



School District of
JEFFERSON

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2026



Dear Community Members,

As we turn the calendar to 2026 and begin the second semester of the school year, I am filled with a sense of pride and renewed energy. The halfway point of the year is a natural time for reflection, and looking back at the first semester, it is clear that our mission of **"Empowering Futures Together"** is more than just a motto—it is the daily reality in our classrooms, shops, and athletic spaces.

While we continue to focus on our current students, we are also preparing for the next generation of Eagles. We will begin welcoming the Class of 2039 during **4K registration**, which will be opening soon. This is a vital first step in a child's educational journey, and we invite families to join our inclusive and nurturing learning environment.

The state's **Open Enrollment** period also begins in February. We welcome the opportunity to share our "Jefferson Pride" with families from neighboring districts who are seeking the high-quality, innovative programs we offer here.

The first half of the year has been marked by incredible **student achievements**. Music and drama performances, state qualifiers, community service projects, and more. Our students continue to excel. Our Points of Pride are not just about trophies or scores; they are about the character and resilience our students demonstrate every day.

Our **facility improvements**, funded by the 2022 referendum, are now buzzing with activity. East Elementary projects are complete, and students are benefiting from all of the improvements. Seeing our students utilize the new high school agriculture and technical education additions is a testament to what our community's support has made possible. These modern spaces truly match the high ambitions of our learners.

We firmly believe that **strong schools = strong communities**. The success of our students is a direct result of the talent of our staff, the dedication of our parents, and the unwavering support of you, our community members.

We want to ensure you stay connected with the pulse of our district throughout the spring. Please continue to visit our website at www.SDOJ.org, follow our social media channels, and subscribe to our **Friday Focus** mailing list for weekly updates.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we are ensuring that every student in the School District of Jefferson has the tools they need to thrive and positively impact society. Here is to a successful and inspiring second semester!

Sincerely,
Superintendent Charles Urness, Ph.D.



STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

SDOJ SPOTLIGHT

CHECK OUT
WHAT'S INSIDE



- District Points of Pride
- MyPowerHub Platform
- Strategic Plan Info
- 4K Registration Information
- Open Enrollment
- School Funding
- Important Dates

STAY INFORMED



WEBSITE
www.SDOJ.org



PHONE
1-920-675-1000



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/SDofJ



EMAIL
Find staff info at:
sdoj.org/district/staff-directory

JOIN OUR
MAILING LIST!



Email schmittv@sdoj.org or call 920-675-1010 to be added to our community mailing list!



POINTS OF PRIDE



We are dedicated to **Empowering Futures Together**, fostering a strong sense of community, and ensuring the success of every student. Our commitment to excellence is reflected in numerous achievements and programs that highlight the collaborative efforts of our students, staff, families, and community.

- Sullivan Elementary named 2022 **National Blue Ribbon School**
- **18 AP course offerings** & 73 2024 Students with AP Exam scores of 3+ & Named an **AP Pacesetter School** Level 3
- Middle and Elementary Schools are **Playworks Partners**
- Named **Best Communities for Music Education** eight times
- Elementary & High School **Green and Healthy Schools Awards**
- **Youth Apprenticeship & Dual Credit** Opportunities
- **Community Service** & Outreach: Soaring to Service, Christmas Neighbors, Blood Drives, and Thanksgiving Dinner
- **Seal of Biliteracy**: One of the few schools authorized by the WI DPI to implement the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy program
- Community Partners: **Strong Schools = Strong Communities**

- Over 50 **student clubs & activities** District-wide
- **State & National Qualifiers**:
 - Battle of the Books, eSports, FBLA, FFA Judging, Forensics, HOSA, Jerry Awards, Math Meet, Math 24, WSMA Solo & Ensemble, One Act Play, SkillsUSA, Stock Market Games, & Southern Lakes Anthology
- 2024-25 **WIAA State Qualifiers**:
 - Cross Country, Girls Swim, Girls Tennis, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Softball, & Track
- **AVID Programs** at the Middle School and High School
- **ASE Certified** Automotive program
- Five **National Board Certified Teachers**
- 94.2% **Graduation Rate**- above state & national average



MY POWERHUB



The District is excited to announce it has adopted **MyPowerHub** as our go-forward interactive and accessible portal for parents/guardians and students! This updated communication tool will aid in the academic and emotional success of our students.

MyPowerHub is an interactive portal designed to keep families informed about student academics. It provides consolidated access to grades, schedules, reports, school events, and other important school updates in one convenient location. It is mobile friendly and guardians can also set language preferences in their account, which will automatically translate content, including the two-way messages with school staff!

Implementing this all-in-one solution allows the district to operate more efficiently and transparently, ensuring our community's investment is focused on what matters most: **Empowering Futures Together**.

STRATEGIC PLAN

5-Year Objectives:

Foster Student Engagement & Learning

- Develop and implement high-leverage instructional practices that address opportunity gaps and support student growth.
- Foster a climate and culture for engagement, collaboration, and belonging.



Connect School & Community Through Partnerships

- Prioritize transparent communication that fosters trust within the community while engaging diverse groups and strengthening family voice.
- Promote meaningful relationships and dialogue between school and community to ensure access and representation.



Continuously Improve Services & Operations

- Align resources in a sustainable, responsible, and flexible manner to meet the evolving needs of the district and community.



