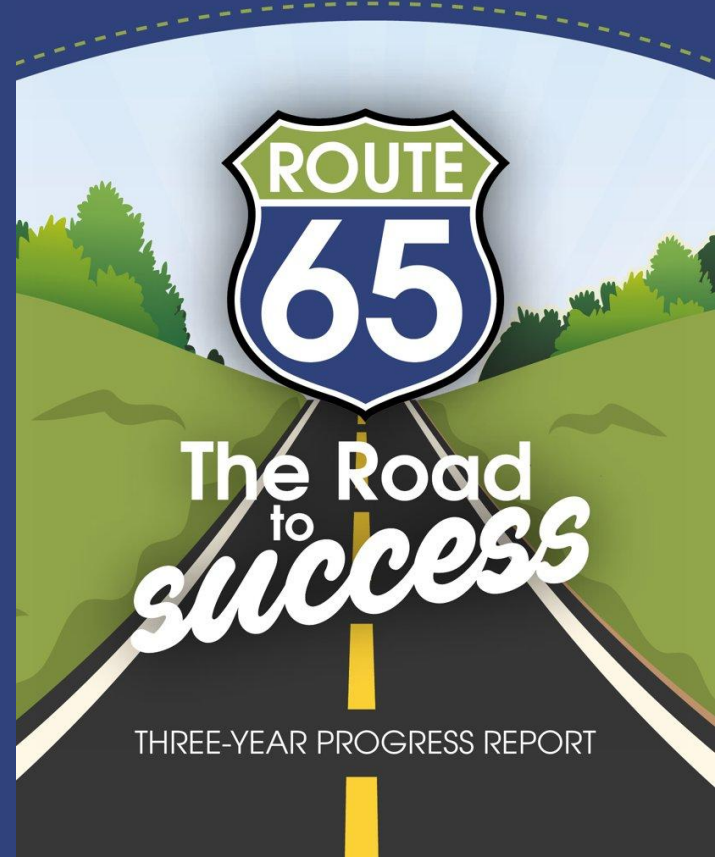


LAKE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Route 65: The Road to Success

Three-Year Progress Report

Dr. Lisa Leali
Superintendent



ROUTE 65 AT A GLANCE



In 2023, our community mapped out Route 65 together

Families, students, staff and residents helped build a roadmap for the future of District 65.



MISSION

Ensure academic achievement and personal growth for all students through innovative and engaging educational opportunities.



VISION

An inclusive community of motivated learners who are inspired to change the world through exploration and collaboration.



MOTTO

Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

FIVE LANDMARK GOALS



Five Landmark Goals still guide every decision we make

5 LANDMARK GOALS

Our community set these goals in 2023. Three years later, this report marks our first major checkpoint along the route.



