



**2022-
2023**

ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Education

**Melinda Shafer**

Board President
mshafer@cusd50.org

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

**Jennifer Garafol**

Board Member
jgarafol@cusd50.org

Mrs. Garafol serves on the Policy Committee. Her term ends in 2027.

**Sandra Theriault**

Vice President
stheriault@cusd50.org

Mrs. Theriault serves on the Facilities, Labor Relations, Curriculum, and Superintendent Evaluation committees. Her term ends in 2027.

**Caren MacKenzie**

Board Member
cmackenzie2@cusd50.org

Mrs. MacKenzie's term ends in 2025.

**Sharon McMillan**

Board Secretary
smcmillan@cusd50.org

Mrs. McMillan serves on the Facilities, Finance, and Policy committees. Her term ends in 2027.

**Diana Bird**

Board Member
dbird@cusd50.org

Mrs. Bird's term ends in 2025.

**Roger Wilhoit**

Board Member
rwilhoit@cusd50.org

Mr. Wilhoit serves on the Finance committee. His terms ends in 2025.

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.

Superintendent's Message



Harvard Families,

All I can say is - WOW! What a year for Harvard! We hosted three inaugural community events- Harvard Family Fun Night in February, celebrating with over five hundred Harvard families, a College and Military Fair giving high school students the opportunity to speak with over forty colleges and military branches, and a Realtor event, introducing our community ambassadors to the cutting-edge programs offered at the high school.

We celebrated an 8th grade student's first place win in a national bilingual essay competition, a wrestling state champion and multiple conference championships. We created our first Reaching Independence through Structured Learning (RISE) Refocus/Calm room at Jefferson School to serve students with special needs. We cheered along with our INCubator program entrepreneurs as they won 2nd place in McHenry County for their business model. Our kids stand tall with the best, locally and nationally.

We watched our first group of dual degree (DUO) students earn an associate degree before high school graduation, eight-hundred fifteen credits earned and a total savings of \$95,000! Our Harvard Junior High welcomed representatives from schools in surrounding states for an AVID Excel Showcase, sharing details about how HJH utilizes the AVID program to elevate the education of our students.

All this while receiving Commendable designations for our schools by the Illinois State Board of Education and being voted Northwest Herald's Readers Choice Top Workplace in McHenry County for the 2nd time!

This annual report is a reminder of all we have accomplished, recognizing the hard work of students and staff. #HarvardRising in every way!

Dr. Corey Tafoya



Dr. Corey Tafoya
Superintendent
815-943-4022
ctafoya@cusd50.org

District Data

47%

CUSD 50
teachers with a master's
degree or above



59

Harvard High School students
enrolled in AP courses

5

Schools

1 Pre-K
1 Elementary School (K-3)
1 Elementary School (4-5)
1 Junior High
1 High School



240

certified teachers

126

educational
support
professionals

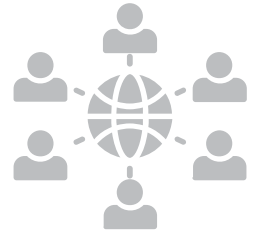
52



sports, activities,
and clubs offered at the high
school and junior high



2,531
students



105

bilingual
staff
members

Birth-3

offering home
visits training
parents as
educators



Students
graduated from
high school in
2023 with an
associate degree
through the MCC
DUO program

104



CUSD 50
students in the
AVID program
2022/23
school year

1 : 1

digital devices
for every
student creating access and
opportunity for all



CUSD 50 **22**
administrators

2023 HHS
graduates

159

18

related
services
staff



14



18.8%

high school graduates
earned Illinois seal of
biteracy in 2023, 10% more than in 2022

District Data

Washington School	170
Crosby Elementary	640
Jefferson Elementary	390
Harvard Junior High	548
Harvard High School	783
Total Enrollment	2,531



Harvard Community Unit School District 50 proudly serves children of the greater Harvard area. The district educates more than 2,500 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade in five schools. Harvard CUSD 50 features a dual language program, one-to-one computing, AVID programs, an expanding roster of Advanced Placement classes, dual credit classes through McHenry County College, and a robust career and technical education program. 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



Christopher Ritschke, Eric Castenada, Allison Kratz, and Jenny Hernan Castillo were named Illinois State Scholars, ranking them in the top ten percent of Illinois high school graduates.



