

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10



State of the District Report August 2021



August 2021

Kahok Families and Community Members,

In an ongoing effort to maintain regular and transparent communication with our families and community members, the following is the second annual “State of the District Report” that includes information regarding communication, curriculum, facilities, finances, special education & health, student services, and technology.

The “State of the District Report” outlines initiatives and projects underway in our school district and highlights our successes. The purpose of the report is to provide continued transparency as outlined in the Districts’ Short and Long Term Planning Committee goals.

As we are about to begin another school year, we are committed to celebrating the successes of our staff and students, while striving for improvement. Our focus remains, to provide a quality education for all students in a safe environment as we navigate an ever changing world.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Collinsville CUSD #10, thank you for the unwavering support and your constant dedication to our students and staff throughout each school year!

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D

Superintendent

Communication

During 2020-21, the Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 focused on providing timely and accurate information to stakeholders to ensure they were well-informed throughout a very unconventional school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special section was created on the District's website: Learning 2020-21 - which included pages and links dedicated to the 20-21 Return to Learn Plan, COVID-19 health information, 1:1 technology, social/emotional health and wellbeing, community resources, and a guide for parents/students coping with remote and hybrid learning. This will continue during the 21-22 school year.

The District utilized School Messenger, social media, news media and the website to provide timely updates to families regarding changes that occurred in the learning setting throughout the school year. All elementary schools, Collinsville High School, Collinsville Middle School and Dorris Intermediate School used their school-specific social media to connect with families, and provide news and information.

The District also highlighted the resilience and accomplishments of staff and students who were excelling and succeeding despite many personal and academic challenges.

Dr. Skertich continued his video messages and regular communications to update families about news and initiatives.

Ongoing committees met virtually to provide regular communication regarding our strengths and areas of opportunity throughout our school district.

- The Kahok Diversity and Equity Committee focused on cultural awareness, diversity training and recruiting a diverse population of students to choose education as a career. Groundwork was put in place for a "Grow Our Own" teacher scholarship program.
- Our ethnically diverse Collinsville High School Student Advisory Committee provided feedback and input about the district's initiatives, strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Curriculum

Collinsville Unit 10 curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of our diverse population of students. Curriculum is designed using current best practices in education in all classrooms, however, instructional strategies may vary from room to room. Core curriculum areas, including language arts, mathematics, science and social science are aligned to Illinois Learning Standards.

In addition to the core curriculum, the elementary schools offer music, physical education, STEM, social emotional learning, career awareness, as well as instrumental music and vocal music programs at the intermediate school (grades 5-6). Services are provided by Title I Specialists for students in need of additional support at the elementary schools. Dorris Intermediate School has an intramural program for students during the lunch hours, and band, chorus and basketball programs are offered as extracurricular activities.

In addition to the core curriculum, the middle school (grades 7-8) offers music appreciation, physical education, art, health, Spanish, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), vocal music and band. Collinsville Middle School also offers a wide range of sports and organizations for students to participate in outside of the regular school day.

Collinsville High School offers two curricula areas, college preparatory and career and technical. Courses are taught in the areas of art, business, foreign language, family and consumer sciences, industrial arts, language arts, mathematics, music, science, social studies and special education. Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit courses are offered at CHS in many of the core academic areas. A variety of sports and organizations are offered to students outside of the educational setting.

Collinsville Area Vocational Center, adjacent to the CHS Campus, offers courses in auto body, automotive maintenance technology, building trades, early childhood education, criminal justice, electronics, engineering, food services, health occupations, precision machining technology, web & graphic design and welding. Dual credit is offered in conjunction with Southwestern Illinois College for students meeting the requirements of the program at CAVC.

PreK/Early Childhood Program

As we move into the 2021-22 school year, the Pre-K/Early Childhood program will be able to serve 298 students in half-day and full-day PreK and Early Childhood Special Education programs.

As an inclusive program, we are able to serve 66 PreK students with identified special needs and 150 students without special needs in blended classrooms. The District's Early Childhood Special Education classrooms can serve up to 50 students with identified special needs in smaller classes. This year, we will offer a Blended PreK Bilingual classroom that will serve 32 PreK students, including 10 students who have identified special needs and 22 without. This brings our District's capacity to 298 students between the ages of 3 and 5 within the spectrum of preschool services offered.

