



FALL NEWSLETTER 2023



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DISTRICT GRANT AWARDS

Due to the property wealth of our zip codes and not having a very high poverty count, Center Cass usually does not receive competitive grants. Nonetheless, we continue to try as we have needs in the District beyond what state, local, and federal funding can provide. I am pleased to announce that we have landed two six figure grants!

- Center Cass Pre-School Grant worth \$150,000 per year (guaranteed by ISBE for two years, totaling \$300,000, which could be more if we continue to receive funding beyond two years). We will use the funds to expand our current pre-school program to serve more students to better prepare students for Kindergarten. We plan to open the program in January of 2024. We will be screening 3 and 4 year olds in December and January. If you have a soon to be or current 3 or 4 year old, please contact Director of Learning Kim Liles to obtain more information.
- Department of Justice School Violence Prevention Grant worth \$430,000. We will use this grant to assist with the cost of items outlined in the Summer 2024 list, more specifically:
 - Visitor ID and Badging System
 - Door Access Systems and Interior Badging Systems
 - Camera and Monitor Systems
 - Security Film for Glass
 - Walkie Talkies and Repeaters
 - Exterior Door Repairs
 - Exterior Lighting
 - Intercom Replacement at PV
 - Intruder Alarm Replacement-Repair
 - IDE Fence Work
 - Cyber Security

Thank you to the Darien Police Department and the Darien-Woodridge Fire Department, and DuPage Sheriff's Office for supporting the application.



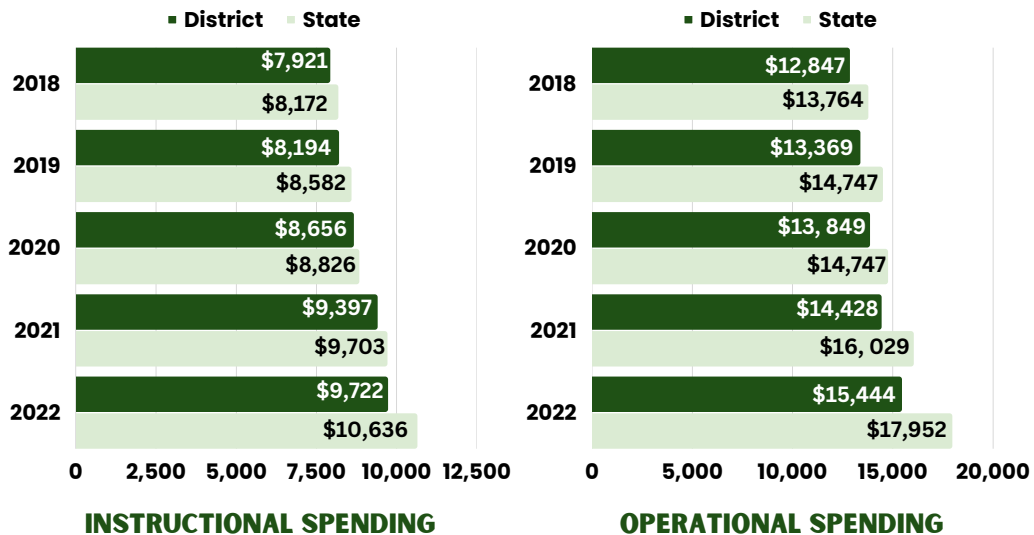
FACILITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

A portion of the referendum dollars will be used each summer to address concerns identified in District Health Life Safety and Security audits (approx \$1,000,000 a year). Most of the work below will cost more than \$1,000,000 per year, thus we will need to use other funding sources to complete the work. The timing of the work is subject to change.

- Summer
2023
 LV Intercom Replacement, Schools Lighting Upgrade, Replace LV Water Heater, Replace PV Gym Floor, LV Roof Coating to Extend Life
- Summer
2024
 Replace PV Intercom, Replace PV & LV Fire Alarm System, Replace IDE Fire Alarm Panel, Upgrade Schools Security Cameras, Replace IDE Gym Fire Doors, Repair-Replace Schools Intruder Alarm, Add Additional Entry Door Card Access Readers, Repair-Replace Schools Visitor ID Check-Badge Systems, Improve Exterior Lighting, Repair and Replace Rusted Light Poles
- Summer
2025-29
 Replace PV-LV HVAC Control Systems, Repace LV HVAC Units, and Re-roof LV Sections 1-5
- Summer
2030
 Replace Curb and Sidewalks at LV-PV, Replace Concrete Plaza at LV
- Summer
2031
 Reconstruct Parking Lots PV-LV, Reconstruct Circle Drive at PV, Widening of the Turn Lane for Traffic Flow, Conduct New HLS Survey
- Summer
2032
 Install Gym Floor at Ide, Replace Carpeting and Lockers at LV, Address Structural Issues at LV
- Summer
2033
 Replace Ceiling and Grid systems at LV, Replace Boiler Controls at PV
- Summer
2034
 Repair-Replace LV Exterior Paneling, Replace Rusting Steel LV, Electrical Work Throughout District, Any New HLS Items from 2031 Survey

