

DISTRICT 39 TO HAVE A NEW LEADER

The Board of Education is pleased to share that Dr. Kari Cremascoli has been selected as the next Superintendent of District 39. This decision was announced at a Special Board of Education Meeting on December 21st.

The search was managed by SCHOOL EXEC CONNECT, and there were 39 initial applicants. Dr. Cremascoli was chosen following an extensive interview process that included a stakeholder committee of parents, community members, staff, and administrators, as well as the Board of Education. Her educational background includes a B.S. and M.Ed, both from Loyola University, Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Leadership in Education Administration from Capella University. She is uniquely qualified to lead District 39 following the retirement of Dr. Ray Lechner in June.

Superintendent Ray Lechner commented, "With Kari's knowledge and experience, I am confident District 39 will be in very capable hands. We are already working on transition plans, and I look forward to helping Kari get to know this wonderful community."

Dr. Cremascoli is currently the Superintendent of Downers Grove District 58, a position she has held for seven years. Prior to that, she was at DeKalb District 428, first as Executive Director of Student Services and then as Assistant Superintendent. D39 Board President Mark Steen said, "Hiring Dr. Cremascoli is the culmination of a rigorous search process, and she brings extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm, and experience to her new role. We look forward to having Kari lead our District in its continuing commitment to improving education for our children while maintaining our track record of fiscal discipline."

Dr. Cremascoli noted, "It is an honor to have been chosen as the next superintendent to serve the outstanding students, staff, and community of District 39. I am humbled by the very warm welcome I've received and look forward to meeting many more of the amazing people within the D39 community in the coming months. I am excited to have the opportunity to support the ongoing work of our schools and to continuing the strong D39 tradition of excellence."

The District 39 community will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Cremascoli in the spring. Dates will be posted on the District website as soon as they are available.



Above: Dr. Kari Cremascoli listens while the Board approves her as the new D39 Superintendent.

