



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# Board of Education



**Melinda Shafer**

Board President  
mshafer@cusd50.org

Mrs. Shafer serves on the Negotiations, Policy, and Superintendent Evaluation committees. Her term ends in 2025.



**Kristina Duber**

Board Member  
kduber@cusd50.org

Mrs. Duber serves on the Agriculture/Horticulture, Building Trades, Curriculum, and Facilities committees. Her term ends in 2025.



**Sandra Theriault**

Vice President  
stheriault@cusd50.org

Mrs. Theriault serves on the Facilities, Labor Relations, Negotiations, and Superintendent Evaluation committees. Her term ends in 2023.



**Todd Ramberg**

Board Member  
tramberg@cusd50.org

Mr. Ramberg serves on the Agriculture/Horticulture, Behavioral, and Parent-Teacher Advisory committees. His term ends in 2025.



**Sharon McMillan**

Board Secretary  
smcmillan@cusd50.org

Mrs. McMillan serves on the Facilities, Insurance, and Policy committees. Her term ends in 2023.



**Jennifer Garafol**

Board Member  
jgarafol@cusd50.org

Ms. Garafol serves on the Policy Committee. Her term ends in 2023.



**Roger Wilhoit**

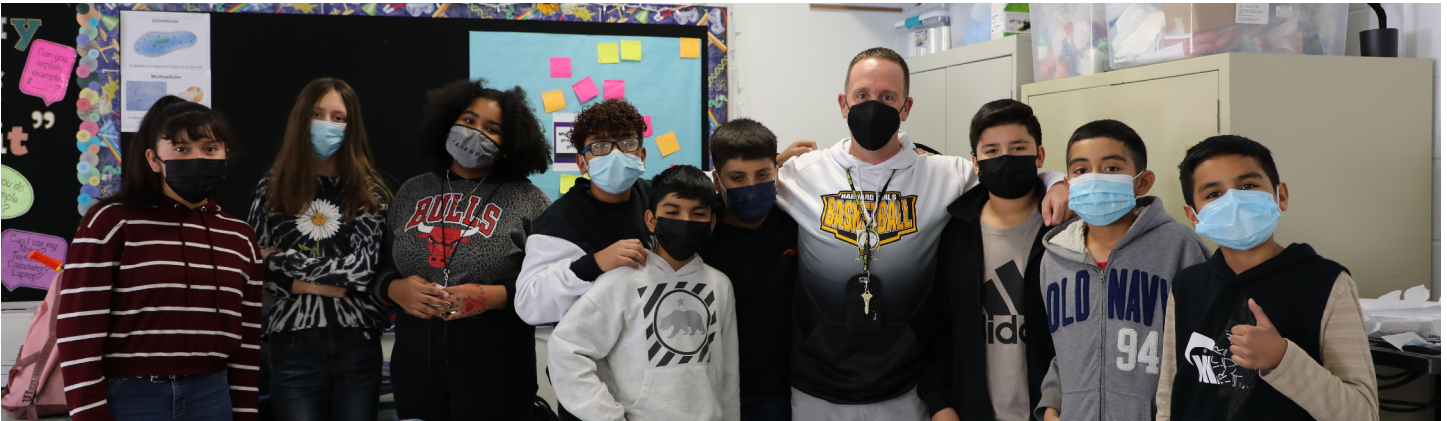
Board Member  
rwilhoit@cusd50.org

Mr. Wilhoit serves on the Finance, Parent-Teacher Advisory, and Insurance committees. His term ends in 2023.

Harvard CUSD 50 is governed by a school board consisting of seven members. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the district's schools. The Board convenes every month in open, public meetings to discuss district business and hear citizens' concerns. An agenda is posted publicly in advance of board meetings. The meeting schedule, along with agendas and minutes, is available on the district's website at [www.cusd50.org/board](http://www.cusd50.org/board).



# Superintendent's Message



Harvard Families,

What a year it has been. As the years pass, I'm sure we'll look back at the 2021-2022 school year with amazement and pride. When we remember the endurance, efforts, and resilience of our staff, students, and community, we'll shake our heads in disbelief. The fact that we've not only survived during this school year, but *thrived*, is a testament to what is happening in our community and school district. #HarvardRising is a very real thing. Here are just a few of the incredible accomplishments from this school year:

- The first cohort of District 50 students enrolled in the MCC Duo program. These students are on a pathway to earning a college associate degree on the same day as their high school graduation in May 2023.
- We completed a \$7 million locker room renovation which brought our high school athletes and PE students a 21st-century space to train, compete, and grow.
- The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) recognized Harvard CUSD 50 as one of thirteen Lighthouse Districts nationwide for our excellent dual-language program.
- 21.3% of Harvard High School graduates earned the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy through proficiency in two languages as demonstrated by Advanced Placement (AP) and SAT scores.
- Continued financial planning and careful Board stewardship have continued a tradition of financial stability and responsible use of public resources to manage our district.

