



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Supporting the Success of Every Child



Evanston/Skokie School District 65 School Board Superintendent Search Community Update

September 28, 2026
Alma Advisory Group

Agenda

- Search Update
- Planning for Community Input
- Community Gathering Locations
- Community Survey Input
- Guided Questions for Community Discussions
- Next Steps

Search Status

What we've accomplished:

- ☒ District website launched with updates on search
- ☒ 1x1 interviews with the Board
- ☒ Confirmed locations of community gatherings
- ☒ Drafted community survey

What's next:

- ☐ Finalize and post job posting
- ☐ Launch community engagement, including community survey
- ☐ Begin outreach to potential candidates

Search Timeline



Upcoming Community Gatherings

Chute Middle School

1400 Oakton Street

Tuesday, Oct 20th

6:00 – 8:00pm

Foster Elementary School

1600 Simpson St

Wednesday, Oct 21st

6:00 – 8:00pm

Nichols Middle School

800 Greenleaf Street

Thursday, Oct 22nd

6:00 – 8:00pm

Who can attend?

- All students, employees, and members of the community
- RSVP is encouraged, but not required

What to expect?

- Facilitated small groups to share your perspectives
- Spanish translation services

Virtual Event planned for October 28, 2026 – Details to follow

3 Primary Activities for Community Voice

4 COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Focus is to engage in conversations with the community

Breakout groups allow for candid and deep discussion

3 in-person, 1 virtual

INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUPS

1:1 interviews and focus groups with teachers, students, principals, staff, association leaders and community partners

Allow deeper discussions by role

STAFF & COMMUNITY SURVEY

The survey will be open and available broadly

Our goal is to maximize knowledge of and participation in the survey

Updates available on the **dedicated Superintendent Search page** on the D65 website: <https://www.district65.net>

Planning for Community Input

- What do you hope the community engagement process will help the board learn and/or better understand?
- How will we know we have successfully engaged the community throughout the search process?
- Are there any community engagement opportunities that we should attend?

Guiding Questions for the Community Gatherings

1. **What keeps you up at night** when you think about the future for your child's schools in D65?
2. **What do you love most** about your schools that will be important for the Superintendent to champion and protect?
3. **What do you see as the top 2 to 3 areas of improvement** for D65 that the Superintendent will need to lead us through during the next 3 to 5 years?
4. **What skills or experiences will be most important** for our Superintendent to have in order to be successful in this role?
5. **Is there anything important that we didn't discuss?**
6. **How will you know that what you shared with us today made a difference in this process?**

Thank You!

Please contact us if you can help spread the word about our upcoming visit, or help organize a focus group!

- info@almaadvisorygroup.com

Monica Santana Rosen, CEO

Alma Advisory Group

- www.AlmaAdvisoryGroup.com

How can you participate?

- **Attend one of the community gatherings:** Bring a group of your neighbors, colleagues and community members to attend one of the community gatherings
- **Complete the Community Survey:** Help spread the word amongst your networks
- **Community-based organizations:** Bring together members of your organization or network for a focus group.

Contact info@almaadvisorygroup.com for details.

How Community Voice Supports The Process

- Strengthens the Leadership Profile
- Informing Screening Activities
- Guides Sourcing and Recruitment
- Helps to inform the Board's final decision

Search Process Next Steps

What's coming next?

- Late September • **Superintendent Search Community Survey**
- Sept/Oct • **Focus Groups:** In-person and Virtual sessions with teachers, principals, staff, parents, students, and community members
- October • **Onsite Community Gatherings:** October 20th, 21st and 22nd – additional information will be posted on the Supt search page
- November • **Share Engagement Findings:** Alma to return and present key perspectives from community outreach
- Throughout Search • **Regular Updates:** Continuous progress communications published directly on the search page