



Director of Learning

December 2025 Board Report

Teaching and Learning:

Starting in January, our District Literacy Committee will begin its work for the year, with a focus on writing for grades K–8. From January through March 2026, the committee will work within each building to align writing terms, strategies, and best practices. Following this building-level work, the K–8 District Committee will convene in April and May to align writing practices across all of District 66.

After the start of the new year, the District will begin the K-5 Social Studies Cycle of Review. We are currently seeking 1–2 staff representatives from each grade level to serve on this committee. Once committee membership is confirmed, a meeting schedule and timeline will be established and shared. This long-overdue review represents an important opportunity to ensure alignment and rigor in our Social Studies curriculum and is an exciting step forward for our instructional program.

Assessment:

The Winter Benchmark window opens this month, December, and will continue through mid-January. During this period, staff will continue to track student progress and gather data on both academic achievement and social-emotional growth.

Middle school staff have worked diligently with students to establish NWEA MAP goals and are eager to review the results. Principals and district leadership look forward to presenting the Winter Assessment data to the Board of Education in early 2026.

Professional Development:

The *Breakthrough Years* book study, led by Tara Herndon, Teagan Halik, and Julie Dudasik, is progressing successfully. Nearly twenty Prairieview and Lakeview teachers meet each Friday before school to engage in collaborative discussions centered on the book's content, fostering both professional growth and collegial learning.

Looking ahead to the new year, staff will begin with a professional development day on the first day back from Winter Break. Planned sessions will include:

- Exploration of Learner Characteristics
- GLT and Department time to advance the Competency-Based Education (CBE) initiative
- K–5 Science Implementation work
- Initial AI professional development for middle school staff
- Continued IXL training for K–5 teachers

Our educators remain committed to continuous growth, learning, and collaboration, enhancing instruction and student experiences every day.