

2015

Annual Report to the Community



Downers Grove Grade School District 58
We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.



58 reasons to celebrate

District 58 achieved many successes during the 2014-15 school year. This **Annual Report to the Community** will highlight **58 reasons why this school year was fantastic.** Thank you for being a part of the story, District 58 community!



REASON 3: District 58 issued iPad Minis to all first-through-seventh graders, enriching their learning experiences. See page 4 for more.



REASON 12: O'Neill wins the national \$60,000 Follett Challenge for its innovative Conquest of the Realm reading program. See page 8 for more.



REASONS 41-55: The District spotlights its many volunteer projects for charity fundraisers, such as this ALS Ice Bucket Challenge fundraiser for ALS research. See page 14 for more.

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Dear District 58 Community Member,



The 2014-2015 school year was tremendously successful and productive in District 58!

This year, Apple, Inc., named District 58 an Apple Distinguished Program. This significant award recognizes the most innovative educational programs and schools in the world (see page 3 for more)!

We also won the National Follett Challenge for innovative educational programs, and two of our employees were named Apple Distinguished Educators. We expanded our 1:1 program, successfully completed the first year of our Biliteracy Program, enriched our Social-Emotional Learning Program even further, continue to make facility improvements across our district and will launch the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program in the fall. We continue to celebrate our students' excellent academic performance and growth, and look forward to an exciting summer of learning and enrichment for our students. It has been a very busy year filled with many successes and celebrations for all.

We are looking forward to the upcoming school year, which will bring great new plans for professional development, a focus on STEM and science curricula, and district-wide 1:1 implementation. We look forward to continuing the exciting progress we have made with differentiated instruction and instructional planning focused on student growth.

I would like to take a moment to thank our students, teachers and staff for their hard work this school year. I would also like to thank our parents and our community at large for their incredible support of excellence in District 58.

Sincerely,

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.

Superintendent
Downers Grove Grade School District 58

Our core beliefs

- Each student is capable of learning and deserves to be educated and challenged to reach his/her highest potential.
- Education is the foundation for success, both in academic achievement and social emotional development.
- Within each child, we will cultivate the social awareness, self-management and responsible decision-making skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- Educators, students, families and community members should work together to support the healthy development of all students.
- The school environment should be stimulating and engaging, with opportunities for creative, collaborative and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school environment should be safe, friendly and nurturing, where everyone comes to learn, grow and develop.

Our mission

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality education programs and support services in a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.

Our vision

We Envision a school district that inspires children, sparks creative and innovative thinking, celebrates diversity and builds visionaries.

We Seek an education that excites minds, touches spirits, challenges abilities and prepares our children for life.

We Believe every child should be expected to grow, stretch, evolve and embrace the challenges of the future in a global environment.

District 58 named Apple Distinguished Program

REASON 1: Apple recognizes District 58 for its innovative and creative learning.

Apple named District 58 an Apple Distinguished Program in November 2014. This prestigious designation recognizes the District's successes as an innovative and engaging learning environment that provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment through innovative teaching and learning, visionary leadership, ongoing professional learning and compelling evidence of success. This recognition is most often awarded to a single school, not an entire district.

"This was a significant accomplishment for District 58, and is truly a testament to the incredible partnership, collaboration and hard work of our teachers, staff, students, parents and community as a whole," said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli.

In May, District 58 participated in the Education Recognition Program Showcase, in which administrators shared the District's successes with other schools. "We hosted visitors from schools

all over Illinois at site visits at Kingsley and El Sierra schools. The visiting educators were able to see our 1:1 Learning Program in action while they visited our classrooms," said James Eichmiller, director of innovative technology and learning.

This spring, Apple also recognized District 58's **Matt Leiser** and **Megan Ryder** as Apple Distinguished Educators.



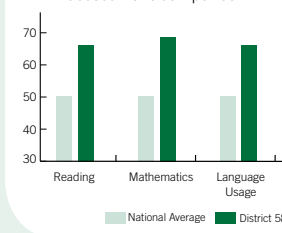
District excels on MAP assessment

REASON 2: District 58 students significantly outpaced the national average on the MAP assessment, which measures student growth throughout the school year.

District 58 students once again demonstrated exceptional academic growth on the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment this past school year.

When reviewed together, the three assessments measured students' annual progress and showed their growth compared to other students with similar September MAP scores.

MAP assessment comparison



The MAP results showed that District 58 students outgrew academically-similar peers nationwide by 34 percent in both Reading and Mathematics and 35 percent in Language Usage. In addition, 66 percent of District 58 students met their growth targets in Reading, 69 percent in Mathematics and 66 percent in Language Usage. The national average is 50 percent.

