we hope will also be a welcome addition for our Des Plaines and Rosemont communities.

Since this fall, District 62 began to focus on the development of new logos for each of our 12 schools in order to have a more unified and consistent look district-wide. These logos were created and chosen through a collaborative process that involved students, staff and community input. We are excited to introduce these logos to our communities.

As we continue to review and refine our website that was launched in the summer of 2023, we have begun to explore the implementation of Chat AI as a tool on our website that will further assist our families to access the information and resources they need for their child(ren).

Additionally, our schools will continue to engage families with their individual events such as Multicultural Nights and Career Events.

Looking ahead into next year, we are preparing to host a National Night Out event in August in partnership with the City of Des Plaines and Des Plaines Police Department. This will be a

collaborative event that will further highlight the extensive partnerships that exist between District 62 and our community.



## GOAL 5

This year has been a productive one for Goal 5, which strives to improve the district's use of resources.

Full-day kindergarten has been a primary focal point for our group, and the district. Progress has been made with our new architect and construction management firm, STR Partners and Pepper Construction. The design process is concluding and project bidding will occur over the next few months. The district's purchase of nearly two acres adjacent to North School has made planning at that school much easier and it will afford the district much more flexibility in the decades to come. Goal 5 has remained committed to the necessary middle school program enhancements in the next few years.

The enhancement of security infrastructure has also been a priority for Goal 5. The district conducted a safety audit with Allegion to review district practices and equipment, and to provide recommendations on further improvements to be made. Going forward, managing fiscal uncertainty at the federal and state level will be paramount.

This year, there has been an increase in staff usage of Artificial Intelligence. Last year, there was some apprehension about using AI; now, there is excitement about its benefits and a desire to learn more. This year, training has been provided, and more is on the way. Also, an AI Task Force is currently developing Student Guidelines and a scope and sequence of AI literacy skills.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

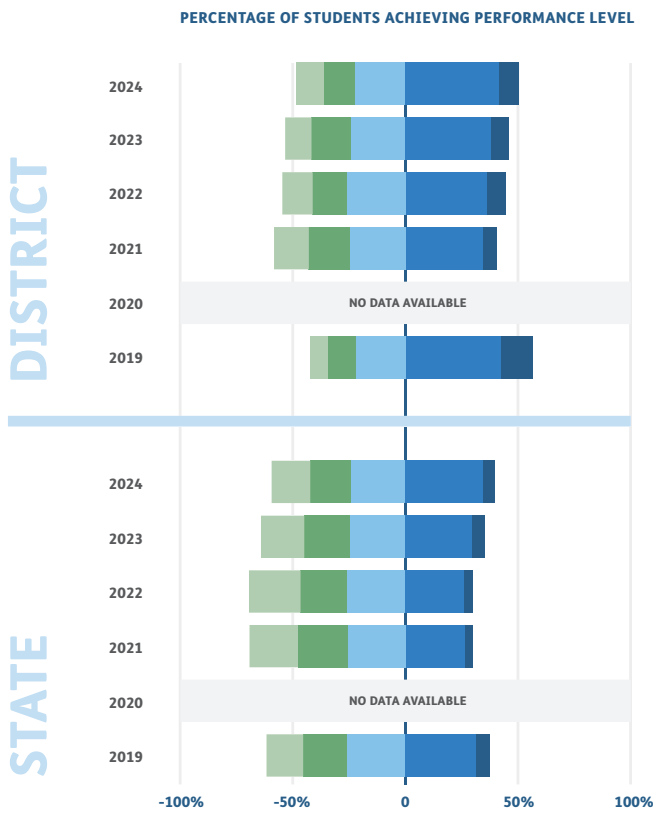
Each year, students in all Illinois public schools participate in the state mandated Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).

The IAR then reports the academic performance outcomes of students across the state and allows each district to compare outcomes for their students to outcomes for Illinois students as a whole.

The IAR assesses students in English Language Arts (ELA) and in Mathematics for all students in 3rd through 8th grade. We continue to strive for increasing the number of our students who are meeting and exceeding the challenging state grade level standards in all subject areas.

