



DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.


2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Superintendent's Greeting

Dear District 58 Community,

As we prepare to start a new school year, I want to thank you for your partnership. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges, the District 58 community stuck together and prioritized our students and staff. Moving forward, we will continue to place the students and staff at the forefront of all decisions. I am extremely proud of the work our school district accomplished this past year, including:



- Engaging the community on District 58's facility needs and using their input to inform a facility recommendation to the Board
- Receiving the Board of Education's approval to pursue a referendum regarding the District's facilities in November 2022
- Earning the State's highest financial recognition award for the 20th straight year
- Adopting new curriculum resources and programs
- Developing new key performance indicators for student achievement and growth
- Hiring staff members during a historic teacher/support staff shortage
- Increasing the District's special services
- Making building improvements (playgrounds, flooring, roofing, masonry, etc.)
- Transitioning to a temporary administrative center and forming a long-term partnership with the Village of Downers Grove on a shared space

I want to thank each of you for your support and engagement, and I look forward to another great school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin B. Russell
District 58 Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

The District 58 Board of Education holds monthly public business meetings, typically on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Downers Grove Village Hall or a District facility. Access information about the Board's meeting agendas, committees, policies, meeting minutes and more by visiting www.dg58.org and selecting the "School Board" tab. Contact the Board, via Secretary Melissa Jerves, at 630-719-5803 or boe@dg58.org.



The District 58 Board of Education, from left to right: Kirat Doshi, Melissa Ellis, Tracy Weiner, Vice President Gregory Harris, Emily Hanus, Steven Olczyk and President Darren Hughes

About District 58

MISSION

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational 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.

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.

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.

Strategic Plan

In 2018, District 58 developed a Strategic Plan in partnership with staff, parents and community members. The Strategic Plan clearly lays out three specific goals, along with objectives and strategies to achieve them. District 58 leaders present quarterly Strategic Plan progress updates to the Board of Education to provide transparency and accountability.

- GOAL 1 Focusing On Learning**
Enhance and support learning to meet the needs of all students.
- GOAL 2 Connecting the Community**
Cultivate and strengthen community relationships by focusing on communication, collaboration and consistency.
- GOAL 3 Securing the Future**
Provide safe and effective learning environments in fiscally-responsible ways.

Learn more about the Strategic Plan at www.dg58.org/strategic-plan. Follow District 58's progress by visiting the Dashboard at www.dg58.org/strategic-plan-dashboard.



LEARNING BY THE NUMBERS

Students in grades K-8 take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Every grade level's median achievement ranged within the below percentiles, when compared to the more than 7,800 schools nationwide that take this test.

**76th – 94th
PERCENTILE**
DISTRICT 58 GRADE LEVEL
ACHIEVEMENT RANGES IN READING

**76th – 97th
PERCENTILE**
DISTRICT 58 GRADE LEVEL
ACHIEVEMENT RANGES IN MATH

Source: Spring 2022 MAP assessment

18
AVERAGE NUMBER OF
STUDENTS PER
CLASSROOM

Source: Illinois Report Card

1:1
STUDENT DEVICE
RATIO

68%
PERCENTAGE OF
DISTRICT 58 STUDENTS
WHO TAKE AT LEAST ONE HIGH
SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE WHILE IN
EIGHTH GRADE

Source: District records

GOAL 1 Focusing On Learning

Enhance and Support Learning to Meet the Needs of All Students

District 58 Proactively Addresses Unfinished Learning and Social-Emotional Needs

Students nationwide experienced unfinished learning and increased social-emotional needs related to COVID-19 disruptions, and District 58 was no exception. District 58 anticipated these needs and proactively prepared to address them. The federal government allocated approximately \$3 million in pandemic funding for District 58, distributed over four years (2020-2024). While some of this funding was used for personal protective equipment and resources that promote social distancing, District 58 also allocated a large portion for unfinished learning. Thanks to this funding, District 58 supported students during the transition back to full-day in-person learning and minimized the effect of unfinished learning.

For example, during the summers of 2021 and 2022, District 58 offered specialized, free instructional programs designed specifically for students who experienced pandemic-related unfinished learning. This program was offered in addition to the District's regular summer programming. District 58 also increased its interventionist staffing and used a data-driven approach to help students with unfinished learning during the school year, and slightly increased its social worker, psychologist and counselor staffing to address students' social-emotional needs.

This work is paying off. District 58 students take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress assessment three times per year. **While the fall 2021 results showed lower-than-typical achievement, the spring 2022 results found that students had largely caught up to where they typically performed pre-pandemic.**

District Considers Offering Full-Day Kindergarten in Fall 2023

District 58 currently offers a free, morning half-day kindergarten program that covers the entire traditional kindergarten curriculum. In the afternoon, the District provides a tuition-based optional kindergarten enrichment program.

The District's five-year financial plan has projected that District 58 will be able to offer a free full-day kindergarten program starting in the 2023-24 school year. However, District 58's ability to provide universal full-day kindergarten is contingent on passing the District's facility bond referendum (see pages 10-11). The cost to increase District 58's kindergarten program from half-day to full-day is \$1.3 million per year. If District 58 does not pass a bond referendum, operational dollars will be needed to help improve and maintain school buildings instead of expanding programs. Visit www.dg58.org/kindergarten for kindergarten resources and updates.