"This is an incredible accomplishment," said Dr. Matt Rich, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

"This growth demonstrates that our students are working hard and learning a lot. We are very proud of them!"

All District 58 kindergarten through eighth grade students took the initial MAP assessment in September. This assessment measured their proficiency in Reading, Mathematics and Language Usage, and it provided them with a growth target for the year. Students completed the MAP assessment again in January and May.

"For example, a second grade student who earned a 190 in the fall in Reading was compared to a national population of second grade students who earned a 190 in the fall in Reading," explained Dr. Rich.

The MAP test provides students, parents, teachers and school leaders a non-subjective look at how a student is growing, and as such, the District uses MAP data for a variety of purposes. Teachers and administrators use the data, along with student classroom performance, to guide classroom instructional decisions. This includes identifying appropriate learning targets for students and electing groups for instruction in a flexible manner.

"Using MAP data, a child's non-fiction reading group may be different than their fiction reading group, which could also be different than their vocabulary group," said Dr. Rich.

The District also uses MAP data to place students into specialized programs such as Elementary Gifted, Middle School Gifted English-Language Arts, Middle School Math, Middle School Foreign Language and others.

1:1 Learning Initiative continues to thrive

REASON 3: District 58 successfully completes its district-wide 1:1 device rollout.

The 2014-2015 school year marked the second year of District 58's 1:1 iPad rollout. By early fall, the District issued iPads to more than 3,600 first-through-seventh grade students. The students used the iPads to enrich their learning experiences at school and at home.

Eighth grade students and kindergarteners also had the opportunity to participate in a month-long learning lab experience. During that time, eighth graders could take the iPad Mini home and use it throughout the school day, giving both them and their teachers a chance to experience a 1:1 learning environment. Kindergarten students used the iPads in school, and teachers found them to be valuable resources during small group instruction.

After spring break, the Technology Department set up and deployed iPads to another round of students. After this spring deployment, all District 58 students in grades one through seven became a part of the 1:1 Learning Initiative. This will allow the District to start the 2015-2016 school year at full 1:1 deployment.

"This will be a significant milestone for our community, giving each of our students access to the tools and information available with the iPad Mini," said Director of Innovative Technology and Learning James Eichmiller.

This spring, the District surveyed students, teachers and parents, gathering their opinions and insights on the value and effectiveness of the 1:1 Learning Initiative. In general, stakeholders feel that the program has had a positive effect on student collaboration, student creativity and student engagement.

"We look forward to another successful year of 1:1 learning!" Eichmiller said.



Students may access free e-book collections

REASON 4: Thanks to District partnerships, students may access free e-books with their iPads.

District 58 deployed a variety of e-book solutions this year, giving students free access to several large libraries of digital texts. The solutions included 3M Cloud Library, eRead Illinois, Follett Shelf and Axis 360.

This spring, District 58 partnered with the Downers Grove Public Library to link both entities' book collections together. Through this collaborative effort, all District 58 students—even those who are not Downers Grove residents—have access to the Downers Grove Public Library's 3M Cloud collection.



"It is clear that our students were taking advantage of this access, as they were responsible for nearly half of the public library's 3M checkouts in the first month of this partnership!" said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli.

In addition to 3M, District 58 joined the eRead Illinois Program. This program provides affordable access to a collection of e-books that are shared by districts across Illinois. District 58 students have found many good texts in this collection, and the organization is very responsive in purchasing additional texts of interest.

District 58 has also built e-book collections with Follett Shelf. Follett Shelf's collection integrates well with the District's catalog system, making it easy for students to search for both e-books and traditional books. It also offers many texts with unlimited simultaneous use, which allows teachers to use them with large groups of students without having to worry about checkout limits.

The District also belongs to a consortium of libraries, called Axis 360, which provides free e-books to students. Likewise, the Downers Grove, Westmont and Oak Brook public libraries participate in Overdrive, another e-book collection. Students who belong to these libraries may download this app and use it to check out books.

Please remember that the above e-book collections may contain books that are inappropriate for children. As always, please monitor your child's activities on their iPad, including their use of e-books.

For more information on accessing these books, visit www.dg58.org/ebooks.

Longitudinal report cards offer new insights about student growth

REASON 5: Report cards help teachers tailor instruction.



For several years, District 58 used a standards-based report card to express student development at the elementary level. Grade-based standards helped parents identify areas of strength and growth for their child throughout the year.

As the District began using MAP assessment data (see page 2), administrative staff realized that a large number of students perform well above grade level.

