



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – October 21, 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 1-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- 3rd-8th grade student IAR (Spring 2026) and 1st-8th NWEA/MAP (Fall 2026) scores were posted on 9/25 in the PowerSchool Parent Portal with 2026 IL Science Assessment reports posted for 6th grade next by 10/23
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on [Oct. 30th](#) which will include 2026 IAR student performance data as well as an updated [Equity Journey Continuum](#) data set
- ECE through 4th grade students received instruction in late Sept./early Oct. to meet the requirements of [Erin's Law](#) - child sexual abuse prevention - through classroom presentations led by Gower staff
- As part of the Preschool For All grant with LADSE, [music therapy](#) will continue as an Early Childhood student learning experience and carried out by [Dynamic Lynks](#) to benefit all students in our Pre-K program

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: 91.0% (96.0%) for GW (K-96%, 1st-90%, 2nd-88%, 3rd-90% 4th-93%); 96.7% (96.2%) for GM; 95.2% (95.7%) - Teaching Staff and 93.0% (97.8%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- October 19-23 is [National Bus Safety Week](#) - Be mindful of all traffic laws to help keep our students safe
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/13 for GW & 10/6 for GM) by staff on Mental Illness, Trauma, and Suicide
- Special Education Teams and various staff received training on Sept. 14 or 21 for Nonviolent Crisis Prevention and behavior/trauma informed practices led by our Director of Special Education, Dr. Cadard
- Student medical compliance is 100% (GW) & 98% (GM) prior to the 10/15 deadline (94.9%/93.0% in 2025)

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

- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress
- GM Invite Only Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Oct. 8th from 3:45-6:45 pm; GW and GM have Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 23rd from 8 am to 8 pm - More details to follow from school principals
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night will be held on Oct. 22nd from 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle School. Please join us for food, displays and performances to celebrate Gower's diversity!
- Save the date for the [Gower PTO](#) Halloween Palooza at Gower West from 5:30-7:30 pm on Oct. 23rd
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities including the *Havana Nights* [Charity Gala](#) (10/17/26)

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

- Our 10/9 Professional Learning is district-based with a presentation on making student thinking visible, strengthening student voice and independence, and increasing engagement through cooperative learning
- Our 10/30 afternoon Professional Learning session is district-based with an AI Workshop for Educators with [Brian Krause](#) from the Learning Technology Center
- Our District New Teacher Mentors continue their work with our new educators focusing on school and district culture, CKH implementation, eLearning, and parent engagement
- [District Committee](#) work continues and most recently involved our K-8 PE, MTSS, K-8 ELA, and Multicultural Night Planning Committee
- Nov. 24: [eLearning Day](#) (*Practice Run*) - Students are **not** in session. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"ailable for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

- After collecting feedback from teacher and parent panels, Mrs. Julie Schiffler is being recommended to the Board of Education as the next Principal of Gower Middle; a search for a new Assistant Principal will follow
- Gower received an overall 100% Performance Rating/Meets All Requirements on the 2025-2026 [Special Education Monitoring System Accountability Report](#) (100% in 2024-25, 96.3% in 2023-24)
- Gower West's administrator presentation to the Board of Ed. (10/21) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2026-27 school year
- The final 2026-27 District Budget was adopted by the Board of Ed. on 9/23 and posted on our website [here](#)
- Gower schools will receive a final '[Summative Designation](#)' on Oct 30th based on a number of [Individual Indicators](#) as part of the annual ISBE Report Card and the state's [Support and Accountability \(ESSA\) Plan](#)
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2026-2027 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower will receive a total of \$9,500 for the 2026-2027 Title III Grant to support our multilingual learners