Curriculum Updates for 2022–23

New Curriculum Adoptions

Last spring, the District 58 Board of Education approved the **Savvas myWorld** social studies curriculum resource for grades K–5 for implementation in fall 2022. The District’s Grade K–5 Social Studies Committee piloted and recommended this new resource, and it aligns with the State’s Social Science Learning standards and follows an inquiry-based instructional model. This new resource completes District 58’s social studies curriculum update, as the District incorporated the National Geographic social studies resource for grades 6–8 in fall 2021.

The Board also approved the **Quaver music curriculum** for grades K–6, with resources also available for middle school music students. District 58’s elementary music teachers incorporated various Quaver resources into their music curriculum over the past two years. They reported very positive experiences with this resource and recommended the full implementation.

After a formal review of best instructional practices in writing and available writing resources, select District 58 teachers will pilot **two new writing curriculum resources** this school year, with the goal of aligning their experience with the work of the newly-formed English-Language Arts Committee.

Two-Way Dual Language Program

District 58 has offered a one-way dual language program for native Spanish speakers since 2014. This fall, District 58 will proudly open a two-way dual language program for kindergarteners. The program will be housed at El Sierra and for the first time comprise both native English and Spanish speakers. The program will grow by one grade level every school year.

District 58’s Dual Language Committee recommended a two-way dual language program after completing extensive research, meeting with dual language experts and seeking community feedback. Research shows that students who participate in two-way dual language programs learn two languages, actively participate in multiple cultures, and have higher levels of reading achievement than peers who are not in such a program.

Middle School Schedule Enhancements

This school year, middle schoolers will gain time to access instructional supports without any major impacts to the school day, thanks to the creation of the middle school Student Advisory Period and the Student Support Period.

The new **Student Advisory Period** is a 15-minute period at the start of the school day (Tuesday–Friday), and will include school announcements, executive functioning supports, school-day preparation and more. On Mondays, the Student Advisory Period will be the existing 25-minute social-emotional learning instruction time, which is already embedded into the current middle school schedule.

Middle school students currently have a split lunch/homebase period in the middle of the day. Homebase historically has served as a study hall period. The new **Student Support Period** would replace homebase and give many students dedicated time to access interventions, social-emotional groups, enrichment activities and other supports, while others may continue to use it as a study hall.

Strategic Data Use to Inform Improvements

District 58 partnered with ECRA, an education strategic planning firm, to better use data to drive improvements, keep accountable and provide greater transparency. For example, this upcoming school year District 58 will work with ECRA to more deeply analyze assessment data to inform strategic school and district improvement plans, particularly related to academic proficiency and academic growth. This work will be publicly shared at Board meetings throughout the school year.



CURRICULUM

TIMELINE

As guided by the Strategic Plan, District 58’s Curriculum Council developed a curriculum timeline to ensure District 58 continues to provide up-to-date curricular resources to its students. Here’s a look at our recent curriculum updates:

Fall 2018 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS ADOPTION

Fall 2019 SCIENCE ADOPTION

Fall 2020 MATH ADOPTION

Fall 2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES ADOPTION

Fall 2022 ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES ADOPTION / WRITING PILOT / ENGLISH- LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM REVIEW BEGINS

Fall 2024 SCIENCE CURRICULUM REVIEW BEGINS

Fall 2026 MATH CURRICULUM REVIEW BEGINS

COMMUNICATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

177,595

UNIQUE VISITORS
TO WWW.DG58.ORG DURING
2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

8,926

COMMUNICATE 58
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

66% average
COMMUNICATE 58
OPEN RATE

(double the industry average)

4,627

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

3,059

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

1,380

YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS

COMMUNICATION AWARDS

The National School Public Relations Association, or NSPRA, recognized District 58 with three communication awards in summer 2022. Its Illinois chapter, INSPRA, presented District 58 with two awards in fall 2021.

NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- 2021 District 58 Annual Report
- Communicate 58 Newsletter

An "Award of Excellence" is NSPRA's highest award level, and only a small number of school districts nationwide earn it.

NATIONAL HONORABLE MENTION

District 58's Facility Planning Video Series

STATE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Communicate 58 Newsletter

STATE AWARD OF MERIT

58 Connects Staff Newsletter

GOAL 2

Connecting the Community

Cultivate and Strengthen Community Relationships by Focusing on Communication, Collaboration and Consistency

Up to Date with District 58

District 58 invites the community to keep informed on school district news and updates beyond this Annual Report publication. Here are a few ways to keep connected.

Newsletters

Subscribe to Communicate 58 at tinyurl.com/communicate58. This biweekly newsletter comes out on Wednesdays during the school year and summarizes District news. Visit www.dg58.org/school-board/board-briefs to read the Board Briefs, which comes out after each School Board meeting and highlights Board meeting decisions and discussion points.

Website

Visit www.dg58.org to learn more about District 58. Either navigate the topic dropdown menus or use the search engine in the top right corner to directly access information.

Social Media

District 58 posts news, information and celebrations on Facebook and Twitter, and School Board meetings and other videos on YouTube.



www.facebook.com/district58



www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58
#dg58learns #dg58pride



www.youtube.com/DownersGrove58

District 58 Involves Community in Decision-Making

District 58 values community input, and annually provides opportunities for residents to join committees, attend meetings, complete surveys and more. Want to get involved? Here are some options!

