



# Annual Report

... 2014/2015

*Great Schools Matter*

Glen Ellyn  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41



# Greetings from the Superintendent

Dear Neighbors,

It is my pleasure to present the Glen Ellyn School District 41 Annual Report for 2014/2015. It has been a great year!

As I reflect back on this past year, I am proud of our staff and students and the significant progress being made in our district. As you will see on the following pages of this report, the district is embracing authentic, rigorous and engaging learning opportunities for all students. Our students are performing better than ever, our teachers are using the best teaching methods proven to be successful, and we are making improvements to our facilities as funding allows.

District 41 takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. As support from the State decreases and operational challenges persist, the district is taking proactive steps to build financial security so that it will thrive for generations to come. Careful consideration goes into the development of budgets and the stewardship of resources. You will see this reflected in the financial data included in this report.

On behalf of all of our school communities, thank you for your continued support.

We know that great schools matter to our families and to the community overall. District 41 is committed to being a great school district and preparing our students for success now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Gordon



## Table of Contents

- Greetings from the Superintendent
- Board of Education
- Long-Range Plan
- District 41 Model
- Facilities Enhancements
- Academic Growth
- Fiscal Responsibility



## About District 41

District 41 serves over 3,500 Pre-K through 8th grade students from five communities including Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Glendale Heights, Carol Stream, and Lombard. Our schools include four elementary schools (Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Churchill, and Forest Glen) and Hadley Junior High School. All of our students transition to Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn.

## Board of Education

The Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education consists of seven members who are elected at-large and serve without pay for staggered four-year terms. The Board makes decisions as a unit based on what is best for the District as a whole.

### Thank you to the 2014/2015 Board of Education

John Kenwood, *President*

Drew Ellis, *Vice President*

Dean Elger, *Secretary*

Joe Bochenski

Patrick Escalante

Erica Nelson

Cathryn Wilkinson

Three seats were open for election this past April - John Kenwood, Erica Nelson and Cathryn Wilkinson. On May 4, the new Board of Education members Kurt Buchholz, Stephanie Clark and incumbent Erica Nelson were seated. We thank them for their interest in our school district and for the time they will devote to our students and school communities.

## Long-Range Plan

### Our Vision

Ignite passion. Inspire excellence. Imagine possibilities.

### Our Mission

We embrace the future with optimism, working in partnership with our community on behalf of our children. We develop intellect, engage creativity, foster responsibility, and build positive and collaborative relationships to enable all children to thrive in a changing and increasingly global society.

### Our Long-Range Plan Goals

**Goal 1:** Student learning and achievement in the 21st century

**Goal 2:** Development of human capital

**Goal 3:** 21st century learning through technology

**Goal 4:** Ambassadorship: strengthening relationships

**Goal 5:** Communications: acquiring and sharing information

**Goal 6:** 21st century finance and facilities

For more details about our Long-Range Plan, please visit [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org).



Ignite passion.  
Inspire excellence.  
Imagine possibilities.



## The District 41 Model

District 41 embraced a 21st Century Teaching and Learning Model that defines the district's academic path. A major component of the model is using Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a vehicle to deliver instruction that supports curriculum. The research is clear, learning that takes place through PBL exceeds other vehicles for delivering the standards. Problem-Based Learning is a more active alternative to traditional classroom learning. With PBL, the teacher and the students come up with the problem together. Students read, write, use/learn math, and study science, while being graded on the standards along the way. This was the first year that every teacher in the District was asked to use Problem-Based Learning for at least one of their teaching units.



## Saving the Monarchs

In the fall of 2014, 2nd and 3rd grade students from Benjamin Franklin Elementary engaged in Problem-Based Learning and researched the alarming decline in the number of Monarch butterflies throughout the country. When these same students were in 1st grade they learned about the life cycle of the butterfly. This sparked a genuine interest in butterflies in the students.

What resulted was a village-wide Glen Ellyn civic initiative to spread awareness about this important issue and to encourage action by planting milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's only food source.

Organizations throughout the Glen Ellyn community have committed themselves to developing and promoting a civic effort to save the Monarch butterfly from extinction - all based on student work in the classroom. District 41 students are already making a difference in the world. There are many PBL examples like this one across the district.

