



DATE: April 14, 2025
TITLE: APS Site Reports
TYPE: Informational
PRESENTER: Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent

BACKGROUND:

The following is a summary of events and items from our sites.

Austin High School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment. AHS Prom Committee has been busy planning and preparing for this year's annual event!
On Thursday, March 27th we welcomed students and family to our parent conferences and our Packer Showcase. This was a great opportunity to see all the great learning experiences happening at AHS/ALC/AOA.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
AHS Activities continues to support all of our clubs and athletics as they continue to pursue interests and participate in our extra-curricular offerings!
18 students visited Mankato State University which included a presentation from admissions, a student panel, a campus tour and lunch. Check out SchoolLinks or the Career Pathway Newsletter for upcoming opportunities.
Many students participated in Riverland Prep Day on March 20th. This was a great opportunity for students to work on their application, set up advising appointments, check their Austin Assurance eligibility and get help with the FAFSA.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
Packer Study Table will begin its Spring Session on March 31. This program is designed to provide additional support for student-athletes and their success in the classroom. Packer Study Table runs every Monday/Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm in the Media Center.
Austin High School is actively preparing for upcoming standardized testing in April as part of our ongoing commitment to the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). As we approach the testing period, our dedicated teams—including the

School Leadership Team, department teams, and the Intensive Support Team are focused on ensuring that all students are equipped for success. We have implemented targeted interventions and provided additional resources to support students who may need extra assistance in their preparation.

- Excellence in resource management.
AHS Spring Coaching staff is complete and we are starting to staff for the 2025-26 school year. AHS Athletic Teams have the opportunity to partner with Hometown Food Security Project in providing nutritious, balanced snacks at a low cost for our teams.
We have also begun the scheduling process for the 2025-2026 school year, a complex and intensive process that unfolds over several months. While no scheduling system is perfect, our primary goal is to create a schedule that maximizes student opportunities while ensuring the most effective utilization of our staff. This requires careful planning, collaboration, and adjustments along the way to best meet the needs of both students and educators.
We are actively seeking to fill Social Studies, Science, and Art teaching positions for the 2025-2026 school year. Thanks to recent changes in our student registration process, we were able to post these openings earlier than in previous years, allowing us to get a head start on the hiring process. As a result, we have already begun conducting interviews to identify strong candidates who will contribute to our school community. This early timeline positions us to make thoughtful hiring decisions and ensure a smooth transition for the upcoming school year.

Newsletter: [KDS Template](#)

- **Austin Online Academy/Austin ALC :**
- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - ALC/AOA students collaborated with our COMPASS partners to complete the Teacher AVATAR. The next step involves group feedback sessions to refine our identity, improve service delivery, and ensure student voice remains central in the process.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - This month, Corey Haugen and Jessica Cabeen testified before the House Education Committee on the positive impact of **Direct Admissions** for our students.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - During March professional development, ALC/AOA teachers analyzed student-specific data to enhance **BARR meetings** and develop strategic interventions.

- This month, we are meeting with students and families who are not meeting attendance or credit attainment criteria to establish **support contracts and intervention plans**
- Excellence in resource management.
 - **9-12 Credit Recovery Summer School Enrollment** is underway. Counselors are working with students needing credit recovery for graduation.
 - **9-12 Summer Acceleration Enrollment** is open. Minnesota students can earn PE/Health credits towards graduation. More details are available on the AOA website.

Credit Recovery Program: Progress Update

Credit Recovery continues to support students in accelerating learning and staying on track for graduation.

- **September:** 23 courses (.5 credits) recovered
- **October:** 93 courses recovered
- **November:** 85 courses recovered
- **December:** 57 courses recovered
- **January:** 72 courses recovered
- **February (tentative):** 94 courses recovered
- **March:** 47 courses recovered (impacted by Spring Break and two snow days)

Ellis Middle School:

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

- During our last staff development day, one portion was staff feedback in 10 areas including: supervision, behavior, staff development etc. The team will be synthesizing the feedback so we can work the information into our improvement plan for the remainder of this year and establish goal for next year.
- Our department chairs engaged in more staff development is Strengths Finder. We continue to find ways to emphasize people's strengths and align our work.
- As part of our BARR work, most of our departments are offering "catch days". These are opportunities for students with missing work to get assignments done. Students with no missing work have enrichment.
- We are focusing our departments on reducing the number of failing grades (this led to our catch days).