Contact a Staff Member

District 58 encourages stakeholders to provide feedback to the individual closest to their feedback topic. Visit www.dg58.org/about/staff-directory to access the school staff directory and www.dg58.org/about/district-offices-and-contacts to access district contacts. Community members may also email the School Board at boe@dg58.org or voice a public comment at a School Board meeting.

Join a Committee or Group

Each fall, District 58 recruits new members for its District and Board committees. Membership varies by group, but there are often openings for parents, staff and community members without children in the district! Committee members have opportunities to learn about different District 58 issues and directly provide input to inform decisions. Recruitment information will be emailed to current families and staff, and shared on the website, newsletter and social media for the broader community.

Attend Community Meetings

District 58 periodically hosts community meetings to inform residents and gain their input on a variety of issues. For example, in winter 2022, District 58 hosted a series of facility meetings that featured school tours, a presentation and a Q&A session. District 58 anticipates additional facility community meetings this fall. The schedule will be posted at www.dg58.org.

Complete a Survey

District 58 frequently surveys the community to gather feedback and inform critical decisions. Family and staff surveys are typically communicated via direct email, while broader community surveys are advertised through the website, newsletter and social media. View recent survey results at www.dg58.org/surveys.

District 58 Values Its Partnerships

District 58 is proud to partner with several local groups in support of our students. Here are just a few of the many partnerships we have.

Education Foundation

The Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58 is a nonprofit that supports District 58. The Foundation opened the school year with Sneak Preview, a program that helps incoming seventh graders transition to middle school, as well as the New Teacher Luncheon, an event that introduces new teachers to community partners. In the fall, the Foundation awarded over \$11,000 in teacher grants that supported student learning. In the spring, they sponsored the Select 58 and the Distinguished Service award programs and supported The Reading Games. The Foundation also partnered with Ukrainian-owned Downers Grove business Precision Circuits, the Village of Downers Grove and several local businesses to hold a Ukrainian humanitarian aid fundraiser.

The Education Foundation receives support through a variety of fundraisers, sponsors and individual donations. This past year, the Foundation partnered with the Rotary Club and Roadrunners Soccer Club to host the Grove Express 5K, the Thanksgiving race that replaced the long-running Bonfield Express 5K. In addition, after a one-year hiatus, the Foundation brought back its Oktoberfest fundraiser in September and continued its Green Apple program. The Education Foundation sincerely thanks the community for their continued support!

Save the Date: Oktoberfest will take place Sept. 16–17 in downtown Downers Grove. The Foundation is currently seeking sponsors to help support the festival. Learn more about Oktoberfest and the Education Foundation at www.58foundation.net.

Community Vaccine Clinic

District 58 partnered with Kodocare Pharmacy, District 99 and District 99’s other feeder districts to host community vaccine clinics in fall 2021. These clinics were open to the public and provided youth and adult COVID-19 vaccines, COVID-19 boosters and flu shots. The clinics were very well attended, and District 58 is proud to have helped support this initiative!

Helping Families in Need

District 58 thanks the many community groups and individuals who supported our students and families in need this school year!

Throughout the school year, **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK** provided weekend meals for 145 children facing food insecurity.

During summer 2021, **COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** donated more than 75 backpacks, filled with complete school supply sets for a variety of grade levels. In addition, the **EM5 FLY HIGH FOUNDATION, THE KIM MOUSTIS GROUP, ACCESSO SERVICES, GLOBALTRANZ,** and several **independent residents** also donated school supplies.

In fall 2021, District 58 started **HELPING HANDS**, a database of community members who are willing to be contacted when a need arises, on a no-obligation basis. This school year, Helping Hands provided more than 100 donations, such as clothing, food and gift cards for basic essentials. The donations helped many students and families in difficult circumstances, such as a family who lost their home to a fire and families who were narrowly avoiding homelessness. Want to join? Sign up at tinyurl.com/HelpingHandsD58.

In the fall and winter, District 58 benefited from the generosity of many groups. For example:

- **THE DOWNERS GROVE JUNIOR WOMAN’S CLUB** partnered with local restaurants and businesses to provide Thanksgiving meals to several families in need and partnered with the Woodridge Target to procure holiday gifts and gift cards for holiday decorations.
- The **DOWNERS GROVE ROADRUNNERS SOCCER CLUB** donated holiday gifts for 67 children.
- The **ST. JOSEPH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** donated 47 winter coats, as well as holiday gifts for 18 children.
- **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH** provided winterwear for approximately 15 students.
- The **DOWNERS GROVE LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE LODGE** donated three large boxes filled with hats, gloves and scarves.
- **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** provided 42 Thanksgiving and 50 winter holiday meal packs. Each meal pack fed a family of six.
- The **EM5 FLY HIGH FOUNDATION** donated \$1,250 in gift cards for O’Neill families in need.
- **CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE** donated 30 hand-knit scarves.



