

www.ISD709.org

Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

September 16, 2026



OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Topics

- Student Representative Reports
 - My'Aiana Taylor - ALC
 - Latasaija Garner - Denfeld
 - Kate Dean - East
- Start of the Year Updates
- Duluth Promise Update
- Board Work Session Update
- 2024-25 Superintendent Evaluation and 2025-26 Goals Update
- Other

Start of the Year Updates

Start of the Year Updates

- In general, the start of the school year was very positive! Lots of smiling faces of staff and students alike!
- Our enrollment is up significantly, and I am frequently hearing lots of praise for Duluth Public Schools.
- We continue to make significant improvements in many key areas
- We still have some things to work out as space is becoming constrained in a number of our sites, such as Lester Park, Homecroft, and Myers-Wilkins.
- Violence and threats of violence have been an issue at the local, state and national level. Safety remains our top priority!
- I have been deeply impressed with the way our staff, families, and community have responded, coming together in challenging times, reporting things that are issues, and seeking meaningful solutions to the challenges that we have faced again and again.

Duluth Promise Update

Duluth Promise Update

- Our collaborative team with representatives from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, the College of St. Scholastica , Lake Superior College, the Duluth Superior Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Duluth Workforce Development, and APEX have been meeting as we continue to develop our robust and collaborative career pathways and partnerships.
- Our team met today for a half-day work session to plan for next steps, including use of the \$50,000 in state funding, and are excited about the direction of this initiative.

Board Work Sessions Update

Board Work Sessions Update

- On September 9, 2025, School Board Members participated in a Board Retreat for Duluth Public Schools facilitated by Dr. Ray Queener from TeamWorks.
- This retreat built upon the July 8, 2025 retreat, deepening the board's engagement in strengthening governance and modeling professional development as a committed team. Board members demonstrated a strong willingness to be highly engaged, focused on doing the work, and committed to continuous improvement.
- The retreat provided structured opportunities for reflection, practice, and collective learning. Using TeamWorks' governance frameworks, the board examined the role of the chair, practiced productive conversations, reviewed the Transition & Development Framework, clarified commitments to governance culture, and identified key messages to guide their work moving forward.

Superintendent Evaluation Update

Superintendent Evaluation Update

- The school board met in closed session on August 25th, 2025 for the 2024-25 End-of-Year evaluation
- A summary of my evaluation was shared at the Committee of the Whole on September 4th.
- My goals for the 2024-2025 school year were:
 - a. Standard 1 - Governance Team - Element 1.d. Information for Decision-Making
 - b. Standard 2. School District Finances - Element 2.e. Asset Protection
 - c. Standard 6. Teaching and Learning - Element 6.b. School Improvement
- We are currently assessing goals for 2025-26

Questions