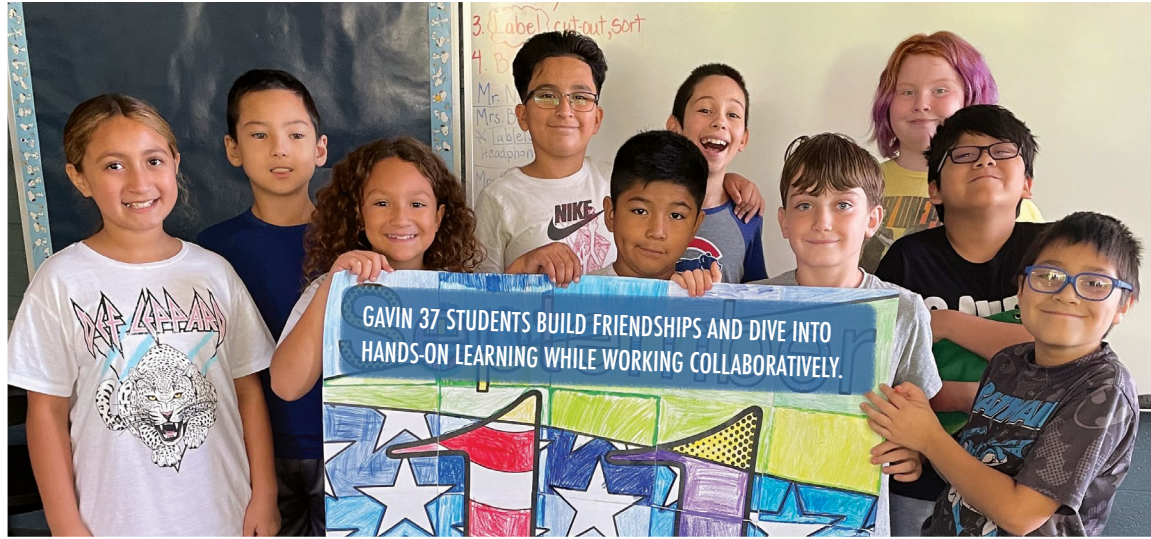




LEARN MORE  
GAVIN DISTRICT 37  
[www.gavin37.org](http://www.gavin37.org)

# district 37 views

GAVIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 37 | SPRING EDITION | APRIL 2026



## A NOTE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

*Our students continue to make strong academic progress thanks to our dedicated staff and their commitment to supporting every learner. This success strengthens not only our schools, but our entire community.*

*We are proud that the Gavin 37 Board of Education earned the Illinois Association of School Boards' Governance Recognition—one of only 42 districts statewide. Through student-centered decisions, our Board has achieved our strongest fund balance in years while protecting every student program. Teachers use Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures to actively engage every child, and our latest assessment results show steady gains in English/Language Arts and math.*

***We remain committed to high-quality education as we engage, grow, and empower every learner, every day.*** We're excited about our refreshed website with easier navigation for families. Thank you to the Gavin Involvement Group (GIG) and our entire community for your support.

***Together, we are building a district where every child thrives.***

—SCOTT SCHWARTZ, Ed. D., GAVIN 37 SUPERINTENDENT

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media to keep up-to-date on district news and classroom happenings.



Gavin School District 37



@gavinsd37

¿Quiere recibir los boletines futuros en español?

Haga contacto con:  
[sschwartz@gavin37.org](mailto:sschwartz@gavin37.org)



## GAVIN 37 BOARD OF EDUCATION EARNS STATEWIDE GOVERNANCE RECOGNITION

We're proud to share that the Gavin 37 Board of Education has been recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) with the School Board Governance Recognition award—one of only 42 school boards across the state to receive this honor.

This recognition highlights the board's commitment to effective governance, continuous learning, and leadership that prioritizes student success, staff support, and community engagement.

Over the past two years, our board has participated in IASB-led retreats, attended the statewide Triple I Conference annually, and engaged in ongoing training to strengthen policy, planning, and fiscal oversight.

Thanks to this focus, Gavin 37 has achieved its strongest fund balance in many years without sacrificing student services or supports. That's a direct reflection of our board's dedication to smart, student-centered decision-making.



## COOPERATIVE LEARNING STRUCTURES

Teachers and staff, throughout the district, have engaged in professional development to embed Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures into their daily routines. This model promotes active engagement of every student through strategies that increase interaction with peers and curriculum. Unlike traditional classrooms where some students may remain passive, Kagan structures ensure every student's active involvement. **Key tenets of Cooperative Learning—referred to using the acronym "PIES"—include:**

**Positive Interdependence** | The word "positive" is based on research demonstrating that cooperation almost always results when there is a positive correlation among outcomes. Interdependence refers to situations in which students must depend on each other. When students hope for and support the success of others; when they cannot do a task alone, they work more cooperatively with others.

