

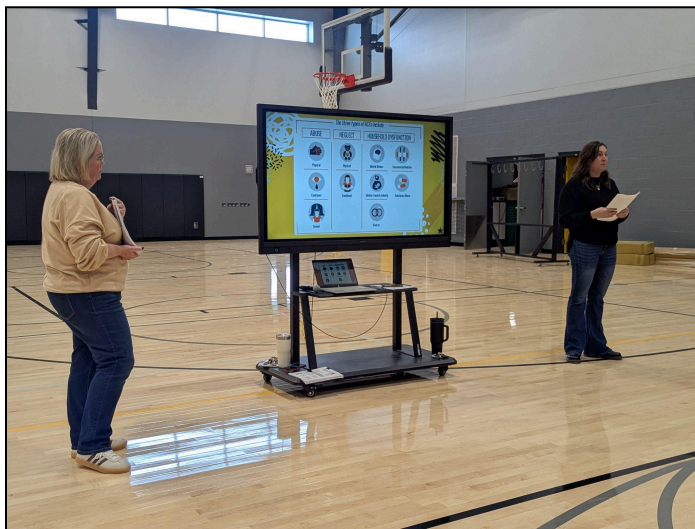
Illini Central Grade School Administrative Report

Enrollment as of 1.10.2025

Year	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Jan. 2025	72	44	51	40	44	43	45	339
22/23	80	37	38	44	42	38	50	329
21/22	62	270						332

Celebrations & Thanks

- Our new addition opened in January, and that's a huge celebration! We are so grateful to the district, board, and community for the (and the APR transformation in progress) wonderful opportunities that the expansion has given us. Our PE classes have had the ability to expand their activities, and while we've had indoor recess since our return, I don't think there was a single disappointed student since they all get to be in the Cougar Center! I have been so heartened to see the tables and chairs in the Atrium area utilized by a growing number of Grade School staff during lunch periods. It's a fabulous space for them to sit in the sunshine, talk, collaborate, and be a community. The new restrooms have helped to ease hallway congestion, and it's exciting to have requests to use other areas like the Conference Room and turf areas for team collaboration and classroom activities that require space—something we didn't have before. The secured entrance is also a huge upgrade to safety and security, and everyone is appreciative of the upgrades, even if every once and a while we forget our swipe cards and have to ask to be buzzed out of the office. :)
- Thank you to Ashley Tucker and Val Henning, who presented to our staff on our Teacher's Institute day! They led a very informative presentation on [*Becoming Trauma Informed*](#). The presentation discussed trauma: what it is, what ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are, the impact of trauma both now and in the future, how we can recognize it in our students, and how teachers can use a Trauma Informed Response to improve not only our students' classroom experience, but our own as teachers and staff. The presentation was extremely engaging and teachers had very positive feedback about it. I'm looking forward to additional teacher presentations on topics they are passionate about and help us move our School Improvement Plan forward.



Our staff-led professional development was our first professional development day that we got to utilize the new Cougar Center as a staff!



Our pick-up door crew has been phenomenal this week! We're down to 11 minutes to get everyone in cars. :) And the heat above the entrance is amazing for kids & staff!

Pre-K Gold Status & Sports Night

This winter, our Pre-K again went through a rigorous evaluation process for our Early Childhood Program with the state. Multiple observations are conducted and a thorough review of student files, lesson plans, IEPs, and more. As a result of that process, I'm happy to announce that our program continues to meet the eligibility requirements for the ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality! I also wanted to highlight in this report an event that happened this week, which was Sports Night for the PreK. They collaborated with the boy's basketball team and cheerleaders, as well as those coaches and Ryan Burks to host our PreK families in the high school gym. They were welcomed at the door by the Cougar (thanks, Mrs. Braden!), who made another appearance at half-time. The team played 4-minute quarters, cheerleaders cheered, and there were free hotdogs and popcorn. At halftime, the teams helped kids shoot hoops and taught them cheers. PreK staff

also handed out programs that included rosters for students involved, ways to get students involved with sports at IC and in the community, and information about how families could attend sports and other events at IC. Thank you to the PreK for planning such a great event! They are already looking at how to do it again next year.



Benchmarking & Grades Will Be Completed Today

Benchmarking officially concludes today, and we'll have our Winter Data Day next week. Likewise, our quarter grades are final today by the end of the day. I will have a grade report and benchmarking report to share with you at the board meeting. Overall, we continue to be thrilled with the results. Our interventionist and instructional coaches are already working with teachers to get new schedules ready to go after we conclude our data meetings.