*Thank you to the following community partners who are supporting the Monarch PBL solution implementation:*

Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission

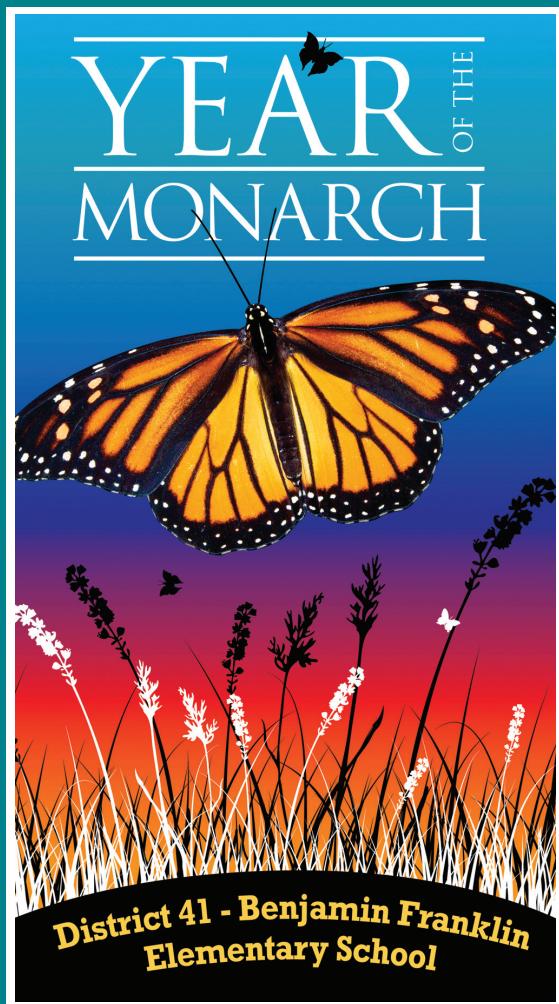
Glen Ellyn Park District

Glen Ellyn Public Library

Glen Ellyn Public Works

Village of Glen Ellyn

Willowbrook Wildlife Center



## Facility Enhancements

Since 2001, 32 portable classrooms have arrived throughout the years into the district to provide more classroom space. What was once a temporary solution became the norm for every school in the district. Portable classrooms pose serious safety concerns, they are a barrier to learning due to lost time in the school day, and are unsightly in beautiful residential communities.

This past year, the district has been replacing portables at the elementary schools with new state-of-the-art classrooms. The district has invested \$14 million to ensure that all children and teachers are inside of the elementary school buildings by the spring of 2016. This school year, eight portables have been removed and eight new classrooms have been opened - four at Abraham Lincoln and four at Benjamin Franklin. Churchill and Forest Glen construction on the new classrooms will continue through the summer and, for Churchill, into next fall. The new elementary classroom spaces are a one-to-one replacement of portables.

Ten portable classrooms remain at Hadley. In order to remove these portables, the district will need a similar facilities plan specifically for the junior high school. This will be a part of a larger conversation with the community about the future of our facilities across the district.



## Facility Needs and Full-Day Kindergarten

For more than 10 years, the Board of Education and district administration have been evaluating school building facilities and exploring ways to improve physical spaces in order to meet the educational needs of the students. The current buildings are overcrowded and need maintenance. In addition, this past year, the district has been exploring the possibility of adding full-day kindergarten.

As a way to identify possible solutions, the Board of Education approved further exploration of facilities solutions. Possible solutions were presented to the Board and also to the community through Community Listening Sessions.

The next step in this process is to engage the community through a Community Task Force and further study the best facilities solutions.

# Academic Growth

District 41 students are growing academically. *The Daily Herald* article on October 31, 2014, "Improving DuPage scores show 'teaching math finally makes sense,'" listed District 41 in the top 5 school districts in DuPage county based on Illinois Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) scores.

- 2nd in overall Math growth behind Butler 53 (a district with under 500 students and 2 schools)
- 8th grade Reading - we are #5 behind Butler 53, Hinsdale 181, Elmhurst 205, and Naperville 203
- 8th Grade Math - we are #5 behind Medinah 11, Butler 53, Hinsdale 181, and Naperville 203

With the departure from ISAT, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) was introduced as the new mandated state assessment. PARCC results are scheduled to be released Fall 2015.

One of the other ways to measure academic growth over time is by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment "Measures of Academic Progress" or MAP. A snapshot of District 41 MAP data from the 2014/2015 school year is presented below.

