



Director of Learning

August 2025 Board Report

Teaching and Learning

As we prepare to begin the 2025–2026 school year, I am both excited and proud of the progress we’ve made in Teaching and Learning across the district. This year marks the full implementation of *Inspire Science* in grades K–5. I want to extend a sincere thank you to Kari Gemmell and our grade-level teaching teams for their dedication and thoughtful work during the successful pilot in the second half of last year.

Looking ahead, in January 2026, I will convene a K–5 Social Studies Cycle of Review Team. This team will examine our identified competencies to ensure alignment and confirm that all mandated topics, as outlined by the Regional Office of Education (ROE) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), are fully addressed. Additionally, we will assess whether our educators have the necessary resources to support this work.

This fall, our District Literacy Committee will also begin focusing on writing alignment across all grade levels, continuing our commitment to high-quality, cohesive instruction districtwide.

Assessment

The 2025–2026 Assessment Calendar will be reviewed with the Goal One Subcommittee in late August and subsequently presented to the Board of Education in September.

As part of our continued commitment to monitoring student progress and informing instruction, all students in grades 2–8 will continue to participate in the NWEA MAP assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The newly released 2024 NWEA MAP norms will be incorporated beginning this school year.

We are also making a strategic shift in our early literacy assessments. Starting this year, AIMSWeb+ will be implemented in grades K–3 to support targeted instruction and early intervention. Additionally, AMIRA will be limited to grades 4 and 5 for the 2025–2026 school year, with plans to phase it out entirely for the 2026–2027 school year.

Professional Development

This summer, our dedicated staff committed significant time and effort to important district initiatives, including curriculum development with a focus on Competency-Based Education (CBE) alignment and participation in leadership meetings such as the Building Leadership Team (BLT) and Grading Committee. Each week, I had the opportunity to collaborate with teams working diligently toward continuous improvement.

I’m proud to share that, collectively, our staff contributed over **530 hours** this summer to these critical efforts. Thank you to everyone who generously gave their time to help make CCSD66 an even stronger community for teaching and learning.