"With District median performances between the 60th and 76th percentile in Mathematics and nearly all above the 70th percentile in Reading, we began to develop longitudinal report cards so that teachers and students could be challenged with the next higher concept and report out the next steps to be learned," said Dr. Matt Rich, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Unlike the traditional standards-based report card, the longitudinal report card provides specific, in-depth data about a student's current growth and proficiency in different skills—even if they're above or below grade level.

The District piloted longitudinal report cards for mathematics and early writing for some classrooms in the 2014-15 school year. Students and teachers had their first opportunities to provide meaningful targets beyond the grade level curriculum and report out this information to students, families and the next year's teacher.

During the 2015-16 school year, students in grades K-7 will participate in the mathematics longitudinal report card, and select classrooms will pilot the English language arts and science report cards.

Summer learning

REASON 6: The District offers many summer learning programs to help prepare students for next school year.



When District 58 administrators reviewed MAP testing data this year, they noticed that the District's students made great academic strides during the school year, but their growth would often stagnate or even decline during the summer.

To combat this, the District created age-appropriate summer learning expectations to help students maintain the great learning they worked so hard to achieve during the school year. The expectations ask students to spend some time each day reading a book and practicing math. The District also designed several fun summer learning opportunities, such as book clubs and an online summer enrichment program.

The District's summer learning initiative was very well-received! More than 2,000 students joined the online summer enrichment program, 600 students enrolled in summer school, and more than 70 parent-led book clubs formed.

"We look forward to connecting more with our students over the summer and to celebrating our students' hard work when they return from summer break," said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli.

Learn more about the District's summer learning expectations and opportunities at www.dg58.org/summer.

District prepares for Next Generation Science Standards

REASON 7: New science standards will offer students more meaningful scientific exploratory experiences.

District 58 is on track to implement the state-required Next Generation Science Standards by the 2016-17 school year. For the past two years, the District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) committee has diligently investigated these new standards and identified curriculum objectives and student learning targets.

"The Next Generation Science Standards represent a significant shift in science education, focusing on students developing inquiry-based science and engineering practices," said Dr. Matt Rich, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

"This new process encourages children to see science as an investigation rather than the traditional recipe of the scientific method."

District 58's seventh grade team will lead a pilot implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards during the upcoming 2015-16 school year. Seventh graders will explore the life sciences through investigating a variety of phenomena that occur in the community and the world. At the same time, teams from kindergarten through eighth grade will prepare units of study and training for staff in order to have all District 58 students participate in these new learning opportunities during the 2016-17 school year.

New Biliteracy Program has a bright future

REASON 8: The District opened its first ever biliteracy classroom.



District 58 started a Biliteracy Program in fall 2014 to better prepare English Language Learners for success. In its first year, the program served 19 native Spanish-speaking students in kindergarten and first grade.

The program provides guided instruction using a biliteracy framework. A typical lesson

begins with content instruction in Spanish, and then the teacher, Maria Ibarra Lorence, introduces English vocabulary into the discussion. Studies show that this framework well-prepares students for academic success.

"After we work awhile in Spanish, I put on my 'Magic Scarf,' which signals that it's time to transition from Spanish learning to biliteracy learning," Ibarra Lorence said. "During biliteracy learning, we use mostly English. I'll only use Spanish if the students are stuck."

In the kindergarten-first grade class, approximately 80 percent of instruction was initiated in Spanish and 20 percent was initiated in English. As the program advances, by third grade instruction will initiate 50 percent of the time in Spanish and 50 percent of the time in English. In all units, students learn concepts in both languages.

During the first school year, students and staff worked extremely hard. The classroom is active and energetic with students advancing through the same curriculum objectives and learning targets as their peers in general education classes. Children also experience the same art, music and physical education opportunities as their peers.

"Simply, they learn core instructional lessons in both languages while they are in school," said Dr. Matt Rich, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

The program will expand to two classrooms and include students in grades K-2 in the 2015-16 school year.

"We are excited to expand the learning opportunities to second grade for the 2015-16 school year and hope long term, students' continual growth in the program will ready them to earn the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation from high school," Dr. Rich said.



District designs optional kindergarten program

REASON 9: The District will offer optional, extended-day kindergarten enrichment this fall.



District 58 is excited to offer families a new opportunity to expand their kindergarteners' learning opportunities through the new Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program.

"As a school community we are very proud of the strong half-day learning opportunities we have provided students for generations," said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli. "Our kindergarten program is filled with quality learning opportunities in literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. But we also recognize that some students and some families want more and some need more."