## What to look for (according to NWEA):

- Spring 2015 Mean RIT higher than the Fall 2014 Mean RIT
- Mean Growth higher than Projected Mean Growth
- Percent of Projection over 100 percent
- Percent Meeting Projection over 50 percent

### Overall District Growth in Reading – MAP 2014/2015

Grade	Count	Fall 2014 Mean RIT	Spring 2015 Mean RIT	Actual Mean Growth	Projected Mean Growth	Percent of Projection	Percent Meeting Projection
KG	343	148.5	163.6	15.1	14.5	104.1	56.0
1	336	168.2	186.2	18.1	16.9	107.1	55.4
2	366	180.5	195.8	15.3	13.1	116.8	61.5
3	370	197.4	207.8	10.4	8.6	120.9	62.4
4	340	205.3	213.5	8.3	6.5	127.7	59.4
5	394	215.1	221.8	6.7	4.8	139.6	64.0
6	395	220.6	225.0	4.3	3.8	113.2	56.7
7	353	224.0	227.9	3.9	3.0	130.0	57.5
8	386	229.8	232.9	3.2	2.6	123.1	58.3

### Overall District Growth in Math – MAP 2014/2015

Grade	Count	Fall 2014 Mean RIT	Spring 2015 Mean RIT	Actual Mean Growth	Projected Mean Growth	Percent of Projection	Percent Meeting Projection
KG	342	148.9	165.7	16.8	15.1	111.3	64.9
1	335	170.7	191.4	20.7	14.6	141.8	79.1
2	364	183.7	198.6	14.9	12.5	119.2	68.7
3	371	201.0	212.3	11.3	10.8	104.6	56.3
4	341	211.6	223.1	11.5	8.9	129.2	67.4
5	392	224.9	233.7	8.8	8.0	110.0	56.8
6	396	229.1	237.4	8.2	6.0	136.7	68.4
7	357	235.1	241.1	6.0	5.0	120.0	61.3
8	383	242.5	248.2	5.7	4.0	142.5	64.0

Note: This data includes only students who took both the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 MAP tests.

To view the District 41 Academic Update, visit [www.d41.org](http://www.d41.org)

School districts compare local MAP data with the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Normative Data. District 41 continues to grow and improve academically every year.

The Mean RIT scores went up in every grade level from Fall 2014 to Spring 2015. District 41 is above the national Mean RIT score in all grade levels in both math and reading.

District Teams for Excellence, such as Team 21 and the Continue Improvement Team, review the data and use it to identify strengths and opportunities. Principals will review the data, share it with Building Leadership Teams and with teacher teams. The data helps inform educators' instructional practices to improve outcomes for students.



## Fiscal Responsibility

The district's budget is aligned with Board Fiscal Philosophy, Board Policy 4:20 and 4:20AP. Adherence to this philosophy and supporting processes has helped District 41 achieve sound finances, reach the state's highest score of 4.0 (earning financial recognition), and earn a Triple A rating from Moody's Investor Service.