Washington's Birth to 3 Program was awarded the Blue Ribbon Affiliate Award at the Parents as Teachers International Conference in September. To earn the Blue Ribbon Quality Endorsement, affiliates must complete a comprehensive self-study and review process that demonstrates they are meeting or exceeding the Parents as Teachers Essential Requirements, along with at least 75 of the 100 Quality Standards.



All CUSD 50 schools have earned a "Commendable" designation by the Illinois State Board of Education. These summative designations measure progress in academic, school quality, and student success.

Harvard Junior High 8th grade student Isabella Lazaro was recognized as the middle school first-place award winner in the National Association for Bilingual Education's (NABE) 2023 Bilingual Student Essay Competition. Lazaro was chosen out of over 400 other applicants,



"My inspiration for writing the essay was mainly my family and how being bilingual helps me maintain my Mexican roots," said Lazaro.



Goal 1: Student Success



The Harvard High School boys soccer team won the Kishwaukee River Conference Tournament, defeating Woodstock North.



Harvard High School band students earned 30 division 1 ratings and 14 division 2 ratings, while Harvard Junior High earned 84 division 1 ratings and 5 division 2 ratings at the solo and ensemble festival.



Harvard Junior High 8th grade student Blake Livdahl competed in the 2023 IESA State Wrestling Tournament, taking home the 167lb State Championship. Blake gives credit to his HJH coaches, Michael Altendorf, Steve Nulle, and Uriel Herrera for their guidance and support.



"I've always wanted to be a state champ, ever since I started wrestling," said Livdahl. "Hard work pays off."

The first cohort of fourteen Harvard High School DUO students received their McHenry County College associate degree. The DUO Program was created through a collaborative partnership between the district and McHenry County College.



"The DUO program gave me a taste of what the college experience is really like and it was eye-opening," said student Eric Castaneda. "Even though I was only a part-time student, I still felt like a full-time college student."



Goal 1: Student Success



Harvard Athletics celebrated Aaralynn Schneider (pictured-golf), Lorenzo Eichholz (soccer), Lindsay Lehmann (soccer), Myles Brincks (Baseball) and Brenna Uppleger (track) as they signed their letter of intent to play in college.



Harvard High School theatre performed the famous fairytale "Into the Woods" for the Spring Musical, showcasing talent from on and off stage.



Harvard High School seniors earned an impressive \$740,000 in scholarships. Recipients were honored at the Senior Honors Program, including Myles Brincks (\$179,800 from Lawrence University) who also continue his athletic career at Lawrence playing baseball, Jade Sanchez (\$143,520- full tuition from Nova Southeastern University), Michelle Dollman (\$88,000 from Loyola University- Chicago), Jenny Castillo (\$81,000 from North Park University), Katelyn Duber (\$88,000 from Carroll University), and Madelyn Uzyn (\$84,000 from Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design).

Thirty-four Harvard High School graduates earned the prestigious Illinois Seal of Biliteracy, the largest graduating class to achieve this distinction. One student, Tala Abu Almazeh, is the first-ever HHS student to receive the Arabic Seal of Biliteracy.



"Being the only Arab in my school, along with my brother, served as a powerful motivation for me to pursue and earn the Seal of Biliteracy," said Abu Almazeh. "I saw it as an opportunity to represent both myself and the diversity within Harvard High School."



Goal 1: Student Success



Jack Ellis, Angel Gonzalez, Daisy Landa, Allison Kratz, and Melody Coffey were selected for the McHenry County Honor Band, representing the best in McHenry County.



Harvard High School chess team qualified and competed in the IHSA State Finals.

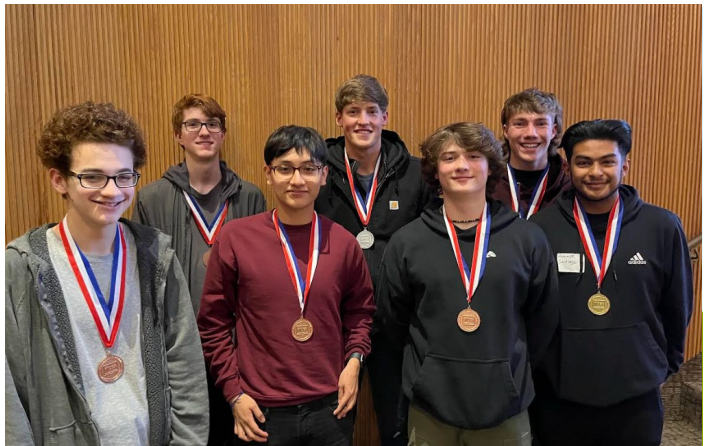


Out of more than fifty INCubator groups across McHenry County, Harvard High School group Rent A Hen earned 2nd place at the 2023 Entrepreneurship Pitch Night at McHenry County College. Seniors Lorenzo Eichholz, Jovon Ratcliff, Lucas Merryman, and Ryan Weidner developed this business idea as part of the business INCubator curriculum.



