



DOWNERS GROVE GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.



2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

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SUPERINTENDENT'S GREETING

Dear District 58 Community,

The 2020-21 school year brought challenges and required sacrifices as our school community navigated instruction during a global pandemic. Thanks to our dedicated staff, resilient students and committed families, we stuck together and persevered through adversity. I am very proud of what our community accomplished, and I invite you to read highlights throughout this publication.



This year, District 58 made significant strides implementing the Strategic Plan. A new math curriculum was adopted, communications were enhanced, and facility improvement recommendations were brought forward. The District Leadership Team will continue to monitor the progress in all three areas of our plan as we head into the upcoming school year and beyond. Additionally, the District recently reconvened its Facilities Citizen Task Force to discuss next steps for addressing our urgent facility needs.

Over the summer, the District continued to meet with neighboring school districts, the DuPage County Regional Office of Education, the DuPage County Health Department, and the Illinois State Board of Education to determine school health parameters for the fall. Our goal is to conduct school in as normal a manner as possible.

As always, I am very grateful to serve the District 58 community, and I appreciate your continued engagement and support.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Kevin B. Russell
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 the 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

DISTRICT 58 AT-A-GLANCE

1902

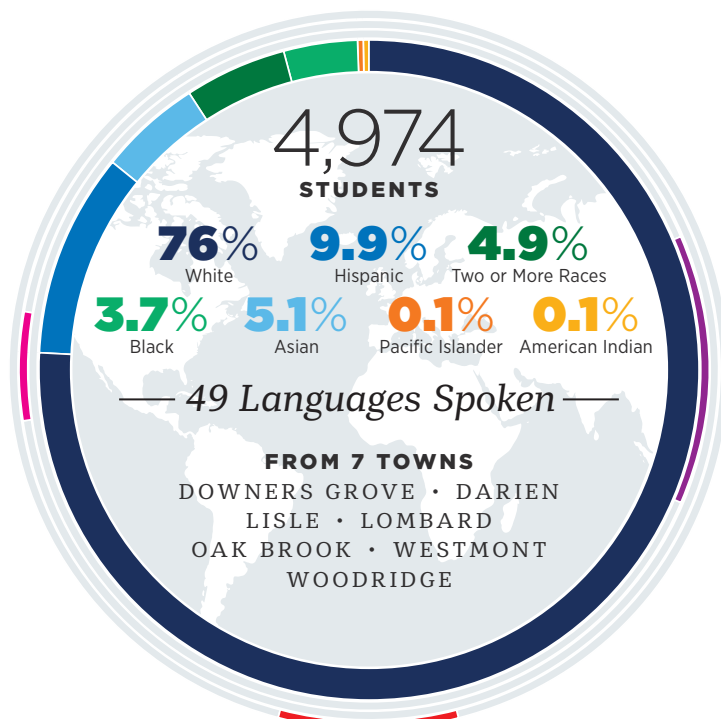
YEAR DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS DESIGNATED DISTRICT 58



DISTRICT 58’S DAILY ATTENDANCE RATE IS 97%

5.2%
English Learners

Did you know?
District 58 employs 11 English learner teachers who provide a robust education for our English learners. The District also offers a Biliteracy Program for native Spanish speakers. Visit www.dg58.org/EL to learn more.



13%
Students Receiving Special Education Services

Did you know?
District 58 offers many in-district specialized programs serving students with individualized education programs (or IEPs). The District educates students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment and aims to integrate students into a general education classroom to the greatest extent possible.

8.3%
Low Income

Source: Illinois Report Card



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.

FOCUSING ON LEARNING

Enhance and Support Learning to Meet the Needs of All Students

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, District 58 focused on three goals:

1. Follow all safety guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
2. Maximize instructional time to the greatest extent possible.
3. Minimize educational disruptions to the greatest extent possible.

During summer 2020, District 58 created representative working groups to design instructional models for on-site, hybrid and full remote learning environments and created school health and safety protocols. The District used the work of these groups, family and staff survey feedback, and IDPH and ISBE safety guidelines to inform its Return to Learn plans. When staff returned in August, they participated in extensive training regarding the different learning models and the enhanced safety protocols.