EXPENSE PER PUPIL

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) calculates a district's average spending per student, which includes instructional and operational expenses, and is determined by dividing the district's total spending by the number of students. Instructional spending per student covers teaching activities and teacher-student interaction, while operational spending per student includes most costs related to the district's overall operations.



- District 66 average spend per pupil is less than the State for Instructional and Operational Spending.
- Overall, District 66 spends \$2,508 per student less than the State Average.

Source: ISBE School Report Card/District Environment/District Finances

FINANCIAL FUTURE

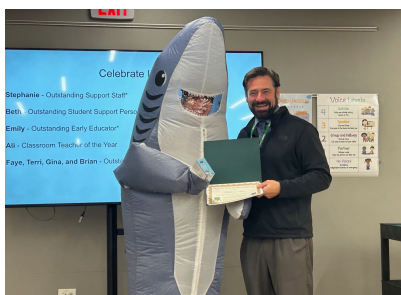
Thanks to the changes implemented by the District over the past few years, as well as the passing of the referendum, the District is on track to enhance its educational program, improve its school facilities, and strengthen its financial position. The Board is dedicated to allocating a portion of the proceeds to funds every year and hopes to achieve the following financial goals by the end of the fiscal year:

- JUNE 30, 2024** Achieve a Financial Profile Score of 3.0, which is close to reaching the next level called "Review," by avoiding Tax Anticipation Warrants for the first time in three years
- JUNE 30, 2025** Avoid using Early Tax Dollars to pay bills in April 2025 and improve our Financial Profile Score to a 3.25 improving to Financial Review Status
- JUNE 30, 2026** Avoid using Early Tax Dollars to pay bills in May 2026 and improve our Financial Profile Score of a 3.50
- JUNE 30, 2027** Avoid using Early Tax Dollars to pay bills in June 2026 and improve our Financial Profile Score of a 3.75, moving us into the highest category called "Recognition"
- JUNE 30, 2028** Have positive balances in all funds and have the highest Financial Profile Score possible, which is a 4.0, and maintain that score for years to come

AUDIT & FINANCIAL PROFILE SCORE YEAR END JUNE 30, 2023

On November 8, 2023 the Board of Education was presented with Center Cass Audit results. Below are highlights of the audit. The School District:

- received no adverse findings, meaning data was accurate and financial practices are sound;
- audit was completed under a modified cash accounting system, which placed early tax revenue in the school district fiscal year the revenue was intended;
- concluded the fiscal year with negative fund balances in the Education and Operations Fund (and would have ended the year with negative balances in the Transportation Fund if a working cash transfer was not utilized);
- referendum proceeds will be accounted and realized beginning with next years audit;
- financial profile score will drop to a Category 2 of 4, scoring a 2.75, which is Financial Early Warning.
- anticipated all of the information above, as the District had to issue Tax Anticipation Warrants to pay bills in April and May 2023 before early tax dollars arrived.



1 goal

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Vision Statement - District 66 will continue to adapt to the future by providing experiences that allow students to be innovators. Teachers and students work together to create learning experiences that include real-world applications. Students are encouraged to take risks, make mistakes, and be creative and passionate about what they are learning. Our assessment practices and learning outcomes allow for students to demonstrate the skills, dispositions, and knowledge needed to be continuous learners and future citizens.

Current Actions - District 66 has been analyzing current educational research, digging into state/national standards, and communicating with other districts on their competency based systems, to gain insight on improving our educational environments. Conversations are underway Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade on identifying exactly what it is we want kids to know and demonstrate at every grade level, in every content area, and necessary for success in college, career, and life. We hope to have this crucial step completed by the end of the school year.

Future Actions - After the competencies are identified, we plan to utilize our development time next year to determine the best way to teach, measure, assess, and report progress on the competencies. The district will then create the learning environment necessary for students to demonstrate the competencies. Updates will be provided to parents on our progress.



3 goal

ENVIRONMENT

Vision Statement - District 66 will continuously grow and allow for our students to succeed, today and always.

