

BOARD BRIEFS

INFORMATION FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AUGS AND ELC PRESENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

At the September 15th Board of Education meeting, Antioch Upper Grade School and Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center presented their 2026-2027 School Improvement Plans, highlighting current student data, areas of focus, and goals for the year.

At AUGS, 74% of students are currently scoring at or above the 41st percentile in MAP Reading and 68% in MAP Math. The school's growth goals are for at least 58% of students to meet or exceed their individual MAP Reading growth projections and 55% to meet or exceed Math growth projections by spring 2027.

Reading strategies will emphasize literary text, claims and evidence, and common response routines, while Math will focus on operations and algebraic thinking, multi-step problem solving, and mathematical reasoning. Staff will also continue using PLCs to review data,

provide targeted instruction during Success class, incorporate Building Thinking Classrooms strategies into instruction, conduct an ELA pilot, and receive additional professional learning on literacy instruction.

AUGS also set a goal to increase its student attendance rate from 93% to at least 94%. Strategies include weekly attendance monitoring, early family outreach, individualized attendance plans, and strengthening students' connections to school. The presentation also showed positive behavior trends from last year, including decreases in minor and major office referrals, suspension days, and bus referrals.

At MKM, students exceeded last year's goal of having at least 70% meet or exceed age-appropriate Teaching Strategies GOLD benchmarks, finishing the year at 83% in literacy, 79% in math, and 82% in social-emotional

learning. For 2026-2027, MKM will continue targeting at least 70% proficiency in each area, with additional focused goals for early writing and communication, number concepts and operations, and establishing positive relationships.

MKM will support these goals through regular data reviews, Teaching Strategies GOLD checkpoints, curriculum fidelity checks, Second Step, the Pyramid Model, and continued collaboration among classroom and support staff. The plan also reflects MKM's blended, grant-funded preschool model, where enrollment grows throughout the year as students enter through screenings, Birth-to-3, and Early Intervention programs.

Hillcrest, Oakland, and W.C. Petty Elementary Schools will present their School Improvement Plans at the October 20th board meeting.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

The Antioch CCSD 34 Board received an update on the Early Learning Center (ELC) project. Following a September 2nd Planning & Zoning Board vote not to recommend the Special Use Permit for the Tiffany/North site, the District is evaluating its options:

- Tiffany Road/North Avenue (Current Site): The District will seek approval at the October 14th Village Board meeting. If approved, the project remains on schedule for a Fall 2028 opening, though it faces potential added costs for sidewalk and intersection improvements.

Alternative Sites: Moving to alternative sites would result in significant project delays and cost escalations:

- Savage Road: Delays opening until Fall 2029 and adds \$2.5M to \$2.6M in redesign and escalation fees.
- Hillcrest Elementary: Delays opening to Fall 2029 or later and adds \$2.6M to \$4.7M.
- Mary Kay McNeill Site: Delays opening to Fall 2031, requires a \$48M to \$52M budget, and would restrict the facility to Pre-K only.

OTHER NEWS

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR

Approval was granted for Carole Jennings to serve as an interim administrator beginning on October 13, 2026.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION

The Board approved the submission of the FY27 School Maintenance Project Grant application, which could go towards the cost of the playground paving project or the AUGS roof replacement, if approved.

SALARY AND BENEFITS REPORT

The D34 salary and benefits for the 26/27 school year was presented at Tuesday's board meeting. The report is posted on the district website in accordance with Illinois school code.

TRUENORTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

The Board approved the intergovernmental agreement with TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 for the attendance of a D34 student as a non-member district student.

CODING CREW APPROVED

The addition of the Coding Crew as an extracurricular club at AUGS was granted at Tuesday's meeting and will be an hourly sponsorship.