Every goal points back to the learners we hope our students become

Developed in partnership with District 67 and District 115



Critical Thinking

Thinks clearly and openly, guided by evidence



Communication

Shares ideas effectively for many purposes and audiences



Adaptability

Stays flexible and responds constructively to change



Empathy

Seeks to understand others and listens without judgment



Confidence

Persists through obstacles and acts with purpose



Citizenship

Values diverse perspectives and acts to make the world better



LANDMARK GOAL 1

Student Achievement

On the Road to Student Success

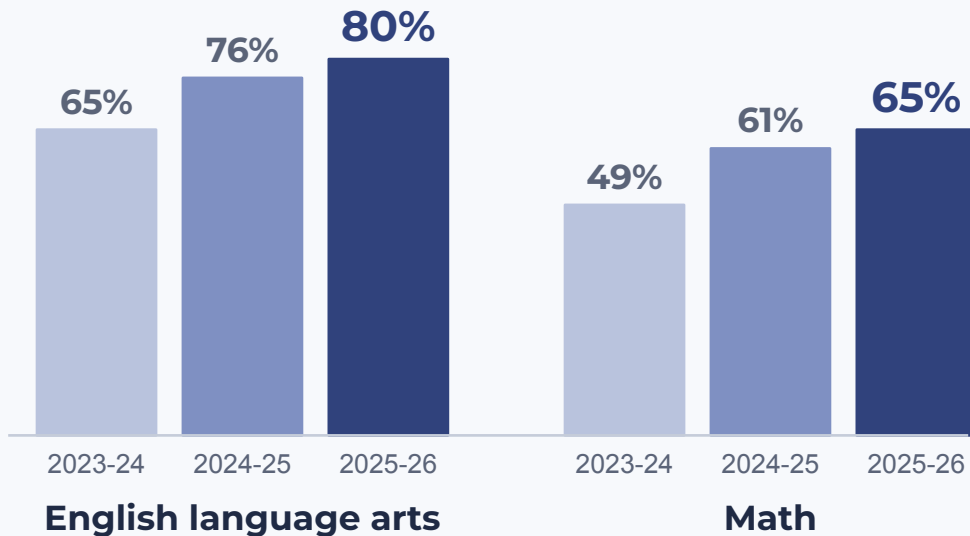
OUR 2023 COMMITMENT

Ensure every child has what they need to progress academically, achieve their goals, maintain their well-being, and develop their interests.





More students met state standards on the IAR in each of the last three years



WHAT IS IAR?

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness is the state test for students in grades 3-8. It measures performance against Illinois learning standards and is reported publicly on the Illinois Report Card.

Illinois adopted new IAR proficiency benchmarks beginning with 2024-25 results, so rates from 2024-25 on cannot be directly compared with earlier years.

Nearly 9 in 10 students now show success on the district's IAR + MAP measure

English language arts



Math



A STUDENT COUNTS AS SUCCESSFUL IF THEY MEET ANY ONE OF THESE:

