



A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Marquardt School District 15 Community,

As summer begins, I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to our students, families, staff, and community members who showed up every day for our kids. Everything we accomplish in District 15 is a team effort, and this year was no exception.

Our District's vision — *Ignite, Inspire, Empower* — guided us through an exciting and productive year. Here are just a few highlights:

- **New Learning Materials for Reading:** Our Board of Education approved a new English Language Arts program for students in kindergarten through 8th grade. As a result, students will benefit from up-to-date, high-quality materials designed to strengthen reading and writing skills for years to come.
- **We Listened:** District leaders hosted listening sessions with students and staff to better understand what's working and where we can improve. Those conversations matter, and they will continue to shape the decisions we make together.

From our listening session with students, we learned:

DO STUDENTS LIKE COMING TO SCHOOL?

Most students said yes, driven by friendships, teachers they trust, and enjoyable subjects like PE, art, music, and recess. However, a notable group cited waking up too early, repetitive or boring content, disruptive classmates, and excessive homework as reasons for hesitation.

DO STUDENTS FEEL SAFE?

The majority feel safe due to visible adults and security staff — Officer Rigo was praised by name across multiple schools. Key concerns included hallways and bathrooms, peer bullying and fighting, and anxiety around intruders or school shootings. At school, 5th graders specifically felt less safe when substitute teachers were present.

- **Families in the Classroom:** Throughout the year, parents and Board members joined us for school and classroom visits, giving them a chance to see great teaching in action and celebrate our students' hard work.
- **A Community That Cares:** Our holiday food drive was a powerful reminder of the generosity that defines District 15. Thank you to everyone who contributed — you made a real difference for local families.

We head into summer proud of how far we've come and excited for what's ahead. Please enjoy the rest of this newsletter for more updates on student success, school improvements, and the many ways our students, staff, and families continue to make District 15 strong.

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall, ready for another great year!

In partnership,

Ms. Lucilla Dávila

Ms. Lucilla Dávila
Superintendent of Marquardt School District 15 Schools



DO STUDENTS FEEL CHALLENGED AND VALUED?

Students who felt challenged credited engaging teachers and subjects they love. Those who didn't, pointed directly to i-Ready being too easy or repetitive, class time lost to misbehavior, teachers not providing help when needed, and feeling ignored when raising their hand.

HOW IS THE OVERALL EXPERIENCE?

High scorers credited caring teachers, strong friendships, and feeling heard. Low scorers cited bullying and exclusion, teachers who yell or show favoritism, and — particularly at MMS 7th grade — feeling that their recommendations are not taken seriously.





1. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Our professional educators use data and best-practice research to enhance student growth and close achievement gaps. Through personalized interventions and enrichment activities, we are engaging all students in rigorous learning that supports academic progress and social-emotional development.

92.5%
Student Attendance

2,265
Enrollment

40.4%
% of English Learners

Academic Progress Update: Spring i-Ready Data

District 15 K-8th grade students have made significant progress this year in reading and mathematics. Academic growth in these subjects is measured using the i-Ready assessment, a benchmark tool administered three times throughout the year to monitor student achievement and guide instructional planning. As of May 21, 2026, 97% of students participated in the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic and 97% participated in the i-Ready Math Diagnostic.

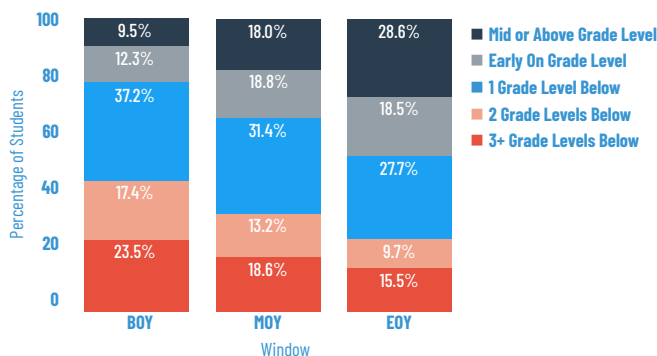
English Language Arts

In ELA, there was a large increase in students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations.

