



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – June 17, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates high levels of achievement and growth for the 2025-26 school year. 10 of 10 ambitious district goals were met this year ([Appendix A](#))
- 2025-26 preliminary [IAR](#) data indicates 82% of our 3rd-8th graders 'met or exceeded standards' in Reading and 65% in Math - 79%, 73% in Reading and 63%, 56% in Math the previous 2 years (full report this fall)
- Preliminary 25-26 [ACCESS](#) scores for student performance in our English Learner Program indicate 17% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (14% in 24-25; 8% in 23-24)
- Our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities began on June 2nd at Gower West and Gower Middle - We have 241 students registered across all programs including a new AI Offering at GM (208 last year)
- Extended School Year programs are underway at GW and GM and throughout LADSE for our qualifying special education students

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*): 93.7% (90.0%) for GW (K-4; K-94.3% [84%]; 1st-93.9% [87%]); 94.4% (95.0%) for GM; 94.9% (95.2%) - Teaching Staff and 96.5% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff
- GM After School Tutoring Program during 10th Hour will continue for the 2026-2027 school year. This program is led by Gower Staff and supported by Gower Grads!
- Our Annual Safety Committee meeting held with our local Police and Fire partner agencies is scheduled for 7/15 to review our existing Emergency Operations Plan and update based on partner recommendations
- Gower Middle's new Social Worker and Counselor will participate in a training on 8/12 for student threat assessments and protocols as part of our overall District Threat Assessment work
- [Crisis Prevention Institute](#) training for our special education teams will be led by Jackelyn Cadard, our district's Director of Special Education and Student Services in August prior to the start of school

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

- Use our [Registration Page](#) to complete the process for the 2026-27 school year - Registration began 4/10
- Plans for the 5th Grade Orientation scheduled for Aug. 6th are underway (watch for GM Parent eBlasts)
- Hold the date for our Annual Back to School Meet & Greet/Open House on Aug. 19th (details to follow)
- Hold the date for our Annual Curriculum Nights - Sept. 3rd at GW and Sept. 10th at GM (details to follow)
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is excited to host their [Biannual Charity Gala](#) on October 17, 2026 in support of Gower School District programs - information regarding sponsorships can be found [here](#)

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

- The Professional Development Committee is offering four, on-site workshops in August led by Gower's Engaged Learning Specialists focused on digital citizenship and effective use of technology in the classroom
- Gower Teachers and Admin will have the opportunity to participate in a summer online Book Club, *Talk Read Talk Write* led by Karen Hess, our district's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Programs
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee has provided a draft copy for the 2026-2027 school year for Board review prior to final adoption and posting in August ([Appendix B](#))
- Planning continues throughout the summer with work sessions for the Summer Outreach Program for Multilingual Learners, Tech Team and Digital Safety, Instructional Routines, and CKH Process Coaches
- New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Aug. 10-11; Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 18-19; ESP Staff Institute is scheduled for Aug. 18 with the Certified Staff
- The PERA Committee is scheduled to meet on July 15th to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year

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

- Hiring efforts are complete with 10 of our 10 open certified positions filled for 2026-27
- The tentative 2026-27 school budget is scheduled for BOE review at the August 18th meeting
- District grants for the 2026-27 school year will be submitted by June 30th according to ISBE requirements and facilitated by the district-level directors of student services & student programs, respectively
- GW and GM Principals will incorporate their respective parent feedback with their school-based 5Essentials and other local data for continuous school improvement planning efforts for the 2026-27 school year
- With the retirement of our Gower Middle School Principal at the end of the 26-27 school year, the selection process will begin in August by building a leadership profile from student, staff, and parent feedback