For the past two years, the District 58 kindergarten team researched local student needs and the capacities that additional kindergarten

learning could create. They developed the Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program as an extra-curricular optional learning opportunity. The program will engage students in inquiry-based learning that will advance their knowledge in core content areas based on their current level of performance. District 58 also recognized that many families still preferred the District's half-day program. The Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program will supplement, not replace, the District's current strong half-day kindergarten program.

The Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program will debut in the District's five Title 1 schools—El Sierra, Henry Puffer, Highland, Indian Trail and Kingsley—during the 2015-16 school year.



The BEST learning environment

REASON 10: The District's Behavioral, Emotional and Social Training (BEST) Program uses a tailored team approach to better serve students with disabilities.

District 58 hosts several specialized programs designed to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. While the District prioritizes serving students in their home schools, there are some times when a student benefits from increased structure and supports in a more individualized environment. One such District program, previously known as the Alternative Education Program, or AEP, has a new name but still delivers the strong and consistent supports it's become known for.

The Behavioral, Emotional and Social Training program, or BEST Program, uses a team approach to serve students with disabilities whose social, emotional and behavioral needs significantly impede their ability to access curriculum exclusively in the general education environment. Programming can include multi-grade grouping and can range from a full self-contained environment to the use of consultative services only. BEST programming is offered at Kingsley School and O'Neill Middle School and serves students in second through eighth grade.

"BEST offers a safe, positive and predictable environment staffed by program specialists who provide consistent and immediate direct instruction in coping, emotional, behavioral, social and sensory regulation," said Jessica Stewart, assistant superintendent for special services. "Staff use an integrated team approach to plan for and respond to student needs, and they engage in behavioral intervention planning and provide positive supports to increase school-expected behaviors."

Rigorous and aligned core instruction is a priority within the BEST Program as well. It emphasizes core instruction aligned to state standards, and staff work to individualize that instruction to ensure it is accessible to all students.

Students who benefit most from the structures and supports BEST has to offer are students with individualized education plans (or IEPs) who struggle with anxiety or who have a limited ability to access their coping skills independently. They may need integrated motivators, additional flexible classroom space and more control over the amount of students and staff within their learning environment.

If you want to know more about BEST, please contact your child's case manager or Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart at **630-719-5824**.



Building Bridges in 58

REASON 11: The PTA and District 58 started a new PTA committee to serve families with special needs children.

Building Bridges, a parent/teacher support group for families of students with disabilities, hosted its inaugural event this past May at Hillcrest School. Building Bridges is a PTA committee dedicated to helping further strengthen the partnership between families of students with disabilities and the school community by helping families better understand the special education process and form networking opportunities amongst each other. It aims to connect those families whose students may be going through similar experiences or have similar needs.

This evening event included introductions of committee chairpersons and vision-builders, Mia Churma and Lisa Schuh, as well as new Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jessica Stewart. Several school staff and parents of students with disabilities served on a panel and fielded questions from the audience regarding their views on how best to prepare for IEP and 504 team meetings and to better understand the special education process in general. Parents and staff members in the audience supported one another in generating ideas from personal experience and the group spent time building a vision for the purpose of the new committee as well as brainstorming next steps. As the evening unfolded, it became evident that the committee is a welcomed addition to the PTA council and has the potential to well-support a unique need in the school and parent community.

If you have ever wondered about what special education services or supports look like or if you are wanting to connect with other families who may share in similar experiences, this group is one you will want to connect with.

Join Building Bridges on Facebook at [facebook.com/buildingbridgesDG58](https://www.facebook.com/buildingbridgesDG58) for summer updates and stay tuned for more information coming in the fall of 2015!

The next four pages will share many reasons to **Celebrate 58!** District 58 recognizes the many diverse achievements that our individual schools, students and staff achieved during the 2014-15 school year. District 58 is very proud to have such a strong community!



REASON 12: Follett named **O'Neill Middle School** (pictured above) the grand prize winner in the national Follett Challenge. This prestigious honor came with a **\$60,000 prize**, which O'Neill may use for academic books and services. The Follett Challenge recognizes innovative and collaborative education programs. O'Neill won the top prize for its Conquest of the Realm reading program, which used highly creative games and competitions, also called "gamification," to increase the school's voluntary reading participation rate from 17 percent to 80 percent.

REASON 13: O'Neill LRC Director **Tasha Squires** designed the Conquest of the Realm program. Her incredible efforts helped shape O'Neill into a 'reading school.' This spring, the teacher's union named Squires the **2015 Teacher of the Year!**

REASON 14: The Downers Grove Junior Women's Club awarded four District 58 teachers with Outstanding Teacher Awards: **Christine Balagtas**, Pierce Downer; **Kathryn Chick**, Fairmount; **Diana Rhoades**, Lester; and **Kathleen Tice**, Indian Trail.