Current Actions - District 66 is appropriately utilizing the referendum proceeds to advance the educational program, hire/develop employees, improve facilities, and build a solid financial foundation.

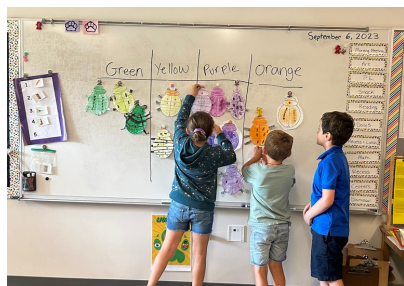
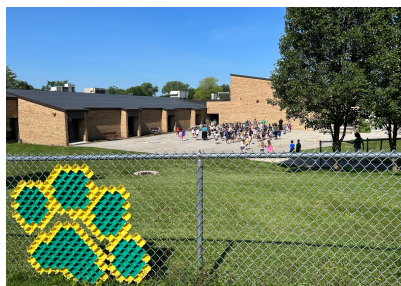
Future Actions - District 66 plans to consolidate student, employee, human resource, finance, and parent systems from five separate systems into one system to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and in the process, we will have greater potential through synergy and connectivity. District 66 has also been analyzing personnel reporting from area districts to provide an environment where employees feel valued and supported.



Vision Statement - District 66 will empower well-rounded and thoughtful students who are prepared to adapt in an ever changing world. This will be accomplished through a safe and supportive environment where everyone is valued, differences are celebrated, and life-long skills are fostered.

Current Actions - District 66 is analyzing individual student functioning and progress across domains associated with social-emotional learning standards to address areas in which students need additional support to achieve educational outcomes. In addition, surveys are given to students to assess their level of challenge, engagement, and satisfaction with school.

Future Actions - District 66 continues to find ways to incorporate student voice. We are in the process of adding student leadership groups to IDE and PV to compliment the student leadership group at LV. District 66 also is looking to add clubs-sports of interest to students to increase participation in extracurricular activities.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Delaney Yurchak on her qualification to compete in the ISEA State Cross Country Meet on Sat., Oct. 14th. She finished 52 out of 223 with a time of 13'32. SPARTAN STRONG!

3 Lakeview students were selected for the Honor Band that played on November 4th at Unity JHS in Cicero. CCSD66 is part of ILMEA District 1, which is one of the largest and most competitive districts in the state. Congratulations to Emily Feylo - Oboe (7th Grade), Emmet O'Connor - Baritone (7th Grade), and Lily Molina - Trumpet (7th Grade).



Three students, Molly Free, Hailey Kelliher, and Hannah Larkin, were recognized at the IAEA conference for their exceptional stop motion animation from the 22/23 school year. Their work was showcased and they were called to the stage to receive a certificate in honor of their accomplishment.

Congratulations to the CCSD66 Board of Education for being one of only 45 school boards in Illinois to receive the prestigious IASB 2023 School Board Governance Recognition designation! This recognition is based on their outstanding service over the past two years.



District Nurse, Jinsun Baek, was selected to receive the Illinois Association of School Nurses Foundation Achievement Award. The IASN foundation supports the school health community by promoting the advancement of school nursing through educational scholarship and to enhance the professional knowledge base of school nurses through research and innovation.

Congratulations to Dr. Mark Orszula who recently earned his doctorate, and soon-to-be Dr. Kim Liles who defends her dissertation in November. The CCSD66 community is grateful for the dedication and effort they have put in to enhance the educational experience of our students.



District 66 is partnering with District 61 and District 63, along with the Indian Prairie Public Library and Darien Rotary Club, to assemble welcome bags for incoming preschoolers and kindergarteners. These bags, generously provided by the Darien Rotary Club, contain books, activities, and teacher-made materials to help students prepare for their school experience. Thank you to Tania Forsman (66), Pamela Worth (63), Brigid Riley (61), and Amy Merda (IPPL) for their hard work in creating the materials for the welcome bags. The bags will be distributed during preschool screenings and Kindergarten Round-Up in the spring.

LAKEVIEW'S 2ND ANNUAL HOMECOMING CELEBRATION: A DAY OF FUN AND SCHOOL SPIRIT

Lakeview's 2nd Annual Homecoming Celebration was a success, highlighted by a parade through the community led by the Marching Spartans, with a pep rally held after in the gym for students. Community members, parents, and Prairieview students showed their support by lining the parade route and campus. The event, created by Band Director Tom Tedeschi, has become a highly anticipated annual celebration.



