

Superintendent's Report

September 19, 2023



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 Reports
- Launching the School Year
- Referendum Updates
- Superintendent Evaluation

Launching the School Year

Highlights:

- Clear strategic roadmap and operational plan focused on:
 - Supporting every student
 - Advancing equity
 - Improving Systems
- New elementary schedule allowing for better instruction
- All schools are PBIS schools
- Completed our move to the District Services Center
- Fully staffed with certified (licenced) staff and better staffed with non-certified (non-licenced)
- Universal free meals with expanded participation

Launching the School Year

Challenges:

- Transportation
 - New routing software
 - Limited drivers and busses
 - New personnel
- Limited access to facilities
- Adjustments to new procedures

FUTURE FORWARD

NOVEMBER 2023 REFERENDUM

Learn more at

FutureForward709.org

Referendum Overview

Residents will vote on a two-question referendum during the election on Tuesday, November 7. If approved, the two questions will provide approximately \$7.9 million to protect and strengthen academic and mental health supports, expand and enrich high school curriculum and invest in technology to help students learn.

We used COVID-relief funding to support these services over the past few years, which produced positive outcomes for our students. However, that funding has ended. The referendum would restructure existing debt that is currently paid by our general fund to free up funding to help protect staff levels, provide enhanced programming for high school students and student support services, and authorize a capital projects levy to provide dedicated funds for investments in student technology.

The referendum is a community-wide decision. Our district's goal is to ensure everyone has the facts they need to make an informed vote on or before Election Day.

Referendum Overview

Current informational efforts:

- Press Conference Thursday
- Social Media Campaign
- Staff Informational Meetings
- PTA Informational Meetings
- Outreach to Other Groups
- Newsletter Updates
- Television and Print Media Opportunities
- [Future Forward 709 Website](#)
- [Draft Referendum Video](#)

Superintendent Evaluation

Utilized the MSBA document, “A Goals- and Standards-Based Superintendent Evaluation: A Resource for School Board Members and Superintendents”

Three goals were selected for the 2022-23 school year:

- Strategic Planning
- Budget Development and Maintenance
- Relationships with the Community

Superintendent Evaluation

Three goals were proposed for the 2023-24 school year:

Standard 2. School District Finances

- Element 2.d. Bond and Levy Campaigns

Standard 3. Communication and Community Relationships

- Element 3.f. Visibility and Approachability

Standard 6. Teaching and Learning

- Element 6.b. School Improvement