This preparation paid off. At different points during the 2020-21 school year, District 58 offered full remote, hybrid and full on-site learning environments. The District also always offered a full remote option for families who were not ready to return on-site.

“This school year demanded many sacrifices from our staff, students and families,” said Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell. “I appreciate our community’s flexibility, grace and hard work throughout this unprecedented time. Thanks to their support, we seamlessly transitioned to different learning environments to ensure our students kept safe while receiving an excellent education.”

Looking ahead, District 58 is committed to opening the 2021-22 school year as “normal” as possible. District 58 will follow all State health protocols while maximizing instruction and minimizing educational disruptions.

Definitions

Full remote: During a full remote model, students learn off-site. Remote instruction comprised both synchronous and asynchronous time. Synchronous instruction occurred when a teacher gave live, interactive instruction to students on Zoom for a set period of time. Asynchronous learning occurred when a student watched a pre-recorded class presentation or video, or engaged in learning activities without a live teacher.

Hybrid: During a hybrid model, hybrid students attended in-person, on-site school for a half-day, and off-site remote learning for a half-day.

Full on-site: During the full on-site model, students attended five full days of in-person attendance, similar to a regular school year, except with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.



BY THE NUMBERS

13% FULL REMOTE STUDENTS
87% ON-SITE STUDENTS
 IN JUNE 2021

42

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED ON THE RETURN TO LEARN TASK FORCE

150

LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS

Did you know? In order to safely provide full on-site instruction, District 58 needed to hire 150 lunchroom supervisors. The community rallied together and the District received more than enough applications!

2020-21 INSTRUCTIONAL TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

First day of school—Full remote learning for most. Special programs open with a modified in-person schedule.

OCTOBER 20

District 58 transitions to a hybrid learning model. Students continued to have the option to learn in a full remote format.

NOVEMBER 16

Safety guidelines require District 58 to initiate a two-week shift to full remote learning.

NOVEMBER 30

District 58 resumes its hybrid learning model.

APRIL 7, 2021

District 58 transitions to a full on-site learning model. Students continued to have the option to learn in a full remote format.

JUNE 10

Last day of school



New Math Curriculum

District 58 implemented a new math curriculum resource called “Bridges in Mathematics” for students in grades K-5 and “Big Ideas” for students in 6-8 in fall 2020. The new resources help students develop deep understanding of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills and the ability to solve complex and novel problems. The curriculum is embedded with the Illinois State Standards. In short, the curriculum creates “math thinkers, not just doers,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Justin Sisul. The resources were approved after a rigorous review and pilot by the Math Committee.

Teachers received ongoing professional learning on the resource, as well as support for synchronous and asynchronous planning. Curriculum Coordinator Christine Priester visited several classrooms this school year to see how the implementation was progressing.

“I found that students are becoming confident in explaining and using new mathematical models and strategies and are building greater conceptual understanding,” Priester said.

To help parents and guardians understand the new curriculum and better support their child’s learning at home, District 58 created three parent education videos. View the videos and learn more about District 58’s math curriculum at www.dg58.org/math.

LEARNING BY THE NUMBERS

100%

OF **DISTRICT 58 SCHOOLS** EARNED EITHER AN

Exemplary or Commendable ACADEMIC RATING

From the State of Illinois in 2019, the most recent year data is available

54%

OF **DISTRICT 58 SCHOOLS** EARNED AN

Exemplary rating

The State’s **highest designation**

BY COMPARISON

**27% OF
DUPAGE COUNTY
SCHOOLS**

**10% OF
ILLINOIS
SCHOOLS**

Earned the **EXEMPLARY RATING**

2 in a row!

GROVE CHILDREN’S PRESCHOOL EARNED

Gold,

the State’s **highest score**, on back-to-back preschool audits. Only one other Downers Grove preschool has earned this rating.

72nd

PERCENTILE

MEDIAN SPRING 2021 **DISTRICT 58**
MATH MAP TEST SCORE

73rd

PERCENTILE

MEDIAN SPRING 2021 **DISTRICT 58**
READING MAP TEST SCORE

When compared to the more than 7,800 schools nationwide that take the Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP, assessment, this achievement places District 58 among the

TOP 10% IN MATH and the **TOP 9% IN READING**.