**Individual Accountability** | This is present when each student must perform on their own; the performance or the product of the performance is seen by someone else; and the individual's performance is required.

**Equal Participation** | This is often done via pre-announced time allocations, think and write times, and/or specified rules and roles for each individual.

**Simultaneous Interaction** | Responses or sharing of ideas is happening in teams and/or pairs all at the same time, allowing tasks to be accomplished more quickly.

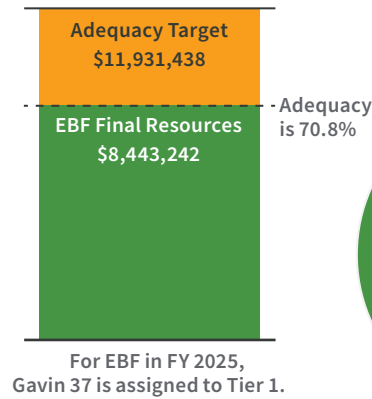
## OUR FINANCIAL FOUNDATION

Our financial position remains strong, with healthy fund balances built through years of careful planning and responsible decision-making. That stability matters, and it allows us to continue investing in what matters most—our students.

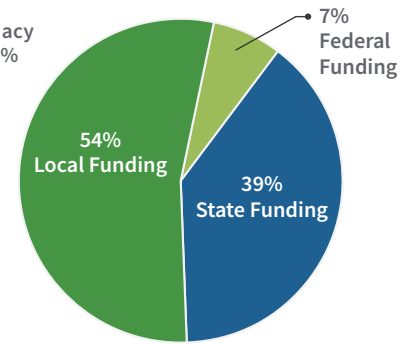
**At the same time, the financial landscape is becoming more challenging. Costs continue to rise across many areas. While we remain disciplined and focused in how we manage our resources, these increasing expenses are putting more pressure on our ability to meet our district needs.**

We continue to benefit from the state’s Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) model, which has been a key source of support in helping us move closer to full funding. **Based on the state’s formula, we currently have 70.8% of the revenue to be fully funded.**

### EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING (EBF) 2025



### DISTRICT REVENUE SOURCES (FY 2026)



*“At Gavin 37, we remain committed to responsible stewardship and to providing a high-quality education for every student.”*

READ MORE ABOUT EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING (EBF) AT [WWW.ISBE.NET/PAGES/EVIDENCEBASEDFUNDING.ASPX](http://WWW.ISBE.NET/PAGES/EVIDENCEBASEDFUNDING.ASPX)

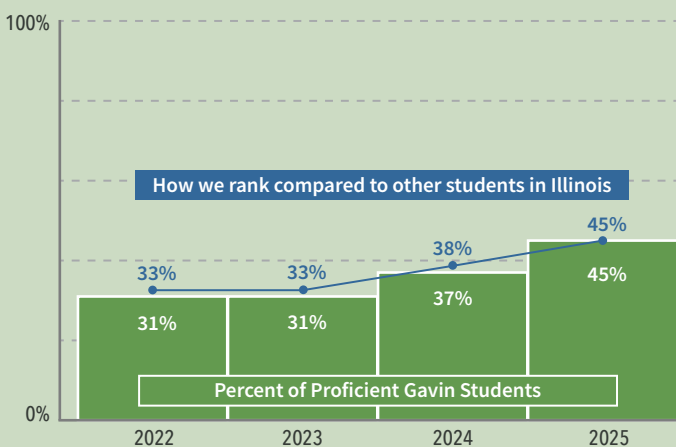
## NEW BENCHMARKS FOR ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR) AND OUR GROWTH

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has unveiled new performance benchmarks for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). These research-informed and right-sized assessment performance levels give students, families, and educators better data on academic achievement and college readiness. Prior performance levels mislabeled many students in elementary and high school, often indicating that students were less academically successful and prepared for college and careers than they actually were. The new, unified levels correct long-standing misalignment between Illinois’ state assessments and other real college and career readiness expectations.

