



Executive Director Sarah McGuire Board Report

February 2026

- Students are making steady progress as we move through the third quarter of the school year which concludes in early April, just after Spring Break. Across SUN, ALEX, and STEP staff continue to monitor growth closely and adjust instruction to meet individual needs. In the coming months, students will participate in required statewide assessments, including ACCESS for English Learners and the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). Our teams are working to ensure testing is implemented smoothly and in alignment with student IEP accommodations.
- Planning for the 2026–2027 school year is well underway. Staffing discussions are ongoing to ensure we are positioned to meet projected enrollment and student needs. The preliminary 2026–2027 budget, reflecting these staffing considerations, will be presented to the Board at the April meeting for review.
- The proposed 2026–2027 school calendar will be brought forward at the March meeting. The calendar is intentionally aligned with professional development planning. Additionally, we have historically aligned our calendar with Faribault Public Schools, where reasonably possible, to support coordinated food service operations.
- Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for May 28, 2026, at Buckham West in Faribault. ALEX will hold its ceremony at 9:00 AM, followed by STEP at 10:00 AM. These events are meaningful milestones for our students and families, and we look forward to celebrating their accomplishments with our Board, parents, and caregivers.