22

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
STUDENTS PER CLASSROOM

1:1

STUDENT
DEVICE RATIO

Curriculum Updates for 2021-22

Social Studies

District 58 will implement the National Geographic middle school social studies curriculum resource for grades 6–8 in fall 2021. The Middle School Social Studies Committee recommended this resource after piloting three options. This resource provides students with embedded digital experiences in an updated, fresh platform; pilot teachers and students found the materials to be incredibly engaging. Also this school year, the Elementary Social Studies Committee will pilot the McGraw-Hill and Savvas elementary social studies resources and possibly the National Geographic elementary resource, with the goal of recommending a final resource for the 2022–23 school year.

Professional Learning Mondays

District 58 will resume its Professional Learning Mondays program, which was paused last year due to the pandemic. Every Monday, District 58 elementary schools will dismiss at 2 p.m. and middle schools will dismiss at 2:10 p.m., and staff will participate in professional development. This will give teachers the time to fully explore, implement and reflect upon instructional strategies to provide optimal student learning experiences. Learn more at www.dg58.org/academics/professional-learning.

Curricular Program Review

District 58 engages in continuous improvement planning for all curricular programs. In the 2021–22 school year, the District will review writing instruction districtwide, the dual language program, the gifted program, elementary specials, student interventions and supports, and the implementation of math (year 2) and science (year 3) curricula, as both of these implementations were affected by COVID-19. In addition, the District will also conduct an educational equity audit to ensure students have equitable access to all educational opportunities. More information will be shared in the fall of 2021.

93%
OF PARENTS ANSWERED
“Always” or “Usually”
TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

“MY CHILD’S SCHOOL IS A SUPPORTIVE AND INVITING PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN.”



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, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM REVIEW

FALL 2024
SCIENCE CURRICULUM REVIEW

FALL 2025
MATH CURRICULUM REVIEW

COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS

The COVID-19 caused economic hardship for many District 58 families. During this time of financial uncertainty, District 58 and its community partners united to ensure District 58 students and families were fed. For example:

140,229

NUMBER OF
FREE MEALS

that District 58 served children ages 0-18 who live in our community between March 2020 and May 2021. District 58 also served free meals during this summer and will continue through this school year. 2021-22 meal distribution information will be posted at www.dg58.org. Call the Business Office at 630-719-5839 to learn more.

200

NUMBER OF
FREE WEEKEND FOOD
PACKAGES

that the nonprofit Blessings in a Backpack delivered each week last school year to District 58 students facing food insecurity.

\$23,500

MONETARY VALUE OF
GROCERY STORE GIFT
CARDS

that the District 58 Education Foundation donated to District 58 families in need through their COVID-19 Family Support Fund. Donations came from individuals, local businesses and CARES Act funding (via the Downers Grove Township).

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

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

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, District 58 aimed to keep students and staff safe while maximizing instruction time and minimizing disruptions. Sharing consistent, clear communication played a pivotal role in achieving these goals. Here are some of the ways we communicated with our community regarding COVID-19:

Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Dr. Kevin Russell promptly emailed families and staff whenever state guidelines changed, feedback was sought, or a key decision was made.

Contact Tracing

When students or staff tested positive, District staff promptly provided them with quarantine instructions. They also conducted contact tracing, identified any close contacts, and quickly informed close contacts of safety protocols and next steps.

School Notification for Positive Cases

When a student or staff member tested positive, District 58 emailed a notification to the school community and all staff, and posted it to the website. Notifications did not reveal any student or staff identities.

Classroom Notification for Symptoms

When a student or staff member displayed COVID-19 symptoms while at school and got sent home, a notification was sent to the individual classroom's families. Notifications did not reveal any student or staff identities.

COVID-19 Resource Website

District 58 maintained a COVID-19 resource website that housed helpful family COVID-19 resources and communications. Visit it at www.dg58.org/covid-19.