EL Program

The EL Program currently serves 864 ELL students which makes up 14.07 percent of our student population. We provide two programs: Dual Language and Transitional Bilingual Education. The Dual Language program is a one-way dual language approach that helps bridge student's Spanish knowledge to help improve their understanding of fundamental concepts and skills which will increase the students' English vocabulary. Dual Language differs from Transitional Bilingual Education by maintaining the heritage language and using the home language as a springboard to development. The approach of Dual Language is not that the student has a deficit but is adding to the students' knowledge.

One of our district's goals is to nurture our bilingual students' skills so that when they graduate from high school they will receive the Seal of Biliteracy as a bilingual student. It is our goal to continually add bilingual classrooms so that there will be continuous Spanish language support from Kindergarten throughout their elementary school experience. We currently have Dual Language classrooms Pre k- 4th grade at Kreitner School and K-1st grade at Caseyville School.

Collinsville High School and The Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis have joined in partnership since 2015 to improve college and career readiness among Latino students. In 2020, we reached our highest participation rate of 52 junior and senior Latino

students attending Universidad Ya College Preparation seminars led and organized by Virginia Braxs and our district EL Coordinator. Topics addressed were financial aid, scholarships, resumes, college entrance essays, FAFSA, maintaining a high G.P.A. and mentoring.

Instructional Coaching

In 2017, the district hired our first instructional coach. Instructional coaches support classroom teachers by modeling research based instructional strategies, reinforcing the curriculum, and providing professional development. Coaches have enhanced teacher practice in reading, math, and social emotional support. Each year, we have increased the number of instructional coaches to three full time positions for grades K-6 and one full-time coach at grades 7 and 8. The current instructional coaches have provided teachers with a continued level of professional development through book studies, in-person and virtual training, PLC support, and classroom observations. They have attended many conferences throughout the region, state, and country to keep up to date on current practices and deliver the best practices possible to our district.

Recent Initiatives

Collinsville School District has continued to meet the needs of all students by implementing the following innovative programs and services.

- 2 additional Pre-K classrooms
- 2 additional bilingual classrooms
- 2 additional Instructional Coaches
- Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS)
- PATHS Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
- Project Lead the Way- Pre-Engineering Program at CMS
- Increases in after-school tutoring programs
- Spanish Courses at CMS
- Diversity and Equity Committee
- SIUE Upward Bound Program
- Kahok Academy Credit Recovery Program

CHS Success Center Credit Recovery Program
JumpStart to Education Program
Summer Learning Programs
Summer Learning Packets for all K-4th grade students
Pre-K Bi-lingual Class
5th Grade Bi-lingual Classroom
Emergent Bi-lingual Class K-4 housed at Kreitner
Kindergarten Screening
New Social Studies Curriculum Resources grades 3-5
New Math Curriculum Resources for grades 6-12
New English Curriculum Resources for grade 10
Hazel Health Partnership for 7th-12th grade students
Rapid Covid Testing
Covid Vaccine Clinic Site
Mobile Food Markets

Facilities

Throughout the summer of 2021, numerous renovations occurred throughout the district as outlined in the district's three to five year Facilities Improvement Plan. The improvements to date have been funded by reserves, annual revenue at ten million dollars in Working Cash Bonds that were sold in April 2020.

Each school facility will see improvements over the next five years, but the primary focus over the next five years will be Collinsville High School, Dorris Intermediate and Webster Elementary. The district is excited about the progress our families and communities will see in the years ahead.

Summer 2021 improvements include the following:

Collinsville High School Phase 1

- Girls' Locker Room Renovation
- CHS Tennis Court Resurfacing
- Track Resurface/Respray

Dorris Intermediate Renovations Phase 1

- Bathroom Renovations at Dorris Intermediate

Webster Elementary Renovation Phase 1

- Flooring Abatement
- HVAC Replacement Phase 1
- Cafeteria and 1st Floor Hallway and Classrooms (Flooring, Paint and Ceilings)

Additional Improvements

- Sidewalk Replacement at Maryville and CHS
- Sink and Counter Replacement at Maryville
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Asphalt Resealing Phase 2 District Wide

Finances

The Collinsville CUSD #10 maintains the highest level of financial profile provided by the State of Illinois, Recognition. The district's overall annual budget amounts to approximately \$75,000,000. The district maintains a healthy balance in the Operating Funds (Education, Maintenance and Operations, Transportation and Working Cash). Collectively, these funds have a surplus that exceeds \$38,000,000. The 2020 Audit Report revealed the district received a "Recognition" Profile Designation, the highest level possible for a school district in the State of Illinois.