- **Proficiency Gains:** Students at "Mid or Above Grade Level" tripled, rising from **9.5%** in the fall to **28.6%** this spring.
- **Closing the Gap:** There was a significant reduction in the number of students performing three or more grade levels below, dropping from **23.5%** to **15.5%**.

ELA Overall Placement by Window

i-Ready ELA Currently Enrolled - Yes May 21, 2026 School Year 2025-2026



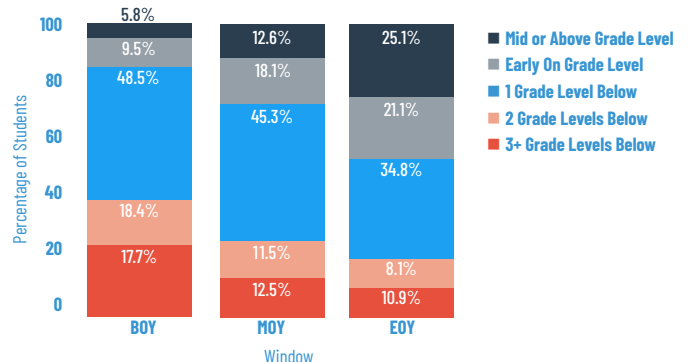
Mathematics

Student progress in mathematics shows a similar pattern of steady improvement and perseverance.

- **Proficiency Gains:** The percentage of students at "Mid or Above Grade Level" grew from just **5.8%** in the fall to **25.1%** by the end of the year.
- **Early On-Grade Level:** Combined with those "Early on Grade Level," **46%** of our students are now finishing the year on track, compared to only **15.3%** at the start of the year.

Math Overall Placement by Window

i-Ready Math Currently Enrolled - Yes May 21, 2026 School Year 2025-2026

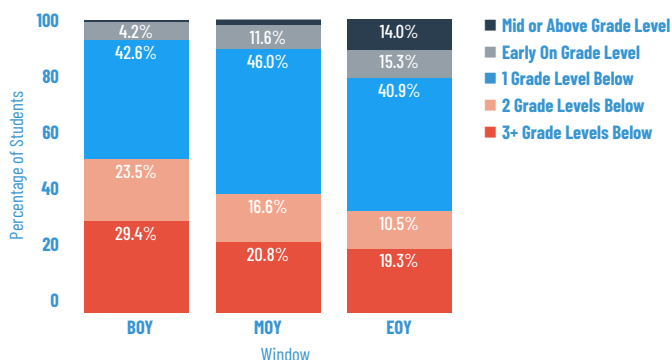


Supporting Progress for English Language Learners

Growth was also observed among our English Language Learners in both mathematics and English Language Arts. Our continued commitment to providing access to grade-level content has helped strengthen learning outcomes for all students.

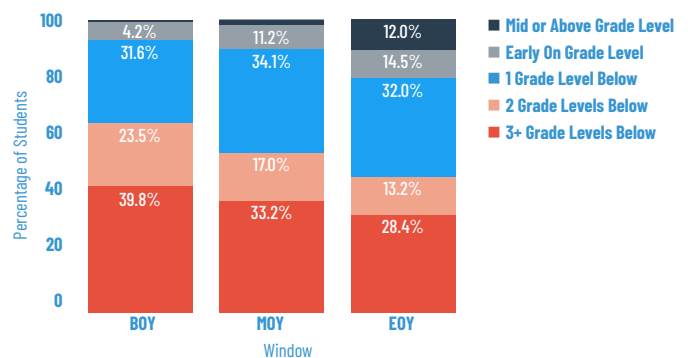
Math Overall Placement by Window

EL- Yes Currently Enrolled - Yes May 21, 2026 School Year 2025-2026



ELA Overall Placement by Window

EL- Yes Currently Enrolled - Yes May 21, 2026 School Year 2025-2026





New Teaching and Learning Resources

English Language Arts

Following a two-year pilot and adoption process, the District has selected new English Language Arts (ELA) teaching and learning resources, with implementation beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

New Curricular Resources Adopted:

- **Grades K-2 Foundational Skills:** UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute)
- **Grades K-5 General ELA:** Curriculum Associates Magnetic Literacy
- **Grades K-5 Bilingual Classrooms:** Mosaico: Lectoescritura
- **Middle School:** Savvas myPerspectives

We are proud of the rigorous work and commitment shown by the Curriculum Adoption Team and teachers who piloted these resources in their classrooms this school year.

