



Director of Learning

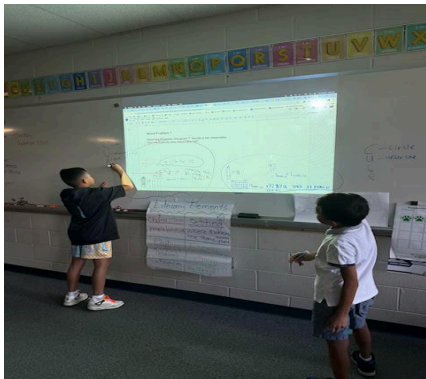
September 2025 Board Report

Teaching & Learning:

Beginning the week of September 8, I will be dedicating Tuesdays at Elizabeth Ide and Thursdays at Prairieview. The purpose of these visits is to spend focused time in classrooms observing and supporting teaching and learning, while also providing guidance and support in the implementation of Competency-Based Education (CBE).

Tara Herndon, third-grade teacher and former Vanguard Teacher, recently shared a powerful example of competency-based education in action. While introducing her current students to the rubric for solving story problems in math, Tara recognized that her class needed additional support in demonstrating their learning through pictures.

In response, Tara invited two of her former students, now fourth graders, to return and model the expectations outlined in the rubric. These students demonstrated the skill for the class and then guided the third graders in applying the rubric to evaluate their work. This peer-to-peer teaching experience not only reinforced the importance of the rubric but also empowered both groups of students to take ownership of their learning.



Assessment:

The fall assessment window is now underway in District 66. As outlined in the [2025–2026 Assessment Calendar](#), teachers and students are actively engaged in completing assessments and gathering valuable data. These assessments provide an important snapshot of student performance at the start of the school year.

The data collected during this window will establish our baseline measures of student learning. These measures will help teachers identify individual student strengths and needs, inform instructional planning, and ensure targeted supports are in place. At the school and district levels, the baseline data will be used to guide the development of School Improvement Goals, ensuring alignment with our commitment to continuous growth and achievement for all students.

We look forward to analyzing these results in the weeks ahead and using the information to inform decision-making at every level—classroom, school, and district. The fall assessment cycle is a critical first step in our annual improvement

process and reinforces our dedication to providing high-quality instruction and meaningful learning outcomes for every student in District 66.

Professional Development:

Plans are underway to provide four professional development opportunities for staff beyond our traditional SIP and Institute Days.

- **Seven Strategies PD:** Joy DeFors, Kari Gemmel, and Ashley Sanchez will once again facilitate the *Seven Strategies* professional development series, which was very well received by staff last spring. This year, the team is also planning an extension focused on effective feedback.
- **Book Study – *The Breakthrough Years*:** Teachers Tara Herndon, Teagan Halik, and Julie Dudasik, who read *The Breakthrough Years* last spring, have volunteered to lead a book study for colleagues at both Lakeview and Prairieview this fall.
- **Book Study – *Teaching with Empathy*:** Following the overwhelming success of last year's *Teaching with Empathy* book study, I plan to offer this opportunity again, likely during the winter months.

We are proud to provide these additional, voluntary professional development experiences for staff, which reflect both teacher leadership and our commitment to continuous growth.