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK OCTOBER 16TH - 20TH

During National School Bus Safety Week students are reminded of the importance of school bus safety rules, including tips for approaching, entering, and exiting the bus. The week wraps up with Bus Driver Appreciation Day, where the PTO provides treats to show appreciation for the hard-working drivers who keep our students safe on the road.



NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

In recognition of National First Responders Day, District 66 provided treats for first responders, while students crafted handmade cards. The tokens of appreciation were presented to the Darien-Woodridge Fire Department and Darien Police Department to express gratitude and for their excellent partnership with the district.



DISTRICT 66 CELEBRATES VETERAN'S DAY

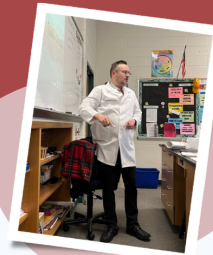
We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Veterans for their service, dedication, bravery, and sacrifice.



SPEAKERS WANTED

SPARTANFEST CAREER DAY 2024

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADULTS TO PRESENT A 30 MIN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION ABOUT THEIR CAREER TO LAKEVIEW STUDENTS.



*Speakers will:

- Introduce themselves
- Share a typical day in the life of...
- Mention required education and training
- Tell skills and disposition to do your job
- Discuss any tools required
- Share how you make money
- Have a willingness to take questions

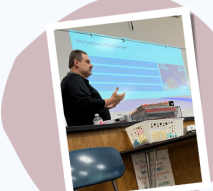
MARCH 19, 2024

Session 1: 9:15-9:45

Session 2: 9:50-10:20

Session 3: 10:25-10:55

To register, or if you use the QR Code below or email Amy Burrows - (aburrows@ccsd66.org):



Please join Indian Prairie Public Library and Anderson's Bookshop in welcoming

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author

JAN BRETT

ON HER

WINTER WONDERLAND TOUR



At the Elizabeth Ide Elementary
Friday, December 1st
at 5:00pm



CENTER CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 66
**COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

Building an ongoing process for strengthening communication and collaborative efforts with our community and CCSD66.



The CEF is a group of individuals who volunteered to serve on the committee during the referendum in 2022-2023. The CEF continues to work as a group separate from the BOE to help build more communication regarding CCSD66 with our surrounding neighborhoods.

The CEF is committed to keeping our community updated on the progress that is being made since the passage of the referendum in 2023. We will periodically provide updates on the progress that has been accomplished and what is being planned for the future.



The CEF will be working to provide opportunities for our community members to interact with the CEF, engage in meaningful discussion regarding how the district is moving forward, and engage community members in ways to support CCSD66.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Tom Tedeschi (Chairperson)
- Nathan Homberg
- Rachel Lazich
- Nikki Giancola-Shanks
- Darren Spiegel
- Vicki Stearns
- Tiffany Watson
- Doug Wiley

COMING SOON

- CEF Website where residents can access CCSD66 updates
- Find us on Facebook and other social media
- Opportunities to support CCSD66
- How you can become involved in the CEF
- Provide opportunities for discussion with CEF members



**NOW
 HIRING!**
**SUBSTITUTE
 TEACHERS**

District 66 is in search of substitute teachers for occasional and long-term positions to help maintain a stable school environment. Apply today to join the team.

<https://www.ccsd66.org/page/substitute-information>

SAVE THE DATE FOR

TRIVIA

Night

TRIVIA BEGINS 7:00 PM

SATURDAY January 27, 2024

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
 4000 SARATOGA AVE, DOWNERS GROVE

HOSTED BY TEAM 66
 MORE INFORMATION TO COME



DID YOU KNOW?

Since July, audio recordings have been available for all Board of Education meetings. You can easily locate them in the Board of Education section on the website.



THOSE WHO EXCEL

DISTRICT WINNERS RECOGNIZED BY ISBE



Amy Burrows
7th Grade ELA Teacher
Teacher of the Year
Lakeview

“Students frequently refer to Amy as their favorite teacher because she listens to, spends time with, and relates to her students. Amy serves as a sponsor for the Student Council and Pride Club. Amy also organizes school and district events, such as the Spartan Showcase which connects students to careers via District 66 parents and businesses. She was instrumental in educating her own community about the needs of the District during last year's referendum campaign. She is a respected and valued member of the school and community.”



Karen Roach
Social Worker
Most Outstanding Student Support
Personnel
Prairieview

“Karen is an incredible resource for Prairieview and Lakeview. Whether it is providing advice, direct service to students, working with families, or assisting teachers with their students, Karen is always there to ensure kids' needs are met. When student crises occur, no matter the difficulty, you can always count on Karen to intervene immediately with intelligence, logic, and a student first mentality. Karen's SEL work is vital to the success of our District.”