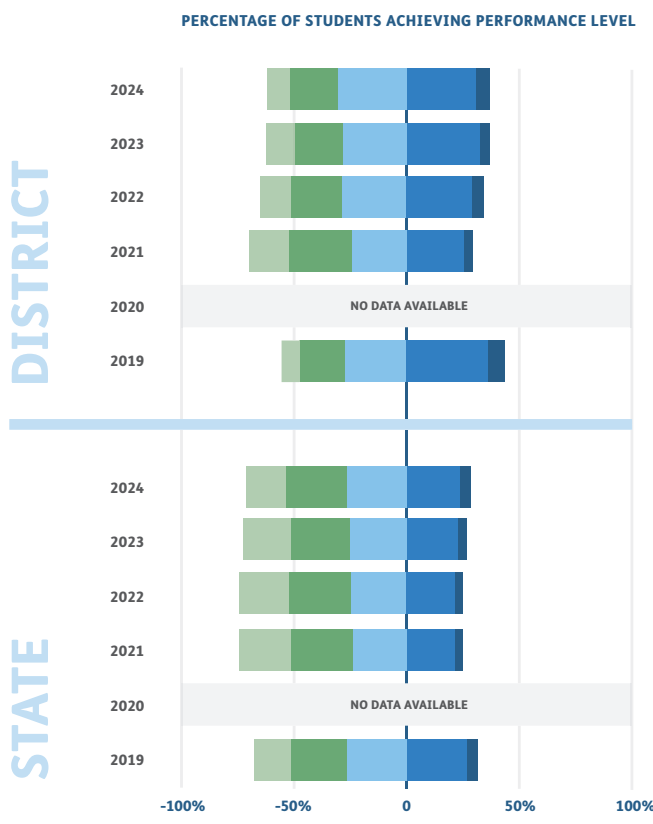
The results from Community Consolidated School District 62 show that our students have been steadily increasing in the percent who are meeting and exceeding proficiency. Students in District 62 continue to outperform students in the state of Illinois as a whole.





### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR) 2024

As indicated in the chart, in English Language Arts, 51.1% of CCSD 62 students score in the meeting and/or exceeding score in the meeting and/or exceeding proficiency range. This is up from 46.2% in 2023 and 44.9% in 2022. Our students continue to show steady improvement in performance in English Language Arts and we will continue to strive for increased achievement for all learners.



### MATH ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR) 2024

As shown in the chart, in Math, 37.6% of CCSD 62 students scored in the meeting and/or exceeding proficiency range in 2024. This is up from 37.2% in 2023 and 35% in 2022. As in English Language Arts, our students continue to show increased achievement each year. We are committed to the success of every child and continue to strive for increased performance in all areas, including Math.



Source: Illinois State Report Card 2024

# DISTRICT 62 FINANCIAL SCOPE

The District 62 Board of Education approves a budget each fall for the purpose of guiding staff on how dollars are spent to support instructional programs for students.

The process of creating the budget for the upcoming school year is one that begins in January. Through routine management of the district’s resources the district has maintained a strong fund balance.



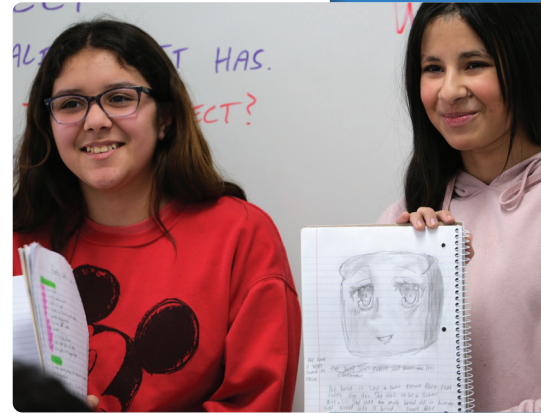
## Financial Highlights:

- District 62 has maintained “financial recognition” status by the Illinois State Board of Education for the last 19 years. Financial recognition is the highest designation for a school district to receive.
- Since 2009, the district has maintained a bond rating of AA+ with Standard & Poor’s, which is the second highest credit rating that an elementary school district can achieve.
- Supplemental funds come in the form of federal grant dollars that are used to support our students of financial need as well as our English Learners and Special Education students.
- The Board of Education has been abating over \$8 million on the Debt Service Levy annually by paying for the 2019 bond obligation through operating funds which have now been retired. It also abates the Recapture Tax Levy, which varies between \$800,000 and \$2.2 million annually. Finally, the BOE abated \$5 million in operating funds over the last two years.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FUND	REVENUES	EXPENSES
Educational	\$87,226,803.30	\$88,077,504.62
O&M	\$14,522,720.78	\$15,027,372.86
Debt Service	\$12,043.64	\$7,190,375.00
Transportation	\$5,221,151.05	\$7,696,869.29
IMRF	\$913,867.14	\$1,122,658.37
Social Security	\$1,760,956.03	\$1,732,364.19
Capital Projects	\$571.13	\$0.00
Working Cash	\$1,103,210.73	\$0.00
Tort	\$978,311.86	\$793,281.00
Life Safety	\$2,454.73	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$111,742,090.39</b>	<b>\$121,640,425.33</b>

Unaudited actuals for fiscal year 2025, ended June 30, 2025



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Michael A. Amadei  
Superintendent of Schools  
(847) 824-1170

### HUMAN RESOURCES

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(847) 824-1061

### BUSINESS OFFICE

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### TECHNOLOGY

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Chief Technology Officer  
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### OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION

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Director of Operations,  
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### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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Director of Community  
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(847) 789-5102