DONATIONS

The district is in receipt of the following donations:

- Abbott: \$52.00 to the AUGS Activity Account
- Sue Zicarelli: \$100.00 cash for school supplies to the Oakland Activity Account
- Champions: \$100.00 worth of juice for Back to School Opening Day
- Chain of Lakes Bible Study: \$120.00 in staff gifts and treats
- Michelle Kane: A framed photograph of Oakland
- Back-to-School Staff Raffle Donors (Consertus, Lake Geneva School of Cooking, E.D. Clark Photography, Heartland Bank, Legat, Educational Environments, Amplify Education, Catered Productions): Gift cards, gift baskets, experience certificates, a wobble stool, and Stanley cups for the staff raffle
- AUGS Raffle Donors (Emerald Transportation, Antioch Police & Fire Departments, Antioch Pizza Shop, Dairy Queen, AUGS Boosters): Gift cards, department baskets, coupons, and a Warrior Night ticket for raffle winners

BOARD RECOGNITION

TENURED TEACHER RECOGNITION

The following staff members were recognized at the September 15th Board of Education Meeting for receiving tenure:

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| • Joseph Dabrowski | • Kaylee Price |
| • Janet Danesi | • Adam Reh |
| • Stacey Dohrmann | • Jessica Retzke |
| • Michael Eck | • Natalie Ripley |
| • Paula Grosche | • Amy Smith |
| • Anne Mager | • Anastasia Smith |
| • Amy Maslon | • Melissa Smith |
| • Jenna May | • Anne Wagner |
| • Quinn McQuade | • Kaitlin Walsh |
| • David Ness | • Lindsay Wyszynski |
| • Kristen Osgood | |



KEYS TO LITERACY

AUGS ELA/Social Science teacher Kim Dodson was recognized for completing the Keys to Literacy professional learning program, a voluntary 40-hour commitment focused on strengthening research-based literacy instruction.

The intensive training builds educators' knowledge of evidence-based practices in areas such as comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and content-area literacy, with an emphasis on strategies that can be applied directly in the classroom. Kim's decision to complete this extensive training demonstrates her strong commitment to professional growth and to supporting student learning through effective literacy practices.

BOARD RECOGNITION

PERFECT IAR AND ISA SCORES

The Board of Education recognized nine students who received perfect scores on the Spring 2026 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA):

- IAR Math
 - Silva Sweeney, Antioch Upper Grade School
 - Jonathan Becker, Antioch Upper Grade School
- IAR Reading
 - Abigail Nelson, Hillcrest Elementary School
 - Luke Weidrich, Oakland Elementary School
- ISA
 - Henry Obermeyer, Antioch Upper Grade School



LETRS

The Board of Education recognized our amazing staff members who successfully completed the rigorous, 2-year LETRS program. LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) provides educators with the tools and knowledge to enhance literacy instruction and support student success.

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| • Kary Batchelder | • Molly Latuszek |
| • Marilyn Carey | • Karen Levandowski |
| • Brianna Emerson | • Haley Lenahan |
| • Tammy Gaydovchik | • Jenna May |
| • Susan Glowacki | • Emily Seifert |
| • Paula Grosche | • Anastasia Smith |
| • Jamie Grupka | • Teresa Summerville |
| • Michelle Hehn | • Wendy Williams-Foley |
| • Kristine Judd | • Victoria Zeddies |

MKM STUDENT RECOGNITION

At Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, Axel Schneider, Shane Peterson, Christian Chapa, and Amado Ayala were recognized for the positive choices, kindness, and enthusiasm they bring to MKM Early Learning Center each day.

Our youngest learners are already showing what it means to be caring classmates, positive role models, and "Turtley Awesome!"

MEETING INFORMATION

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on October 20, 2026 at Oakland Elementary School.

NEW ELC COMMUNITY FORUM

D34 will be holding a community forum for the new Early Learning Center at 6:30 on October 6th at AUGS.

BOARD MEETING RESOURCES

The Board of Education meeting schedule, meeting agendas, minutes, and board meeting livestream are all accessible on the Antioch CCSD 34 website.