1

IAR

Meets or exceeds state proficiency

2

MAP

Meets growth or proficiency benchmarks

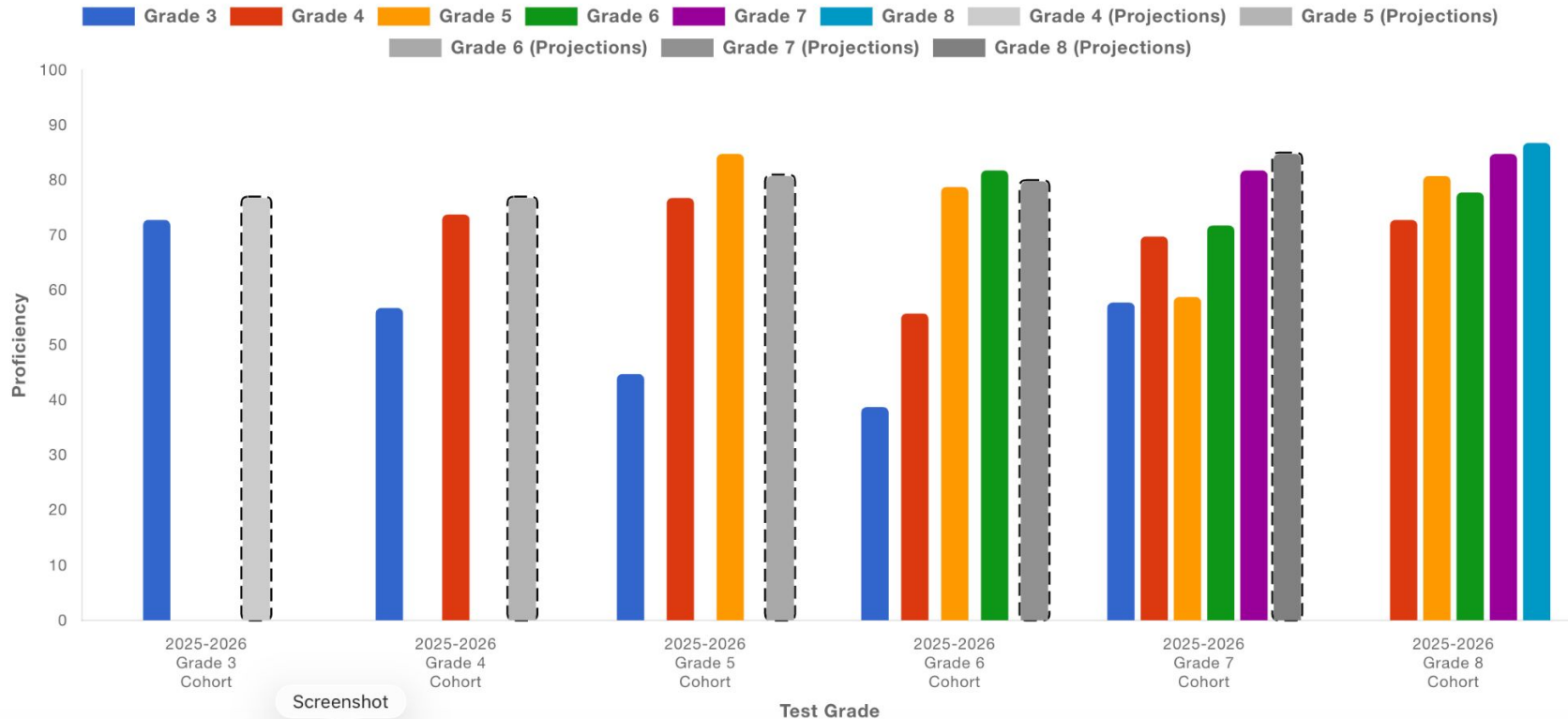
3

Individual growth

Meets annual IEP goals or English language proficiency measures

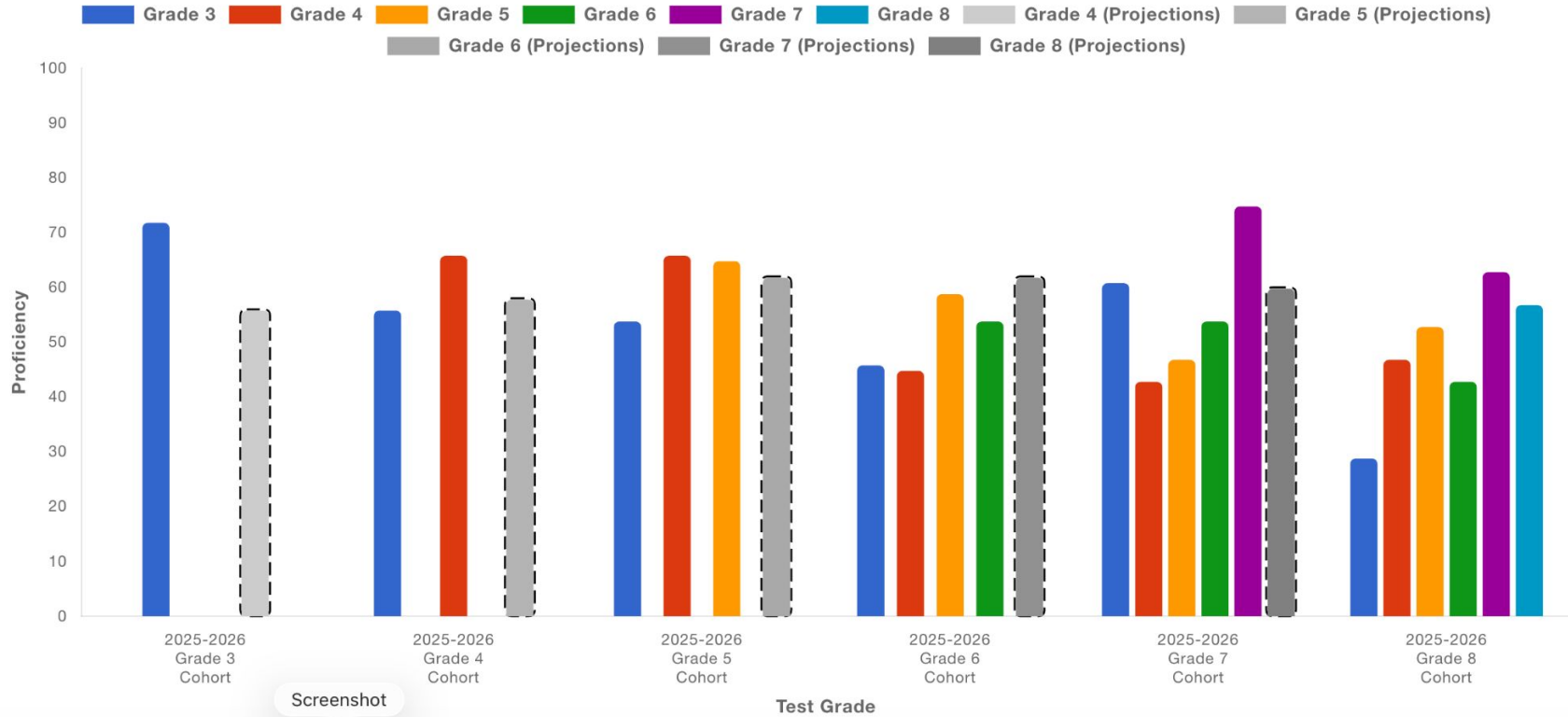
Trend Cohort

Percent Meeting Benchmark



Trend Cohort

Percent Meeting Benchmark





Years one and two built the foundation, then put it into practice

2023-24 Building the Foundation

Curriculum and instruction: districtwide frameworks; updated math curriculum at LBES and science curriculum at LBMS

Programs and supports: audits of enrichment, student services and inclusive practices

Specialized support: multilingual learner task force, a new Student Support Specialist and stronger interventions

WHAT WE SAW

IAR: 65% ELA | 49% Math
District measure: 85% ELA | 79% Math
Multilingual learners exiting services: 3

2024-25 Putting It Into Practice

Curriculum alignment: prioritized standards and essential learning targets

Learning opportunities: schoolwide K-5 enrichment and an accelerated math pathway in grades 4-5

Instruction: explicit grammar, inclusive practices, primary-grade professional learning

Technology and schedules: LBMS schedule redesign; more intentional early-grade device use

WHAT WE SAW

IAR: 76% ELA | 61% Math
District measure: 92% ELA | 84% Math
Multilingual learners exiting services: 8



This year, we're deepening the work and building on what's working

2025-26 Deepening the Work

