



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

This refined 2025-2026 Mid-Year Executive Summary is organized to align directly with the five priority strategies of the Edina Public Schools 2020-2030 Strategic Plan. It highlights key accomplishments, data-driven progress, and the district's ongoing commitment to Defining Excellence.

## **Strategy A: Advance Academic Excellence, Growth, and Readiness (De St. Hubert)**

*Edina Public Schools provides students with a comprehensive curriculum that develops critical thinking and ensures readiness for the next phase of life.*

### **Social Studies Curricular Alignment (A.1):**

- **Elementary:** Selected Studies Weekly to ensure content coherence and literacy integration, with full implementation set for 2026-27.
- **Secondary:** Implementing the board-approved Study Sync, standards-aligned curriculum designed for vertical coherence in history, geography, government, and economics.

### **Literacy and the READ Act (A.2, A.3, A.4):**

- **Diagnostic Assessment:** Implementing **Capti Read Basix** for grades 4–12 to identify specific skill gaps, complementing universal screening via FastBridge.
- **K-5 Curriculum:** Fully implemented **Benchmark Advance**, a curriculum nationally validated by The Reading League for its alignment with the Science of Reading. Implementation is supporting Implementation Science by utilizing non-evaluative "Learning Walks" to ensure instructional consistency and improvement in student outcomes.

### **Excellence in Early Learning (A.5):**

- Launched a dedicated co-teaching model at the Early Learning and Family Center (ELFC) to strengthen inclusive instruction.
- Developed a Student Support Team (SST) process recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a statewide model for early childhood MultiTiered Systems of support and intervention.

## **Strategy B: Ensure an Equitable and Inclusive School Culture (Becquer)**

*The district fosters environments where every student feels a sense of belonging through core values of Integrity, Compassion, Courage, Commitment, Appreciation, and Responsibility.*

### **Culturally Proficient School Systems (CPSS):**

- Over four years, 966 staff members—including all licensed staff and paraprofessionals—have completed foundational training in this equity-based professional learning framework.

### **Addressing Structural Barriers (B.3):**

- The **Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS)** plan has successfully reduced exclusionary discipline for Black/African American students with disabilities.
- **Mid-Year Impact of CEIS:** Current data shows a 50% reduction in incident frequency and a 70% decrease in lost instructional days compared to the previous school year, keeping more students in the classroom.

### **Diverse Talent and Retention (B.4):**

- Introduced structured 30-day follow-ups and supervisor checklists to enhance new employee belonging.
- Appointed a Grow Your Own Program Coordinator to lead the Special Education teacher pipeline and adult pathway programs.

## **Strategy C: Foster Positive Learning Environments and Whole Student Support (Bittman)**

*EPS creates safe, caring environments that support the academic, professional, and social growth of both students and staff.*

### **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):**

- Implemented Social Emotional Learning curriculum across elementary sites and integrated CASEL competencies into Kids Club programming.

### **Staff Wellness and Climate (C.2):**

- **Panorama Educator Data:** School climate favorability rose from 40% in 2022 to 62% in 2025, moving the district from the 10th to the 50th percentile nationally.
- Deployed the **Working Genius** assessment district-wide to improve team collaboration and meeting effectiveness.

## **Technology and Safety (C.4, C.7):**

- Implemented the **Sandy Hook Promise** anonymous reporting system for grades 6–12.
- Enhanced cybersecurity via Sophos MDR and established an AI Design Team to develop collective commitments for future use and support professional development through an "AI Academy" for teachers.

## **Strategy D: Develop Leadership Throughout the District (Remsing)**

*Edina Public Schools develops innovative and exemplary leadership at all levels.*

### **Paraprofessional Training (D.2):**

- The district is currently training 257 paraprofessionals in evidence-based structured literacy using a train-the-trainer model.

### **Student Voice (D.3):**

- Facilitated quarterly Superintendent Student Cabinet sessions and applied Design Thinking with high school student council leaders to develop innovative strategies that strengthen student recruitment and retention.

### **Continuous Improvement (D.4):**

- Applied a stage-based approach to Elementary Acceleration, collecting data from more than 1,000 stakeholders (students, parents, and staff) to refine elementary math and reading acceleration practices.

### **Enrollment Stewardship (D.5):**

- Launched targeted marketing campaigns for Kindergarten and 5th-grade families, achieving exceptional engagement with open rates exceeding 80%.

## **Strategy E: Engage Parents, Schools, and Community (Leland)**

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Our district works in partnership with the community to reflect Edina's strong commitment to education. On January 30, 2026, together with the Edina Education Fund, we launched the Hornet Cares initiative to support students who are experiencing temporary disruption in their education services. Hornet Cares is the result of input and leadership from the School Board, District administrators, multiple community organizations and families to get essential items, such as food and household goods in the hands of our most vulnerable students and their families.