REASON 15: The Grove Foundation recognized 26 District 58 fifth graders with "Helping Children Grow" awards for their **strong character and extra effort.**

REASON 16: Retiring Board Member **Dr. Liz Davis** (pictured below) and retiring Hillcrest Principal **Paula Thomas** received **Lifetime PTA Achievement Awards** for their exemplary contributions to the District 58 community.



REASON 17: As the school year ended, the **Bonfield Express** generously donated **\$1,000 per school** to use to award students for citizenship and extra effort.



REASON 18: The Education Foundation awarded Henry Puffer Teacher **Andrew Kupisch** and El Sierra Principal **Jason Lynde** (both pictured left) with Distinguished Service Awards. The Foundation also honored **24 District employees** who received nominations for the award.

REASON 19: The Education Foundation also celebrated 58 eighth graders—29 from Herrick and 29 from O'Neill—who provided excellent service to their school and community. The Foundation hosted a Select 58 awards banquet on May 6 to recognize these students' achievements.



REASON 20: Recently-retired Hillcrest teacher **Joanne Fiene** was named an **Elite 100 Teacher** by IXL, an online guided math and language arts program. She received this honor because her 22 fifth graders independently completed nearly **300,000 IXL** math programs during the 2013-14 school year.



REASON 21: **El Sierra** (pictured left) became the third school in DuPage County to receive the **DuPage County**

Water Quality Flag. They received this flag for their commitment to water conservation and the environment. The flag will proudly hang near the two Earth Flags that El Sierra previously achieved.



REASON 22: O'Neill eighth grader **Connor Podjasek** won an Award of Merit at the **National PTA Reflections art competition** for his photograph, called "**Stop the Clock.**" Only four students from Illinois received an award at the national level. In addition, Henry Puffer student **Conor Schewe** also qualified to compete at the national level for his photograph, "**The World Would Be A Better Place If We Had More Trees**" (pictured above).

REASON 23: District 58 was well represented at the **global Destination Imagination competition** this spring. Congratulations to the qualifying teams: the **DI Donuts, Team Imagination Volcanoes** and **That One Team**, all from Whittier School, as well as the **Sleepy Ninjas** from Pierce Downer School.



REASON 24: The District 58 PTA invited four renowned children's authors to the annual **Author Fest** this April. **Blue Balliett, Laura Huliska-Beith, Barb Rosenstock** and **Tom Watson** (pictured left) entertained and inspired hundreds of students during this exciting event.

Celebrate 58



REASON 25: The Illinois Association of School Boards awarded District 58 and Wight & Company with an Educational Environment **Award of Merit** for its recent facility renovations to **Pierce Downer School**. This award recognized

excellence in educational environmental design, energy efficiency and safety.

REASON 26: Kingsley students engaged their scientific minds through a new PTA-sponsored club called "The Blend." The club blends technology and learning, which resulted in several interactive, wildly creative projects.

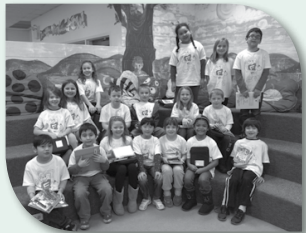
REASON 27: The **Herrick Robotics Team** won the **Reserve Grand Champion Award** (second place out of 29 teams) and the **Teamwork Award** at the 4-H Robotics Team Competition/ Showcase this spring. This club works on engineering and programming Lego EV3 robots, as well as building teamwork and collaboration skills.

REASON 28: Lester staff hosted a **Lester Tech Night** for parents, during which they demonstrated the apps and technology that students use. Parents expressed **very positive feedback** about this helpful experience.



REASON 29: More than **400 grandparents and other VIPs** visited **Highland School** (pictured left). Both grandparents and students alike had fun learning together.

REASON 30: The Downers Grove Junior Women's Club awarded five O'Neill Middle School students in its annual **Junior High Art Contest**. **Kate Riley** won the "Best of Show" award; **Sami Mark** and **Therese Malinowski** came in first place; **Katie Leinart** took second place; and **Andrea Davenport** received an honorable mention.



REASON 31: Fairmount loves reading! The entire school embarked on a **One Book, One School** journey (pictured left) reading "From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil

E. Frankweiler" by E.L. Konigsburg. The program led to cross-classroom collaboration, creative projects and general excitement about books. The students also incorporated the book's message into Random Acts of Kindness Week.

REASON 32: Patrick Laurich, a fifth grader at Indian Trail, memorized pi to an incredible **170 digits**, winning this year's pi memorization contest.