Below: Board members greet Dr. Cremascoli

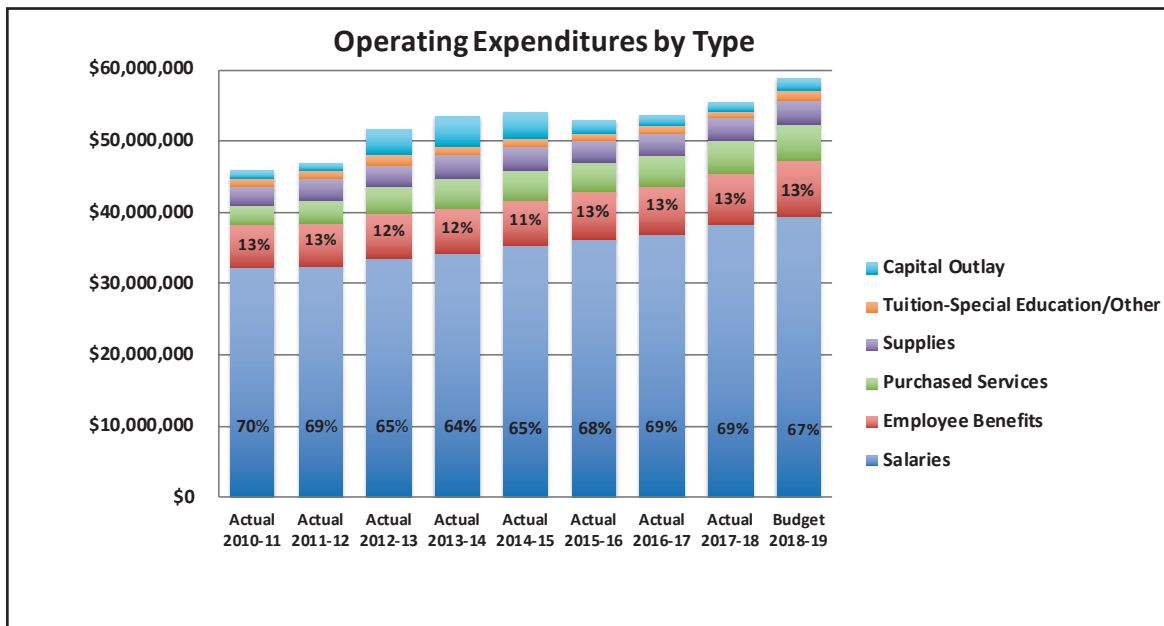
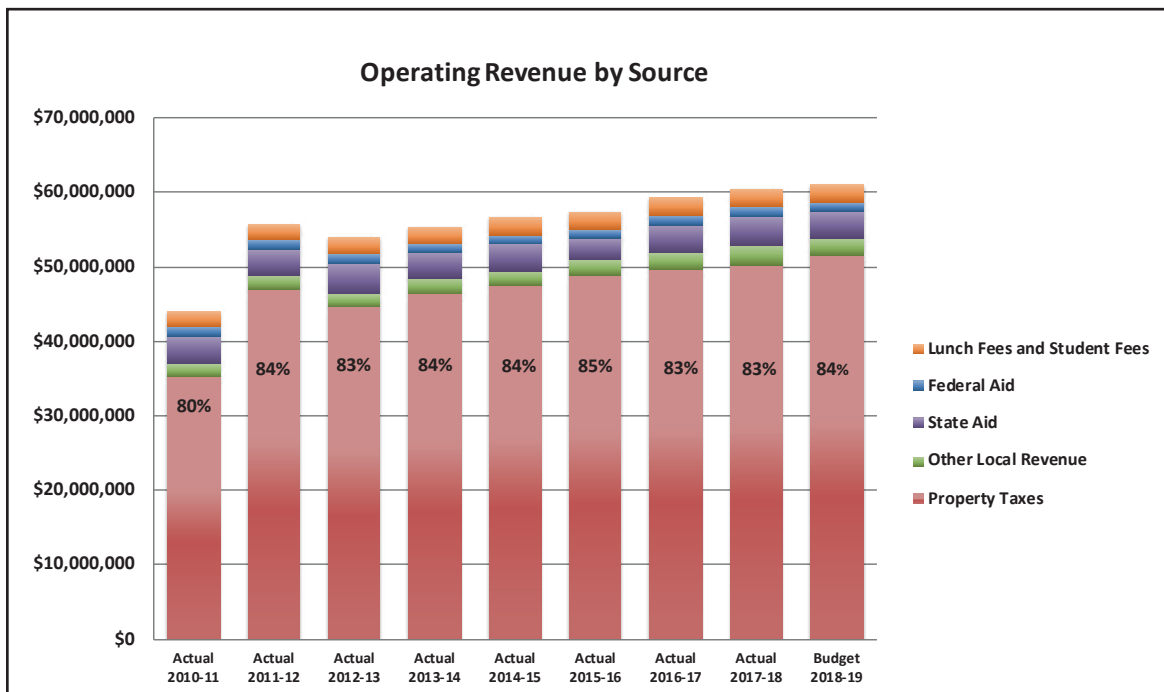


FINANCIAL REPORT

District 39 remains in a solid financial position. For the 17th year in a row, the District has earned the highest financial rating from the Illinois State Board of Education - 4.00 on a four point scale. The charts below show the District's source of revenue and type of expenditures, as budgeted for the current Fiscal Year 2019 and historically. Detailed financial information was presented at the December Board meeting and can be found online.

Local property taxes continue to be the primary source of revenue for District 39, providing an expected 84% of revenue this year. Expenditures are primarily salaries and employee benefits; together, these two components account for 80% of D39's Fiscal Year 2019 budgeted operating expenditures. Non-operating expenditures budgeted for Fiscal Year 2019 include \$4.6 million in capital outlay related to Highcrest construction.

Pension reform talks continue in Springfield, including the potential to shift the cost of teacher pensions to local school districts. The District monitors legislative developments that could impact its financial position and will keep the community informed.