## Fiscal Philosophy

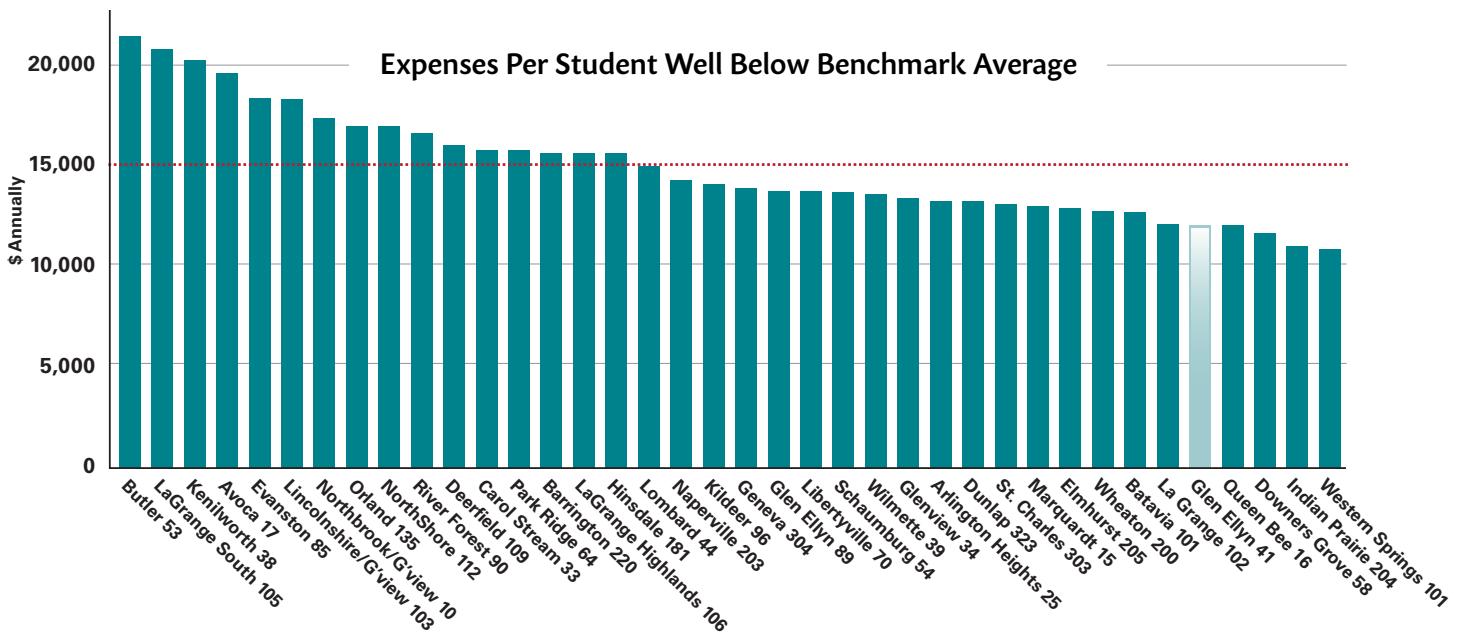
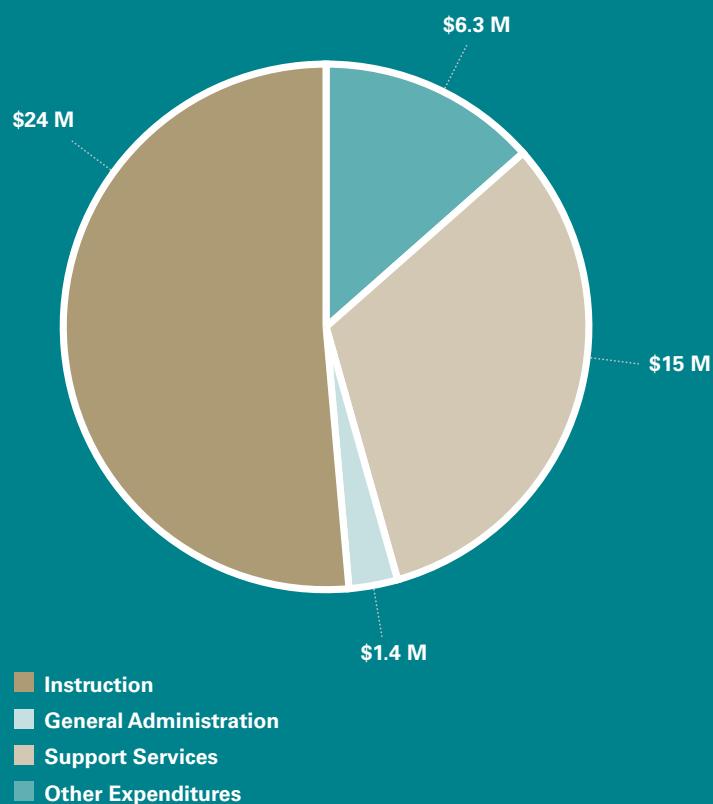
The District shall establish and follow guidelines for the budget development process that provide the community with consistent delivery of high quality educational programs. These programs should be provided in safe and secure learning environments, in facilities that are physically and operationally sound and within the fiscal constraints as deemed necessary by the Board of Education.

District 41 has received the Association of School Business Officials International's (IASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award consecutively for the past 16 years. The award letter from IASBO states, "This award represents a significant achievement and reflects your commitment to fiscal integrity and high-quality financial reporting."

Over the past several years, the Board of Education Finance Committee and the district finance office developed a five-year plan to prepare for financial threats in the State of Illinois. The five-year working document

was completed this year and can be found on the district website in the 2015/2016 budget document at [www.d41.org/fiscalbudget.htm](http://www.d41.org/fiscalbudget.htm)

**District Financial Information**  
Expenditure Amounts By Function (2013)



“I am very proud of the growth we have seen in this district over the past few years. The children in the communities we serve are smart, talented and engaged in their communities like never before. We are truly preparing the future leaders of our country.”

- Board President Erica Nelson



## Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education

The Board of Education welcomed Kurt Buchholz, Stephanie Clark and incumbent Erica Nelson to the Board on May 4. Congratulations to the elected officers President Erica Nelson, Vice President Drew Ellis and Secretary Dean Elger.

**Pictured (L-R):** Patrick Escalante, Stephanie Clark, Dean Elger, Superintendent Paul Gordon, Erica Nelson, Drew Ellis, Kurt Buchholz, and Joe Bochenski.

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