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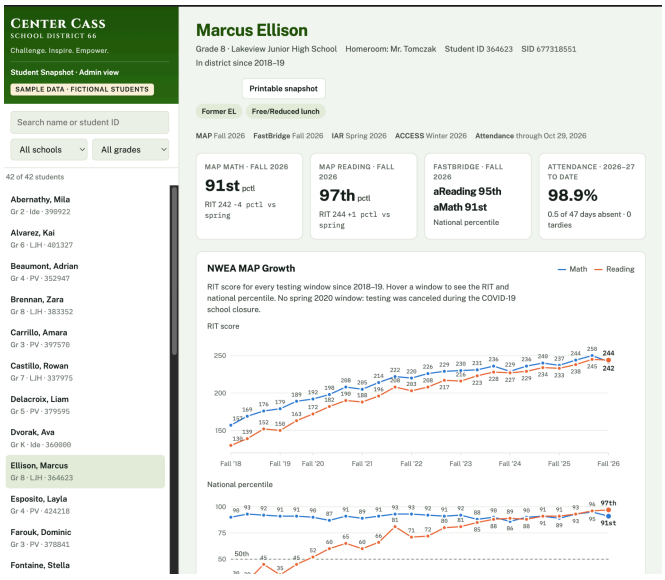
Keith Roberts - Director of Technology
November 2026 Board Report

October was a busy month for the technology department. We focused on data privacy, system optimization, and security protocols. With the start of the year behind us, we can now focus on improving our systems. We continue to ensure our infrastructure is adhering to **FERPA, CIPA, and SOPPA** standards across all platforms. This is especially important as AI features are added to the platforms we use. Additionally, we completed fall enrollment reporting for ISBE, added new content to our technology hub, and attended the Skyward Illinois user group conference.

Technology Systems

- I attended the Illinois Skyward User Group conference this past week. While there aren't many EdTech conferences, we benefit from attending this one yearly. As we continue to refine our gradebook and report card process, the information we gained will strengthen our efforts.

- I'm working on an in-house assessment database that will track student assessment data across all systems, and for multiple years. The goal is to have this information available to teachers and staff through an easy to navigate system. With in-house development, I can customize reports based on staff feedback. I'm aiming for a January or February launch. Gemini's benefit is that I can generate sample data sets with thousands of rows to test features.



- We're beginning to plan out our ERATE submission for the FY27 funding round. This time we'll be looking at some upgrades for our network core. We've increased the district's internet bandwidth; now we'll adjust hardware for the additional capacity. ERATE category 2 funds allow us to pull from an allocated dollar amount for network equipment upgrades. We typically receive a 40% cost reduction because of our enrollment.

- Department training is currently focused on data accuracy and completeness across our connected systems. With a small team, cross-training ensures everyone understands how we use state and federal reporting data. Thanks to dedicated oversight, I'm pleased to report we are maintaining a 100% compliance rate with state data reporting.

AI Integration

- We're tracking activity across Google Search AI, Google AI Mode, and standalone LLM platforms. Google's increased reporting has also been very helpful.

- The team is evaluating educational integrations with additional LLM platforms. Many of these providers now offer dedicated education platforms that do not use our data to train their LLMs, and all options will undergo the same rigorous security and privacy reviews.

- We're beginning to see a shift in how AI is used, moving from an advanced search tool to a generative one. This shift shows that students and staff are increasingly using AI to create rather than consume. The shift is small, at only 3%, but it's happening.