Sneak Preview, a seventh grade transition event



New Teacher Luncheon with community partners



The Select 58 Awards Ceremony for eighth graders



Grove Express 5K on Thanksgiving



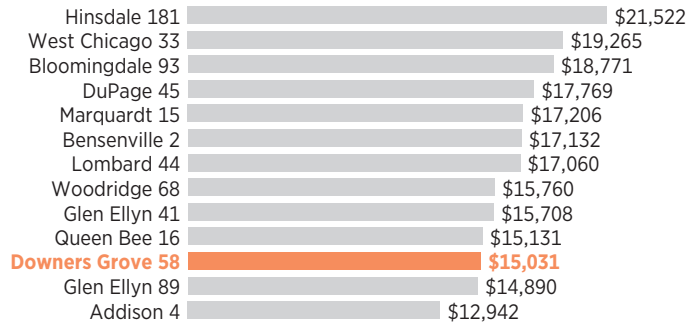
Oktoberfest, an Education Foundation fundraiser

GOAL 3 Securing the Future

Provide Safe and Effective Learning Environments in Fiscally-Responsible Ways

District 58 Spending Per Student

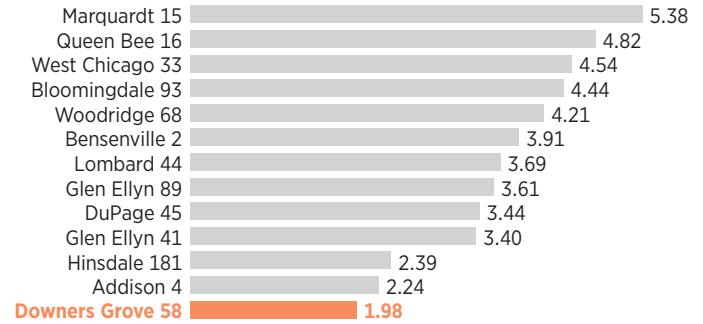
Comparison with benchmark school districts



Source: ISBE's 2021 Operating Expense Per Pupil Report

District 58 Property Tax Rates

Comparison with benchmark school districts



Source: 2021 DuPage County Tax Rate Booklet

What Difference Does Per Student Spending Make?

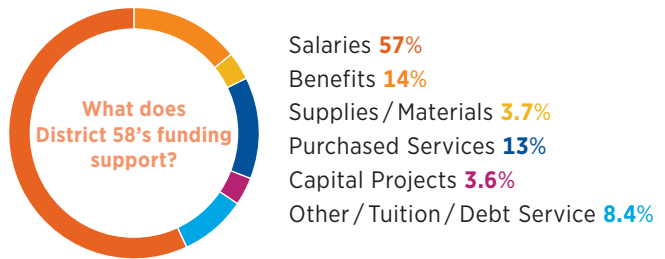
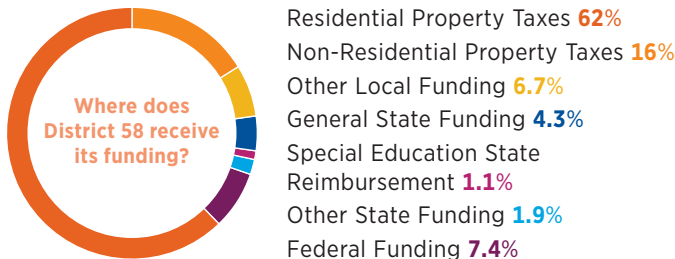
Consider if District 58 spent **\$6,491** more per student per year, or the equivalent spending at nearby Hinsdale District 181. Multiplied by our enrollment, District 58 would have **an additional \$31.8 million** to spend per year. That's **more than 40%** of the District's current budget.

What Makes District 58's Property Tax Rate Significant?

If your home's fair market value was \$300,000, you would pay **\$1,980** in taxes to District 58 each year. Meanwhile, if you owned a similarly-valued home in nearby Woodridge District 68, you would pay **\$4,210** in taxes to that district each year.

District 58 Revenue and Expenses

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding



Source: 2021-22 District 58 budget (prior to audit adjustment)

FINANCE BY THE NUMBERS

DISTRICT 58 EARNED THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S HIGHEST FINANCIAL STRENGTH RATING FOR

20 straight years

DISTRICT 58 HAS THE **lowest property tax rate**

AMONG ALL DUPAGE COUNTY LARGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 58 SPENDS

\$15,031 per student,

which is

\$966 less than

THE STATE AVERAGE

Locally, 76%

OF DUPAGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS SPEND MORE MONEY PER STUDENT THAN DISTRICT 58

TEACHER SALARIES ARE

competitive

WITH SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, and

ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES

only comprise 2.2%

OF DISTRICT 58'S BUDGET, which is

less than 90%

OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ILLINOIS



This rendering depicts the future Downers Grove Civic Center, a shared office space for District 58, the Village of Downers Grove and the Downers Grove Police Department.

District 58 Partners With The Village on a Shared Administrative Space

District 58 has historically operated two administration buildings: the Administrative Service Center (ASC) on 63rd Street and the Longfellow Center on Prairie Avenue. Last school year, the District sold the Longfellow property for \$4.155 million (well above the minimum bid price of \$3 million), moved its administrative staff to temporary leased space on Warrenville Road, and entered a partnership with the Village of Downers Grove on a permanent shared office building. The District also repurposed the existing ASC as a maintenance center and storage facility; the building's layout allows large orders to be delivered and sorted much more quickly than before. The above actions will save taxpayers millions of dollars while helping District 58 run more efficiently.