The district's tax rate, \$4.31 from December 2020, remains the lowest in Madison County, the only exception being two school districts that have a refinery located within

their boundaries. 55% of the district revenue is collected through local property taxes, 35% from state revenue and 10% from federal grants and meal reimbursement.

During the 20-21, 21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 school years the district has or will receive nearly \$23 million in federal stimulus money to offset the impact of the pandemic on our students and facilities. The stimulus money will be utilized to provide additional academic and social emotional support for our students, improve technology, break down the connectivity barrier and enhance our facilities to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19. The district has established a plan through the 23-24 school year as a requirement of the federal stimulus funding.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility while ensuring staff and students are provided with the adequate resources to provide students with a quality education in a safe environment.

Special Education

The Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 currently serves approximately 1,200 students with identified disabilities who are eligible for special education services.

The Special Education Department staff includes: 88 Special Education Teachers, 88 educational assistants, 13 health care attendants, 4 IEP Coordinators, 6 School Psychologists, 15 School Social Workers, 13 Speech and Language Pathologists, 1 Occupational Therapist with 3 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants, 1 Physical Therapist with 2 Physical Therapy Assistants, 1 Hearing Itinerant, 1 Vision Itinerant, 2 Adapted Physical Education Teachers, 1 American Sign Language Interpreter, 3 Certified School Nurses, 3 Nurses, 1 Licensed Practical Nurse and 5 health clerks.

Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 offers a wide continuum of services to meet the needs of each student in their least restrictive environment for children ages 3-21. These services include consultation and co-teaching in the general education classrooms to very targeted instruction in the smaller, special education classrooms to address specific deficit areas which have been identified through the evaluation process. Support in all classrooms are outlined based on the students' individualized education programs.

There are specialized classrooms within the special education program for students with significant social emotional needs, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities. Currently, the classrooms for these specialized programs are located at Webster Elementary School, Dorris Intermediate School, Collinsville Middle School and Collinsville High School. The district also has its own special education alternative school. Including students with disabilities in the general education setting with their non-disabled peers is a primary focus of Special Education and as of May 2021, 75% of students with disabilities attending Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 in Kindergarten through High School Graduation receive their services in the general education setting at least 40% or more of the school day.

Additionally, Collinsville Unit 10 School District was chosen to be 1 of 6 districts in the country to receive Technical Assistance for Implementing, Sustaining and Scaling-up High-Quality Inclusive Preschool Policies and Practices with support from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. Through the work of that program, a Community Inclusion Team was created to continue to scale up the efforts of inclusion for our littlest learners ages 3-5. This has led to more active and collaborative partnerships with local daycare providers as well as Head Start centers in our district boundaries therefore increasing our ability to serve our youngest students in their least restrictive environments. Our data continues to show that nearly 51% of our students with identified disabilities in our Early Childhood program receive a majority of their services in the general education preschool program while the state target was only 33%.

Special Education Services are initiated through Child Find activities at every age and grade level through a collaborative multidisciplinary team of General Education Teachers, Special Education Teachers, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Nurses, Administrators and when applicable Vision and Hearing Itinerants and Adapted Physical Education Teachers.

Children who have been identified through Early Intervention (Birth-3) are transitioned into the Collinsville School District to an Early Childhood Classroom at the age of 3 years old to receive the appropriate services as outlined in their initial Individualized Education Programs.

Additionally, for children who did not receive Early Intervention services, multiple Child Find Screenings are held in the community using the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL) by Pearson throughout the school year. Children who are identified through the DIAL are then referred for a play based assessment conducted by a multidisciplinary team to determine eligibility and services for students who qualify. Early Childhood Education services are provided at Maryville, Renfro, Webster and Kreitner School.

