



**Assistant Superintendent of Learning
August Board Report**

Goal One – Student Learning

Summer Grade Level & Team Meetings: Over the course of June and July, various teacher teams met to begin preparing for the 2026–2027 school year. Meetings consisted of planning sessions focused on curriculum alignment, reviewing instructional practices, refining competency-based reporting (CBE) resources and strategies, and preparing for communication with families for the start of the school year.

Skyward & Standards/Competency-Based Reporting (CBE): Progress continues on refining grading workflows, report card configurations, and Skyward gradebook setups. Grounded in the district's Strategic Plan journey, the implementation of competency-based reporting focuses on clear learning targets, student rubrics and proficiency scales, and four reporting levels (Exemplary, Meets/Secure, Approaching, Beginning).

Marzano Mastery Conference Attendance: From July 8–10, 2026, a team of twelve District 66 staff members—including district administrators, building principals, student experience coordinators, instructional coaches, and teachers—attended the national Marzano Mastery Institute. The team engaged in targeted sessions covering proficiency scales, collaborative unit design, assessment literacy, student agency, and equity to deepen districtwide expertise in competency-based education.

New Teacher Orientation & Mentoring:

On Thursday, August 13, 2026, new certified staff will participate in New Teacher Orientation hosted by district leadership. Key topics will include district values, learner characteristics, high-leverage instructional practices, and introductions to district staff, resources, and system supports. The session will conclude with new staff meeting their assigned mentors - launching the district's mentoring program and establishing a year-long schedule of monthly whole-group meetings and 1:1 sessions. This structure provides ongoing collaborative guidance, peer support, and continuous professional growth throughout staff members' first year in the district.

Districtwide Opening Day Institute:

The Opening District Institute Day on August 18th will bring together all staff from across the district to kick off the 2026–2027 school year. Professional development planned throughout the day centers on elevating student voice and demonstration of learning, ensuring student engagement takes center stage in every classroom to empower Center Cass students to own their learning. Choice breakout sessions will equip educators with actionable strategies to cultivate self-directed, reflective thinkers who consistently display district learner characteristics. Staff will then utilize dedicated time to debrief with grade-level and department teams, collaborating to apply their insights directly into classroom instruction for the upcoming school year.

Education Elements Audit & Strategic Planning:

The District recently completed a comprehensive Curriculum Review led by Education Elements to evaluate current systems, instructional practices, and system coherence across the district. The Executive Summary provided to the Board celebrates our strong foundation in Competency-Based Education while offering actionable recommendations to guide our next three to five years. Focusing on building a more coherent instructional system and strengthening educator capacity through professional learning, these recommendations will directly inform the District's upcoming strategic planning process, helping ensure a clear roadmap for consistent, high-quality learning experiences for all Center Cass students.