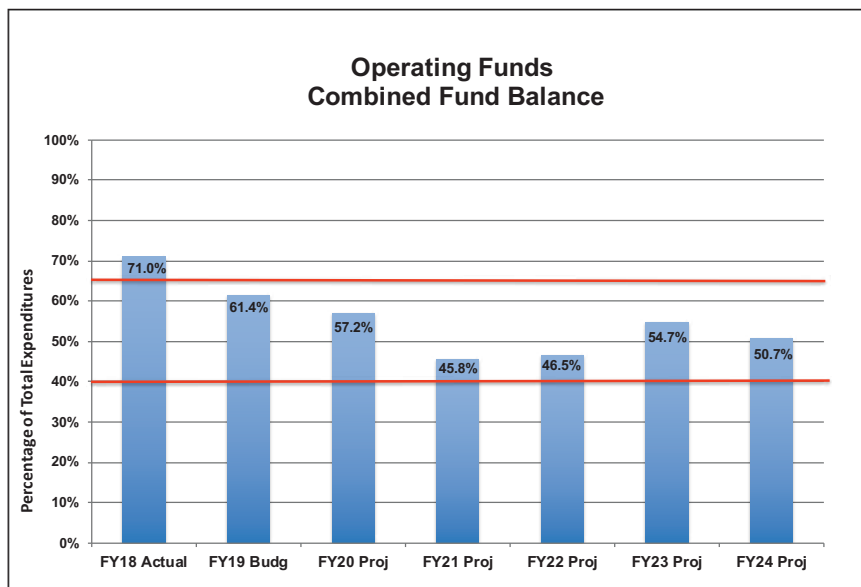


FIVE YEAR PROJECTIONS

Each year, after the fiscal year audit, the District updates its five year projections. Key economic indicators and prior projections are used to identify future budget trends and evaluate the District's present and future economic status. By applying a logical set of economic assumptions, an accurate picture of funding for the next five years is developed. Prior years' projections included an estimate for pension cost shift. This has been removed as the target fund balance minimum has been increased from 30% to 40% to account for unknowns such as the pension cost shift. In addition, if the fund balance is approaching 65% the Board will consider options at a public meeting.

Assumptions utilized in these projections include CPI increases in future property tax revenues of 2.5% for 2019, 2.3% for 2020, 2.3% for 2021, and 2.0% thereafter, based on Bloomberg estimates for CPI. In addition, projections for new property growth are included based on a five-year historical average of \$14.4 million. Both state and federal funding are projected to remain flat through 2024. Health insurance costs are projected to increase 5% per year through 2024. The cost of planned capital projects reflected in the projections for fiscal years 2020-2024 includes non-operating capital expenditures for Kindergarten Enrichment and for Phase 2 Highcrest construction.

The chart above demonstrates that the District is able to maintain its current high quality educational program and sustain a fund balance above the Board established minimum of 40% of the operating fund budget through the 2023-24 school year.