**Community Education Growth (E.1, E.2):**

- Achieved record-level enrollment in Kids Club and saw a surge in middle school enrichment participation, such as ski and snowboarding clubs.

**Fiscal Stability and Transparency (E.5):**

- Successfully implemented \$7.62 million in cost containment, 85% of which was non-classroom related, significantly improving the district's fund balance.
- Received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for three consecutive years and earned a positive credit opinion from Moody's Ratings in January 2026.

**Innovative Revenue Generation (E.5):**

- Track Tech: Digitized third-party billing for IEP health services, capturing \$201,927 in reimbursed revenue in just five months (67% of the previous full year's total).
- Mental Health Billing: Launched a sustainable revenue stream for school social worker services at ELFC, Concord, and Edina High School.

This summary demonstrates that Edina Public Schools is not only maintaining its legacy of excellence but is actively innovating to ensure every student thrives. Our strategic progress in literacy, equity, and financial stewardship positions us as a national leader in public education.

## How do these results compare to our 2020-2030 goals?

The mid-year results for the 2025-2026 school year demonstrate that Edina Public Schools is successfully translating the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan from a "living document" into measurable outcomes. Many initiatives that were in the planning or development phases have now reached full implementation, showing significant alignment with the district's 10-year goals.

### Strategy A: Academic Excellence and Literacy

The 2020-2030 goal to "review, develop, and implement an improved literacy program" (A.4) has seen major advancement.

- **Implementation Status:** The district has reached full implementation of the Benchmark Advance curriculum for grades K-5, which is nationally validated and aligned with the Science of Reading.
- **Data-Driven Intervention:** To meet the goal of providing "timely and effective interventions" (A.3), the district implemented Capti Read Basix for grades 4-12 to provide diagnostic data that goes beyond universal screening. This diagnostic data has been in place for K-3 through additional FASTBridge assessments for the last two years.
- **Curriculum Coherence:** Social studies curriculum updates are now aligned with state standards and designed for vertical coherence, directly supporting goal A.1 regarding content rigor and critical thinking.

### Strategy B: Equitable and Inclusive Culture

The results show substantial progress in "identifying and eliminating structural barriers to success" (B.3).

- **Disciplinary Equity:** A primary objective was to address disparities in disciplinary removals. Mid-year data indicates a 50% reduction in incident frequency and a 70% decrease in lost instructional days for Black/African American students with disabilities, suggesting that focused interventions are successfully keeping students in the classroom.
- **Staff Training:** The goal to recruit and support culturally competent staff (B.4) is being met through Culturally Proficient School Systems (CPSS) training, which has now been completed by 966 staff members, including all licensed staff and paraprofessionals.

## Strategy C: Positive Learning Environments

The district is meeting its goal to "ensure staff are equipped with long-term wellness strategies" (C.2).

- **Climate Improvement:** Organizational health has seen a substantial improvement, with favorable school climate ratings rising from the 10th percentile nationally (40%) in 2022 to the 50th percentile (62%) in 2025.
- **Whole Student Support:** The district has implemented different Social and Emotional Curriculums across elementary sites that meet the same CASEL outcomes and launched the Sandy Hook Promise anonymous reporting system for secondary students, fulfilling goals for social-emotional competencies and student safety (C.1, C.4).

## Strategy D: Leadership Development

The district is fulfilling its mandate to "develop leadership at all levels" (D.1, D.3).

- **Professional Excellence:** To meet the Minnesota READ Act requirements, the district is providing 8 hours of evidence-based structured literacy training to 257 paraprofessionals.
- **Student Voice:** Goals for student leadership are being realized through quarterly Superintendent Student Cabinet meetings and the use of "Design Thinking" with high school leaders to influence to develop innovative strategies that strengthen student recruitment and retention.

## Strategy E: Financial Stewardship and Engagement

The results strongly align with the goal of ensuring "strong financial stewardship" (E.5).

- **Fiscal Recovery:** Following a period of structural imbalance in 2022, the district successfully implemented \$7.62 million in cost containments, 85% of which was non-classroom related. This has improved the district's fund balance ranking significantly and earned a positive credit opinion from Moody's Ratings in 2026.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The transition to Track Tech (digital third-party billing) has already captured \$201,927 in reimbursed revenue in just five months, representing 67% of the previous full year's total.

These mid-year results indicate that Edina Public Schools is on a clear trajectory to meet or exceed the benchmarks set for the 2020-2030 period, particularly in the areas of literacy, fiscal stability, and equitable student outcomes.