District 58 has discussed Longfellow's future for decades. The building had a 10-year roof replacement in 2012 with the understanding that the District would soon find a more long-term solution. During this period, the District only invested minimal maintenance into Longfellow. If District 58 had decided to permanently keep and maintain the building, it would have required significant work. **Deferred maintenance alone would have cost an estimated \$2.32 million; to fully renovate the building would have cost approximately \$6.39 million.**

The future Downers Grove Civic Center will house District 58, Downers Grove Village Hall and the Downers Grove Police Department. The center will be built where the current Village Hall's parking lot is located. The Village will own the property, and District 58 will sign a 50-year lease. District 58 will pay the construction costs for only the additional square footage and parking required to accommodate District staff. The payment, which will be **\$48,700/year**, will be stretched over a 25-year period without an increase over that time. For the following 25 years, the lease payment will be halved (**\$24,350/year**) to cover building maintenance and upkeep. **The combined use of resources will have significant long-term savings for the community.**

In the meantime, District 58 allocated **\$3 million** of Longfellow's proceeds to fund its highest priority facility projects, which include: masonry remediation at El Sierra, Highland and Kingsley; asbestos abatement and flooring replacement at Henry Puffer; fire alarm replacement at Henry Puffer and Highland; paving improvements at Henry Puffer and Hillcrest; and door replacement at Fairmount. The majority of these projects were completed in summer 2022. The remaining proceeds were placed in a fund balance to help manage the low cash point in the year and, if needed, for emergency capital work.

Furthermore, District 58 may **gain an additional \$100,000 per year** from new property taxes. A developer purchased the Longfellow property and is building 12 homes on the property. These additions to the property tax base will bring in additional operating property tax revenue for all local taxing bodies, including the library, park district and both school districts.

State Provides Nearly \$1.5 Million for District 58 Playground Improvements

New State of Illinois funding will help District 58 ensure that all of its elementary school playgrounds are updated, improved and accessible for students. Gov. JB Pritzker signed a capital projects bill, House Bill 62, into law in 2019. Thanks to Rep. Anne Stava-Murray's advocacy, this bill included nearly \$1.5 million for playground improvements at several District 58 elementary schools.

Last year, District 58 received the first disbursement of this funding, which helped build El Sierra School's new playground. Recently, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity informed District 58 that it had approved a second funding disbursement, totaling \$1,171,200 for an additional seven schools. A third disbursement of \$137,200 for two more schools is still planned for the future. District 58 is combining State and District funds with PTA and community group contributions to ensure all District 58 playgrounds achieve an appropriate standard. Learn more at www.dg58.org/playground-funding.



A State grant for \$180,000 helped build El Sierra School's new playground in 2021.

A Closer Look at District 58's Referendum

The District 58 Board of Education unanimously voted to support adding a \$179 million facility bond referendum measure to the Nov. 8, 2022 election. If the referendum passes, the money would be used to fund maintenance projects; health, safety and security upgrades; and the expansion of the two middle schools to allow for the addition of sixth-grade students. The estimated annual tax impact of the \$179 million bond measure is \$253 for a \$300,000 home, financed over a 20-year period.

District 58 has significant facility needs. Illinois's school funding model is designed to provide schools with the funds needed for regular operations; school districts, especially tax-capped districts like District 58, do not have the capacity to save money for large facility projects. School districts rely on community support through referendums to raise sufficient funding for large capital projects. If the referendum is successful, District 58 will complete the following work:

Maintenance: Capital Repairs and Upgrades (\$58.6 million)



- **Replace old HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems** that would extend the life of District 58's schools, reduce costly repairs and improve energy efficiency. For instance, mechanical failures have caused multiple water line leaks, **like the one pictured to the left**, requiring emergency crews to work overtime on repairs. Due to their quick work, the mechanical failures did not shut any schools down. But, without system replacements, these emergencies will continue.
- Complete important life and safety repairs, such as **adding ADA signage, and replacing outdated fire alarms, intercom systems, bleachers** and more.
- **Replace roofs and building envelopes** to ensure District 58's schools can continue to serve students for years to come.

Health, Safety and Security (\$67.6 million)



- **Create more secure entrances**, where visitors can be properly screened. District 58 keeps its schools locked. However, in many schools, when visitors enter, they have immediate access to the entire building, **as pictured to the left**. Building secure vestibules will provide a secure checkpoint where school staff can safely verify and check in all visitors.
- **Add air-conditioning and associated required electrical upgrades, as well as improved ventilation**. District 58 is one of the only DuPage County school districts not fully air-conditioned.

Grade 6-8 Reconfiguration (\$52.8 million)



- **Build additions to the middle schools** to accommodate the inclusion of sixth graders. This would provide the following benefits.
 - **Better access to curriculum:** Sixth graders currently cannot complete the full sixth-grade curriculum outlined in the State's learning standards. For example, elementary schools lack the science labs needed for sixth-grade chemistry, and students complete the labwork that they can do from their classrooms, **as pictured to the left**.
 - **Reducing overcrowding:** Many District 58 elementary schools are crowded, with large class sizes and no separate learning spaces for special classes, like music or art. Moving sixth grade would give elementary schools additional instructional space.
 - **Plus:** Moving sixth grade to the middle school would also improve curriculum alignment, address developmental needs, increase the time between transitions, benefit social-emotional learning, enhance equity, improve math acceleration opportunities, and save operating dollars.

This work would secure and strengthen District 58's neighborhood schools while protecting property values. Research shows that districts that invest in their schools protect the community's property values.¹ To learn more, visit www.dg58.org/facility-planning.