"The entrepreneurship skills developed in INCubator class are setting students up for success in the future no matter what path they take," said Superintendent Dr. Corey Tafoya.

At the 2023 IDEA Regional Drafting Competition at McHenry County College, Harvard High School had 7 medalists. Architectural Board Drafting: 1st Place- Myles Brincks - 2nd Place- Lorenzo Eichholz - 3rd Place- Elijah Binz | Introductory Board Drafting: 1st Place- Dominick Santiago - 3rd Place- Aaron Murray | 3D Modeling: 3rd Place- Daniel Howe | 3D Architectural CAD: 3rd Place- Yahir Olivares. Myles Brincks, Lorenzo Eichholz, and Dominick Santiago advanced to the IDEA State Drafting Competition.



Goal 2: Organizational Effectiveness

Reaching Independence Through Structured Learning



JEFFERSON STAFF RISES TO THE OCCASION

At the beginning of the school year the team at Jefferson Elementary had several students demonstrating the need for a more structured and therapeutic classroom setting. At the time there was a lack of outplacements available at other schools, lack of staff available, and a lack of space within the school building. The team got creative and within a few weeks they rearranged classrooms and caseloads, staff moved offices to make room for a Refocus/Calm room, and a request was made and approved to add a program social work position. Reaching Independence through Structured Learning (RISE) was born!

THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

This year the district put together a committee of students, parents, community members, business owners, administration, and board members to begin the process of updating the CUSD 50 Portrait of a Graduate. This Portrait Design Team met 4 times to establish an updated 21st century framework with a deeper learning vision, preparing every D50 student for college, career, and beyond. The district partnered with the non-profit Battelle for Kids, who will help facilitate the process. The details will be announced at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

Portrait of a Graduate



Goal 2: Organizational Effectiveness

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

The district utilizes Instructional Coaches to empower D50 educators to enhance student learning. With an "Our Goal is Your Goal" approach, 5 instructional coaches are available to support staff in a variety of ways including one-on-one coaching, group workshops, professional development video resources, and more. These skilled coaches empower teachers and fuel student success. The board also approved a Technology Integrationist position for the 2023-2024 school year to help create engaging learning experiences for students through the integration of technology tools and resources.



AVID EXCEL SHOWCASE

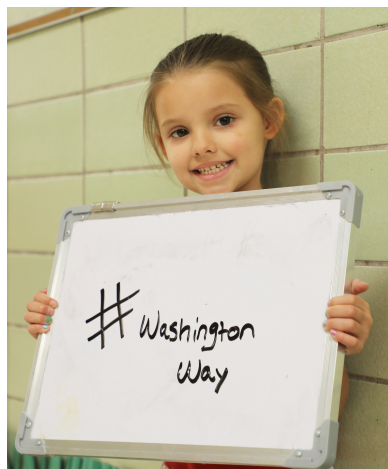
Thirty-four educators and administrators from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri school districts attended the AVID Excel Showcase at Harvard Junior High. AVID Excel is a branch of AVID that specifically focuses on English Learners to help accelerate academic language acquisition. Courses target reading skills as well as academic vocabulary development. AVID students and teachers shared details about how HJH utilizes the program to elevate the education of students, providing them with ideas to implement in their own district. A true #HarvardRising moment.

Goal 3: Community Relations & Communication

YFC COLLABORATION

CUSD 50 has developed an after-school opportunity for students in partnership with the Youth and Family Center of McHenry County (YFC) focusing on academic and social-emotional achievement at Harvard Junior High and Harvard High School.

As a result of this strong collaboration, the district invited YFC personnel to conduct parent navigation services out of the District Office. Parent navigation services include assistance in the areas of legal, educational, and health systems. The services provided by YFC are free and beneficial to all families in McHenry County.