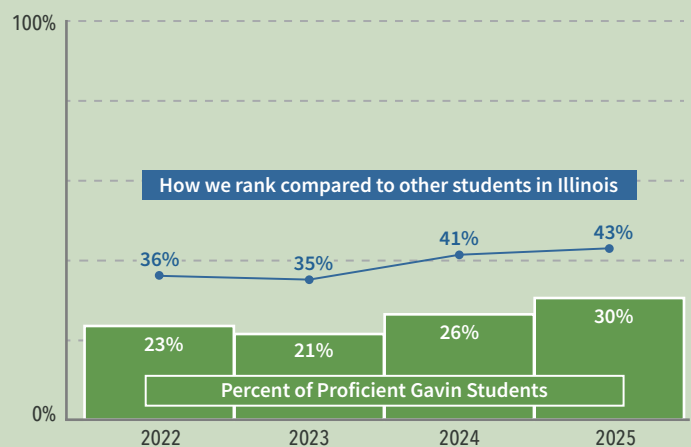
Over the past few years, not only have more and more of our students shown grade level proficiency, our students have also moved steadily upward in percentile rank, indicating that our growth is meeting and, in some cases, outperforming expectations.

**Below are graphs showing our percentile progression year over year. While we continue to seek improvement, you’ll see how we’ve climbed.** This new benchmark system helps us hold ourselves accountable and target supports for students who need them most.

### TRACKING OUR ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) SCORES



### TRACKING OUR MATH SCORES



READ MORE ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR) AT [WWW.ISBE.NET/IAR](http://WWW.ISBE.NET/IAR)



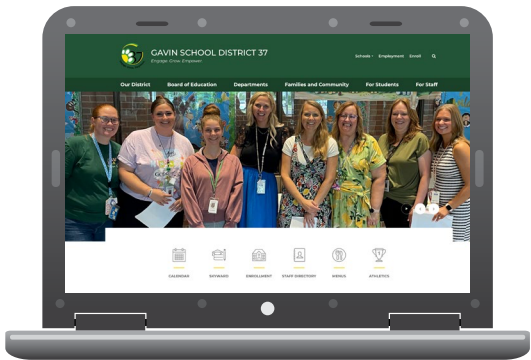
## GAVIN SCHOOL DISTRICT 37

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INGLESIDE, IL 60041  
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[GAVIN SOUTH SCHOOL](#)  
[GAVIN CENTRAL SCHOOL](#)

*Gavin School District 37 Mission: We engage, grow and empower every learner, every day*

## WE'VE REFRESHED OUR WEBSITE!



**We've launched an updated website built around what our families need: easier access, cleaner layout, and a better mobile experience.**

### SOME WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS:

**A clear "Parents & Students" section** so families can find what they need (enrollment, menus, calendars, etc).

**Direct links to staff resources** (Skyward, employment info, logins).

**A robust Athletics & Activities calendar and info hub.** Be sure to check out the district and athletics calendars that clearly lay out when important events are taking place.

**Quick access to board materials, policy docs, and district reports.**

**Improved layout and navigation on a computer or mobile device.** We hope to have created less clutter and more clarity.



CHECK OUT OUR  
UPDATED WEBSITE  
[www.gavin37.org](http://www.gavin37.org)

## ABOUT THE GAVIN INVOLVEMENT GROUP (GIG)



The Gavin Involvement Group (GIG) is a parent-led organization dedicated to supporting students, staff, and families within the Gavin school community. The mission is to enhance the school experience by fostering connection, school spirit, and meaningful engagement.

Throughout the year, GIG organizes and supports a variety of events, programs, and initiatives—from family nights and school celebrations to

fundraisers and staff appreciation efforts. They also help fund classroom needs, field trips, and special projects that directly benefit students. By partnering with school leadership, teachers, and families, GIG works to build a strong, inclusive community where every student feels supported and every family has the opportunity to get involved.

***GIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Gavin Central. All are welcome to join!***

### AUGUST 2025

Back to School Bash

### SEPTEMBER

Donuts with GIG  
Cherrydale\*

### OCTOBER

Fall Mini Photography Sessions\*  
Trunk or Treat

### NOVEMBER

Candy Buy Back\* (Conlon Thompson Orthopedics)  
Portillo's Reading Challenge\*\*  
Donate pies for Thanksgiving food drive

### DECEMBER

Midwest Dip\*  
Scholastic Book Fair\*  
Antioch Pizza\*\*  
Breakfast with the Grinch

### JANUARY 2026

Chipotle\*\*  
Chicago Wolves Game

### FEBRUARY

Sweetheart Dance  
Panera Bread\*\*

### MARCH

Read-a-thon\*  
Panda Express\*\*  
Skate on Grand  
Volunteer: Feed My Starving Children  
Butter Braid\*

### APRIL

McTeacher Night  
Chicago Fire Game

### MAY

Principal's Day  
Staff Appreciation Week

\* FUNDRAISER

\*\* FAMILY DINE-OUT NIGHT

*GIG also offers ongoing/year-round support by contributing to each grade level for field trips and the 8th grade trip. They also sponsor "Leader in Me" breakfast and signage, "Student of the Month" signage, and monthly family dine-out nights.*