Kim Liles
Director of Teaching & Learning
Outstanding Administrator
District Office

“For the past two decades, Kim has provided exceptional service to District 66. She has held various roles, including Building Administrator at Lakeview, District Student Services Coordinator, and is currently the Director of Learning. Throughout her tenure, Kim has exhibited remarkable leadership qualities and provided guidance in both Building and District leadership capacities, particularly during challenging times.”



Emily Creama
Social Worker
Most Outstanding Early Educator
Elizabeth Ide

“Emily arrived mid year and provided outstanding service to employees and students. She walked through the front door and immediately started to lead through the most challenging situations.”



Stephanie Sorn
Secretary
Most Outstanding Support
Service Staff
Elizabeth Ide

“Stephanie is in her 2nd year as Administrative Assistant at Elizabeth Ide. Her positivity, warmth and selfless demeanor makes the office a great place for students, parents and employees.”



Elizabeth Ide Encore Team
Top row:
Gina Hendron, Brian Kukulski
Bottom row:
Terri Smeltzer, Faye Lindsey
Library, Physical Education, Art,
Music
Outstanding Team

“Gina, Brian, Terri and Faye are not only outstanding educators at their specialized craft, but also outstanding colleagues, as they spent last year providing assistance, leadership, and support to make Ide a special place for students and employees.”



Save 66
Ballot Action Committee
Outstanding Community Members

“Save66 is a truly incredible and collaborative effort involving hundreds of parents, staff and community members who fought for the future of our district's children to pass the referendum. Their hard work and dedication was beyond.”

THOSE WHO EXCEL

BUILDING WINNERS

ELIZABETH IDE



Ali Beseth
1st Grade
Teacher
**Teacher of the
Year**



Sean Rhoads
Director Of
Student Services
**Outstanding
Administrator**



Beth Pesavento
School
Psychologist
**Outstanding
Student Support
Personnel**

PRAIRIEVIEW



Mary Burland
3rd Grade
Teacher
**Teacher of the
Year**



Jessica Rost
5th Grade Teacher
**Outstanding
Early Career
Educator**

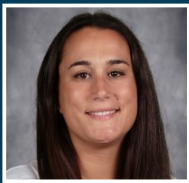


**Dawn
Wrzesinski**
Paraprofessional
**Outstanding
Support
Service Staff**



Top row:
**Dominick Ringo, Alberto Mena,
Gloria Lopez De Evangelista**
Bottom row:
**David Liles,
Gage Steinhaus, AJ Mena**
Custodial Team
Outstanding Team Prairievew

LAKEVIEW



Magen Newman
Art Teacher
**Outstanding
Early Career
Educator**



Jennifer Banas
Speech Pathologist
**Outstanding
Student Support
Personnel**



Ed Ruby
Custodian
**Outstanding
Support
Service Staff**



Top row:
**Amy Mesker, Lisa Schuyler, Teagan Halik,
Julie Krasnodebski**
Bottom row:
Kellie Kerfin, Joyce Wilson, Amy Simonetti
Special Education Team
Outstanding Team

**CENTER
CASS**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Center Cass School District 66

699 Plainfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

PRESORT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LA GRANGE, IL
PERMIT NO.17



**HOW TO STAY
CONNECTED WITH
DISTRICT 66**

PHONE
630-783-5000

FAX
630-910-0980

WEBSITE
ccsd66.org

FACEBOOK
Center Cass School District 66

TWITTER
@ccsd66

MOBILE APP
Center Cass School District 66

Superintendent

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.

Directors

Learning - Kim Liles
Student Services - Sean Rhoads
Technology - Keith Roberts
Transportation & Maintenance -
Tom Tiede
www.ccsd66.org/staff

Principals

Elizabeth Ide - Katie Johnson
Prairieview - Jake Little
Lakeview - Dr. Mark Orszula

Board of Education

President - Liane Raso
Vice President - Brian Liedtke
Treasurer - Doug Wiley
Secretary - Chris Esposito, Ph.D.
Megan DuPass
Donna Sobotka
Tiffany Watson

**UPCOMING
DATES TO
REMEMBER**

Winter Break
December 25 - January 5

Teacher Institute / No School
January 8

Martin Luther King Jr., Day / No School
January 15

SIP Day / Early Dismissal
January 24

SIP Day / Early Dismissal
February 14

No School
February 16

Presidents Day / No School
February 19