One of those achievements would be enough for many school districts in a single year, but they all happened in Harvard during a year disrupted by pandemic-related issues. We know there are improvements forthcoming for our students to receive the best education possible. You can be confident that we'll continue to celebrate the successes of our students and build for an even brighter future, maximizing the success of each student.

Thank you for your partnership and support of Harvard CUSD 50. It's wonderful to live in a community where the support of our schools is so strong. We couldn't do it without you!

Dr. Corey Tafoya



**Dr. Corey Tafoya**  
Superintendent  
815-943-4022  
[ctafoya@cusd50.org](mailto:ctafoya@cusd50.org)

# District Data

Student Enrollment

**215** Washington School

**649** Crosby Elementary

**405** Jefferson Elementary

**592** Harvard Junior High

**749** Harvard High School

**2,610** Total Enrollment



125 students graduated from Harvard High School in May of 2022.

## District Staff

**230** Certified Teachers

**54%** Teachers with a Master's Degree or above

**106** Bilingual Staff Members

**120** Educational Support Professionals

**19** Related Services Staff

**22** Administrators

**409** Employees



Advanced Placement classes offered increased by 33% from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.

89 Harvard High School students were enrolled in AP Courses.

Harvard Community Unit School District 50 proudly serves the children of the greater Harvard area. The district educates more than 2,600 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade in five schools. Harvard CUSD 50 features a dual language program, one-to-one computing, advanced building trades curriculum, modern STEM classes, and yearly summer camps. The community of Harvard has supported public education since 1859 and is located in McHenry County, seven miles south of the Illinois/Wisconsin border.



# Strategic Plan



## **Mission Statement**

*To produce a community of learners by cultivating academic, social, and emotional skills to maximize each student's potential.*

## **Vision Statement**

*Educational excellence and lifelong learning for all.*

## **Goal 1: Student Success**

Maximize the academic achievement and personal growth of every student.

## **Goal 2: Organizational Effectiveness**

Cultivate and ensure structural supports that develop and retain high-quality staff.

## **Goal 3: Communication and Community Relations**

Build partnerships between the district and community to enhance student learning.

## **Goal 4: Finance and Operations**

Maintain organizational and operational excellence.

The strategic planning process was designed to authentically engage stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff, and community leaders in articulating organizational priorities and stakeholder values. The research-based method of strategic planning adopted by Harvard CUSD 50 will allow the District to create its own future, focused on students, through rigorous organizational assessment, followed by operational implementation.

# Goal 1: Student Success

## Harvard High School Boys Wrestling



Harvard High School Boys Wrestling finished their season by placing 4th at the IHSA 1A State Wrestling Tournament.

Other accomplishments for the team include being named the 2021-2022 KRC Conference Champions and Regional Champions.

Nathan Rosas and Bailey Livdahl were state qualifiers. Ivan Rosas was a 3rd place winner. Brian Hernandez was a state qualifier and was also chosen for the KRC All-Conference Team.

## AVID Prioritizes Community Service

Harvard High School AVID students, started a plastic cap collection. With the help of students in Life Skills classes, caps were cleaned weekly, stored, and weighed once a month. Since March, over 130 pounds have been collected. The caps will eventually be turned into a picnic table for students.

Maura Bridges, Coordinator of College and Career Readiness, said, "I am so excited that the AVID students have chosen to serve their school community. Both the High School and Junior High AVID classes are taking on the needs of the community by recycling and caring in our community recreation areas. Such a great way that they're giving back!"

AVID Elective and AVID Excel classes at Harvard Junior High School officially adopted the Rush Creek Trail at Rush Creek Conservation Area in Harvard through the McHenry County Conservation District. AVID students and their families hiked the trail and cleaned up garbage on a weeknight in May 2022.



David Quino, Eric Aquino, Oger Bernal, Jovani Escobar, Alexis Gonzalez, Martin Quintero, Juan Silva, and Andres Flores Hernandez were all named to the Boys All Conference KRC Team.



In July 2021, fifty-six Harvard High School students participated in Extended Learning to redeem course credits after COVID-19.

