

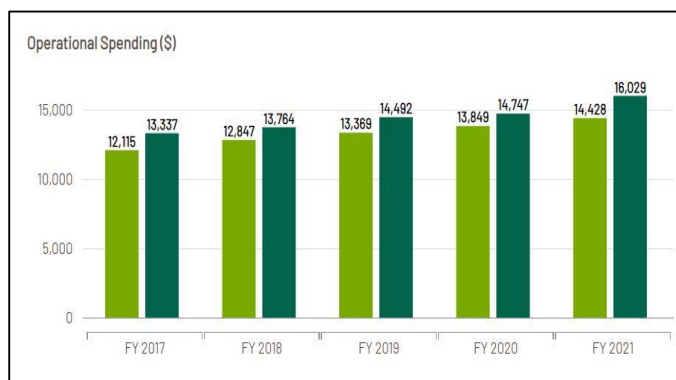


October 28, 2022

Dear Center Cass Parents –

The perseverance of our youth is nothing short of amazing. While commendable, it is not sustainable. As documented, students are struggling due to a shortened day, no extra-curricular activities, little to no academic intervention, and little to no social emotional intervention. While our employees and students try to block out the noise while we are together, it is tough to do so.

Today, there was a sign placed in the easement (legally) in front our school that says “Teachers and Administrators need to do their part”. Interestingly enough, the sign(s) appearance coincided with the release of the new State Report Card. Here are a few important data points from the report card.

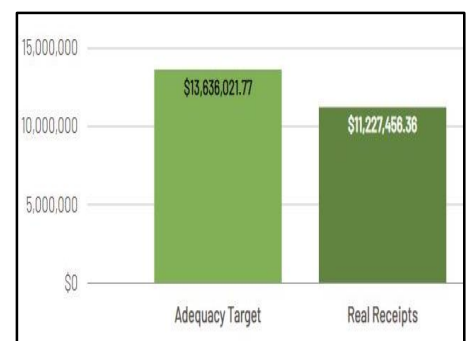


Center Cass spent approximately **\$1600 less per student than the state average** in the 2020-2021 school year (State \$16,029 dark green and D66 \$14,428 light green). That was before the massive cuts were made. The gap released this time next year will be even larger based on the 2021-2022 school and wider yet for the 2022-2023 year. With little to no fund reserves, District 66 historically has not spent more per student than the State because D66 doesn't have it to spend.

DuPage County houses thirty K-8 districts. The average spend per student of the thirty K-8 school districts (see below) is \$16,741 meaning **D66 spent \$2,313 less per student than our K8 County neighbors** in 2020-2021. Interestingly, the difference of \$2,313 per student if multiplied by our current enrollment of 1100 students equals \$2.5 million dollars a year (our referendum ask). D66 needs are not the result of spending too much, it is the exact opposite. The District has so many needs that it didn't bring enough in to address those needs. The inefficiencies we have found have been corrected (see the [Spring Newsletter](#) Cost Containments page 7).

District No. 53	24,351	District No. 45	17,769	District No. 41	15,708	District No. 10	14,209
District No. 180	24,106	District No. 15	17,206	District No. 7	15,309	District No. 61	14,012
District No. 34	22,374	District No. 2	17,132	District No. 16	15,131	District No. 20	13,871
District No. 181	21,522	District No. 44	17,060	District No. 58	15,031	District No. 113	13,717
District No. 48	21,134	District No. 60	16,092	District No. 89	14,890	District No. 13	13,070
District No. 33	19,265	District No. 62	16,036	District No. 12	14,605	District No. 4	12,942
District No. 93	18,771	District No. 11	15,850	District No. 66	14,428	District No. 63	12,942
District No. 25	17,929	District No. 68	15,760	DuPage K-8 Avg Operational Spend Per student \$16,741			

As we have shared many times, early taxes have clouded the real financial picture for the District. Without early taxes in, there is absolutely no question that our profile score would have dropped to a 1 (lowest profile) triggering state intervention. The bar graph on the right shows a simulation of D66's Real Receipts in relation to our Adequacy Target (the amount of money needed to adequately educate a student). The simulation **shows that D66 is \$2.4 million dollars short on an annual basis of meeting our Adequacy target** (our referendum ask). With early taxes not included in the simulation, the gap would be even wider.





We spend less and we collect less because **our tax rate is the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest out of thirty K8 Districts. Of the 6 Districts with a lower rate than ours (District 7, 4, 113, 58, 62, & 48), we have the lowest EAV at \$604,306,807.**

Grade School District No. 181	2.39%	\$2,484,837,239
Grade School District No. 66	2.30%	\$604,306,807
Grade School District No. 7	2.26%	\$610,997,761
Grade School District No. 4	2.24%	\$1,407,190,310
Grade School District No. 113*	2.11%	\$1,338,500,614
Grade School District No. 58	1.98%	\$3,222,039,148
Grade School District No. 62	1.76%	\$826,714,989
Grade School District No. 48	1.54%	\$772,591,107
<b>Avg</b>	<b>3.11%</b>	<b>\$909,687,668</b>

When 90% of D66 funding comes from the formula Tax Rate multiplied by the EAV, having a tax rate near the bottom of the County at \$2.30 (when the County average is at least \$3.11), without having a substantial EAV to apply the rate to, does not generate enough money to provide an adequate education. We can have a quality District with a successful referendum, and still be .40 cents under the County K-8 tax rate average.

When you bring in \$2.5 million dollars a year less than what you need (evidenced by the data from the State

and County above), it is no surprise why D66 has a backlog of facilities work (**\$7.2 million of which still hasn't been done that was on the 2013 Legat Facility Study and much more that has been identified since then, plus cost have increased in the last decade**), doesn't have an updated learning environment in each of our schools, doesn't have enough or proper positions in place, and isn't able to build fund reserves. This is the purpose of the referendum.

To reiterate, the Fire Alarm is currently working. If it wasn't, we wouldn't have students in the building! With that said, the alarm has gone into trouble mode because sensors in the systems are failing and/or panels are detecting ground faults or other communication troubles. Obtaining parts and servicing the systems have become more difficult due to the age. **I shared that ignoring these warning signs is irresponsible and that a district should never wait for an alarm to stop working before replacing the system, which is why it is on the State approved HLS list.** This is just one of dozens of issues D66 is trying to fix, many of which were identified over a decade ago. Bringing these issues to the community's attention is the responsible thing to do, it is not meant to incite fear, just awareness and urgency, as safety is paramount. The reaction by some as a result of the District openly communicating these needs, is one of the reasons why people don't speak up.

Furthermore, it is one of the reasons people in society don't ask for help. All the data above can be found at <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>, <https://www.dupagecounty.gov/CountyClerk/49766/>, and <https://www.ccsd66.org/o/ccsd66/page/district-referendum-information>.

Early voting is open. A limiting rate increase is the only way to fix our District long-term. It is fiscally responsible, conservative, and won't cost our community millions in interest like a bond issue would.

For those who are placing signs in front of our schools saying "educators need to do their part", "taxpayers are doing their part", and "it takes a village", I would say that you are correct in the sense that it takes a village, **and we all should do our part, as all data shows that we collect less on average, spend less on average, and have done so for a very long time.**

Good schools and good communities go hand in hand. We appreciate and respect each of you and our community members. Have a nice weekend.

Andrew S. Wise  
Superintendent of Schools