



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades 1-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- 8th gr. students are receiving instruction in mental health and depression awareness through P.E. based on programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- The GM student course selection for 2026-27 began on 2/13 with [course descriptions](#) available on our Gower Middle webpage (Academics tab)
- Winter data meetings have been held in both buildings to review student data, monitor progress, and adjust interventions in Math, Reading, and Behavior as part of our overall MTSS process
- Student 'e'ttendance rates for our eLearning Days on Jan. 23rd were 89% (GW) and 90% (GM) - Please give us your feedback by using our [eLearning Feedback Form](#)
- Summer Step Up and ESY Programs for recommended Gower Middle and Gower West students are being planned for June 2-25. Parents will receive a letter and registration information in the next few weeks

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 (*previous year data*): 94.0% (90.0%) for GW (K-4; K-94.2% [84%]; 1st-93.7% [88%]); 95.6% (95.0%) for GM; 95.2% (96.0%) - Teaching Staff and 97.0% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff.
- Required staff training in January was completed on 1/13 at GM and 1/20 at GW, led by Social Workers and focused on McKinney Vento-the rights of homeless students, Erin's Law, Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Required Staff Trainings (Feb. 10 at GM and Feb. 17 at GW) focused on annual State Testing schedules ([IAR](#)) and led by Principals/Assistant Principals
- Our [SAEBRS](#) screening offered to students on an annual basis meets the new [ISBE universal mental and behavioral screening requirements](#) that are effective beginning in the 2027-28 school year per [P.A. 104-0032](#)
- Each of our regular route and our sub Bus Drivers completed their annual [Recertification Course](#) (Jan. 6)

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

- The annual [5Essentials Survey](#) will close on 3/13. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 52% GW, 37% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- The 5th Gr. Band & 3rd/4th Chorus Performance (1/15), PreK Parent Cafe (1/28), Annual STEM Night & Science Showcase (1/29), GM Jazz Cafe Night (2/11), and the 4th Gr. State Fair Night (2/12) were big hits!
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin on 3/2 for our newest Gladiators!
- The [Gower PTO](#) upcoming events include the GW Family Dance (2/6), Trivia Night (2/21), and the Annual Fun Fair (3/6) - The [Gower Foundation's](#) Celebrating Differences Event is scheduled for 2/20

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

- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, AT, District Threat Assessment, ELL, Art, District Mentoring, K-8 ELA, and Innovate 62
- The Gower District Threat Assessment Team meeting was held on 1/14 to review our protocols and apply them to different scenarios - The Burr Ridge Police Dept. participated in partnership with our local team
- District Admin provided a professional learning opportunity on 1/21 for teachers interested in leadership; participants analyzed and role played several leadership case studies (next opportunity on 3/18)
- Early Release Day (2/13): Parent Teacher Conferences are held as needed for Gower West families
- Gower is hosting the Elementary Science Olympiad Tournament on 2/21 for area school teams to compete

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

- Gower received a professional development support offset grant (\$800) from the Dupage ROE
- Gower Admin completed the [EL - Title III](#) Intent to Apply for 2026-27 federal funding with local partners
- A recommendation for 2026-27 school registration/activity, lunch, and transportation fees is being submitted for Board approval ([Appendix B](#))
- The 9th Annual High School Transition Survey was administered in collaboration with D86 and local feeder districts. The data indicate a high degree of readiness from our most recent graduates ([Appendix C](#))
- The 5-Year District budget [forecast and projections report](#) through the 2030-2031 school year illustrate an ongoing commitment to sound financial practices and fiduciary responsibility to the Gower Community
- The [Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Programs](#) posted in Dec. has received a high level of interest with nearly 80 applicants with a recommendation for Board approval expected in April/May
- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, grading, and class size is underway for 2026-27 staffing and program recommendations expected in April/May