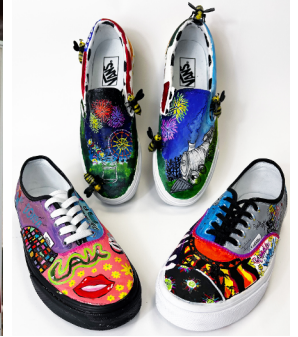


# Goal 1: Student Success

## K-12 Art Program and Vans Competition

Harvard CUSD 50 hosted their Annual Art Show at The Starline Factory. The exhibit attracted hundreds of families and featured more than 200 pieces of art.

Twelve Harvard High School students were part of 200 schools nationwide to participate in the Vans Custom Culture Contest. The competition themes were "Hometown Pride" and "Legacy of Paul Van Doren."



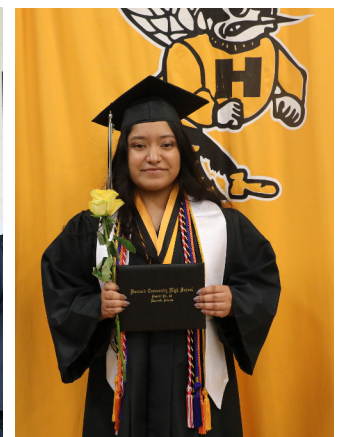
## Business Professionals of America

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Business Professionals of America student group began. Twenty-four Harvard High School students competed at the state level for Business Professionals of America. Payton Halfpenny, Aedan Hobbs, and Justin Lehmann went on to compete at the national level in May 2022.



## Illinois State Scholars

Steven J. Austin, Sandra Castaneda, Sophia Elliott, Allan Flores, Adeline Keller, Jesus Ortiz, and Nathan Rosas from the graduating Class of 2022 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars.



Harvard Junior High wrestlers, Blake Livdahl and Logan Nulle, competed at State Wrestling. Blake placed 3rd and qualified for the IESA National Wrestling Team.



Ms. Padilla's 3rd Grade Class published a recipe book with the students' favorite recipes and drawings!



# Goal 1: Student Success



Forty-nine Harvard High School students participated in 33 events at Solo and Ensemble with 29 of those students receiving Division 1 ratings. Wind Ensemble also received a Division 1 rating.



Sixteen Harvard High School students attended the 2022 IDEA Regional Drafting Competition at MCC. Caden Scott went on to earn 3rd Place in the Architectural Board Category at the State Drafting Competition.



Harvard Athletics added a new sport to their schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Both boys and girls bowling filled Varsity and Junior Varsity rosters.



In February, Harvard CUSD 50's Chess Team qualified for the IHSA State Tournament. The Hornets were led by Will Harter's 4.5 points and Andrew Dudley's 4 points.



Job Miller, Adilene Parra, and Melanie Ramirez were named to the All-Conference KRC Cheerleading Team.



Harvard High School students competed against 158 other students in the FFA State Agronomy CDE at the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign.



# Goal 1: Student Success



In October, Harvard Boy's Soccer team claimed the Kishwaukee River Conference after defeating Richmond-Burton 4-0.



The Harvard High School Spring Musical, "The Little Mermaid" was seen by over 600 guests.



The Class of 2022 is the fourth cohort of Harvard's Dual Language Program which began in 2007. The District's goal is aiming at 50% of graduating seniors to earn the Seal of Biliteracy by 2026.

Harvard CUSD 50 Director of Dual Language and Culture Amber Bowgren states, "It has been a challenging yet tremendous year in our dual language program. Our teachers and students have demonstrated exceptional perseverance in their quest for biliteracy and bilingualism even during the pandemic. We are very proud that we have grown from just 2.4% of the graduates earning the seal just three years ago to now 21.3% of this year's graduating class. Congratulations to all graduates and their families!"



Brenna Uppleger qualified for the indoor and outdoor State Track Meet in running and jumping events. Throughout both seasons, she has broken 7 school records.



Julia Chupich is one of many outstanding multi-athletes at Harvard High School. Julia signed her Letter of Intent to play golf and major in education at Aurora University.

# Goal 2: Organizational Effectiveness

## D50 is Nationally Recognized as a Lighthouse School District

On May 2, 2022, The School Superintendents Association (AASA) announced Harvard School District 50 as a “Lighthouse” system, serving as a model to transform America’s education system. Harvard CUSD 50’s Dual Language program was selected for designation by a panel of independent education leaders from across the country. The program has been recognized for demonstrating a commitment to the whole learner, no learner marginalization, and future-driven education.

