



State of the District – Edina Public Schools

Presented by Superintendent Daniel Bittman
July 14, 2025

Highlights

1. Academic Excellence & Student Growth

Advanced Placement Results

	2024	2025
Total Number of AP Students	1,147	1,266
Number of exams	2,391	2,518
AP students with scores 3+	1,039	1,189
% of total AP students with 3+	90.58%	93.92%

Note: We are awaiting the latest test scores and will provide an update when we receive them.

World Language Bilingual seals

The following students earned the Multilingual Certificate or Seal this year:

- Benedetto, Luca (French & Spanish)
- Cervantes, Jahdiel (French & Spanish)
- Claire, Chen (Chinese & Spanish)
- Contreras, Paola (French & Spanish)
- Deshpande, Sonia (German & Spanish)
- Ibarra Garcia, Crystal (ASL & Spanish)
- Nooleen, Sienna (French & Spanish)
- Pacheco, Pedro (French & Spanish)
- Rozycki, Matilda (ASL & Spanish)
- Shelest, Kateryna (Ukrainian & Spanish)
- Xue, Jiarui (Chinese & Spanish)

Based on these results, we have continued our track record of 40% or more of the senior class being awarded a Certificate or a Seal by the end of their high school career, thanks to their skills in a second language.

Certificates & Seals earned by high school students this year:

- Bilingual Certificate - 97 students
- Bilingual Gold Seal - 102 students
- Bilingual Platinum Seal - 73 students

Top Tier Rankings:

- Continued top-tier rankings from U.S. News, Niche, and other national sources.

2. Early Literacy Success

- One hundred percent (100%) of PreK–3 educators completed structured literacy training in advance of the 2025 READ Act requirement.
- Evidence of improved foundational literacy across early grades.

3. Inclusion & Equity Leadership

- District-wide Elementary Commitment: In 2024–25, every elementary school formally became part of the Unified Champion School network, reinforcing our district-wide culture of inclusion starting in the early grades.
- Ongoing Edina Unified Engagement: Student-powered Unified sports and wellness activities continued this year—building on momentum from last year’s exceptional \$119,873 fundraiser and driving further awareness and inclusion. The amount raised is more than any of the small or medium MN corporation teams, more than any MN school district, college or university, and any MN restaurant or police department team. Only two groups raised more than the district collectively, Delta Airlines and Ian Lenard’s Fox 9 team.

4. District & School Recognition

Top Rankings from Niche (2025)

- Edina Public School District ranked #4 in Best School Districts in Minnesota, with an overall A+ rating, #5 for the "Best Teachers," and #10 for the "Best Places to Teach."
- Edina High School was ranked #2 in Best College Prep Public High Schools in Minnesota, #4 for overall public high schools, and #9 for high school teachers in the state.

Best Communities for Music Education

Edina Public Schools has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by The NAMM Foundation. This national recognition honors our outstanding music programs.

Sustained AAA Credit Rating from Moody's

- Once again, Edina Public Schools maintained a Moody's Aaa credit rating for 2024–2025—one of only three districts in Minnesota and roughly 100 nationwide—confirming our strong fiscal stewardship.
- ASBO award winner for financial transparency and fiscal stewardship.
- National recognitions received in both academic and financial performance.

ICCCAR Core Values Recognition

- Across multiple schools, students were honored during ICCCAR ceremonies, celebrating those who exemplify our core values of Integrity, Compassion, Courage, Commitment, Appreciation, and Respect.

Staff & Leadership Excellence

- In February 2025, two outstanding Normandale Elementary teachers—Bianca Suglia and Katharine Thomas—were nominated for the 2025 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, selected from a pool of 142 statewide candidates.

Awards Recognition (Spring 2025)

Sixteen juniors from Edina High School were honored with college-sponsored Book Awards, celebrating their academic achievement and dedication to learning. Below you will find the names of the students and the specific colleges and universities that honored them.

- Andreas Engle, Tulane University
- Augustus Carpenter, Saint Michael's College
- Ava Leddick, St. Lawrence University
- Claire Boylan, University of Rochester, George Eastman Young Leaders
- Elizabeth Teskey, Yale University
- Juliet Heffelbower, University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb
- Karissa Cheng, Dartmouth College
- Luke Norman, Sons of the American Revolution, Bronze Good Citizenship Medal
- Lydia Franssen, Columbia University
- Lynn-Clara Tun, Bowdoin College
- Pranika Kumar, Johns Hopkins University
- Rishika Anasuri, Smith College

- Samuel Sheridan, University of Rochester, Xerox
- Veda Laabs, Harvard University
- William Thurk, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Ziena Al-Ramahi, University of Rochester, Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony

DECA International Career Development Conference

Three students from Edina High School received top honors at the DECA International Career Development Conference.

- Luke Wachowiak and Mayank Jain placed in the top five out of 200 competitors in the Innovation Plan event.
- Sam Krause earned a top ten test score medal in the Human Resource Management event.

Edina High School robotics team

In spring 2025, the Edina High School robotics team, “The Green Machine” (Team 1816) became the first-ever Minnesota winners of the top honor at the FIRST Robotics Competition Championship—the prestigious Chairman’s Award, which recognizes the team that best represents the mission of FIRST and serves as a model for others nationwide.

United States Senate Youth Program (February 2025)

- Pranika Kumar, an Edina High School student, was selected to participate in the prestigious U.S. Senate Youth Program, a highly competitive national honor that recognizes outstanding leadership.

Other 2024-2025 Recognitions

- The district acknowledged 29 retiring staff members, celebrating a collective 693 years of service—demonstrating the depth of dedication and experience within our school community.
- In May 2024, three AVID students—Muna Mohamud-Karie, Yusuf Mahamud, and Samiya Yusuf—received the 2024 Wallin Scholarship, including mentorship and a total of \$16,000 in financial support.

Strategic Plan Alignment Overview (2020–2030)

Strategic Priority	In Action (Examples)
A. <u>Academic Excellence</u>	AP results, literacy training, instructional goals
B. <u>Equity & Inclusion</u>	Unified programming, bilingual seals, staffing diversity, Culturally Proficient training
C. <u>SEL & Wellness</u>	SEL strategies, tech wellness, mental health
D. <u>Leadership Development</u>	Student internships, staff and administrative growth, superintendent transition planning
E. <u>Community Partnerships</u>	Family engagement, multilingual outreach, shared leadership

Closing Thoughts:

In just a few short months, I have had the privilege of witnessing the passion, pride, and pursuit of excellence that define Edina Public Schools. While this update only begins to capture the many accomplishments across our district, it clearly reflects the depth and breadth of our collective success and commitments.

Together, we are well-positioned to build on these strengths and chart a bold path forward—grounded in our community’s shared values and guided by the ambitious vision of our Strategic Plan.

With deep gratitude and a strong sense of purpose, I look forward to the year ahead—working in partnership with each of you as we listen, lead, and learn together.