Curriculum and assessment: common formative assessments; CKLA literacy pilot in grade 3

Student pathways: three new LBMS courses; Advanced Learning Services in 3-5

Intervention and literacy: LETRS training; support for dyslexia and decoding or fluency needs

School improvement: math at LBES, writing at LBMS

WHAT WE SAW

IAR: 80% ELA | 65% Math

District measure: 93% ELA | 88% Math

Multilingual learners exiting services: 11

2026 state designations: LBES Exemplary, LBMS Approaching Exemplary

2026-27 The Road Ahead

New roles: two Teaching & Learning Specialists

Core instruction: CKLA in K-4, WIN/FLEX time, MTSS audit and review

Collaborative improvement: school guiding coalitions and a district council

Continuous review: math, related arts, report cards, assessments, technology and student services

NEXT CHECKPOINT

2026-27 results will show how this work is paying off for students.

LANDMARK GOAL 1 · STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



More multilingual learners are reaching the point where they exit language services



Multilingual learners exiting English language services each year





LANDMARK GOAL 2

Staff & Educator Excellence

Powered by Exceptional People

OUR 2023 COMMITMENT

Select, develop, mentor, and retain high-quality staff and leaders to ensure each student is surrounded by excellence.





Staff retention has stayed above 92% for three straight years

92.5%

2023-24

94.5%

2024-25

93.6%

2025-26



A stable, experienced staff strengthens relationships, instruction and student success.

