



Director of Learning

February 2026 Board Report

Teaching and Learning:

During the month of January, ELA committees in each building convened to begin collaborative work around writing instruction. The primary focus of these initial meetings was to share and review current writing rubrics across grade levels. Committees also examined the Writing Rope framework, engaging in reflective discussion and questioning to better understand the instructional components of effective writing, identify additional information needed, and determine where K–8 writing alignment should ultimately culminate.

In February, committees will continue this work by identifying vertical alignment within writing rubrics across grade levels and exploring opportunities for growth and refinement to strengthen K–8 writing instruction.

Assessment:

The Winter Benchmark assessment window closed last week. Students and staff have demonstrated strong effort throughout this process, and the building principals and I look forward to sharing the Winter Student Achievement data with the Board.

Professional Development:

February 27 will serve as the District's next Professional Development day and coincides with the DuPage County Institute Day. Several years ago, the District made a strategic decision to limit broad staff participation in county-wide institute offerings in order to better align professional learning with district priorities. As a result, attendance at County Institute Day is primarily reserved for smaller departments, specifically Physical Education and Encore staff, for whom these offerings are most closely aligned.

All remaining staff will participate in in-district professional learning focused on learner characteristics, dedicated time to advance Competency-Based Education (CBE) work, and a special professional development session with Rebecca Winthrop. Ms. Winthrop is a world-renowned researcher whose work centers on the skills young people need to thrive in both work and life. This targeted approach ensures meaningful, high-impact professional learning aligned with the District's instructional goals.