REASON 33: Belle Aire students explored technology during a fall field trip to the **Apple Store** (pictured above), during which they learned video editing skills and created their own video stories.



REASON 34: District 58 hosted its annual **Legislative Breakfast** (pictured above) in February, which drew a large group of legislators, community leaders and administrators. Three local legislators—**Sen. Christine Radogno**, **Rep. Ron Sandack** and **Rep. Patti Bellock**—participated on a panel to discuss education policy.



discoveries with teachers, family and friends. In addition, **eight middle school students advanced and won awards at the regional science fair level.**

REASON 35: District 58 enjoyed another successful **Science Fair** (pictured left) this January, with hundreds of students proudly sharing their scientific

REASON 36: More than 320 educators participated in the fourth semi-annual **SAMri Teacher Camp** (pictured left) in January. District 58 teachers host this

free professional development experience. Its target audience expands beyond District 58. At this past event, campers came from all over Illinois as well as from out of state, a **great indication of District 58's regional leadership in education innovation.**

REASON 37: **Twenty-one students** from Herrick and O'Neill middle schools were invited to participate in the **Illinois Music Educators Association's District 1 Music Festival** in November. The festival features students selected by audition from schools throughout the southwest metropolitan Chicago area.

Celebrate 58

Conservative spending leads to stable 2015-16 budget

REASON 38: Thanks to strategic budgeting, the 2015-16 budget is balanced, despite earlier predictions that this budget year would be financially difficult.

Two years ago, District 58 administrators predicted that the 2015-16 fiscal year would be financially difficult, due partly to fewer staff retirements and decreased State funding. But a concerted effort which included detailed budget reviews, cuts where appropriate, increased fees and cooperative contract negotiations has resulted in a balanced tentative \$63.5 million budget for 2015-16.

"Conservative spending and strategic cuts helped us stay on budget while still providing an excellent education for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli.

In addition, for the 13th consecutive year, the District's Financial Profile received

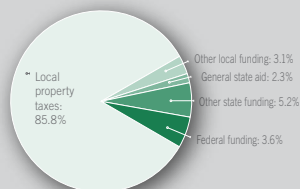
Financial Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education.

The 2015-16 tentative budget includes approximately \$62 million in normal operating aggregate revenues and \$61.8 million in normal operation expenditures, not including the Medical Reserve Fund and Capital Projects fund. At the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year, the State owed the District approximately \$680,000, and State payment uncertainty is again factored into the District's 2015-16 budget.

View the 2015-16 tentative budget online at www.dg58.org. A budget hearing will take place Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Longfellow Center, 1435 Prairie Ave.

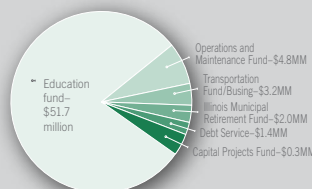
Where the money comes from:

Revenues by source



Where the money goes:

Expenditures



For more information about District 58's budget and finances, visit www.dg58.org.



District continues facility improvements

REASON 39: Facility projects make District 58 an even safer place to learn.

When school lets out, District 58 crews swoop in! During the summertime, crews complete key renovations to ensure the District is an even safer and healthier environment to learn.

"The summer is our chance to accomplish the major projects that greatly improve how our school buildings look and operate," said Rick Bubula, director of buildings and grounds. "Thanks to the school board and our residents for the resources to make these upgrades happen."

In summer 2014, crews completed different types of renovations at each school. These improvements included installing new fire alarm systems, kitchen fire doors, rooftop HVAC units, boilers, gym ventilation units, classroom unit heaters and an outdoor learning space. Crews also replaced carpet, painted, repaired asphalt and completed miscellaneous summer repairs.

Crews continued the momentum this summer, with a variety of new projects, including:

- Asphalt at O'Neill
- Flooring at Belle Aire and El Sierra
- Playground safety—Swing replacement and border improvements at Belle Aire, Highland and Lester
- Optional Kindergarten Enrichment and Enhancement Program preparations at El Sierra, Henry Puffer, Highland, Indian Trail and Kingsley
- Miscellaneous interior painting at 10 schools
- Ten-Year Life Safety Surveys at 12 schools

District 58 has invested more than \$23 million over the last seven years to improve its buildings for years to come.

Education Foundation celebrates another successful year

REASON 40: Thanks to its many successful fundraisers, the Education Foundation donated \$28,000 to the District's grants program and supported several other District programs and events.



District 58 staff huddle for a pep talk before playing against the Harlem Wizards in February.

The Education Foundation of Downers Grove School District 58 enjoyed another successful year of fundraising and supporting District 58 students!