Professional learning, time to collaborate and new roles support our educators



Investing in professional growth

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Inclusive Schools professional development
- Consortium for Interdistrict Collaboration (CIC)
- District Office transformation work



Supporting great teaching

- Weekly collaborative planning and student data analysis for K-5 staff
- Middle school team collaboration time
- Teaching & Learning Specialist support
- Expanded social emotional learning support
- Take Flight reading intervention
- Renaissance assessment platform



Growing a strong team

- Expanded K-5 enrichment, so classroom teachers can focus on core literacy and math
- Director of Teaching, Learning and Impact
- Expanded multilingual staffing
- Evolving Student Support Specialist roles

Our educators are earning recognition across Lake County and beyond



Jane Twohig

**Lake County Middle School
Educator of the Year (2025)**

7th Grade Social Studies Teacher



Nic Schlichting

**Lake County Educator of the Year
(2026)**

Paraprofessional at LBES



Heather Komac

Financial Literacy Grant Recipient

LBMS Math Teacher



LANDMARK GOAL 3

Community Partnerships

Traveling Together

OUR 2023 COMMITMENT

Cultivate partnerships with families and the community to build trust and commitment to support and expand learning opportunities for each student.



LANDMARK GOAL 3 · COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



237 community members joined our summer book clubs over three years



237

community members joined
District 65 Summer Book
Clubs

PARTICIPANTS BY BOOK

The Gift of Failure



The Anxious Generation



Never Enough



We've added new ways for families and neighbors to connect with our schools



Strengthening communication

- Monthly community newsletter and calendar
- New district website
- Thrillshare platform and SeeSaw
- Expanded principal updates
- Lattes with Leali and Town Halls
- Volunteer Handbook



Building community

- Community Wellness Task Force
- Youth Summit and Adult Summit
- Career Day
- Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee
- Community service and donation drives
- Bluffers in Need fund



Expanding partnerships

- Portrait of a Learner (D67, D115)
- High School Readiness Committee
- Alliance for Excellence Innovation Grants
- Legacy Mosaic Project
- PTO-supported campus improvements
- School Safety Week with local police



LANDMARK GOAL 4

Fiscal Responsibility & Resource Management

Keeping Route 65 on Solid Ground

OUR 2023 COMMITMENT

Align financial, physical, and human resources to ensure integrity and equity in resource planning and allocation through careful financial stewardship.



LANDMARK GOAL 4 · FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



A top credit rating, award-winning reporting and a five-year staff agreement



AAA

BOND RATING

The highest possible credit rating, reflecting strong financial position and responsible management



Since 2017

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Recognized every year by ASBO and GFOA for financial reporting



2024-2029

FIVE-YEAR STAFF AGREEMENT

A collective bargaining agreement that supports staff while keeping long-term finances stable

Every financial decision starts with one question

“

**How does this
support
students?**

*The question behind every District 65
financial decision*



Investing in students

Resources aligned with instructional priorities



Planning for the future

Balancing today's priorities with tomorrow's needs



Earning & Maintaining community trust

Transparency, accountability and care with taxpayer dollars



Maintaining our facilities

Ongoing maintenance, planning and strategic improvements



LANDMARK GOAL 5

Learning Environment

Creating the Conditions for Every Journey

OUR 2023 COMMITMENT

Establish and maintain safe, positive, rigorous, and engaging learning environments to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of each student.



Safer schools, learning-first technology and schedules built around students



Safer schools

- Districtwide electronic door locks
- Stop the Bleed kits and safety backpacks
- Updated emergency maps
- Annual Safety Week
- Reunification planning
- Shared Director of Safety & Security



Learning first, technology second

- Migrated from Chromebooks to iPads
- YouTube disabled on student devices
- Kindergarten moved away from 1:1 devices
- Community-led Wait Til 8th program
- Continued social media awareness



Student-centered schedules

- LBMS Flex Period
- LBES WIN Time
- Updated middle school schedule
- More time for intervention, enrichment and student support
- Elimination of Early Release Schedules

Route 65 will keep guiding our decisions as we build on this progress



Student Achievement

Advance the MTSS framework; refine curriculum; launch a redesigned elementary report card; expand cross-curricular work



Staff & Educator Excellence

Expand professional learning and collaboration; recruit and retain great educators; support educator well-being



Community Partnerships

Expand two-way communication; create more chances for dialogue; strengthen local partnerships and family engagement



Fiscal Responsibility

Align spending with student needs; invest strategically; keep finances stable and communication transparent



Learning Environment

Strengthen safety and preparedness; improve learning spaces; align technology with instruction; expand wellness supports



**Thank you for being
part of the journey**

