



ILLINI CENTRAL C.U.S.D #189

208 N. West Avenue, Mason City, IL 62664

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
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Mrs. Cassy Carey, Grade School Principal
Mrs. Kyra Fancher, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Annie Baugher, High School Principal
Ms. Lori Avart, Special Education Coordinator

Superintendent's Report September 18, 2025

Grant for Water Fountain: For the second year in a row, Tonya Harris has entered us into a grant opportunity for a water bottle filling water fountain, and she won! Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation will be sending us a brand new water fountain to replace an older existing one, free of charge. They even cover the cost of installation!

PreK Gold Circle: ISBE recognized the Circle of Quality that our Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion (PFA/PFAE) program has achieved in ExceleRate Illinois, the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs. ExceleRate unifies all the state's early learning programs under a common set of standards across multiple settings to provide families with important information about quality early learning programs in their community.

ExceleRate Illinois is anchored by a set of standards that focus on early learning and development and places a high priority on instructional excellence, family services, staff qualifications, professional development, and program administration. Central to its design is the recognition of multiple forms of evidence to meet the universal standards. Evidence is obtained through the monitoring visits conducted through National Louis University's contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. During these monitoring visits, assessors collect evidence using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Third Edition (ECERS-3) and the ISBE Compliance Checklist. Each program site is awarded an ExceleRate Circle of Quality based on its Compliance and ECERS-3 scores. As a result, our PreK was identified as a Gold Circle of Quality.

BushueHR: Katie and I met with a representative from BushueHR to help with some of the tasks in the district office. BushueHR will help us with Human Resources, Risk Management, and Insurance.. These areas are quite costly and also the most complex and present ever changing challenges for organizations to contend with.

Bushue HR, Inc. can assist with navigating through all the complexities that many organizations face. Since we don't have a dedicated Human Resources department, Bushue can provide the skills and expertise without the expense of a full-time employee.



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We will meet monthly with our representative to discuss ways they can assist with employment issues, accident reporting, employee handbook, Family Medical Leave Act compliance, unemployment claims, insurance bidding, or commercial insurance related items.

We are most excited that they can help us look at options to lower our insurance costs and make sure we are legally compliant with all new laws and procedures. They are very hopeful that help save money and alleviate future costs for your organization.

Bushue will also provide guidance and resources for our organization, which allows time to be used more effectively in other critical areas. We are hoping that Bushue can help us streamline our procedures while making sure we are legally compliant make work easier and less time-consuming without hiring another person.

Skyward Transition: Skyward is retiring their current system, so we will be required to update our Skyward from the SMS to the Qmlativ version. This is a huge undertaking, and I will be spearheading this process. I have biweekly meetings with our Skyward representative, and we are working through the transition slowly. Some of our office staff will have some responsibilities in this transition, especially our principals and secretaries. The MS/HS counselors will also play a big role in this transition.

As part of this process, we will have to clean up all of the data that is currently housed on Skyward and make sure that it is accurately converted to the new system. This means we may have to redo a lot of the reports that we have saved as they do not transfer. My goal is to provide time for office staff to work together; however, it may require some additional time to ensure a seamless transition. It will truly take all year to transition, but we are hopefully we can slowly chip away at the big project.