¹ CELLINI, S. R., F. FERREIRA, AND J. ROTHSTEIN (2010): "The Value of School Facility Investments: Evidence from a Dynamic Regression Discontinuity Design," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125, 215-261.



District 58 Takes Proactive Steps to Improve Finances

Before considering a referendum, District 58 completed the following financial action steps to minimize the total referendum ask and to better position the District for future financial success:

- Restructured the small amount of debt it had to capture an **interest rate under 1%**, which District 58 estimates will save taxpayers approximately \$390,000.
- Issued **\$3 million in bonds** for summer 2021 capital work.
- Sold the Longfellow facility for **\$4.155 million** and allocated \$3 million of the proceeds for the **highest priority capital work**. The remaining proceeds were placed in a **fund balance** to help manage the low-cash point in the year and, if needed, for emergency capital work.
- Created a **fund balance policy** to better manage capital funds.
- Developed a **Five-Year Financial Plan** to ensure fiscal stability and transparency.

A Look at Why District 58 Has So Many Facility Needs

District 58 lacks the revenues needed to maintain its schools. Here are some ways District 58 has been limited in its facility spending:

- District 58 **has the lowest property tax rate (1.98)** among all large DuPage elementary school districts. Even if the bond proposal passes, District 58 would **still have the lowest tax rate**.
- District 58 **spends less per student than 76%** of DuPage school districts.
- The State passed at least **218 unfunded mandates** since 1992. This means District 58 had to find money from its existing budget to pay for 218+ new services required by law.
- The State passed a law in 1991 that restricted some school districts, including District 58, to issuing non-referendum debt equal to its 1991 debt level. District 58 had very little debt then. This means that **while many other school districts can borrow large sums of money without seeking voter approval, District 58 cannot**. This limits its ability to fund critical, but costly, facility projects without a referendum.
- Thirty years ago, District 58 voters passed a referendum for school additions. **However, the last time District 58 voters supported a referendum for districtwide facility improvements was in 1950**.

District 58’s most recent referendum attempt in 2007 failed. District 58 respects its taxpayers, and since then, it has done its best to provide students an excellent education while living within its means. The District had to make tough choices, and that meant prioritizing good teachers and strong curriculum over facilities. (In fact, over the past five years, District 58 has updated its curriculum in Math, English-Language Arts, Science and Social Studies, and will pilot a new Writing curriculum next school year.) The District continued to plan long-term for its facilities—this planning was time intensive and involved many community input opportunities; it also got delayed two years by the pandemic.

Learn More About District 58’s Facility Needs

District 58 invites all taxpayers to learn about the District’s facility needs before casting a ballot during the Nov. 8 election. Visit the District’s Facility Planning webpage at www.dg58.org/facility-planning to access the following:

- Overview of District 58’s \$179 million facility referendum
- Upcoming facility community information sessions
- Tax impact chart
- A short video series showing District 58’s facility needs
- The District’s full Master Facility Plan
- Historical information on District 58’s facility planning



FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS

DISTRICT 58’S SCHOOLS RANGE FROM

53-94

YEARS OLD

AND REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT REPAIRS

THE AVERAGE AGE OF A DISTRICT 58 SCHOOL IS

66

DISTRICT 58 MAINTAINS

660,514

SQUARE FEET

and

14

FACILITIES

which include

284

CLASSROOMS

supporting

4,900

STUDENTS

IT’S BEEN

30

YEARS

SINCE THE LAST SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT 58 REFERENDUM, WHICH FUNDED BUILDING ADDITIONS

IT’S BEEN

72

YEARS

SINCE THE LAST REFERENDUM THAT FUNDED FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT ALL SCHOOLS

DISTRICT 58 IS

one of very few

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DUPAGE COUNTY THAT DOES NOT HAVE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED SCHOOLS

DISTRICT 58 IS

one of only 2

SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DUPAGE COUNTY WITH A GRADE 7-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL — MOST SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE GRADES 6-8 TOGETHER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Celebrations

Belle Aire



WOW! What a fantastic time! Belle Aire held a back-to-school party, and it was great to see the students laughing, smiling and having a good time. It was also a great opportunity to welcome our new families, connect with our established families, and come

together as a community. Prior to the event, the Belle Aire staff visited the neighborhood, gave a cheerful welcome to our new students, and left them with a school yard sign.

El Sierra



El Sierra was thrilled to have family events back at school this year! Families enjoyed our Donuts with Santa, Open House, and our Ice Cream Social (pictured). We love these opportunities to build community at El Sierra!

Fairmount



The Student Advisory Council at Fairmount School started and ended the year by bringing "JOY" to Fairmount staff and students. This student-led group met monthly with the principal and supported District 58's focus on positive psychology by

"joy bombing" the Teacher Institute Day back in August. To culminate the school year, Student Advisory members delivered "HAPPY" spirit sticks to each student at Fairmount. We are proud of these student leaders and our school community for "Choosing Happy" at Fairmount this year.

Grove Children's Preschool



Grove Children's Preschool had its first in-house field trip in two years with a visit from Cosley Zoo. We were able to see and touch a lizard, a millipede and a hedgehog and learn facts about them too. It was a fun and educational experience for everyone!

Henry Puffer



Henry Puffer's PTA purchased a Gaga Ball Pit for students this year. Students have enjoyed recess so much more because of this new playground feature! They continue to learn about sportsmanship and being team players.

