



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – September 23, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning (report forthcoming)
- Individual student performance data in reading and math (NWEA/MAP, Fastbridge) and SEL data collected (SAEBRS) are being utilized as part of our school-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM with monthly spirit day announcements focused on different career pathways of some of our very own Gower Staff
- Our 8th grade students participated in [Teen Sexual Health](#) on 9/18 and our 5th grade students and parents will be participating in our annual [Understanding Changes](#) on 10/7 led by Candor Health Education
- The [Illinois Learning Standards](#) illustrate what students should know and be able to do by subject and grade

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: 94.3% (94.2%) for GW; 96.8% (96.0%) for GM; 93.8% (97.0%) - Teaching Staff and 93.4% (98.9%) for Teacher Aides. *Previous year data*
- CPR/AED Training was held on 8/20 for support staff, admin, coaches, Teachers, and bus drivers
- GM is in Year 5 of their 'Gower Houses' approach. Visit the [GM Student Resources tab](#) to learn more. GW is heading into Year 4 of a similar 'Gower Families' approach to promote team building and school spirit
- Required staff trainings in Sept. were completed (9/8 and 9/9) by school nurses on: cardiac response plans, asthma, diabetes, food allergy, anaphylactic shock guidelines, and seizure protocols
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (54 reports in 2025-26; <10 reports in 2024-25, and <10 reports in 2023-24)

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

- Our 2026-27 Curriculum Nights on Sept. 3rd at GW and Sept. 10th at GM were both well attended and provided useful information for parents to gain a clear understanding of the student experience
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - Sept 15 - Oct 15 - Let's recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of both Hispanic & Latinx American communities
- GW hosted their Annual Grandparent Bingo Night on Sept. 17th - Another well-attended community event!
- Join us for Gower's *Health & Wellness Night* on September 24 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. in the Gower West Cafeteria. Childcare will be provided by the Gower Foundation's *Unplug Night!* Prizes will be awarded!
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities - Save the date for the [Charity Gala](#) - October 17, 2026
- Save the date for Gower's Multicultural Extravaganza 2026 on October 22nd at GM; a sign-up and registration form is being sent through the Friday principal newsletters as a reminder

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

- Newly adopted K-8-Art curriculum, *Art of Education*, is being implemented across all grade levels
- Gower staff submitted the [FY27 Illinois State Library Grant](#) for and additional \$850 in funding to add to the Gower Middle Library collection (The \$850 initially directed to GM was directed to GW last year)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our District ELL Team, Innovate 62, Special Education Teams, and District Mentoring
- Our 9/18 Professional Learning is school-based and will have continued focus on *Amplifying Your Impact with Instructional Routines* and modeling *Talk Read Talk Write* at GM and reflecting on *Student Centers* at GW
- Monthly Gower Education Association and Superintendent alignment meetings continue for 2026-27

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

- The final 2026-2027 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 108% for FY27 and resulted in \$603,530.78; FY26 = 116%/\$602,638.01; FY25 = 117%/\$601,778.46
- Gower was awarded \$18,039 through the federal [E-Rate Program](#) to offset technology costs for 2025-26
- Gower will receive \$194,148 ([IDEA Grant](#)) to support our Preschool For All & Special Education programs
- Gower will receive \$107,201 ([ESEA as Amended Grant](#)) distributed as follows: Title I (\$81,779), Title II (\$15,422), & Title IV (\$10,000). [Title III Grant](#) award to support our multilingual learners is forthcoming
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix A](#))
- The selection process for the next principal of Gower Middle School has begun with a [job posting](#) for internal candidates - The process will include a [Parent Selection Committee](#) as well as [Parent Feedback](#)