HASHTAG HARVARD SCHOOLS

Over two-hundred student, staff, and community voters decided on a hashtag at each D50 school. Washington School- #TheWashingtonWay, Richard D. Crosby Elementary- #CrosBees, Jefferson Elementary- #JeffersonJourney, Harvard Junior High- #JrHornetsRising, Harvard High School- #HornetStrong



NEWSLETTER

The district utilized a new platform for community newsletters, sending quarterly, mobile-friendly, translated publications to Harvard families to celebrate accomplishments of staff, students, and the district.



GOLD PASS

The Harvard CUSD 50 Athletic Department offers a Senior Athletic Gold Pass to individuals 55+ allowing free entry to home athletic events. Visit the district website for details.

Goal 3: Community Relations & Communication



REALTOR® EVENT

This district hosted a successful first REALTOR® Event at Harvard High School. Local real estate agents learned about the district's goals, future projects, the nationally-recognized dual language program, dual-credit partnership with McHenry County College, the innovative FLEX schedule at the high school, and heard a first-hand account from students in AVID and business INCubator.



"It was a great experience seeing all the improvements and hearing about all the great programs that the school has implemented," said Carlos Gonzalez, Compass. "I'm completely impressed and look forward to the future of our community."



COLLEGE AND MILITARY FAIR

The district hosted its first College & Military Fair at Harvard High School. Forty colleges, all military branches, and trade schools attended this event to speak with over one hundred-sixty students about the opportunities they could provide.



TOP WORKPLACE

Harvard CUSD 50 was voted McHenry County Top Workplace in Education, a Northwest Herald Readers' Choice award. This recognition is a credit to the amazing climate and culture D50 staff have developed, creating an environment where students thrive and the community can be proud of everyday.

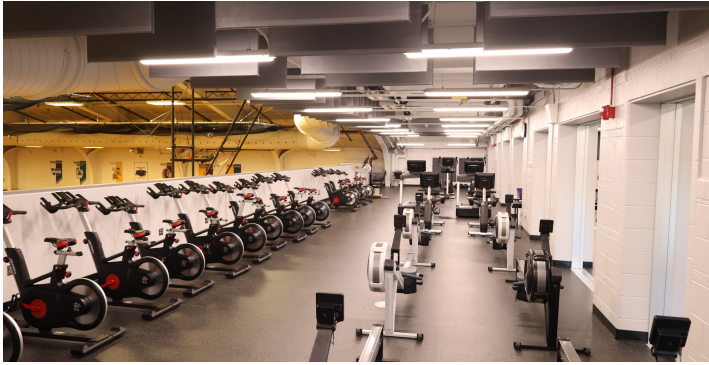


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- <https://bit.ly/D50EducationBuzz>

Goal 4: Finance and Operations

Facilities



Other 2022-2023 projects:

- New kitchen equipment at Harvard Junior High
- New walk-in cooler & freezer at Harvard Junior High and Jefferson
- New HVAC at Washington
- 2 New classrooms in Harvard Junior High library

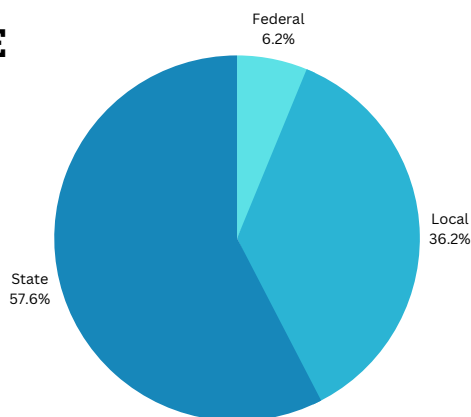
HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES

At the beginning of the school year, D50 hosted a Grand Opening to celebrate the new athletic and academic spaces at Harvard High School. Over one-hundred community members, staff, and students celebrated together and took tours of the \$7 million dollar renovations. Along with modernizing the school, the new facilities increase the efficiency of the entire athletic department. Renovations included a multi-purpose room, classrooms, offices, athletic training spaces, laundry room, and brand new locker rooms for all athletes.