Our immediate priorities include aligning the new curricular resources with state standards to support daily instruction. This May, we launched a robust professional learning plan to support our teachers in building lesson plans using these new tools. This support will continue through the summer and throughout the next school year.



PE and Health

We have also adopted two high-quality resources for our PE and Health departments, one for K-5 and one for 6-8. To support this transition, our staff has already participated in specialized training to implement these tools in our classrooms.

Elementary (K-5) – Quaver Health & PE

This multimedia-rich program streamlines planning for our teachers, while keeping students active and engaged.

- **Integrated Learning:** Seamlessly combines Health and PE.
- **Engaging Tools:** Uses digital resources and interactive content aligned with Illinois standards.
- **Efficient:** Helps teachers manage multiple grade levels with engaging lessons.

Middle School (6-8) – Goodheart-Wilcox

Our middle schoolers will now use Essential Health Skills for Middle School, a curriculum designed for deep alignment and inclusivity.

- **Inclusive Content:** Features diverse representation and targeted support for all learners.
- **Academic Rigor:** Provides clear instructional targets and challenging, grade-level content.
- **Data-Driven:** Aligns daily lessons directly with assessments to track student growth.



2. FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

We continue to strengthen our partnerships with families and the community to build connections, open lines of communication, and explore collaborations for the benefit of our students.



Serving the communities
of Glendale Heights,
Addison, Bloomingdale,
Lombard, and
Glen Ellyn

Creating a Sense of Belonging for All Families

District 15 is committed to strengthening family partnerships through our Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC). This dedicated group of parent leaders collaborates with district staff to share ideas, review progress, and support multilingual learners, ensuring family voices are reflected in our programs. We appreciate their commitment to our school community.

Our Bilingual Parent University offers free, interactive sessions that provide families with practical strategies, resources, and support to help their children at home. This program also creates space for families and school leaders to collaborate, builds confidence, and empowers families as active partners in the children's educational journey.

50+

Languages spoken by
Marquardt D15
students & families



BPAC Officers and Language Learning Department Directors: (From left to right - Dr. Laura Hodge, Mr. Maclovio Diaz, Ms. Jeanette Bonilla, Ms. Claudia Alcantar and Ms. Rocio Rosales)



Families participate in an interactive Bilingual Parents University session focused on navigating adolescence.

Changemakers Share Stories of Service, Leadership, and Impact

On March 13, District 15 hosted its "Leaving Our Mark" Changemakers event, celebrating individuals dedicated to volunteerism, social activism, and strengthening their communities by uplifting all voices. The evening featured performances by La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón and the Marquardt Middle School Symphonic Band, while honoring five students, two staff members, and community member Scott Darling – former MSD15 employee and 2015 Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup Champion. Through their personal stories, each Changemaker inspired attendees to create positive change in their own communities.

Strong Relationships = Safe Students, Families, and Schools

District 15 partners with the Glendale Heights Police Department to bring the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program into our schools, helping students build skills in decision-making, safety, and positive choices. We are grateful for the officers who connect with students and make a lasting impact.



Community Resource Officer Rigoberto Bernal presides over the D.A.R.E. graduation at one school.

MSD15 Community Gives Back

Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items to support our community!

Connie Barreras, community member, collected an impressive 30 bags and boxes of food from across Marquardt School District 15 and delivered them to the Family in Faith Food Pantry on Bloomingdale Road.

We are proud of our Marquardt School District 15 community for coming together to help our neighbors in need. Your generosity makes a real difference!



Connie Barreras with the non-perishable food items collected from MSD15.



At the Changemaker event, local artist Nour Al-Majzoub provides free calligraphy posters and sketches for our students.



Bomba dancers from Puerto Rico celebrate tradition, rhythm, and cultural pride.



3. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our goal is to ensure that our schools and classrooms are safe, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive spaces that support quality teaching, rigorous learning, and positive peer relationships.

14:1
Student Teacher Ratio

21
Avg. Class Size

District Committee Developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework

In 2025-2026, District 15 developed an AI Committee, made up of educators from various grade levels, school leaders, and District administrators from multiple departments. This group has been meeting each month to develop a thoughtful, comprehensive framework for integrating AI tools across the district, with a focus on safe, ethical, and effective use for staff and students.