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 connect with District 58. For more opportunities, please view the District 58 Communication Guide by visiting www.dg58.org, hovering over “Engagement” and selecting “Communication Guide.”

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: District 58 launched a new website, www.dg58.org, during summer 2020. The website was developed with community input and aims to provide visitors with easy-to-access information.

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



Have Feedback? Want to Get Involved? Let’s Talk!

District 58 encourages community engagement! Here are some of the many ways you can provide feedback and get more involved!

Contact a staff member: District 58 staff appreciate receiving feedback and questions from community members. Stakeholders can access school staff contact information at www.dg58.org/about/staff-directory and district contact information at www.dg58.org/about/district-offices-and-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: Each fall, District 58 recruits new members for its committees. Recruitment information will be emailed to current families and staff, and shared on the website, newsletter and social media for the broader community.

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.

Feedback by the Numbers

For the past three years, District 58 has surveyed the community on feedback perceptions. Below reflect the percentage of survey takers who “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” with the following statements. Although there is room for improvement, each statement has improved by at least 5 percentage points since the base year of 2019. It is particularly notable that satisfaction improved during the global pandemic, considering the increased demand for communication and feedback that the pandemic caused.

Statement	2019	2020	2021
“I know who to contact when I have feedback.”	59%	65%	64%
“I receive a timely response to my feedback.”	56%	63%	66%
“I feel like my feedback is valued.”	51%	62%	56%
“I feel like my feedback is appropriately addressed.”	50%	57%	57%
“I feel like I have sufficient opportunities to provide feedback.”	55%	59%	62%

COMMUNICATION AWARDS

The National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and its Illinois chapter, INSPRA, recognized District 58 with 11 communication awards in fall 2020.

NATIONAL AWARD OF MERIT

- Communicate 58 Community Newsletter

NATIONAL HONORABLE MENTIONS

- District 58 Annual Report
- Schools of 58: A Handbook for Families

STATE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- Schools of 58: A Handbook for Families
- District 58 Guide to Emergency Preparedness
- Communicate 58 Community Newsletter
- 58 Connects Staff Newsletter

The Awards of Excellence category is the state’s highest communication award level. In the “E-newsletter” category, only three newsletters in Illinois earned an Award of Excellence, and two of those awards went to District 58! In the “Calendar/Handbook” category, District 58 received the only Award of Excellence in the state!

STATE AWARDS OF MERIT

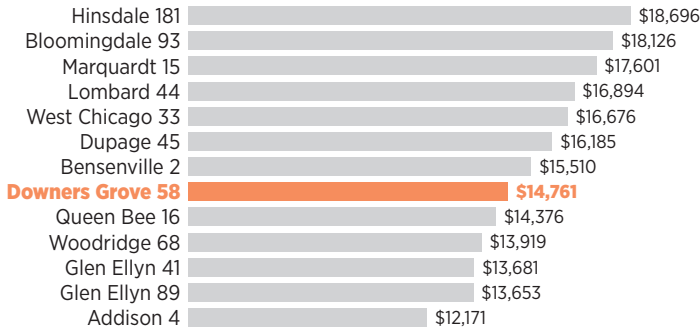
- District 58 Annual Report
- Behind the Scenes of Remote Learning Video/Social Media Series
- Assistant Principal Appreciation Week Video
- Supporting Newcomers (ELs) Professional Development Video

SECURING THE FUTURE

Provide Safe and Effective Learning Environments in Fiscally-Responsible Ways

District 58 Spending per Student

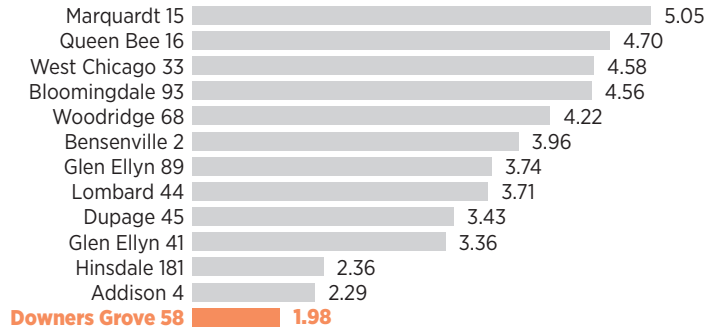
Comparison with benchmark school districts



Source: ISBE's 2020 Operating Expense Per Pupil Report

District 58 Property Tax Rates

Comparison with benchmark school districts



Source: 2020 DuPage County Tax Rate Booklet

What difference does per student spending make?