Herrick



The musical was back at Herrick this year! "Broadway Hits" was a compilation of various songs from different Broadway musicals. The students and staff created a wonderful production that reintroduced the musical to Herrick. We are so proud of the Spartans

who participated onstage and backstage!

Highland



Highland was excited to bring back our monthly All-School Meetings (school assembly) to celebrate our students and staff! New to our assemblies this year, grade level representatives had the opportunity to compete in Minute-to-Win-it games to take home the champion belt!

Hillcrest



We were so excited to bring back the "Hillcrest Families" initiative in November. Our monthly family meetings are used as an extension of our school-wide SEL lessons. The focus is on team building, gratitude, character development, awareness, acceptance

and positive social interactions.

Indian Trail



together to teach, love and inspire!

Indian Trail happily hosted Community Day this year after months of not being able to do so due to COVID-19. Volunteers shared their talents and students were able to sign up for a variety of sessions. It was wonderful to see our community coming

Kingsley



Kingsley School Student Council was excited to focus on ways to give back to the community this year! We raised funds for Habitat for Humanity and collected donations for a local food pantry.

Lester



Lester students chose to be happy and thankful! Through a fundraiser hosted by the Student Council, students purchased "Gratitude Grams." These notes were shared with students and staff to spread kindness and positivity. Through this effort, the

Lester Student Council raised over \$2,000 that was donated directly to support local Lester families during the holidays. #LEChoosesHappy

O'Neill



O'Neill held the annual Raise Craze fundraiser and collected a record-shattering nearly \$23,000, and our students completed almost 4,000 acts of kindness. The money raised helped fund the seventh and eighth grade trips, purchased standing desks for

classrooms, supported refurbishing the O'Neill marquee, and many smaller projects.

Pierce Downer



This year, Pierce Downer School was excited to welcome back one of its favorite Annual Events, The Fun Run! This event is made possible through partnerships among the Pierce Downer PTA, the school staff, the community and the Downers Grove Police Department. This year, the Fun Run was held before the end-of-year celebration that allowed runners to work hard during the one-mile course, and then go celebrate with games, music, crafts, food and friends!

Whittier



Whittier fifth graders brought back service learning this year with our Cereal Box Project. All students and staff participated under the coordination of our fifth graders and parent volunteer, Christie Nutt. Students and staff donated over 350 boxes

of cereal. Boxes were set up and the domino run occurred down the hallway. Boxes were then loaded into West Suburban Community Pantry and FISH vans for distribution. Great fun!

Staff Spotlight

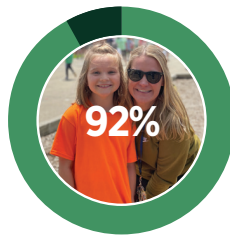
The Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58 awarded District 58 Technology Technician **Todd Cherney** and Whittier Fifth Grade Teacher **Cheryl Lyons** with the 2022 Distinguished Service Award. Thirty-five individual staff members and one group also earned nominations for this prestigious award.

The Downers Grove Elementary Education Association named Pierce Downer Physical Education Teacher **Mary French** the 2022 Teacher of the Year. District 58 staff members **Jo Callaghan, Lisa Garbis, Katie Hurckes, Katie Main, Mallory Poe** and **Michelle McGarry** were nominated for the award.

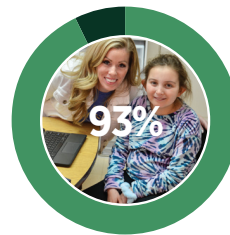
The Downers Grove Fire Department presented the 2022 Chief's Award to District 58 Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds **Geoff Neustadt**.

District 58 celebrated 17 staff members who retired during the 2021–22 school year. This group provided District 58 with a combined 329 years of service! View a list of retirees at www.dg58.org/retirees22.

The data below illustrates the **percentage of parents who answered "Always" or "Usually"** to the following statements on **District 58's 2022 school environment survey**.



"MY CHILD IS CARED FOR BY THE ADULTS AT SCHOOL."



"I HAVE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY CHILD'S TEACHER(S)."



"ADULTS AT THIS SCHOOL BELIEVE THAT MY CHILD CAN BE A SUCCESS."