Key priorities include drafting a district-wide AI policy that promotes responsible practices, data privacy, transparency, and compliance with student data protections (FERPA). The Committee is also developing professional learning resources to use AI to enhance staff productivity, support differentiated instruction, and prepare students for an AI-driven future while keeping human decision-making and critical thinking at the center of our work.

Summer Renovations at Black Hawk Elementary

Great News! Because our Buildings & Grounds Department was able to deliver our emergency HVAC work under budget, we are able to reallocate the remaining funds to renovate Black Hawk Elementary this summer.

The school will receive new classroom furniture for grades 3-5, including reading nooks, tables in the Art Room and other updates to multi-grade level classrooms. Other enhancements will include new hallway paint, school logo branding in the gym, and exterior building improvements.



New classroom furniture and learning areas at Black Hawk Elementary School.



Young Chefs at Marquardt Middle School

Middle school students learned to prepare Arroz con Pollo from Superintendent Lucilla Dávila as part of their hands-on experience in the Young Chefs Club.



Left to right: Marible Alchin, Stefanie Marik, Superintendent Lucilla Dávila, and Young Chefs Sponsor, Erin Sorellino, prepare ingredients for Arroz con Pollo.



Young Chefs watch a demonstration before preparing the food themselves!



Students (Young Chefs) prepared Arroz con Pollo for dinner.



4. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Marquardt is a place where professional educators can grow and thrive at every stage of their careers. We are committed to providing high-quality professional learning opportunities and inclusive workplace practices that reflect the needs of our community.

86.8%

Teacher Retention

58.4%

Teachers with a Master's Degree or Higher

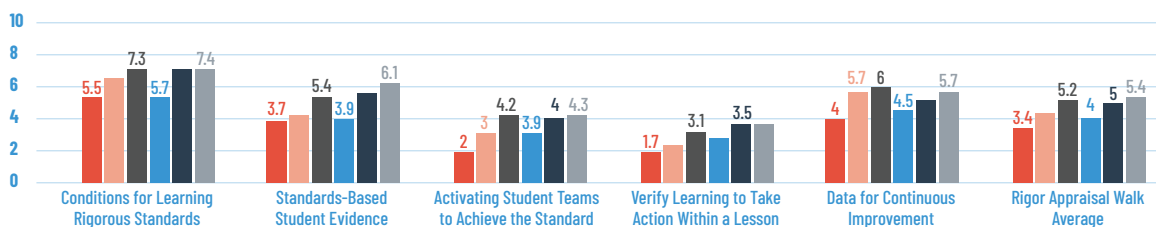
High Rigor, High Agency: Model of Instruction

This year, we focused on strengthening our instructional framework to ensure high rigor and student agency are consistently visible in classrooms. Rigor is defined as a level of cognitive demand that requires students to think deeply, apply learning, and solve complex problems. Agency means that students are taking ownership of their learning through rigorous discussions, collaboration, and leadership.

To monitor our progress and identify areas for continued support, rigor appraisals are conducted three times each year. The year-end data reflects remarkable growth across all schools, a testament to the daily efforts, support, and leadership of our building leaders and instructional coaches. Rigor Appraisal 1 indicates where our District was at the beginning of last school year, while the most recent appraisal, Rigor Appraisal 6, highlights the incredible growth made over the past few years. In the latest appraisal, Conditions for Learning Rigorous Standards received the highest average pillar score of 7.4.

Rigor Appraisal Pillar Scores

The Rigor Appraisal contains questions on a 12-point scale, grouped into one of five pillars. The average score for each pillar is compared below. Higher scores indicate a stronger alignment with the characteristics of rigorous instruction,



Marquardt Food Service Goes to Washington, D.C.!

MSD15 Assistant Director of Food & Nutrition Services Maribel Alchin, who currently serves as the Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) Legislative Chair, attended the School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington, D.C. this March. Alongside colleagues from other school districts and industry partners, she advocated for Illinois school nutrition programs and co-presented an educational session, "Conquering the Hill with Confidence." Maribel and her colleagues met with 18 legislative officials on Capitol Hill. During the visits, they shared a photobook featuring meal programs from school districts across Illinois, including Marquardt School District 15.