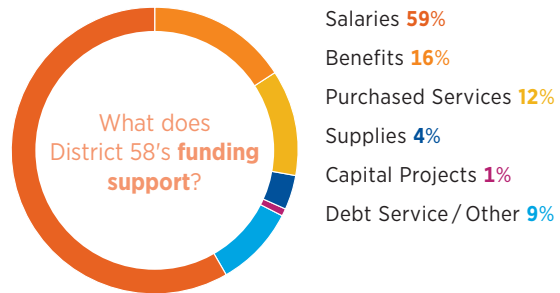
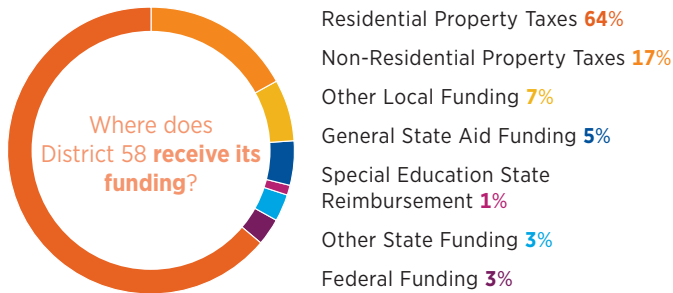
Consider if District 58 spent **\$3,935** more per student per year, or the equivalent spending at nearby Hinsdale District 181. Multiplied by our enrollment, District 58 would have **an additional \$19.6 million** to spend per year. That's more than one-fourth of the District's current budget.

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 **\$4,220** in taxes to that district each year.

District 58 Revenue and Expenses

Numbers may not equal 100 due to rounding



Source: 2020-21 District 58 budget (prior to audit adjustment)

MONEY FACTS

District 58 earned the Illinois State Board of Education's **highest financial strength rating for 19 straight years**

District 58 received a **commendable Aa1 rating**
BY **MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICES** AND AN

AA rating
BY **STANDARD & POOR'S.**

District 58 has the **lowest property tax rate**
among all DuPage County large elementary school districts.

District 58 spends **\$14,761** per student
just \$14 more than the state average.

Locally, **64%**
OF **DUPAGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
SPEND MORE MONEY PER STUDENT THAN DISTRICT 58

District 58 is **tax capped**
This means that District 58 cannot increase local revenues more than the Consumer Price Index, or CPI. In recent years, District 58 expenses have outpaced the CPI.

District Resumes Facility Planning

District 58 developed a Master Facility Plan that identified \$244.8 million in facility needs in 2018-19. The District formed a representative Citizen Task Force in fall 2019 to prioritize these needs, organize community engagement, and ultimately pursue a bond referendum. After very productive meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, pausing the group's efforts and delaying referendum discussions.

In July 2021, the Citizen Task Force reconvened to set a new path forward. This school year, District 58 hopes to accelerate its facility planning work. **Community engagement will be key to this process!** The District plans to hold several meetings this school year to inform residents of its needs and gain additional feedback. Meeting dates and more information will be mailed to all residents and posted on the District website. Please note, the \$244.8 million number listed here is the total amount of all District 58 facility needs. Should District 58 pursue a referendum, it would likely be for a smaller number, the product of the community input and prioritization process. Please consider joining this effort! Visit www.dg58.org/facility-planning to learn more.

Factors Affecting Facility Spending

Why does District 58 have so many facility needs? There are many reasons. First, in general, it **is more expensive to maintain several small schools**, like those in District 58, than just a few large schools.

In addition, DuPage County passed a law in 1991 that restricted school districts to issuing non-referendum debt equal to its 1991 debt level. Because District 58 had little debt in 1991, **this law significantly limited the amount of debt District 58 could accumulate**, negatively affecting its ability to fund critical maintenance projects.