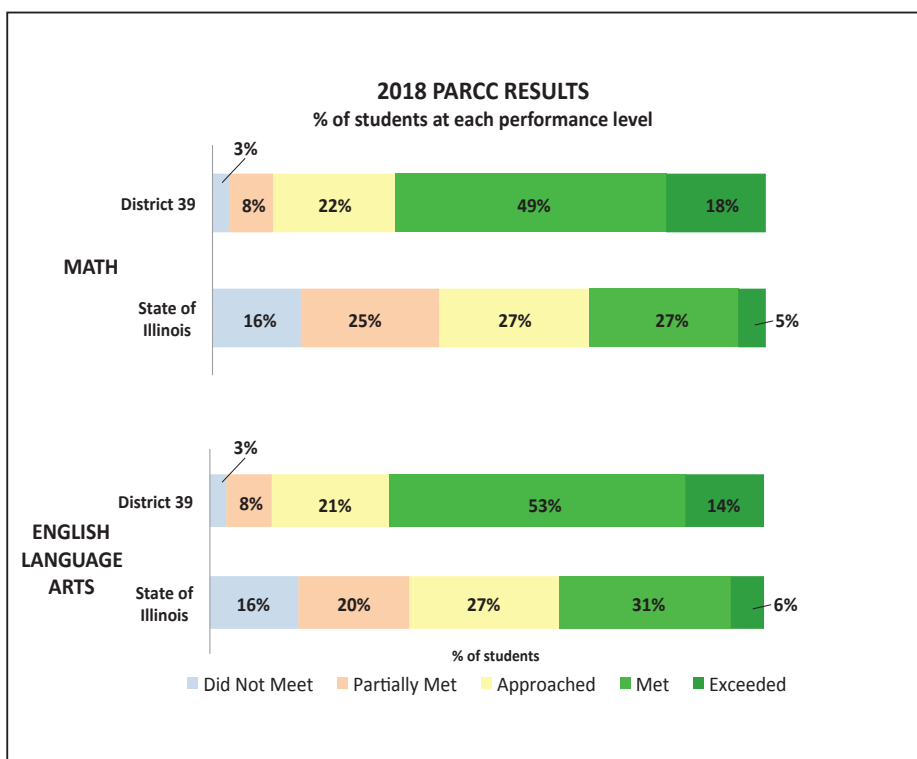


PARCC RESULTS

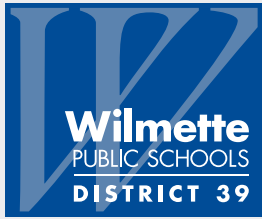
The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is administered to students in grades 3 - 8. This is Illinois' required assessment and District 39 administers PARCC online. It measures student performance aligned to grade-specific Illinois standards in math and English language arts.

The results here reflect the PARCC assessment given in the spring of 2018. This was the fourth year of PARCC in Illinois. As the chart indicates, PARCC categorizes student performance according to five levels of progress toward standards.

The percentage of D39 students meeting or exceeding standards is well above the state average in both math and English language arts. In math, 67% of D39 students met or exceeded standards, compared to 32% for the state. In English language arts, 67% of D39 students met or exceeded standards, compared to 37% for the state. You can see the District's complete PARCC results on the School Report Card found under "About 39" on the District's website.



In District 39, assessment results continue to inform instructional decisions. Best instructional practices emphasize the use of multiple assessments and data points to determine student strengths and challenges. Along with assessment results, classroom performance, social-emotional skills, and other non-cognitive factors provide a comprehensive picture of achievement and growth.



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DISTRICT 39 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

The D39 Educational Foundation holds community and fundraising events, which enable continued awarding of innovative Gripp Grants to benefit all D39 children.



From the Harper PTO: President Carrie Diamond (right) and Secretary Yvonne Kelly show off new styles at the Attire to Inspire Fashion Show

In November, we hosted our “Attire to Inspire” fashion show in the evening, for the first time, with great success. Several local stores were featured and a few brave members of the D39 community modeled! Our annual Trivia Night will be held on February 2nd at the Masonic Lodge. This year we will be including a dance party along with trivia! So get those costumes ready, and be prepared to hit the dance floor after a few rounds of trivia. Bingo Night will be held on March 1st at Highcrest Middle School. Grab the whole family, friends, and neighbors and come join the fun!

Science Olympiad began on December 5th with 79, 5th-8th grade students and 8 courses. Courses range in topics from anatomy, architecture, and computer gaming to roller coaster design and creation. Many thanks to our volunteer leaders who teach a wide variety of STEM courses. Stay tuned to our website for information about an Open House for students to showcase their learnings once classes are completed.

This fall we were thrilled to award over \$15,000 in Gripp Grants across all six D39 schools. Thirty-two Zone watches were awarded to a Highcrest PE teacher to assist students with heart rate monitoring - students will get accurate, real time feedback and teachers can personalize students’ fitness goals. Twenty Qballs and JBL Flip portable speakers were awarded for all D39 elementary schools. A Qball is a ball-shaped microphone that sends a user’s voice via Bluetooth to a speaker that amplifies their words for all to hear. It supports collaboration in the classroom and an inclusive and shared learning environment for all students, including those with speech and hearing impairments. All elementary schools will benefit from the 32 Sphero BOLT robots. Each school was granted eight robots that will provide students with a hands-on opportunity to expand their coding skills. The robots can be differentiated by age group and coding ability. Five Gameballs were awarded to a Central PE teacher to be used in PE classes. These balls link via Bluetooth to nine game apps that voice directions for games that give students immediate feedback on skills and technique. These games can utilize math, measurement and competitive skills as well. We encourage any staff or community member to apply for a Spring Gripp Grant!

Finally, the annual Foundation fundraising campaign is underway. Please consider a donation at www.d39foundation.org/make-donation/ so more unique programming can benefit D39 students. Please also check with your employers as many have workplace matching programs. We can help at d39found@d39foundation.org.

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are interested in your ideas, feedback, and suggestions, whether or not you have children in our schools. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Email us at opinion@wilmette39.org or contact Dr. Ray Lechner at 847-512-6030. Mail can be sent to the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL 60091.