Maribel Alchin at the LAC in Washington with legislative leaders and Illinois industry partners.



Recruiting and Retaining Top Teachers

District 15 is committed to attracting and retaining high-quality educators who support strong instruction and student success. By attending career fairs, district leaders connect with future-ready candidates and strengthen our pipeline of educators dedicated to excellence in every classroom and service to our community. At this point in the recruitment season, MSD15 is excited to welcome 13 new educators to our district.

This year, the Human Resources Department expanded partnerships and recruitment efforts to the following institutions:

College/University Career Fairs:

- Northern Illinois University
- Illinois State University
- DePaul University
- University of Illinois
- Eastern Illinois University
- Western Illinois University
- Lewis University

Other Recruitment Events:

- First annual DuPage Regional Office of Education Career Fair
- Illinois School Psychologists Association Career Fair
- Four virtual recruiting events with IASPA (Illinois Association of School Personnel Administrators)



Director of Human Resources, Dr. LeVar J. Ammons and MSD 15 colleagues Dr. Laura Hodge and Rocio Rosales at the ISU Career Fair in February 2026.



5. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

We are committed to making effective, equitable, and efficient use of taxpayer dollars to maximize educational success for our students, schools, and the district.

\$25K

Average Spending
per Student

Enhanced Instructional Technology in Marquardt Classrooms

District 15 students and staff will soon benefit from a new, unified technology ecosystem that integrates familiar Google tools, helping streamline instruction and minimize learning curves.

To prepare for implementation, 36 teachers, administrators, and IT staff members from the District's K-8 community participated in a 10-week pilot program testing the integration of Chromebooks and BenQs in the classroom. BenQs are interactive screens that are used for educational activities.

Other native tools, like the EZWrite Whiteboard feature on the BenQ, will help transform static lessons into dynamic, interactive writing activities.

The rollout of these new classroom devices will begin in the 2026-27 school year.



2026-2027 Registration Dates

The District Office

(1860 Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights, IL. 60139)

will offer open registration for the 2026-2027 school year
from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, July 16
Thursday, July 23



All current students/parents are required to register every year. Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 6th and 7th grade students/parents must show proof of residency. All new students/parents to the district must also register.

Additional information about residency and registration information is available on the MSD15 website.

www.d15.us/district

2025 Strategic Plan

IGNITE
INSPIRE
EMPOWER

CORE VALUES

-  Stakeholder Voice
-  Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
-  Accountability
-  Continuous Improvement
-  Learning Environment



MARQUARDT
SCHOOL DISTRICT 15



MISSION

To provide a high-quality, innovative education so that each student is inspired and empowered to discover and fulfill their unique potential as responsible and empathetic global citizens.

PORTRAITS

OUR GRADUATES

- Critical thinkers and problem solvers
- Effective collaborators, communicators, and advocates for self and others
- Empathetic global citizens
- Resourceful, responsible, and resilient leaders with a growth mindset
- Intrinsically driven learners achieving excellence



OUR COMMUNITY

- Engaged learning
- Effective communication
- Cultural and linguistic awareness
- Advocacy
- Accountability
- Open-mindedness
- Inclusivity
- Adaptability and flexibility
- Empathetic connectedness



EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SYSTEM

- Ensuring systems alignment
- Supporting students' academic and social-emotional development
- Providing focused professional learning aligned to district goals
- Cultivating a positive and professional culture
- Fostering an equitable and inclusive community
- Promoting accountable, continuous improvement
- Encouraging family involvement and perspective





ECRWSEDDM

Meet the District Leadership Team

Senior Cabinet



Basiliza Hernandez
Confidential Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent
and Board of Education



Miguel Vargas
Assistant Superintendent of
Business and Finance/CSBO



Dr. Rovel Pollock
Deputy Superintendent



Kristie Langbehn
Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning



Michael Szopinski
Chief of Staff and Communication

Board of Education



Elisabeth Betancourt
President



Zahawa Saleh
Vice President



Jessica Dominguez
Secretary



Rodrigo Gutierrez



Tunisia Macklin



Jean Randazzo



Jonathan Wells