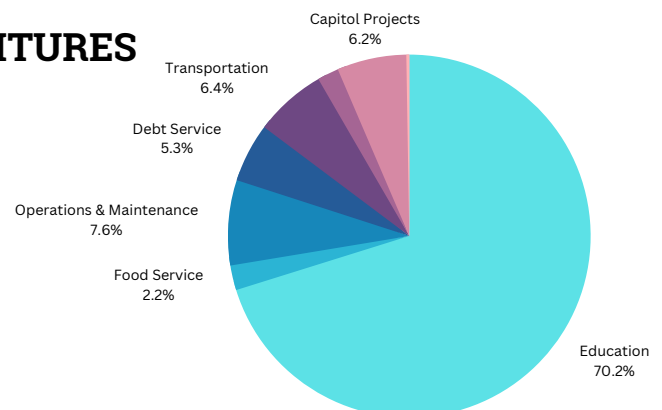
District Budget

District 50 has received this highest financial recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education for the last 10 consecutive years. The district has actively pursued grants as a means of acquiring additional funding to support students with essential resources and enhanced learning opportunities. This approach allows D50 to prioritize the needs of the students while maintaining our commitment to being good stewards of our financial resources.

REVENUE

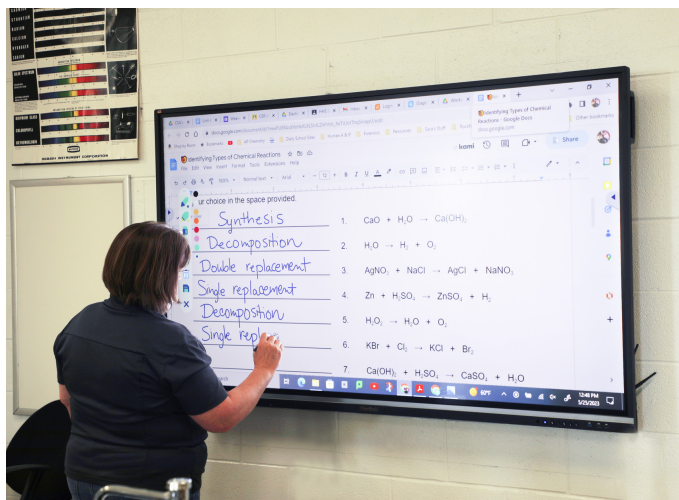


EXPENDITURES



Goal 4: Finance and Operations

Technology



INTERACTIVE TOUCH PANELS

In an effort to continually improve educational experiences and work towards the districts goal of creating 21st-century spaces, the D50 technology department has purchased one-hundred cutting-edge ViewSonic interactive touch panels. With all costs covered by a Federal Grant, this investment will serve as a bridge between traditional instruction and modern digital learning, preparing students for the ever-evolving technological landscape they will encounter in their future careers.

These versatile devices boast high-definition displays and multi-touch functionality, allowing students to actively participate in lessons and activities, and teachers to cast the screens of all students. The touch panels will streamline instruction, eliminating the need to use multiple devices and equipment.

Other 2022-2023 projects:

- New touchscreen Chromebooks for all kindergarteners with an easier to use interface.
- New all-district phone system with plans to implement by the fall of 2023.

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funding provided critical financial support to schools, enabling them to address the challenges and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. By allocating ESSER funds wisely, D50 sought to enhance student learning, support social and emotional well-being, upgrade technology infrastructure, improve facilities, and provide professional development for educators.

\$4.53 Million ESSER funds spent to date

ESSER Funding

- Expanded classroom libraries
- Additional instructional coach and 2 guidance counselors
- Waived registration fees for FY 21/22 and FY 22/23
- Increased flexible classroom seating
- Provided updated 1:1 devices for all students
- Hotspots for students without home connectivity
- Installed HVAC at Washington Elementary
- Provided air purifiers for learning spaces
- Additional summer school programming
- Online learning resources such as ELlevation and Edmentum

HARVARD CUSD 50 - CENTRAL OFFICE

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Harvard, IL 60033-3031
815-943-4022

Harvard High School

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facebook.com/HarvardHighSchool
instagram.com/harvardhighschool
twitter.com/HHSHornets1

Harvard Junior High

1301 Garfield St, Harvard IL
815-943-6466 | cusd50.org/harvardjuniorhigh
facebook.com/HarvardJuniorHigh
instagram.com/harvardjuniorhigh
twitter.com/harvardjrhigh

Jefferson Elementary School

1200 N. Jefferson St, Harvard IL
815-943-6464 | cusd50.org/jefferson
facebook.com/HarvardJeffersonElementary
instagram.com/jeffersond50
twitter.com/jeffersond50

Richard D. Crosby Elementary School

401 Hereley Dr, Harvard IL
815-943-6125 | cusd50.org/crosby
facebook.com/CrosbySchool
instagram.com/crosbyelementaryd50
twitter.com/crosbyelemnd50

Washington School

305 S. Hutchinson Street, Harvard IL
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twitter.com/washingtond50