The Foundation funded 16 grants totaling \$28,000 to support teachers who have a good idea with a solid plan, but lack funding. This year's grants paid for several classroom libraries, creative technology that teaches students coding skills, innovative engineering/makerspace tools, world music instruments and much more.

"The Education Foundation's grant program provides teachers an excellent opportunity to brainstorm innovative ideas to enhance their students' education and gives them the tools needed to make their ideas a reality," said Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli. "On behalf of all teachers and students who benefit from this grant program, I thank the Education Foundation for their continued generosity and support."

The Education Foundation is an independent non-profit corporation, established in 2002 to obtain and distribute financial and other resources for the enhancement of education in District 58. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated more than \$500,000 to support District 58 schools.

The Foundation also sponsors the Select 58 awards honoring eighth graders for service; the Distinguished Service Awards for staff; Sneak Preview for incoming seventh graders; and the annual new teacher welcome luncheon. This year they also

helped support The Reading Games competition for students and the winter SAMri Teacher Camp.

The Foundation raises money through a variety of fun fundraisers. This year was very successful! They kicked off the year with its first ever Oktoberfest in downtown Downers Grove. They hosted a family-favorite Harlem Wizards basketball game at Downers Grove South in February and a Poi Dog Pondering Concert at the Tivoli Theatre in April.



Pierce Downer students learn how to code using technology purchased with an Education Foundation grant.

Finally, the Foundation leads the Green Apple Teacher/Staff Recognition Program, which invites families to make a donation to the Education Foundation in honor of a special District 58 teacher or staff member. In exchange, that teacher or staff member will receive a custom Green Apple card with a message from the sender delivered by Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli and/or the building principal.

The Education Foundation thanks the District 58 community for their support and wishes everyone a successful 2015-16 school year. Save the date! The second annual Oktoberfest will take place Sept. 12!



Learn more about the Education Foundation at www.58foundation.org.

58 Doing Good highlights the District's many service projects

District 58 teaches more than academics—it also instills a sense of volunteerism and compassion in its students, recognizing the importance of teaching children to be good stewards at a young age.

The District's students and schools complete an impressive variety of charity fundraisers and volunteer work each year. 58 Doing Good offers just a slice of the many good deeds the District accomplished.

Be sure to flip to the back cover of this report to learn how **(REASON 57)** Hillcrest fifth graders inspired the community to donate more than \$15,000 to build a well in South Sudan, an area lacking reliable access to clean water.

Read below for other great examples of the wonderful service work our families and staff complete, or visit www.dg58.org/58-Doing-Good.

REASON 41: District 58 donated more than \$55,000 to the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Program.

REASON 42: District schools donated more than \$5,000 for ALS research during August's ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. View a fun video by scanning this QR code.



REASON 43: After studying world hunger, Belle Aire students started a food drive and donated 1,118 food items to three local food pantries.

REASON 44: Lester's Stuck on Giving fundraiser raised \$1,023 to help local families have a happy Thanksgiving. Students could "buy" pieces of duct tape for \$1. Then, they duct taped PE teacher Mr. Donnelly to the wall!

REASON 45: Indian Trail students made and sold bracelets to raise money for the Jackson Chance Foundation. This organization helps families with children in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

REASON 46: Highland hosted a Pasta for Pennies fundraiser that netted more than \$3,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

REASON 47: Pierce Downer donated 3,022 books to the Bernie Book Bank, which distributes books to Chicagoland children in need.

REASON 48: In December, El Sierra hosted many charitable projects: an adopt-a-family program, an employee giving tree, a mitten tree, a coat drive and a food drive. These efforts helped El Sierra families in need enjoy the holidays and keep warm. In addition, students knotted blankets and donated them to the homeless.

REASON 49: After a tornado devastated Rochelle, Ill., on April 9, 2015, the Whittier Student Council started a tornado relief campaign. In two days, they raised several hundred dollars!

REASON 50: Fairmount participated in the Walk the Walk for Autism this spring, raising more than \$5,400 for the Charlie's Gift Center for Autism and Related Disorders.

REASON 51: O'Neill students collected more than 1,000 food items for the Downers Grove FISH Food Pantry during its fall food drive.

REASON 52: Henry Puffer's Student Council's spring walk/run raised \$1,200 to support childhood cancer research via the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

REASON 53: Kingsley hosted a spring charity walk that raised more than \$3,900 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

REASON 54: The Hillcrest Student Council raised \$8,000 during its spring fundraiser to support Hillcrest's future all-inclusive playground.