STAFF

BY THE NUMBERS

640
STAFF MEMBERS
(nearly half live in Downers Grove!)

10
YEARS AVERAGE
DISTRICT 58 TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

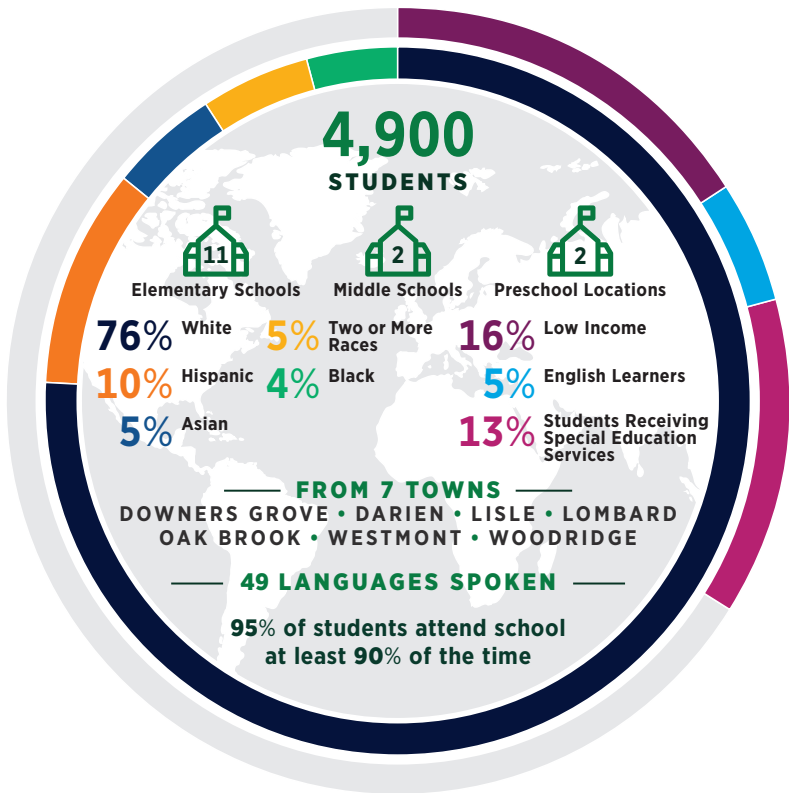
62%
OF TEACHERS
HAVE A MASTER'S DEGREE
OR HIGHER

90%
TEACHER RETENTION
RATE

Source: Illinois Report Card and District records



District 58 at a Glance



Contact Information



District 58 Office

2300 Warrenville Road, Suite 200NE, Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-719-5800

Dr. Kevin Russell
 Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jayne Yudzentis
 Assistant Superintendent for Personnel

Jessica Stewart
 Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

Todd Drafal
 Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO

Dr. Sonali Patil
 Manager of Business Services

Justin Sisul
 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. James Eichmiller
 Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Learning

Eleni Gajewski, Sandy Cristobal & Christine Priester
 Curriculum Coordinators

Megan Hewitt
 Community Relations Coordinator

District Service Center

1860 63rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-719-5858

Kevin Barto
 Director of Buildings and Grounds

Geoff Neustadt
 Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds

Program Coordinators

Susan Dillon
 Grove Children's Preschool Coordinator (Henry Puffer & Indian Trail), **630-968-0454**

Lauren Hartelius
 Behavioral Support Systems Coordinator, **630-241-4032**

Dr. Jackelyn Cadard
 Special Programs Coordinator, **630-719-9478**

Schools

Belle Aire
 3935 Belle Aire Lane
630-719-5820

Principal: **Brent Borchelt**

El Sierra
 6835 Fairmount Ave.
630-719-5825

Principal: **Jason Lynde**

Fairmount
 6036 Blodgett Ave.
630-719-5830

Principal: **Lisa Niforatos**

Henry Puffer
 2220 Haddow Ave.
630-968-0294

Principal: **Mark Leipart**

Highland
 3935 Highland Ave.
630-719-5835

Principal: **Zachary Craft**
 Assistant Principal: **Sandy Cristobal**

Hillcrest
 1435 Jefferson Ave.
630-719-5840

Principal: **Michelle Rzepka**

Indian Trail
 6235 Stonewall Ave.
630-719-5845

Principal: **Tracey Ratner**

Kingsley
 6509 Powell St.
630-719-5850

Principal: **Charles Brewster**
 Assistant Principal: **Eleni Gajewski**

Lester
 236 Indianapolis Ave.
630-719-5855

Principal: **Katie Novosel**
 Assistant Principal: **Lauri Smith**

Pierce Downer
 1436 Grant St.
630-719-5860

Principal: **Leland Wagner**

Whittier
 536 Hill St.
630-719-5865

Principal: **Michael J. Krugman**

Middle Schools

Herrick
 4435 Middaugh Ave.
630-719-5810

Principal: **Dr. David Norman**
 Assistant Principal: **Samantha Inglima**

O'Neill
 635 59th St.
630-719-5815

Principal: **Matt Durbala**
 Assistant Principal: **Bryant Cobo**



2300 Warrenville Road, Suite 200NE
 Downers Grove, IL 60515
www.dg58.org | 630-719-5800

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District 58 2022-23 Calendar

District 58 schools dismiss students in grades K-6 at 2 p.m. and grades 7-8 at 2:10 p.m. on Mondays to provide teachers with dedicated and structured professional learning time.

AUG 22-23	Teacher Institute Days *	JAN 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *
AUG 25	First Day of Classes—Full day	FEB 7 & 9	Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
SEPT 5	Labor Day *	FEB 20	Presidents Day *
OCT 10	Columbus Day *	FEB 28	Teacher Institute Day *
OCT 18 & 20	Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences	MAR 3	End of Second Trimester
OCT 21	Daytime Parent/Teacher Conferences & School Improvement Day *	MAR 27-31	Spring Break *
NOV 8	Election Day *	APR 4	Teacher Institute Day *
NOV 18	End of First Trimester	APR 7	No School *
NOV 23-25	Thanksgiving Break *	MAY 29	Memorial Day *
DEC 19-JAN 2	Winter Break *	JUNE 7 **	Last Day of School

* No school for students.

** June 8-14 are Emergency Days and may be declared holidays if not needed for emergencies. If no Emergency Days are used, the last day of school will be June 7, 2023.



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 District 58 publication, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Megan Hewitt at mhewitt@dg58.org or 630-719-5805.

District 58 partnered with USPS to deliver these reports for about \$.09 a household.