Packer Profile for all learners.

- We are working with Holton to see how we can transition more Project Lead the Way options for Ellis students.
- We will begin discussions with our leadership team about Artifacts for the Packer Portfolio next year.

- Staff from Riverland will be coming to Ellis soon to help students set up their Assurance Scholarship account.

District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

- We had the third installment of our HITS (High Impact Teaching Strategies) training last month.
- Our teachers who are "Co-teaching" have been working with our instructional coaches to continue to improve the process.
- We continue to find ways to integrate our BARR work into our MTSS process. The teachers have engaged fully in the BARR work at the team level. We are seeing great feedback from teachers about individual student needs.

- Ellis BARR Update 4.7.25

Data Collection – Small Block, Big Block, and Community Connect BARR meetings

The goal is to discuss **EVERY student** at least once over the course of the school year. **The discussions are strength-based and focus on the whole student.**

As of 4/7/25, we have discussed....

$695/755 = 92.1\%$

We are on track to reach this goal.

Data Collection – Positive Postcards

This goal is for every Ellis Student to receive at least one Positive Postcard over the course of the 24-25 School year.

As of 4/7/25, 522 different students have received a Positive Postcard.

That is 69.1% of our student population.

I-Time Lessons

The goal is for each core teacher (Math, Science, Social Studies, and LA) to facilitate 8 I-Time Lessons over the course of the school year. This will mean that the students have an I-Time Lesson almost every week with a total of 32 I-Time Lessons by the end of the year.

Topics: Connected Community, Goals, Self-discovery, Communication, Strengths/Assets, Grief & Loss, Bullying, Diversity, Risky Behavior, and Dreams.

As of 4/7/25, teachers have facilitated a total of 25 I-Time Lessons

$25/32 = 78.125\%$

We are on track to reach this goal.

Excellence in resource management.

- I met with the finance director, buildings and grounds director and covered facility updates for next year.
 - We have new tables for next year in our cafeteria.
 - We plan to finish off our student desk replacement for next year as well.
 - As of April 1, all departments' budgets are closed. If there are any remaining funds, we move those to one account and our leadership team chooses which building priorities we will funnel those funds toward.
 - We are putting staff development in place for next year to efficiently use all staff's time and resources.
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- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/htagk>

IJ Holton Intermediate School:

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

- Our department chairs engaged in more staff development is Strengths Finder. We continue to find ways to emphasize people's strengths and align our work.
- Most of our staff are nearing completion of the OL/LA training (state mandated reading training). Administration is completing the training also. I have deep respect for the work our teachers are doing on this training. Trust me, it is difficult and rigorous.
- We had a Culture Day celebration at Holton as part of our PBIS reward for all students. We had community members from several different cultures come and share information about their experiences.
- As we move to an elementary model next year, we are working with our Leadership Team to iron out concerns and needed adjustments like classroom libraries, small group stations etc.

Packer Profile for all learners.

- Our newest exploratory class, Digital Arts, has students using CANVA. This class offer students to look at digital marketing and digital communications. As one student said to me, "Mr. Schara, you still use PowerPoint? Wow, no one does that anymore, you should be using CANVA!"
- We are also looking at ways to continue our Project Lead the Way programming at Ellis. These exploratory classes offer students ways to explore their interests and expose them to "career ready" skills.

District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

- At Holton we have divided our school leadership team into two parts that meet monthly: Department Chairs and Team Leaders. Our Department Chairs focus directly on curriculum and instruction; our Team Leads focus on building events and building culture.
- With BARR coming to Holton next year, we are preparing our MTSS process for incorporating BARR. We have found at Ellis that the information shared at BARR meetings can inform our MTSS process and give teacher direct input.
- We have had good discussions about our Life Skills grades and how to better use them and inform parents.

Excellence in resource management.