Cultivate Staff Growth for Leadership & Retention

- Implement ongoing research-aligned professional learning to achieve desired student outcomes.
- Foster a climate and culture for engagement, collaboration, and belonging.





4K REGISTRATION / CHILD FIND

Pre-registration for the 2026-27 school year began January 19, 2026. We are looking for all children who will turn 4 before September 1, 2026 to register for 4K. Parents can visit our website at about.sdoj.org/jefferson-4k to register.

OPEN NOW!

Our **Child Find** event will take place on March 6, 2026, at East Elementary and is open to any resident with a child at least 3 years of age but not enrolled in a public school program. During our event, we will have Early Childhood teachers, speech therapists, and community partners available. Children will have an opportunity to play in the 4K classroom, and our staff will observe and provide parents with recommendations if any concerns arise. Parents can talk with and meet our community partners, such as Head Start, Dousman Busing company, School nurses, and wrap-around care providers.

Please contact Andrea Bonofiglio at 920-675-1043 to make a one-hour appointment.



Jefferson Early Learning Center
at East Elementary
& Sullivan Elementary 4K

OPEN ENROLLMENT

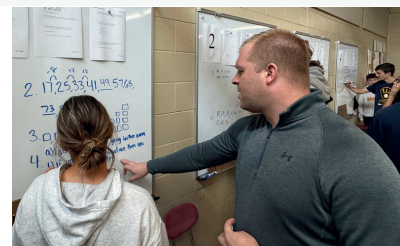
Our community members are often the best connection to friends, colleagues, or family members living in neighboring areas who are looking for the high-quality education we provide. Even if you don't have children in our schools, you play a vital role as a community ambassador. **Strong Schools = Strong Communities;** they support property values, attract local businesses, and cultivate local pride. By sharing our district's successes with others, you help us continue to grow and provide top-tier opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

If you know a family looking for a supportive and innovative educational environment for their children, please point them our way!

The regular open enrollment **application window** for the 2026-2027 school year is open February 2 - April 30.

Please direct interested families to our website at sdoj.org/district/enrollment/open-enrollment or have them call 920-675-1061 for more information.

APPLY TODAY!



UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTION: TAXES AND SCHOOLS

School finance in Wisconsin is a complex system. As you review your recent tax bill, we want to provide some clear, unbiased information about how property taxes are calculated and how those funds support our local schools.

Our district's budget is determined by a state-imposed revenue limit—a cap on the total money we can receive from state aid and local property taxes combined. When the state budget does not provide enough aid to meet this limit or keep pace with inflation, the funding responsibility shifts to local property owners. Our district has to adjust the levy amount, which means the mill rate (amount per \$1,000 of equalized property value) increases to maintain our school operations.

This is not just a local issue; it is a statewide trend. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), nearly 71% of Wisconsin school districts are receiving less general state aid than they did last year, and over \$350 million of the already reduced funding will be diverted to voucher schools.

This has created a situation where more districts than ever are relying on local taxpayers to sustain their schools. The reality for many districts like ours is that state aid has not kept up with rising fixed costs and mandated services. This makes local support more critical than ever to maintaining the programs and opportunities our students rely on.

We believe an informed community is a strong community. We encourage you to explore our website to find more information on Wisconsin School Funding and other resources.

East Elementary
120 S Sanborn Ave,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1400

West Elementary
900 W Milwaukee St,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1200

Sullivan Elementary
618 Bakertown Rd,
Sullivan, WI 53178
(920) 675-1500

Middle School
501 S Taft Ave,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1300

High School
700 W Milwaukee St,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1100

www.sdoj.org/district/facilities



School District of Jefferson
206 South Taft Avenue
Jefferson, WI 53549

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NEW TO THE DISTRICT?

WELCOME!



Learn about SDOJ @ [about.sdoj.org](https://www.sdoj.org/about)

New Students Enroll Today!

Enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 school year.
[sdoj.org/district/enrollment/annual-registration](https://www.sdoj.org/district/enrollment/annual-registration)

ESPAÑOL?

¿Necesita una traducción al español de este documento?

Contacto:

leaths@sdoj.org

920-675-1205 o visita

[sdoj.org/district/district-communication](https://www.sdoj.org/district/district-communication)



EMPOWERING FUTURES TOGETHER



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

No School Days - Athletic Events - Performances - And More!

4K Registration:

Open Now: [about.sdoj.org/jefferson-4k](https://www.sdoj.org/jefferson-4k)
March 6: Child Find (Registration Required)

School Breaks:

February 16, March 23-27, April 3,
April 24, May 22, & May 25
• Last Day of School June 5

School Board Meetings:

February 9 & 23, March 9, April 13 & 27,
May 11 & 26, June 8 & 22: (6:00 p.m.)
• School Board Elections April 7

Community Soaring to Service Day:

May 29: Strong Schools= Strong Communities



Scan the QR code to view all SDOJ calendars

Summer School:

February 23: Sign-up begins
April 8- 22: Class Selection
June 15- July 23: Summer School
[sdoj.org/students-families/summer-school](https://www.sdoj.org/students-families/summer-school)



206 S Taft Ave, Jefferson, WI 53549 | 920-675-1000 | www.sdoj.org

The School District of Jefferson does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (Protected Classes) in any of its student program and activities (as defined in Wis. Stat. § 118.13). The Board does not discriminate in the employment of administrative/professional/support staff on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. **Policy References:** po2260/ po2260.01/ po1422/po3122/po4122