Only 13 school districts nationwide received this honor. “District 50 has so much to be proud of,” said Dr. Corey Tafoya, Harvard CUSD 50 Superintendent. “This national recognition affirms the excellent work done by our students, teachers, staff, and administrators. The Lighthouse System recognition validates our #HarvardRising mantra, an effort embraced by our community, students, and staff.”



## Harvard High School Flex-Mod Schedule

Harvard High School implemented a new school schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. The new schedule, known as "Flex-Mod," allows students more flexibility in their schedule. It also gives students the opportunity to be responsible during their off periods to expand their learning or receive extra assistance from a teacher.



# Goal 2: Organizational Effectiveness

## CUSD 50 BHAGs Big Hairy Audacious Goals

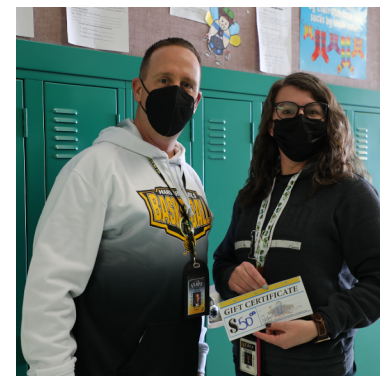
In 2017, Harvard CUSD 50 created District BHAG's to put their mission and vision into action. The district works towards these goals every day with the intention to achieve them by December 31, 2026.

The 6 BHAG's (listed to the right) will put us in the top tier of districts nationwide.

As we work toward these goals, we want our students and staff to be deliriously happy and be working in modern 21st-century learning spaces.

Throughout the year, staff members submitted over 150 nominations for their colleagues representing work that will help achieve the District BHAG's.


Each quarter, district administration recognized staff members for their exceptional work by inviting them to be honored at a Board of Education meeting.




## ISBE Awards Gold Circle of Quality to Washington School


The Illinois State Board of Education awarded Washington School with the Gold Circle of Quality for its Preschool For All (PFA) program.





**Harvard**  
Community Unit School District 50

**WHAT DOES DECEMBER 31, 2026,  
LOOK LIKE?**



 We will be a Model PLC district.

 We will have AVID Demonstration Schools.

 Over 50% of our graduates will earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

 98% of our students will graduate.

And all of this will happen through the efforts of  
**deliriously happy people** working in **modern,  
21st-century** learning spaces!

 #HarvardRising 

# Goal 3: Community Relations and Communication

## Blackboard Award

District 50 is the largest contributing school district to the United Way of Greater McHenry County. The district received the 2020-2021 Blackboard Award from the United Way of Greater McHenry County for the fourth year in a row.



## Taste of Washington/Touch-a-Truck

Washington School held its annual event in April this year. Restaurants throughout the community donated food and time to provide delicious treats for students, families, and staff.



## MCC and D50

McHenry County College and Harvard CUSD 50 have created a partnership to benefit students with more opportunities for college courses and credits. DUO is the newest program in CUSD 50 which allows students to earn their Associate Degree while in High School.



Throughout this year, 15 students have completed 22 credits each toward their Associate Degree. In addition, Harvard High School students have taken over 300 college courses for credit towards their future college or university.



# Goal 3: Community Relations and Communication

## Communication Initiatives

- New alert system for reaching families
- Harvard CUSD 50 mobile app
- Superintendent Parent Council
- Website feedback sessions
- Monthly video updates from Dr. Tafoya
- Quarterly newsletters
- Board of Education Recap News Articles
- Education Buzz Podcast



Each month, Dr. Tafoya sent a video message to families with updates about upcoming district events, changes to COVID protocols, and different ways to get involved as a parent.



## Follow D50 on social media!

[www.facebook.com/harvardd50](http://www.facebook.com/harvardd50)

[www.twitter.com/harvardd50](http://www.twitter.com/harvardd50)

[www.instagram.com/harvardd50](http://www.instagram.com/harvardd50)

[www.youtube.com/harvardd50](http://www.youtube.com/harvardd50)

## Bernie's Books

Bernie's Books delivered two trucks full of books for D50 students to take home. Between fall 2021 and spring 2022, over 10,000 books were donated to K-6 students.



# Goal 4: Finance and Operations

## Facilities

The Buildings and Grounds Department painted Jefferson's lobby, re-paved the Central Office parking lot, painted Harvard Junior High's lockers, and facilitated major construction at Harvard High School. This summer, air conditioning will be installed at Washington.