- I met with the finance director, buildings and grounds director and covered facility updates for next year.
- We are budgeting for classroom libraries for next year. We have also written a grant to get support.
- As of April 1, all departments' budgets are closed. If there are any remaining funds, we move those to one account and our leadership team chooses which building priorities we will funnel those funds toward.
- We are putting staff development in place for next year to efficiently use all staff's time and resources.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/ztn80d>

Banfield Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Staff are reviewing and providing feedback on the professional development calendar. There is also a team of teachers that meets on a monthly basis to help provide information and feedback into next year's schedule
 - Staff continue to work on their OL&LA process in efforts to be prepared for the final live session on April 21st and a submission of their portfolio shortly after.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Staff and students continue to be publishing materials and student work on SeeSaw for students and families to view. This has become a tool of communication and a way to support student learning.
 - Staff continue to reflect on the artifacts that they are uploading and starting to plan for what artifacts to upload next year.

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Our PBIS team graduated from the PBIS cohort in Mankato this past month. The addition of PBIS has been a huge addition to the building. It has brought consistent language across all setting, but also positive acknowledgments for students and staff.
 - This team also plans building wide celebrations throughout the course of the school year. On April 24th, there is a Rock, Paper Scissors tournament and the final round will be live streamed.
 - Our Reading Interventionist are doing an excellent job of adjusting groups based on their constant review of data. This allows them to shift their groups and supports for students based on the individual student needs.

- Excellence in resource management.
 - The staffing allocation for the 25-26 was shared with the staff, along with the adjustment of sections in specific grades.
 - Staff were able to submit any last requests for supplies or materials to be purchased for this year.
 - The process of rostering students has started. On April 28th, Corey Haugen will present the process that is used, along with allowing staff to give input on the class rosters. This will be the first three times that staff are able to provide feedback on the class rosters.

- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/rhuy7-banfield-banner>

Neveln Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Our Neveln staff have been working on OL&LA all year. Currently, 14 out of 20 have completed the OL&LA program so far. We have two staff that have units 8 and 9 left and four staff have only unit 9 left. We are excited to celebrate the completion of our training on April 21st when we all complete our final in person professional development session.

Our Knights have recently earned 10 Golden Shields, and we are thrilled to be planning a building-wide incentive to recognize their efforts. On Friday, April 11th, students will participate in a Silent Disco! Each student will receive a headset and have the option to choose from four different music stations. They'll be able to dance, move, and celebrate together in a fun, positive way.

- Packer Profile for all learners.

Our students in grades 3 and 4 are preparing for MCA testing this week. To help them feel motivated and supported, we are excited to host a short Pep Fest on Monday, April 7th. During the event, our 3rd and 4th grade Knights will watch a fun and encouraging MCA video designed to inspire them to do their best. The special surprise video features APS staff from across the district, sending messages of support and encouragement!

- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

We continue to address student attendance concerns and are actively working in partnership with families to find supportive solutions. Our goal is to identify barriers, provide resources, and collaborate with parents to improve consistent school attendance, which is essential for student success.

- Excellence in resource management.

We have hired a general education paraprofessional at Neveln. We are excited to welcome Kennedy to our staff.

We are analyzing numbers for next year and are making changes to grade level sections based on numbers. This information provides us guidance on scheduling for next year.

Our staff have started the process of rostering students for next year. This process started in March where teachers provided input about clustering students. Corey Haugen will assist us in creating class lists that are well balanced. Teachers will have two more opportunities to review lists and make changes before the school year ends.

- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/gsw13>

Southgate Elementary School:

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

We continue to integrate our monthly themes into learning activities into our school day. This month the theme revolves around "teamwork." We also continue to work towards our next Gator Incentive which is an afternoon of schoolwide BINGO. Our students have now earned almost 10,000 tickets this year for being "Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Caring."

2. Packer Profile for all learners

As part of the Packer Profile, our elementary school students are starting to build a portfolio of work using our electronic learning system, "SeeSaw." Throughout their time in

elementary school students will have entries in SeeSaw using examples from math, reading and writing.