District 58 also has a **history of failed referendums**. After two successful referendums in the 1950s helped District 58 build several schools, District 58 subsequently endured five failed referendums and only two additional successful referendums in the years since. District 58 hasn't passed a referendum since 1992.

These factors all contributed to a lower-than-recommended investment into District 58's schools and necessitated the vast amount of capital needs today.

Summer 2021 Facility Work

Although the pandemic caused District 58 to delay a bond referendum, the District still needed to fund its most urgent capital needs. District 58 restructured outstanding debt and issued \$3.335 million in bonds to pay for most of this summer's projects. The District also applied for and received an Illinois School Maintenance Project Grant to pay for a portion of its Henry Puffer flooring project, and accepted a donation from the Climb Higher at Highland community group to pay for the majority of the new Highland School playground.

Here's an overview of this summer's facility work:

- Replaced Pierce Downer roof
- Replaced and maintained masonry at Pierce Downer
- Replaced some Pierce Downer HVAC equipment
- Replaced some Fairmount HVAC equipment
- Completed miscellaneous painting at District 58 schools
- Repaired pavement at Herrick and Henry Puffer
- Relocated District 58 servers to Kingsley School
- Replaced flooring in Henry Puffer basement
- Replaced flooring in three O'Neill classrooms
- Renovated Highland playground

FACILITIES BY THE NUMBERS

DISTRICT 58's SCHOOLS RANGE FROM

52 to 93

YEARS OLD
and **require significant repairs**

THE AVERAGE AGE OF A DISTRICT 58 SCHOOL IS

66

DISTRICT 58 MAINTAINS

666,913

SQUARE FEET
and **15 facilities**, which includes **284 classrooms** supporting **4,974 students**



Pierce Downer's boilers, pictured here, are approximately 70 years old. The recommended life expectancy of a boiler is 30 years. The boilers are energy inefficient and very costly to maintain. This summer's HVAC work replaced these boilers.



This summer, District 58 replaced Fairmount's 33-year-old condensing unit (pictured here) and 59-year-old unit ventilators with energy efficient models. The recommended life expectancy for a condensing unit is 15 years and unit ventilators is 30 years.

A Look at District 58’s Master Facility Plan

District 58’s Master Facility Plan addresses District 58’s most urgent facility needs. These needs can be organized into three areas: Deferred Maintenance, Safe and Healthy Environments, and Modernized Learning Environments. As shared on page 11, this school year District 58 will offer community engagement opportunities as it prioritizes its facility needs and prepares for a potential referendum.

Please see the below to learn more about these needs and visit www.dg58.org/facility-planning to view the entire Master Facility Plan, along with presentations and other resources.

Deferred Maintenance

This work includes addressing critical facility needs, such as outdated mechanical systems, roof replacements and building code updates.

Looking Closer at Mechanical System Needs

Many schools have HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems that have been functioning far longer than their recommended life expectancy. Replacement parts are **hard to find and very expensive**. For example, the Herrick electrical panel pictured to the left is missing a breaker because a replacement no longer exists. Old mechanical systems are also **energy inefficient, require more frequent costly maintenance, and pose risks**. For instance, last winter, the eroded water pipe pictured to the left burst. This caused heat failure and required emergency crews to work overnight on repairs. Due to their quick work, this failure did not shut any schools down. But, without system replacements, these emergencies will continue.

Safe and Healthy Environments

This work includes installing air-conditioning, improving ventilation and air-quality, and enhancing school security.

Looking Closer at Air Conditioning Needs

District 58 is one of only a few DuPage County school districts without air conditioning at all of its schools. A new National Bureau of Economic Research study found a correlation between hot classrooms and lowered academic performance and suggested that air-conditioning is a worthwhile investment. Modern air conditioning systems can also help improve ventilation and air quality, a need that has been prioritized throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modernized Learning Environments

Many classrooms are outdated, deteriorating and do not meet modern learning needs, including the middle school science lab pictured to the left.

Looking Closer at Modernized Middle School Learning

The Master Facility Plan recommends District 58 move its sixth graders to the middle schools. Such a move would provide many academic, social-emotional and extracurricular benefits. It would also address developmental needs, alleviate overcrowding, enhance equity and much more.

