



KCS D96 KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 96 DISTRICT REVIEW

EVERY CHILD, EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY.

Our mission is to ensure every child achieves his or her maximum potential



THE VALUE OF PLAY

What best serves youngest learners...a challenging curriculum, or play?

At Willow Grove Early Learning Center, where District 96 early childhood blended preschool and kindergartners learn, staff know the answer to that question is not either/or. They know the importance of specific learning targets **and** the value of developmentally appropriate playful learning.

Research confirms the benefits of play for kids. Play requires focus. Through play, children solve problems and achieve goals. They become leaders. They develop language and social skills—including empathy—and think at high levels. Through play, a child expresses what he or she knows.

Playful learning does not come only in designated blocks during the Willow Grove school day. There are playful learning opportunities in teaching math and exploring STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and in building literacy skills.

Our ongoing work in this area makes it clear: Including developmentally appropriate playful learning in our students' school day is an important part of doing what's best for kids.

"Play allows kids to reach their highest levels of engagement and openness in learning," says Principal Jennifer Smith. "That's why we continue to explore ways to use play to teach and reinforce children's learning."

All learners benefit from play, including and especially those learning English. Over 50 percent of District 96 early childhood and kindergarten students are dual language speakers.

7 U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON AWARDS EARNED BY DISTRICT 96 SCHOOLS

TOP 100 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS All District 96 Elementary Schools -Niche, 2019

TOP 50 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS All District 96 Middle Schools -Niche, 2019

2018 DUFOR AWARD RECIPIENT This national annual award recognizes Woodlawn Middle School as a Professional Learning Community model exemplifying the practices that lead to exceptional achievement levels for **all** students. Applicants included schools across the U.S., Canada, and Australia.



INTRODUCING DUAL LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN DISTRICT 96

District 96 will open a Dual Language program in English/Spanish in the 2019-2020 school year.

The program will begin with Willow Grove Early Learning Center kindergartners selected by public lottery on April 4th. Approximately half of the students will come from Spanish-speaking homes. The others will have had little to no experience with Spanish.

Half of the Dual Language students' academic instruction will be given in Spanish and the other half in English. Students will continue in the program through Grade 8, attending Country Meadows (Grades 1-5) and Woodlawn Middle School (Grades 6-8).

Residents interested in this program for their 2019-2020 kindergartner must complete an Interest Form and deliver it to Willow Grove Early Learning Center by March 22nd. Find more info at www.kcsd96.org/curriculum/dual-language.

ACADEMIC STANDING/DISTRICT SPENDING

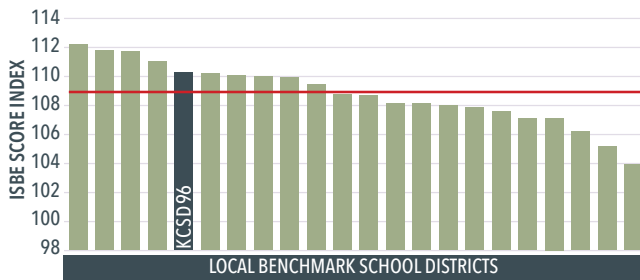
Commitment to continuous improvement is one reason School District 96 does a benchmark study annually to compare itself to other Illinois suburban and North Shore districts. The school districts chosen for benchmarking all are high-performing districts with comparable demographics, student population, and academic rigor.

Strong Academics. Grade-by-grade annual comparisons in the areas of reading and math help administrators and teachers identify areas for improvement, recognize changes affecting the District, and see the effects of programs currently in place. The reputation of School District 96 for strong academics continues.

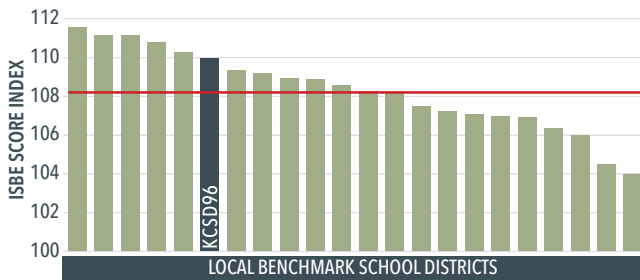
Raw index scores from 2018 accountability data show that District 96 students are performing overall in the 98th percentile in Illinois as compared to peers.

In the areas of reading, math, and science in grades 3-8, District 96 students have higher levels of performance than benchmark districts: in both math and reading our students are performing above the 98th percentile in Illinois as compared to peers.

MATHEMATICS OVERALL AMONG HIGH-PERFORMING BENCHMARK DISTRICTS

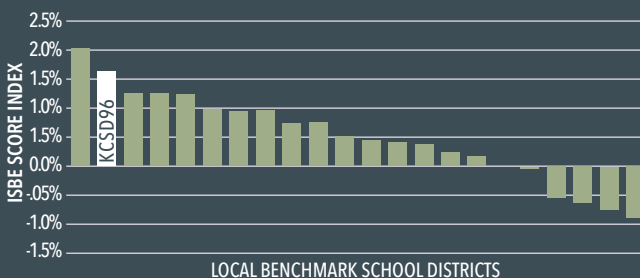


READING OVERALL AMONG HIGH-PERFORMING BENCHMARK DISTRICTS



SCORE INDEX CHARTS SOURCE: TABULATED BY ADVANTAGE ANALYTICS, LLC. via 2008-2018 ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (ISBE) MEDIA DATABASE

DISTRICT 96: AMONG LEADERS IN EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



Taxpayer Dollars Yield Top Results. Achieving top results with taxpayer dollars is a community expectation and a District 96 commitment. District 96 instructional spending per student yields significant value as learning outcomes for our students continue to be outstanding.

