



# WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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## Board of Education

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**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning  
**DATE:** January 22, 2026  
**RE:** County Institute Day 2026

### This memo is:

- ☒ Information only  
☐ Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated.  
☐ or attached to this memo

<b>Basic Information:</b>
<p>Below is the plan for County Institute Day, which will take place on February 27, 2026.</p> <p>This year, elementary staff, middle school staff, student services, and paraprofessionals were offered the opportunity to attend sessions offered in the DuPage County-Wide Institute/SASED course catalogs. These offerings include professional learning in a variety of topics, including language and literacy for all, SIOP strategies, maximizing engagement in the classroom, strengthening play in inclusive classrooms, and many more. Linked below are overviews of sessions offered through <a href="#">DuPage County</a> and <a href="#">SASED</a>.</p>
<b>Background/Historical Context:</b>
<p>Teacher institute days are opportunities for teachers to learn new curricula, materials, techniques, and best practices, and to develop specific knowledge in their areas of teaching. These days are for school officials to provide their staff with professional development and strategies. According to state regulations, a maximum of four teacher institute days is set aside in the required 180 school-day calendar. Each of the state's 867 districts determines its own needs to fill its teacher institute days.</p>
<b>Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:</b>
<p>In order to increase opportunities for collaboration with colleagues outside the district, the Department of Teaching and Learning opted to “send staff out” for County Institute Day this year. In addition to providing opportunities to collaborate, the number of sessions offered is quite extensive, giving staff more targeted choices for their professional learning. Any staff who opted to attend virtual PD offerings on County Institute Day will attend the virtual sessions from their respective school buildings.</p>
<b>Recommendations:</b>
N/A