Please visit www.dg58.org/facility-planning to view the District’s Master Facility Plan, Citizen Task Force presentations and much more.



Herrick’s electrical panel is missing a breaker because a replacement no longer exists.



When this eroded water pipe burst in winter 2021, it caused heat failure and required emergency crews to work overnight on repairs.



District 58’s middle school science labs are outdated, deteriorating and do not meet modern learning needs.

SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS



Belle Aire

This June, Belle Aire **sixth graders came together to reflect on and celebrate their elementary educational journeys.** The PTA organized a Good Humor truck visit: An ice cream treat and some

laughter was a great way to wish the students well as they leave for middle school!



Hillcrest

The Hillcrest Student Council did a tremendous job leading and motivating the entire Hillcrest community to participate in a **Secret Service Project** to collect nearly 2,000 food and goods for

the West Suburban Community Pantry.



El Sierra

El Sierra **combined its PTA fundraising efforts with a \$180,000 State grant to fund a new playground,** which opened in May! The grant was generously provided with Rep. Anne Stava-

Murray's support. Students were so excited to use the new playground!



Indian Trail

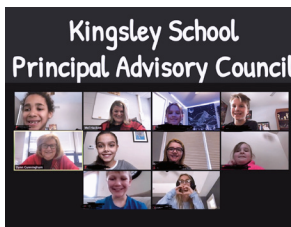
Indian Trail **sixth graders celebrated their last days at Indian Trail** by being recognized for their outstanding contributions to our school community throughout the years. The PTA

purchased lunch and teachers created fun nostalgia games. The students also received a memory book to treasure for years to come.



Fairmount

Fairmount students **opened a time capsule** this June and discovered artifacts depicting Fairmount life in 1990. Afterward, students assembled a new time capsule, to be opened in 2050!



Kingsley School Principal Advisory Council

Kingsley

Several Kingsley **students joined the new Principal Advisory Council (P.A.C.)** this year. Students shared their voices and solicited input from classmates

on a variety of topics, which were shared during monthly meetings on Zoom with the Kingsley administrative team. P.A.C. will be available again next year!



Henry Puffer

After five years of planning and hundreds of community volunteer work hours, the **Henry Puffer playground officially opened** in August 2020!



Lester

Lester opened a time capsule that was placed in a school wall 25 years ago. Students **created a new time capsule** with items about COVID-19, the presidential election, and other current events.

They sealed it back into the wall, and it will be opened in 2045.



Herrick

Student Council **created an appreciation video** for the community's first responders. Herrick students provided personal and group messages as a way to thank and honor them for

their ongoing efforts to keep us safe and healthy this year.



Highland

The Highland Student Council **provided gifts to families in need** during the holiday season, collected supplies for a local animal shelter, and collected birthday party supplies so children

in need could still have a special birthday.



O'Neill

O'Neill hosted their **first outdoor music concert.** Families sat on the school lawn and enjoyed the talented musicians of the O'Neill band, choir and orchestra. This outdoor in-person event was a

perfect ending to a challenging year.



Pierce Downer

Six Pierce Downer Student Council members organized a **bake-along fundraiser** that taught 70 students how to make puppy treats and raised \$800 to benefit the West Suburban Humane Society.



Grove Children's Preschool

Look out kindergarten, here they come! Grove Children's Preschool is so proud of its preschoolers' accomplishments this year and can't wait to watch the older preschoolers continue to learn and grow as they enter District 58 kindergarten in the fall!



Whittier

The Whittier Weeds & Seeds Club continued with its **Whittier Garden service program**. Students in grades 1 through 6 helped plant, weed, water and maintain the Whittier Garden. All vegetables

are then donated to a local charity for distribution throughout our community.

STAFF BY THE NUMBERS

640

STAFF MEMBERS

Nearly half live in Downers Grove!

11 years

AVERAGE DISTRICT 58

teaching experience

62%

OF TEACHERS HAVE A

master's degree or higher

87%

TEACHER RETENTION RATE

Staff Accolades

The Education Foundation of Downers Grove District 58 awarded Hillcrest DLP Teacher **Laura DiPietro** and Pierce Downer Custodian **Jac Steele** with the 2021 Distinguished Service Award. Twenty-five staff members earned nominations for this prestigious award.