Ensuring students with disabilities have access to the general curriculum and make progress towards IEP goals is a priority of the Special Education Department. Therefore, appropriate accommodations and modifications are made to lessons and assignments in order to support students in the general education setting as outlined in their IEPs. Students who receive instruction in a smaller, special education setting for Language Arts and Math use a supplemental curriculum which is aligned to the appropriate common core standards. Specifically, Read Well, Language Live, My Math and Glencoe Math 1-3 are utilized in Grades K-8 in the instructional special education setting. The specialized self contained classes for students with Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities have been using Unique Learning Systems with students in Early Childhood through Transition age students.

The district is also implementing a specific social emotional curriculum, AIM, in the specialized emotional support classes. This curriculum was co-authored by Dr. Mark Dixon, BCBA, who provides on-site continuous professional development to the Collinsville staff. Dr. Dixon also provides ongoing, continuous supervision and professional development regarding the delivery of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services through the PEAK Curriculum.

Over the past several years, Indicator 13 regarding transition planning for students with disabilities for their post-secondary lives has driven many improvements in programming at Collinsville High School. Specifically, the STEP/Co-Op program has continued to thrive with competitive employment outcomes. EnvisionIT and various supplemental transition curriculum has been embedded in current special education courses and various transition assessment tools have been adopted. One new transition assessment tool being used at Collinsville High School for the 2021-2022 school year is through WayPoint. There are three assessments through the WayPoint Program: TAP – Functional Skills Aptitude Assessment, PIC – Work Interest Assessment and VIP – Work Personality Assessment.

Additionally, the Life Skills program at Collinsville High School is increasing their community based instructional opportunities and has established various collaborative partnerships with local community agencies such as restaurants, animal shelters, and the public library to name a few. This has allowed multiple authentic experiences for our students with disabilities to learn on the job skills they will need post high school. These partnerships have also potentially paved the way for post secondary employment opportunities. The primary focus of the Special Education Department in Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 is educating the whole child while taking each student's individualized needs into consideration and preparing them for success after they exit our district.

During the pandemic, remote learning plans were created for every student with an IEP to ensure that services were being implemented regardless of the learning setting the district was utilizing. Many related services were provided via teletherapy on Theraplatform. Additionally, all IEP meetings were held via Google Meets. While COVID brought forth many additional challenges for educating students with disabilities, one silver lining was a significant increase in parent participation during IEP meetings due to the opportunities to participate remotely. As a result, Google Meets will continue to be an option for IEP teams to meet remotely.

Student Services



The information below outlines enrollment data, programs and services available to students and families throughout our school district including transportation, enrollment, registration, and before and after school services.

**6,155 Students - 410 Teachers -
12 Schools - 1 District**

Transportation: Each day, the Collinsville School District transports approximately 3,400 regular education students and approximately 400 students with IEPs to and from school within our District, and to and from athletic and activity events throughout the State of Illinois. Our buses travel a total of 4,729 miles each day and are staffed by

approximately 80 bus drivers and 40 monitors. During the period of Remote Learning, the Collinsville Unit 10 School District partnered with First Student Bus Services and Sodexo Food Services to provide meals throughout the District, ensuring that students continued to receive breakfast and lunch during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the Collinsville Unit 10 School District is partnering with First Student Bus Company to secure an electric bus, the first zero-emission bus in the Unit 10 transportation fleet.

Homeless Education: Collinsville CUSD10 serves over 300 students who qualify for services under the provisions of the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. McKinney-Vento requires every school district to have a homeless education liaison who works with young people, schools, and service providers to make sure that homeless youth have a smooth transition into school and receive the support services for academic achievement they are guaranteed under law.

District Enrollment & School Registration: Each year, the CUSD10 Enrollment Office enrolls new members of the Kahok Family (for 2021-2022, our newest Kindergarten members represent the CHS Class of 2034). Currently, the Collinsville School District educates over 6,100 students from Early Childhood through grade 12 at twelve schools and the Collinsville Area Vocational Center (CAVC). This year, families are completing the new student enrollment and school registration in an electronic format. The online platform is conducted via the Skyward Parent Access Link on the Collinsville School District website using the parent's personalized username and password. Parents/guardians are able to utilize their Skyward Family Access account throughout the year to access school information for their child(ren) including: grades, teacher/class assignment, bus transportation information, student and parent handbooks, school supply lists, student health forms, cafeteria information, school fee schedules, Open House schedules and the District calendar. To learn more about student enrollment and registration in the Collinsville School District, please visit the [CUSD 10 Enrollment/Registration Resource](#) page.

