

January 2026

Board Meeting

Report: Mayra Arroyo

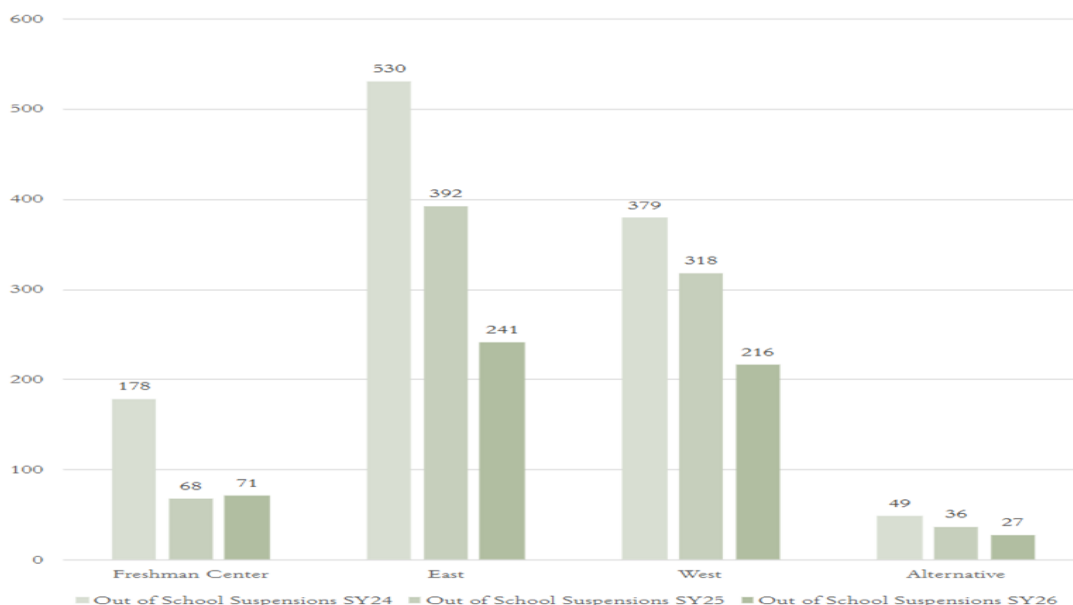
On January 5, 2026, the first day back from Winter Break, we trained 73 security staff and 30 administrators in the **Incident Command System (ICS)**. The training was led by Randy Braverman from West 40. ICS is a standardized framework for managing emergencies and planned events, ensuring coordinated response across agencies and jurisdictions. It establishes common planning and resource management processes, enabling schools to work seamlessly with first responders during incidents or disasters.

ISBE Flag for Exclusionary Practices: Our district has been flagged by ISBE for the past five years as being in the top 20% of Illinois school districts with high rates of exclusionary practices, including suspensions, expulsions, and racial disproportionality. This designation requires us to complete a Discipline Improvement Template and participate in monthly meetings with ISBE.

Upon review, it appears that our expulsion data may be inflated due to coding practices. While other districts often use “change of placement” for students transitioning to alternative schools, we have been coding these as “expulsions.” This discrepancy may be contributing to our flagged status.

We are working to address this issue and ensure accurate reporting moving forward.

Out of School Suspensions: As previously reported, I continue to collaborate with the Lead Deans and Chris Baxter from the Illinois State Board of Education to ensure disciplinary practices are implemented consistently, coded uniformly across all campuses, and fully aligned with state compliance requirements. The attached data reflects a substantial reduction in suspensions at three of our four schools during the first semester. One school experienced a slight increase of three students suspended during this same timeframe.



The **STAR Assessment** is a new tool used throughout the school year to monitor student growth in Reading and Math for freshman and sophomores. Students are assessed three times per year, and results are used to place students in Mustang Support Intervention based on their level of need. These supports are provided during a 25-minute supervisory period, and we are already seeing positive student growth. We will continue to explore opportunities to increase support by providing additional time during another instructional period.

