

Percentage of Students Met/Exceed SAT
 All scores reported from IllinoisReportCard.com

HOIC SCHOOLS

1. Lexington 56%
2. Tri-Valley 55%
3. Eureka 50%
4. Dee-Mack 48%
5. Heyworth 46%
6. GCMS 45%
7. Leroy 44%
8. Ridgeview 37%
9. El Paso-Gridley 37%
10. Fisher 36%
11. Blue Ridge 34%
12. Tremont 34%
13. Fieldcrest 26%
14. Flanagan 15%

Other Area High Schools

1. Normal Community 51%
2. Bloomington 43%
3. Prairie Central 43%
4. Normal West 41%
5. Olympia 40%



**3RD ANNUAL
 STATE-OF-THE-
 DISTRICT
 MEETING**

January 27th, 2018

Kellie Duzan

*Handout
 SU-17-11*



Review

We held our second annual State-of-the-District meeting on January 28th, 2017. At this meeting a financial update was given. Financial progress continues to be demonstrated by the Education Fund surplus over the past two years. The school district earned the highest financial designation for the 2015—2016 school year: Financial Recognition. This represents the district's highest designation since the 2008-2009 school year.

Continued Funding Issues

Two major financial issues of concern were discussed: tax caps and the pension cost shift. At the time of the meeting, a two-year freeze on property taxes had been proposed by the legislators. This property tax freeze did not get passed. The other financial issue was the pension cost shift. This also did not happen in the last legislative session. However, pension cost shift continues to be discussed.

Improvements

Curriculum—A new 7th-12th math curriculum was implemented. A new K-6th math series will be implemented for 2017-2018. High school U.S. History and Health were also updated.

Transportation—The school district took control over transportation over contracting it out. Savings were estimated between \$27,000-\$97,000.

Building—Junior high/high school restrooms were redone. Kitchen equipment was updated. Elementary stairs torn out and brought to code.

Financial Update

Education Fund Deficit/Surplus over the past six years.

- 2012/13 **\$784,984**
- 2013/14 **\$851,530**
- 2014/15 **\$584,358**
- 2015/16 \$256,000
- 2016/17 \$300,000
- 2017/18 \$300,000 (budget projection)

The 2016/17 school year marks the second consecutive year Lexington Schools achieved Financial Recognition (3.7).

Evidenced-Based Funding

At the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, the State had not adopted a budget and schools were in jeopardy of not receiving any funding. While some schools were concerned about how long they would be able to keep their doors open, Lexington Schools was in position to go two years without state funding. After a long, contentious battle, legislators finally approved a state budget. Next on the agenda was changing how schools were funded. Changing how schools are funded had been a top priority. Again, after many years a new formula was created—Evidence-Based Funding.

Evidence-based funding uses a formula that recognizes individual student needs, accounts for differences in local resources, closes funding gaps, and attempts to provide for a stable system that will get all districts to adequacy over time. Each district is given a Local Capacity Target that reflects local tax resources that are available to support education. Each school district is treated individually, with an Adequacy Target based on the needs of its student body. The greater the student need, the higher the Adequacy Target. New dollars go to the neediest districts first—those furthest from their Adequacy Target. School funding is tied to those evidence-based best practices the research shows enhance student achievement in the classroom.

A Base Funding Minimum is set for each district intended to ensure that no district receives less State funding because of the change in formula. Every district receives at least the amount of State funding received in FY 2017 in the first year. In subsequent years, no district will receive less State funding than it did in prior years.

Updates

Curriculum

A new K-6 math curriculum was adopted and implemented for the 2017-2018 school year. A new 6th-8th science curriculum was also adopted for the current school year. We are currently in the process of reviewing a new K-12 English curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core Standards which are used for PARCC and SAT testing. We are pleased to announce that beginning this semester we are able to reinstate another program that was cut to half-time prior to the 2015-2016 school year due to financial restraints: all-day preschool.

Personnel

Reducing an administrator at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year has had the financial impact expected. By the end of this current school year, the district will have saved approximately \$426,000. However, with the amount of time required, Mr. Deters and I have found ourselves spread too thin. In an effort to help us be more efficient, Mrs. Strating has been added to the administration staff. She already was half-time athletic director and now the other half of the day she is assisting both Mr. Deters and myself. With Mrs. Strating in her new roll, we are still one-half position less in administration than prior to the passage of the referendum. Being a lifetime resident of Lexington and a graduate of Lexington High School, Mrs. Strating brings her vast knowledge of our school and our students to this new role that makes her an even more valuable asset to the district.

Another great addition to our district has been our replacement for guidance counselor. Mrs. King comes to our district with ten years of experience in assisting students with what they need to know and how to prepare for college. In addition, Mrs. King spent one year as a financial advisor at a four-year university and brings that knowledge base to our students.

Building

Over the past year, building improvements continue to be made. The old locker room across from the old gym has been made into a multi-purpose room. The number of parking spaces have been increased. An overall beautification of the facility has been emphasized.