



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Reach Higher. Achieve Together.
Alcanza Más. Logrando Juntos.

TO Board of Education
FROM Cathy Park (Director of Assessment and Accountability) and Janet Ayala (Director of Multilingual Learners)
DATE August 14, 2026
SUBJECT 26-27 Parent Academy

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: June 18, 2026

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated:
- ☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information/Overview

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of District 33's new Parent Academy Series, a five-session learning opportunity designed to strengthen family-school partnerships by increasing parents' understanding of the local and state assessments their children take. Through these workshops, families will gain the knowledge and resources needed to actively support their child's academic growth and educational planning.

Each session focuses on helping families understand a specific assessment or reporting tool while providing practical strategies for supporting student success.

The workshops include:

Parent Academy #1: Understanding NWEA MAP Reading and Mathematics Scores, preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences, and maximizing communication through ParentSquare.

Parent Academy #2: Understanding Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and ACCESS for English Learners scores.

Parent Academy #3: Understanding report cards and effectively using PowerSchool to monitor student progress.

Parent Academy #4: Understanding AAPPL scores and the Advanced Spanish pathway for students participating in the Dual Language Program.

Parent Academy #5: Understanding CogAT results and supporting advanced learners participating in the Accelerated & Enriched Program.

Each workshop will help parents:

- Understand the purpose of district and state assessments.
- Learn how to interpret their child's assessment results.

	• Understand how assessment data is used to guide instruction, identify supports, and inform future academic opportunities, including high school course placement. • Learn how the district responds to student performance through instructional planning and targeted support. • Gain practical strategies and resources to reinforce learning at home. • Build stronger partnerships with teachers and school staff by asking informed questions and participating in ongoing conversations about student progress. We will also be recording each session to provide any parent who was not able to attend to review the recorded session. We will also have a dedicated page on our district website to share the recording, any handouts, and information for the parents regarding each session.
Strategic Plan Goal Alignment	Goals 1, 2 and 4
Background or historical information	Student assessment data plays a significant role in monitoring academic progress, informing instruction, identifying areas of strength and need, and supporting decisions related to intervention, enrichment, and future course placement. While schools regularly analyze assessment data to guide instructional practices, many families have expressed a desire to better understand what these assessments measure, how scores are interpreted, and how they can use this information to support learning at home. Research consistently demonstrates that meaningful family engagement is associated with improved student achievement, increased attendance, stronger motivation, and greater academic confidence. When parents understand their child's academic data and have opportunities to partner with educators, they are better equipped to advocate for their children, reinforce learning at home, and participate in important educational decisions. The Parent Academy Series was developed to provide families with accessible, practical information in a welcoming environment where they can ask questions, learn alongside district staff, and build confidence in navigating their child's educational journey.

Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue	Last year, the board expressed a desire to support our D33 parents so they had a better understanding of each assessment in the district as well as programs that we offer for our students.
Recommendation	N/A
Other Questions	