We are also approaching our MCA testing windows. We are working hard to make sure that staff and students are ready and can put their best foot forward during testing. These tests for 3rd and 4th graders help us determine student progress and appropriate educational paths.

3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support

Each week, our student support teams continue to meet to discuss the needs of our students whether it is in the typical classroom or for those who may need additional supports. Members of our support teams are part of the district MTSS teams and continue our own learning.

After our last assessment window, we are continuing to adjust our classroom practices and how we provide services to students who may need additional supports. One group that we are fortunate to have in our building is Reading and Math Corps. After reapplying for position allotments for next year, we were granted another year with tutors in our building. We are very lucky to have these staff in our building to directly impact student achievement.

4. Excellence in resource management.

We are still working on our staffing needs for the 2025-2026 school year. These discussions are an important part of our planning process and serve as a jumping off point for in school services, scheduling and school staffing.

In addition we are starting to build rosters for the 25-26 school year. As part of this process we gather teacher input, use achievement data and formulas to balance classrooms and then have teacher put eyes on rosters one more time before they are finalized.

- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/9bhmg>

Sumner Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Our instructional coach, Ms. Keller provides our staff with high quality professional development by guiding staff through Oral Language and Literacy Acquisition (OL&LA) training. This training program is evidence-based professional learning designed to enhance educators' understanding and implementation on the science of reading, equipping educators with strategies to teach foundational reading skills,

comprehension, and language development. Currently, 96% of our staff have completed modules 1-8 and 65% completed full coursework of this training. All staff need to have completed the training by April 21st.

- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Recently, we were fortunate to have author Coleen Liebsch visit our school! She represents Books 4 Kids, an organization dedicated to “building character through books and growing confidence through inclusion.” Our students loved meeting several authors and listening to stories with heartfelt messages. Also, every student was given a book to take home.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - In January, we were able to welcome a Math and a Reading Corp tutor to our Sumner School Family to provide services to students who qualify for additional reading and/or math support. Our tutors, Ms. Lily and Ms. Carmen have been making a big impact on the students they serve! Check out these stats:

Twenty students are receiving services in Math Corp
 - 259 tutoring sessions
 - 5,063 tutoring minutes*Twenty students are receiving services in Reading Corp*
 - 5 students have exited these services because they are reading at grade level
 - average of 60 minutes of tutoring per student per week
- Excellence in resource management.
 - Breakfast at school is now offering a fresh fruit option 4 days a week. Our students especially like watermelon!
 - We continue to monitor student enrollment numbers to determine staffing needs for the upcoming 25-26 school year.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/rtvh1>

Community Learning Center:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - The District Wellness Committee was advised to consider the Healthiest Schools in America classification. After their review it was recommended that all APS sites consider applying for one or more categories of the

classification in the 25-26 school year. This classification will support the areas of needed growth as identified by the state assessment called the WellSAT 3.0.

- Members of our School Leadership Team have spent the year learning about Strengths in Leadership with Bethany VonSteinbergs. This learning has benefited our teams through focus on hope, trust, compassion, and stability.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Community Education enrichment opportunities are being added weekly. We have a wide variety of summer options that will be published and distributed in the community this spring.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - The early childhood Supplemental Support Team identified transitions as a time of day when the most behavior incidents were reported in ECSWIS. As a result staff reviewed transition data, and shared best practices to support student success.
 - Austin Adult Learning is moving to a new curriculum next school year and have started our training on effectively using the tools and resources with our team.
 - The early childhood team had a brief overview of Edmentum and how this new system will be used with behavior incident reporting next school year. We are thrilled to be part of the district wide system so student data can be shared from PreK-12.
 - Our early childhood teachers are completing their LETRS training. This required professional development by the state of Minnesota has been incredibly valuable and has already made an impact on our daily instruction for students. We look forward to continuing to implement the Science of Reading in our early childhood classrooms in the 25-26 school year.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - We have hired several amazing new teammates recently, both for 24-25 and 25-26 for our Early Childhood, Kids Korner, and ABE teams.
 - Our early childhood team is working with Buildings and Grounds to move our storage items from the AHS basement to Woodson.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/qig7r>