## Harvard High School Construction



Harvard High School gained valuable spaces over the past year through the six million dollar construction project. New workout facilities were added, a multi-purpose room, classrooms, offices, athletic training spaces, laundry room, and brand new locker rooms for all athletes.

Harvard High School plans to host a Grand opening for the community to tour the facilities in August 2022.





# Goal 4: Finance and Operations

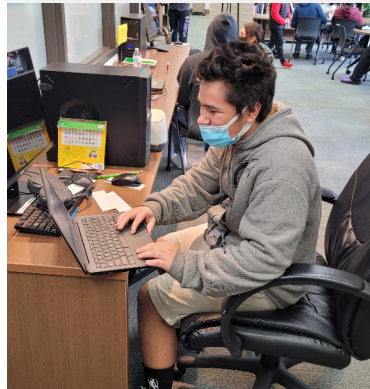
## Technology

Thanks to the availability of ESSERs funding, The Technology Department installed new LightSpeed audio systems in a majority of classrooms throughout the district. These systems allow teachers to walk around the room and have their voices projected, even while wearing masks. The Technology Department also upgraded the bandwidth Capacity for the entire district. The district now has a brand new 10Gb fiber link between all schools and a 10Gb connection to provide fast and reliable internet to all buildings.

78% of CUSD 50 parents believe that

**Technology is integrated**  
in their student's education.

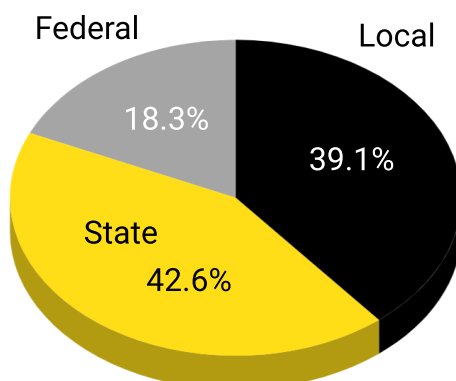
- March 2021 ECRA Group Parent and Community Survey



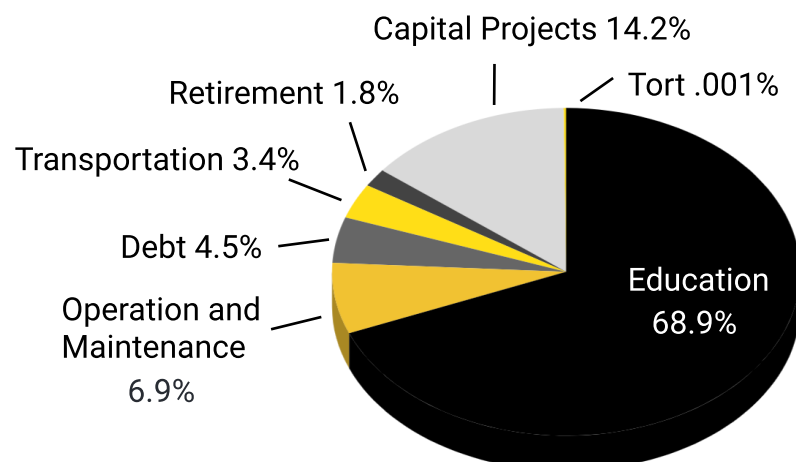
## District Budget

District 50 has received the highest financial recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education for the last 9 consecutive years. The District 50 Board of Education managed district expenditures to complete construction costs of the Harvard High School addition while maintaining a balanced budget.

### Revenue



### Expenditures



**HARVARD CUSD 50 - CENTRAL OFFICE**

401 N. Division Street  
Harvard, IL 60033-3031  
815-943-4022

**HARVARD HIGH SCHOOL**

1103 N. Jefferson Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-6461  
[www.cusd50.org/harvardhighschool](http://www.cusd50.org/harvardhighschool)

**HARVARD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

1301 Garfield Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-6466  
[www.cusd50.org/harvardjuniorhigh](http://www.cusd50.org/harvardjuniorhigh)

**JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1200 N. Jefferson Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-6464  
[www.cusd50.org/jefferson](http://www.cusd50.org/jefferson)

**RICHARD D. CROSBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

401 Hereley Drive  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-6125  
[www.cusd50.org/crosby](http://www.cusd50.org/crosby)

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

305 S. Hutchinson Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-943-6367  
[www.cusd50.org/washington](http://www.cusd50.org/washington)