The Downers Grove Elementary Education Association named Indian Trail Kindergarten Teacher **Kristy Hopkins** the 2021 Teacher of the Year. Six teachers earned nominations.

The Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics presented its 2021 Excellence in Elementary Mathematics Teaching Award to **Amanda Zimolzak**, an El Sierra interventionist.

District 58 celebrated 29 staff members who retired during the 2020-21 school year. This group provided District 58 with a combined 680 years of service! View a list of retirees at www.dg58.org/retirees21.

95%

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

93%

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

95%

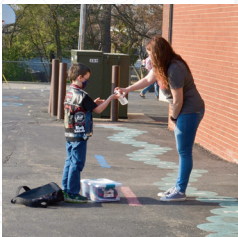
"ADULTS AT THIS SCHOOL BELIEVE THAT MY CHILD CAN BE A SUCCESS."

THE NUMBERS ABOVE REFLECT THE **PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WHO ANSWERED**

"Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

TO THE CORRESPONDING STATEMENTS ON THE DISTRICT'S **2021 SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT SURVEY**

CONTACT INFORMATION



Administrative Service Center

General Administration

1860 63rd St
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

Megan Hewitt
Community Relations Coordinator

Lauren Hartelius
Behavior Support Systems
Coordinator

Jackelyn Cadard
Special Programs Coordinator

Longfellow Center

Curriculum, Technology, Buildings & Grounds

1435 Prairie Ave
630-719-5867

Justin Sisul
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. James Eichmiller
Assistant Superintendent for
Technology & Learning

Kevin Barto
Director of Buildings & Grounds

Geoff Neustadt
Assistant Director of Buildings &
Grounds

**Eleni Gajewski, Matthew Jewell &
Christine Priester**
Curriculum Coordinators

Elementary Schools

Belle Aire

3935 Belle Aire Ln
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: **Britta Waszak**

Highland

3935 Highland Ave
630-719-5835

Principal: **Zachary Craft**
Assistant Principal: **Christine Priester**

Hillcrest

1435 Jefferson Ave
630-719-5840

Principal: **Michelle Rzepka**

Indian Trail

6235 Stonewall Ave
630-719-5845

Principal: **Mariana Nicasio**

Kingsley

6509 Powell St
630-719-5850

Principal: **Melissa Hackett**
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: **TBD**

Preschool

Grove Children's
Schools: Henry Puffer & Indian Trail
630-968-0454

Program Coordinator: **TBD**



1860 63rd Street
 Downers Grove, IL 60516
www.dg58.org | 630-719-5800

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DISTRICT 58 2021-22 CALENDAR

District 58 anticipates a typical school schedule for 2021-22, outlined below. However, the calendar is subject to changes pending COVID-19 safety protocols.

AUG 23-24 Teacher Institute Days *

AUG 26 First Day of Classes – Full day

SEPT 6 Labor Day *

OCT 11 Columbus Day *

OCT 19 & 21 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

OCT 22 Daytime Parent/Teacher Conferences & School Improvement Day *

NOV 19 End of First Trimester

NOV 24-26 Thanksgiving Break *

DEC 20-31 Winter Break *

JAN 3 Teacher Inservice Day *

JAN 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day *

FEB 1 & 3 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences

FEB 21 Presidents Day *

MAR 3 End of Second Trimester

MAR 4 DuPage County Institute Day *

MAR 28-APR 1 Spring Break *

APR 15 No School *

MAY 30 Memorial Day *

JUNE 6 ** Last Day of School

* No school for students ** June 7-13 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 6, 2022.

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 the USPS to deliver these reports for less than 8 cents per household. To save on postage, District 58 mailed this report by carrier route, and it is possible that some non-District 58 households received this publication. Thank you for taking time to learn about District 58.

District 58 seeks substitute teachers!

Earn \$140 per day!

Enjoy a flexible schedule!

Visit www.dg58.org/subs to learn more.