

**DATE:** 05/12/2025

**TITLE:** Information Services

**TYPE:** Information

**PRESENTER(S):** Corey Haugen, Director of Information Services

### **BACKGROUND:**

The mission of the Information Services department is to support the district mission and strategic priorities by building capacity through research, evaluation and the application of data to inform school improvement for student success. We provide support and expertise to schools and staff through:

- Providing expertise in the area of measurement and delivering accurate and timely information to building and district staff
- Providing support to district and schools through a systematic evaluation process of district programs
- Reviewing and summarizing data related to student learning and instruction
- Providing professional development on assessment practices, data analysis and interpretation

### **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment**

- Information services is working with all K-12 sites on building out 25-26 rosters and schedules. Here is a brief summary of the process for KG-06 class rostering.
  - **Teacher input is obtained** – teachers provide student feedback through a documentation process that provides targeted notes on students. These teacher inputs include student constraints, students that work well together and students that should be rostered together for specialized services.
  - Information Services takes all the **teacher feedback** and loads it into a **data structure** including data points from the following domains:
    - ✓ Demographic Information
    - ✓ S1 Life Skills Grades
    - ✓ S1 Reading Grades
    - ✓ S1 Math Grades
    - ✓ Attendance Data
    - ✓ Behavior Data, Both Infinite Campus/SWIS
    - ✓ Assessment Data: STAR CAT & CBM's, FAST, ACCESS, CogAT
  - Overall – there are **90+ variables per student** that go into the **algorithm** for clustering/balancing rosters.

- Information Services builds out **balanced classroom rosters** and then site leaders review the rosters with staff to gather **additional feedback and updates**. This is an **iterative process** and will go back and forth until we get the approval from all staff at the site.
- Once stakeholders have approved the rosters, we load the students into the Infinite Campus Student Information System for 25-26 access.

### **Packer Profile for all learners**

- Information Services has been actively working with all our sites to make sure we are prepared for 2025-2026 including new course offerings. We **audit and maintain all courses taught throughout the district** and report student-level grade detail to MDE annually through the MN Common Course Catalog (MCCC) reporting requirements.
- **FRECKLE and Lalilo -> Coming Fall 2025-2026**
  - Austin Public Schools (APS) is excited to announce it is extending its partnership with Renaissance Learning, Inc. to bring FRECKLE and Lalilo into Grade KG – 06 classrooms across the district starting in the 2025–2026 school year. These innovative educational platforms will provide students with powerful tools to support personalized learning in math, reading, and foundational literacy skills. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners**

- **MN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS (MCA/MTAS) 2024-2025**
  - Teachers and students throughout the district have been working hard throughout the month of April and early May to complete statewide accountability assessments. **Final results from this spring 2025 administration will be available later this summer.** I can however, tell you that as of May 2, 2025 we have completed in total 2,646 MCA-III Mathematics assessments, 2,634 MCA-III Reading assessments, plus, 74 MTAS Assessments. All told, 5,354 Math and Reading assessments have been completed through May 2. Science testing is scheduled to conclude on May 9 and as this is the new MCA-IV Science and AltMCA Science test – prelim results are not available until late summer after psychometrical analysis is completed. Testing has been going very smooth this year, both from a technical and administrative perspective and we are currently beginning to review embargoed preliminary results in mathematics and reading. I would like to thank all the district students, staff and administration for their attention to detail and hard work through another statewide testing season.
- **STAR Benchmarking Window** opened April 28 and will continue through May 16. This end-of-year assessment period is used to determine year-long growth metrics and help teachers and students see the impacts of their teacher and learning throughout the whole year. We are excited to see positive results later in May when final results are available after May 16.

### **Excellence in Resource Management**

- As of May 9, 2025, Information Services along with Infinite Campus have worked to become one of the first Infinite Campus districts to transition to a new payment processing vendor. The transition has gone extremely smooth and we are pleased to report that APS have fully transitioned and we have worked with stakeholders to exceed security and confidentiality standards for the online payment industry. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Summer EBT Is Back This Summer!**
  - The Summer EBT program has a new name: SUN Bucks. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has rebranded all federal Summer Nutrition Programs under the SUN umbrella to highlight their positive impact on children across the country, including Minnesota. SUN Bucks helps kids thrive by providing families with resources to purchase healthy foods during the summer months.
- **What Is SUN Bucks?**
  - SUN Bucks is an income-based food support program that offers eligible families \$40 per month per child (a total of \$120) during the summer. Funds are provided on SUN Bucks EBT cards and must be used within 122 days of issuance. Families are encouraged to use their benefits as soon as possible to avoid expiration.
- **Who Is Eligible?**
  - Students are automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks if they are directly certified through programs such as:
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
    - Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
    - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
    - Foster care or Medicaid
    - Students identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway (categorically eligible)
  - Students with an approved Application for Educational Benefits for free and reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program are also eligible.
- **Data Collection Process**
  - The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will collect student eligibility data from schools via the SUN Bucks data portal. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will then issue benefits directly to eligible students. The portal is scheduled to open for data entry in mid-May 2025.
  - Information Services will be completing the reporting requirements for the SUN Bucks program throughout the summer by uploading eligible student data to the SUN Bucks portal to provide our over 59% of the student body with the summer \$120 benefit.
  - Click [here](#) for more information.