See how District 96 yields top value for your dollar in the per-student instructional expense comparison below.



SOURCE: ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (ISBE), 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

top value for your dollar

Exceeding Expectations. The number of school days, student attendance, limited English proficiency, and percentage of students from low-income families are some examples of leading indicators or predictors that may affect the academic performance of students.

Calculations that consider those predictors in assessing **expected performance** for all benchmark schools show that **School District 96 is among the leaders in exceeding expectations.**



EMBRACING AND BUILDING ON WHO WE ARE TOGETHER

District 96 is a diverse learning community with over 56 languages represented. The Board of Education and faculty are committed to meeting the needs of *all* students.

At a **Newcomers' Night** hosted in early August, parents heard informative presentations and met faculty and community members eager to welcome them and answer questions. A **"Coffee and Conversation"** evening in November gave another time to connect.

The District also offers parents opportunities to support community engagement. **Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism (GCI)** members advise staff in developing cultural and educational experiences to align students, parents, and faculty. The **Thought Exchange Partnership** is an information-sharing opportunity and gives faculty feedback through a parent lens. A **Community Parent Liaison**—a new role in District 96—supports the planning and implementation of this work.

With students, parents, and staff as collaborative planners, our schools have hosted or are planning cultural fairs, gathering students and their families for lively evenings showcasing their cultures, customs, and delicious foods from around the world. The **I Am Me/We Are...** theme of schools' fairs this year has been a great celebration of who we are as individuals—and together.



The Area 125 Consortium Institute Day in March brought over a thousand educators together to consider equity and diversity in all our schools. In April, building on work begun last year, a **District 96 Community Focus Group** including students, parents, community leaders, and faculty will discuss their understanding of District values as they apply today across cultures.

Equipping our stakeholders of all ages to acknowledge and navigate differences in individual's world views is an ongoing part of our District staff's professional learning.

It's important work that's consistent with our commitment to every District 96 child in every school, every day.



Advanced Degree Education

67 percent of District 96 faculty hold a master's degree or higher which further enhances their pedagogical skills.



Emerging Educator Award

Woodlawn Middle School Orchestra Teacher **Eileen Wronkiewicz** is the 2018-19 Illinois American String Teachers Association Emerging Educator.



Excellence in Health Education

Twin Groves Middle School Health Teacher **Ben Leven** was honored with a Blue Ribbon Award for excellence in Health Education.
—Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance



National Recognition

District 96 is the only district in the nation with all schools recognized as International Professional Learning Community (PLC) model schools.

—All Things PLC



218 Site Visits

Number of visiting educators who came from across the U.S. and Canada to observe District 96 Professional Learning Community practices last year



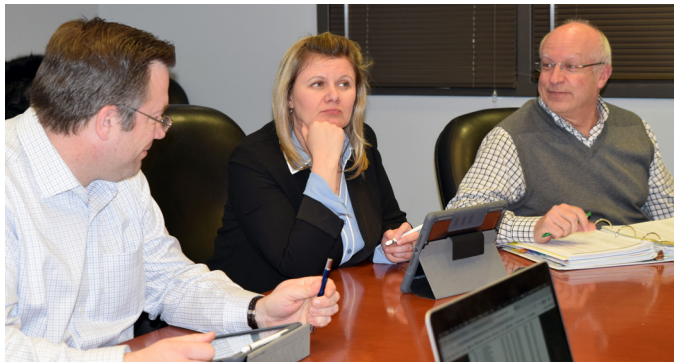
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THE ROLE OF A BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER—

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION?



KCS D96 BOARD OF EDUCATION
 MARC TEPPER, BOARD PRESIDENT
 RENEE KLASS, BOARD VICE PRESIDENT
 MIKE BURNS, BOARD SECRETARY

DINA MANKA
 JAMES STREZEWSKI
 MEG WOODMAN
 CYNTHIA ZARKOWSKY

Board of Education members are a collaborative team.
 They make decisions with their colleagues that are in the best interest of students, faculty, and taxpayers.

They bring professional acumen to their role and regularly attend Board meetings. They dedicate many personal hours to be informed on a wide range of topics.

Board members direct and empower the superintendent in managing all aspects of district operations. In doing so, they address fundamental needs, including reliable transportation and safe schools.

Good Board members consider district issues from “the balcony,” giving direction and support on the “what” while district leaders determine the “how.” They support attracting and retaining highly qualified staff and providing ongoing professional development. They also are visionaries, anticipating what students will need to succeed and balancing immediate needs with a long-term view for financial stability.

In Illinois, Board members may earn recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). As committed community leaders, District 96 Board members contribute to their field through professional development (working toward or achieving/maintaining Master Board Member recognition) and as presenters/facilitators at professional conferences. Board President **Marc Tepper** is chairperson of the Lake Division of the IASB and a delegate to the IASB Joint Annual Conference Assembly.

DISTRICT 96 BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARDS + RECOGNITION



AAA rating
 Sound financial stability and stewardship of taxpayer dollars
 —Moody's



Best Financial Management
 Highest recognition for financial management for 14 consecutive years
 —Illinois State Board of Education



Outstanding Governance
 Recognized again in 2018 for outstanding governance
 —Illinois Association of School Boards



Shared Service Best Practices
 Recognized with the Buffalo Grove Park District for providing more effective and efficient services while saving taxpayers money
 —Illinois Office of the Lieutenant Governor