Graduate Student Records: The CUSD10 Student Services Office processes a number of Transcript Requests and Health Records each day for students who graduate from Collinsville School District. Student Records Requests may be submitted online via the [Web Store](#) on the CUSD10 Website for graduates to order and pay for graduate transcript requests through this electronic media. Graduates may also order requests in person at the CUSD10 Enrollment Office (and pay electronically via a credit or debit card) or via mail (via check).

Annual Electronic Residence Verification: The Collinsville Community Unit School District No. 10 Student Services Office is happy to share that Unit 10 is updating District practice for student residence verification for compliance with District Policy and Illinois School Code. In an effort to honor parent and staff time, Collinsville Community Unit School District No. 10 will be working with a third-party vendor who uses a system called CLEAR Batch to automatically verify parent/guardian residency within the Collinsville CUSD10 boundaries. The CLEAR Batch system reviews public records to verify the parent/guardian name and address. In the past, all households were required to verify residency at the initial time of student enrollment for continued enrollment in the District. This new process will allow Collinsville CUSD10 to annually verify parent/guardian residence within the boundaries of Collinsville CUSD10.

YMCA Y Club Before and After School Enrichment Program: The [YMCA Y Club Before and After School Enrichment Program](#) is a cooperative effort between local schools and the Gateway Region YMCA. The program provides children, grades K-6, with a safe, well-supervised environment when an adult is not home before and/or after school. Participating schools include: Caseyville Elementary, Dorris Intermediate School, Jefferson Elementary (after school only), Maryville Elementary, Renfro Elementary, Twin Echo Elementary and Webster Elementary. Children can attend the Y Club program at their school from 6:30 a.m. until the beginning of the school day; and after school from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. All sites are directed by competent, experienced YMCA staff. Policies have been created with the child's safety as the top priority. To enroll your child into the Y CLUB "A Before & After School Enrichment Program," complete the [Y Club Registration Form 2021-2022](#).

Technology

The Collinsville Unit 10 Technology Department is tasked with providing relevant, innovative and reliable technologies to assist teachers and students with everyday learning in the classroom. The department is a "service first" team that provides hardware, applications, and networking, along with the support needed to properly utilize those technologies, to expand the learning potential of district students. We are committed to using technology to educate all students to high standards enabling them to become productive, responsible citizens.

While the technology department is constantly working in the background to ensure everyday services are readily available, the department is also taking on many new

projects each year to ensure the future affordability, reliability, and compatibility of the services we provide.

Recently, a new dark-fiber network was completed using a combination of Federal E-rate and state grant funding sources to provide continued, reliable connectivity between all district locations at a fraction of the previous monthly cost. In addition, new network management software will enable technology staff to precisely monitor and analyze network traffic for increased security and usability of the wireless network, allowing only authorized users access to what is needed.

Also, in an effort to ensure all district students have equal access to the Internet, a new Private LTE network was established in the Fairmont City area to provide a low-cost Internet solution to the area for years to come. The project was funded by state and federal grants which covered the build cost and greatly reduced future monthly expenditures on hotspots.

An ongoing initiative to migrate district backend services to Microsoft ActiveDirectory is currently underway. AD is more widely used worldwide than our previous network OS and will provide better compatibility with new and emerging applications and technology. Chromebook rotation and refresh cycles are in the process of being reworked to make use of the recent grants provided by the government's COVID relief packages as well as to ensure students always have access to a Chromebook. The new rollout will allow students to retain the same Chromebook throughout its useful life and will offer a buyout option if students wish to take their Chromebook to college. By taking advantage of the currently available relief packages, we will be able to fund new purchases with grant funds and save money on the bottom line.

Overall, technology decisions are driven by making the most of funds available and providing reliable, effective, and effortless technology solutions to all district parents, students, staff, and teachers.

Conclusion

Collinsville CUSD #10 consists of departments that provide oversight to our faculty, staff and families throughout the school year. While each department has provided information regarding programs, initiatives, facts, and planned improvements, the key elements that play a major role in the success of our district continue to be our communities, our families, our faculty, our staff and of course, our students. Together

you are the heart and soul of our district! Thank you for your constant dedication to our students! #THEKAHOKWAY