



Assistant Superintendent of Learning
September Board Report

Goal One – Student Learning

Family Reports for Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)

This month, parent score reports from the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) will be sent home to District 66 parents with students in grades 4–8 who participated in the Spring 2026 assessments. These reports are provided directly by the state and are designed to measure individual student proficiency with state academic standards and gauge academic growth over time.

While this data offers valuable insights for our schools and families regarding student proficiency with grade-level learning standards, it is important to keep in mind that state assessments represent just one source of evidence within a coherent system of standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment. A formal cover letter will accompany the score reports, noting the [Illinois IAR Score Interpretation Guide for Parents](#) available through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the new parent assessment portal to assist parents in interpreting their child's performance.

Fall Benchmarking

Our fall benchmark assessments are currently underway across grades Kindergarten through eighth grade, utilizing MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and Aimsweb+ assessments in both reading and mathematics. Data gathered from these screening tools will establish baseline metrics to track student growth and help us evaluate the overall effectiveness of our core instruction. Additionally, these results assist teachers in tailoring classroom instruction, identifying intervention needs, and determining if additional diagnostic information is needed to best support our students.

Institute and SIP Day Professional Learning

The 2026–2027 Opening Institute Days (August 17–18) and subsequent School Improvement Planning (SIP) Day (August 19) focused on cultivating student ownership of learning and fostering an inclusive culture of belonging. Across these three days, professional development was explicitly linked to the

overarching district theme: **"Make Learning Loud"**. The district's central theme, *"Make Learning Loud,"* is not about classroom volume—it is about making learning visible, active, and student-driven. "Loud" learning occurs when students actively debate, revise, create, process, problem-solve, defend, collaborate, and reflect. Dedicated student voice panels were also incorporated into the district institute day, where students shared firsthand experiences regarding active engagement, "sticky" learning, feedback, and reflection. By aligning professional development with concrete

instructional moves, listening to authentic student voices, and grounding the environment in a culture of belonging, the opening days were designed to prepare staff to cultivate empowered, self-directed learners.



Goal 1 Strategic Planning Work Sessions

The Goal 1 (Student Learning) subcommittee for our District Strategic Planning Committee will be engaging in work sessions scheduled between the large group sessions two and three, and again between sessions three and four. The primary focus of these targeted work sessions will be to craft the Goal 1 Vision Statement and delineate key goal areas along with potential outcomes.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **Work Session #1:** Wednesday, September 9th
- **Work Session #2:** Wednesday, October 7th