REASON 55: After she returned from a Haiti mission trip, Herrick eighth grader Mia Marconi inspired her entire school to donate \$2,000 to Compassion International's Bite Back campaign, which funds mosquito nets and malaria treatment for Haitians.



District 58 Administration updates and information

REASON 56: District 58 celebrates its new administrative hires and recent retirees.



Please extend a warm welcome to our new administrators! **Michelle Rzepka** is the new principal at Hillcrest School, and **Jackelyn Cadard** is the new preschool coordinator at Grove Children's Preschool. We are proud to have them on our team!

Congratulations 2014-15 retirees: **Steve Boughton, Leslie Brouillet, Tianna Kurko, Brad Patterson, Lynn Putz, Paul Sheber, Tom Sheber, Kathleen Tice, Gloria Tatar** and **Paula Thomas**.

The District 58 Board of Education

John Cooper, President
Doug Purcell, Vice President
Roberta Diehl

Sallie Lupescu
John Miller

James Paul
Elizabeth Sigale

Visit www.dg58.org and select "School Board" to learn more.

District 58 at a glance

Downers Grove Grade District 58 serves approximately 5,000 preschool through eighth grade students from Downers Grove and portions of Darien, Oak Brook, Westmont and Woodridge, in its 11 elementary schools and two middle schools.

Schools of District 58

Belle Aire School 3935 Belle Aire Lane 630-719-5820	Henry Puffer School 2220 Haddow Ave. 630-968-0294	Hillcrest School 1435 Jefferson Ave. 630-719-5840	Lester School 236 Indianapolis Ave. 630-719-5855	Whittier School 536 Hill St. 630-719-5865
El Sierra School 6835 Fairmount Ave. 630-719-5825	Herrick Middle School 4435 Middaugh Ave. 630-719-5810	Indian Trail School 6235 Stonewall Ave. 630-719-5845	O'Neill Middle School 635 59th St. 630-719-5815	
Fairmount School 6036 Blodgett Ave. 630-719-5830	Highland School 3935 Highland Ave. 630-719-5835	Kingsley School 6509 Powell St. 630-719-5850	Pierce Downer School 1436 Grant St. 630-719-5860	

Administrative Service Center (general administration)

1860 63rd St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-719-5800

Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent
Dr. Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
Jessica Stewart, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
Dr. James Popernik, Controller
Lorie Pilster, Director of Business Services
Megan Hewitt, Community Relations Coordinator

Longfellow Center (technology, buildings and grounds)

1435 Prairie Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-719-5867

Dr. Matt Rich, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
James Eichmiller, Director of Innovative Technology and Learning
Rick Bubula, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Ken Young, Supervisor of Maintenance

The District's Grove Children's Preschool is housed at Indian Trail and Henry Puffer schools. Learn more at www.dg58.org/preschool.



1860 63rd Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
www.dg58.org | 630.719.5800

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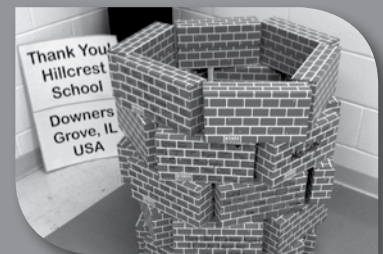
58 reasons to celebrate

Thank you for a very dynamic school year, District 58 friends and families! This 2014-15 Annual Report to the Community features 58 success stories. For example:

REASON 57 Last fall, Hillcrest fifth graders set a lofty classroom goal: to raise \$15,000 to build a well in South Sudan, an area that lacks access to clean water.

The Hillcrest community rallied together, gathering support from other District 58 families and the Downers Grove community/local businesses. Hillcrest fifth graders even led an evening community assembly explaining the significance of their fundraiser. Assembly guests included Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Board President Sallie Lupescu and Mayor Martin Tully.

By the end of April, they amazingly reached their goal—and then some—**raising nearly \$16,000 for the nonprofit organization Water for South Sudan**. The organization recently shared that the Hillcrest School Well will be built during South Sudan's next drilling season, which begins in December. Thank you for your generosity!



More than 600 students champion The Reading Games

REASON 58 The second annual The Reading Games was bigger and better than ever! More than 600 third-through-eighth graders shared their excitement for reading and knowledge of books at The Reading Games this March. The students formed teams in the fall, read 15 books, and then competed against other teams to correctly answer questions about the books.

Scan this QR code to view a video of the excitement! Mark your calendar for the next The Reading Games—it will take place March 12, 2016. Visit www.dg58.org/TheReadingGames for more information.



We hope you find this annual publication to be informative and useful, and we welcome your feedback. If you have a question about this or any other publication, please

contact Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt at mhewitt@dg58.org or **630-719-5805**.